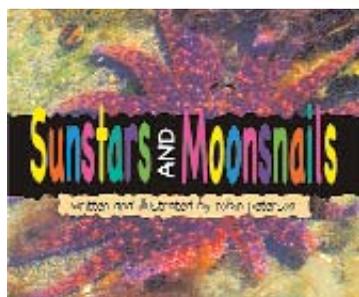




## INSIDE

December 2007

Celebrate  
the  
holidays,  
Special  
Section  
inside



New book by KPN artist,  
page 23

## A healthy and active Key Peninsula:

### Pilot project springs forward

By Danna Webster, KP News



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Summit participants in a breakout session to get some exercise.

Several major health agencies turned their attention to the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor in early November, when the 2007 Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula Community Health Collaborative Summit was held at Miracle Ranch by Horseshoe Lake. Healthy Communities of Pierce County is a joint project of the Pierce County Medical Society and the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. The event was sponsored by more than a dozen health and government agencies and was attended by about 60 physicians, elected officials, educators, business leaders, parents, students, and other citizens. They were all concerned about physical activity and nutrition on the peninsulas.

The events of the two-day conference were organized around a collaborative design process that served to maximize interaction, increase access to information, and superspeed plans into action. Conference facilitators worked with groups representing the restaurant industry, schools, community, farming, government, business, fitness, medicine, and

(See **EXERCISE**, Page 29)

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This blaze on Oct. 8 that FD-16 firefighters are battling on 161st Avenue KPN off SR-302, was one of several in a rash of home fires that occurred in the last two months.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

## Residential fires triple on the KP: 2007 total loss approaches \$2 million

By Danna Webster, KP News

The number of fires in residential homes on the Key Peninsula in 2007 is already triple the number from 2006. Many fires occurred at the same time, (including in the past two months),

and Key Peninsula Fire Department Division Chief Guy Allen thought this coincidence made it seem like there had been an increase in the number of fires. Recently, he compared the

(See **FIRE**, Page 26)

## Volunteer group tackles growth issues

By Irene Torres, KP News

A dynamic group called Livable Key 2020 is dealing with issues that inevitable growth will bring to the Key Peninsula. When the idea was envisioned by former Safe Streets Community Mobilizer Dennis Taylor, he said at the time, "The challenges that face the KP are so large, no one organization will be able to do it all."

With 26th Legislative District Rep. Larry Seaquist, Taylor organized the

(See **2020**, Page 28)

# Elections bring change to KPFD board

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Although official certification of the election had not occurred at press time of the KP News, it appeared the voting majority (64.55 percent - 2,613 voters) said yes to passage of a ballot measure increasing fire district commissioners from three to five members. In a letter to Christina Bosch, Fire District 16 administrative manager, the district's attorney, Joseph Quinn, advised the district of "statutory provisions that are applicable." He quoted RCW 52.14.020, regarding appointments for new members, as follows: "...The two positions...shall be filled initially as for a vacancy, except that the appointees shall draw lots, one appointee to serve until the next general fire district election after the appointment, at which two commissioners shall be elected for six-year terms, and the other appointee to serve until the second

Applications for FD 16 commissioner vacancies are accepted until Dec. 14. For details, call the district at 884-2222 or see page 30.

general fire district election after the appointment, at which two commissioners shall be elected for six-year terms."

Quinn's explanation continued to describe the appointment process, in which current commissioners appoint two registered voters to fill the new vacancies. If the board cannot agree on an appointment for 90 days beyond creation of the position, "the matter goes to the county council to make the appointment." He also advised that any interviews and appointment should be done openly "so the public can observe the process."

At the fire commissioners' board meeting on Nov. 13, the three seated

commissioners discussed the appointment process, in light of Quinn's advice. Commissioner Allen Yanity, speaking first on the subject, said the board "should be able to tell applicants what we expected of them." Commissioner Rick Stout (who was reelected, unopposed, in this election period) said he hoped whoever "comes on board" will plan to stay for two to four years. Commissioner Jim Bosch said it was "imperative people have the interest of citizens and the fire district at heart." He cautioned against individuals "tainted or acting only on newspaper editorials," and chided local organizations for not sending representatives to fire district meetings.

In other local elections, Key Peninsula Metro Parks saw two commissioners return, unopposed: Elmer Anderson and Gregory Anglemeyer. A third seat was won by newcomer Bruce Nicholson, with 1,796 votes (52.65 percent) against Bob Hicks.

Nicholson told the KP News he would not take his commissioner's oath until the end of the board meeting on Dec. 10; his official capacity does not begin until Jan. 1, 2008. Although the existing board will have voted on the 2008 budget by then, his first priority will be "to get up to speed. "I want to see where the money is going and where it has been spent," he said. "I'd like to do some things that don't cost a lot, like a printed program, and (propose) a skaters' board (of kids) to act as liaison between the skaters and (the district)."

In the Peninsula School District, Matthew Wilkinson received 52.84 percent of the votes in District 1, unseating incumbent Geoff Baillie. In District 2, Wendy Wojtanowicz won with 57.84 percent against Jean-Louis Gazabat. Jill Guernsey and Jill Uddenberg ran unopposed in districts 3 and 4, respectively.

# Yanity's trial delayed to '08

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

For the second time in a few weeks' span, participants expecting to spend the day testifying at the Pierce County Courthouse in Fire District 16 Commissioner Allen Yanity's criminal trial (assault in the second degree) have been notified of yet another delay.

Prior to the scheduled Nov. 14 trial start date, the KP News asked Prosecuting Attorney Terry Lane a few questions about the venue. He said he could not answer, because, "We may not get a courtroom," in which case the trial would not commence

on that date. He also said he would not know which judge would be hearing the case until a courtroom was assigned. According to Lane, even attorneys representing the plaintiff and the defendant do not know if a trial will begin on the day their offices agree to "schedule" it.

He described the way the court system works: Attorneys planning to bring cases to trial on a given day gather in a specific room in the courthouse. They wait to hear if a courtroom and judge are available. They wait from 9 a.m. to noon. If no court clerk has arrived to assign a courtroom/judge by then, attorneys can

leave and reschedule their cases — and prepare for yet another shift of waiting. Or they can return after court lunch at 1:30 p.m. and hope for a courtroom in the afternoon, which may or may not open up. If they do receive an assigned courtroom/judge, they can begin jury selection and opening arguments.

Prior to their Nov. 15 subpoenaed appearances, witnesses for the prosecution were notified their testimony would not be needed the following day, and an "Order for Continuance of Trial Date" was issued, moving the trial forward to January.

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## Impact of I-747 decision uncertain

Local taxpayers are unlikely to see any immediate impact from the overturning of Initiative 747 by the state Supreme Court in November. While taxing districts had until Nov. 30 (after KP News press deadline) to file their 2008 tax requests with the county assessor's office, they

appear to be taking a "wait and see" approach and going forward only with the 1 percent increase limit that I-747 had mandated. At press time, a special one-day legislative session was called by Gov. Christine Gregoire for Nov. 29 to address the topic.

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# EDITORIAL

## Senior housing on the Key Pen: a desperate need

### Busy month for local schools

The school district had plenty of occasions to give thanks in November, which was a month abuzz with excitement at Key Pen schools.

Peninsula High School's aspiring journalists brought home a Pacemaker, a prestigious award by the National Scholastic Press Association. The PHS student newspaper, *The Outlook*, was one of 14 newspapers nationwide in its category to receive the award, which was their second in a row.

At Vaughn Elementary, a special assembly before Thanksgiving celebrated the school's state championship in the President's Council on Physical Fitness & Sports' "The President's Challenge Physical Activity and Fitness Awards Program." It was the school's second such achievement in a row as well. More than 60 students received individual awards, double the number from last year.

Last but not least, 10 teachers serving Key Pen students learned they qualified to become National Board Certified Teachers, the highest honor a teacher can achieve; the intense process is based on peer-review and involves a school year's worth of extensive work in addition to the teachers' regular work.

Our local students and teachers deserve kudos — and encouragement for continued success.

Programs to care for our elderly are shamefully neglected. But not for long. Government forecasts show that by the year 2030, more U.S. citizens will be older than 55 years of age, rather than younger. Baby boomers will rule!

The local Mustard Seed Project is not waiting until 2030 to act. It already recognizes a dire shortage of affordable housing on the KP for our growing number of senior citizens. If the number of dwelling units for senior citizens does not increase, then more and more seniors will be compelled to find housing someplace like Tacoma, which is a much different environment from where our seniors have spent their entire lives. The concept of "aging in place" is important.

"Aging in Place" is not a concern for seniors who own their homes and whose personal assets are sufficient to cover all the increasing monetary concerns as they age and their health and abilities deteriorate. Many seniors are not so blessed, however, and will eventually find themselves seeking alternative living accommodations, driven either by economic factors, or a desire to live among similar individuals, i.e., in "senior housing."

If a senior can live on his or her own without assistance, then an apartment or condominium might be cost-effective and appropriate. There are currently, however, no condominium complexes on the KP, and only one apartment complex

**RICK SORRELS**  
THE PRAGMATIC SOPHIST



(total of 13 units) located in Key Center (next to the former Blondie's building). These apartments are not limited to seniors; anybody can rent. Only one senior lives there now. There are no trailer parks or other low-cost, multiunit senior housing facilities on the KP.

If a senior requires assistance with activities of daily living such as eating, dressing, bathing, etc, then the state requires that the facility be licensed as a boarding home, nursing home, or adult family home. There are no nursing homes on the KP. The closest thing to a boarding home locally is the Rocky Bay Health Care Facility, which is limited to developmentally disabled persons (severe mental impairment with onset before 21st birthday).

State law limits the locating of boarding homes and nursing homes to commercially zoned land only. Apartments and condominiums are only allowed in "commercial zones." Variances are not allowed.

The Key Peninsula Community Plan identifies very little land for future commercial use, thereby providing few possibilities for the location of any

Pierce County is reestablishing the Housing Affordability Task Force. Contact Community Services at 798-6912 if you would like to serve, or be involved.

boarding homes, nursing homes, apartments, or condominiums for senior housing on the Key Peninsula.

These few options are further limited by septic considerations. Under the best of conditions, with optimum soils and no other limiting factors such as nearby wetlands, the maximum density allowed under current law is four to six dwelling units per acre. Each individual apartment is considered a separate dwelling unit.

With little accommodation in the KP Community Plan for the types of senior housing that must comply with "commercial" zoning requirements, then adult family homes, which can be located on any residentially zoned property, become a likely solution to the senior housing problem. But there are also problems locating adult family homes on the KP.

Aging is inevitable. You can overcome the senior housing problem with a bountiful savings account or generous friends and relatives. You can escape the situation through an early death (not very desirable) or senility (if you aren't aware of what's happening, it can't hurt you). The best solution, however, is for the county government to listen to advocates like the Mustard Seed Program and create more options and incentives for senior housing.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Deep gratitude in time of tragedy

Dearly beloved community:

As Gina and I slowly move from Good Friday into Easter, looking forward to the time of resurrection of our home and lives, we are so grateful to all of you who have helped us come to a point whereby we can dream a new dream. You have given of your love, prayers, time and treasure to assist us in overcoming this tragedy and we are so thankful to each and every one of you. To those of you who were gathered as we returned: Brynn Rydell, Tom and Nancy Howard, Kathy and Phil Bauer and Claudia Loy; to all of you who

offered us a place to stay: the Howards, Keiko and Jan-Erik Sundbom, Dr. Roes, Pam and Jerry Libstaff and Leon Hill, our dear neighbor, where we now reside; to those who came and assisted us in going through the ashes and debris to find any remnants of our former lives: Bob and Elsie Vezzani, Kristin Bottiger, Phil Bauer, Mike Hays and the Libstaffs; to the powerful Denise Hays, who took over our lives when we were too dazed to function and established a "crisis control center," and Mike, who eased our anxiety and installed an invisible fence for the dog; to Sheri Simpson and Virginia Thompson for "manning" the phones while we were gone; to Joseph Lindhartsen and his mom, Dion Rossi, who brought necessities; to Donna White for the supply of flowers to lift our spirits. So many offered your treasure: Gary and Rose Gebo, the Sundboms, Lisa Brian, Don Zimmermann and CostLess, Chris and Ina Boysen, Kathy

and Larry Heiberg, Richard and Laurie Brudvik-Lindner, Mike and Denise Hays, the Writers Group and all of you whom we do not know. So many of you have clothed us and we are especially appreciative of Ruth Bramhall, Marilyn Clapper, the Angel Guild and all of you who kept us warm with bedding and blankets. For six weeks, you have fed us: to Kristin Bottiger and Kathy Bauer who organized the "food brigade" that included Dave and Sabra Stratford, Virginia Thompson, Sebenna Burgess, Tracy and Val Ord, Lynn and Mike Reaves, Carol and Frank Garratt, John and Shirley Nederlee, the Howards, the Bauers, and the Libstaffs. To Karen Wilkerson and Alisa Spector for the massages, Linda Niles for the care of Chester and Harry Rydell for spending hours on the beach looking for him during the fire. And to Christopher Mathie for the first new work of art! To Gaye Eberhart for shampoo and other

necessities. To Jeanette Brown and Danna Webster for the sensitive reporting. To the fire department, who attempted to rescue our home and helped us save photos and mementos afterward. To all of you who have supported us with your hugs, cards, letters, phone calls and prayers of hope and caring, and your laughter, we are truly grateful. And thank God for the laughter!

Someone asked me the other day if I could identify with the victims of Katrina or the fire victims in California and I had to say no, I cannot. Gina and I did not lose community. We are also so blessed by our beloved Rich Kosel family, who will be rebuilding our new dream. The prayers on our behalf have been as many as the grains of sand on our beach. We are so richly blessed indeed.

*Sylvia Haase and Virginia Liebergesell  
Vaughn*

(See **LETTERS**, Page 5)

# A bright idea for the holidays

With the holidays fast approaching, it's getting close to the time to unbox and untangle yards upon yards of interwoven, semi-working lights to string them all over our homes, doorways, fences, and trees to cheer ourselves up. This is what Christmas is all about — lights and bling.

Most of us have collections of holiday stuff wedged in garages or beneath steps. Each year we pick up new and different additions. Or perhaps we replace the perfectly coiled and stored light strings that worked flawlessly last year, but this year have mysteriously stopped working altogether, apparently from just sitting in a box. Finally, once our homes are in order, we gaze outward, and we must ask the time-old question: What public landmark or building can we hang bright, gaudy lights all over? How can we work together as a community to erase the night sky and make our pitch-black late-afternoon, early-winter commute a tad more enjoyable?

When you drive through Seattle around the holidays, it's all very Christmassy, like a post card. Then last year, we had the green and red lights on the Narrows Bridge, which bedazzled drivers. People like lights, and, as Tacoma Mayor Bill Baarsma said in defending continued holiday lighting of the Tacoma bridges amid possible concerns and a \$1 million to \$2 million price tag, "It's the right thing to do." Heck, that's good enough for me. So what about right here, on the KP?

Perhaps we could start a collection to gather up a bunch of extra lights and decorate our own beloved Purdy Spit Bridge. Yes, this historic, concrete box girder bridge built in 1937 that tirelessly spurs the space between Purdy and the KP stands as a beacon to all of us who live

**KEVIN REED**  
HERE'S SOMETHING



here. A symbol of that feeling you get when you approach the KP and drive over the bridge after a long day at work. Do you get that? As you drive onto the peninsula and look out over Henderson Bay, don't you start to feel relaxed? Sort of like you're going on a mini-vacation? What better way to increase and maximize the anticipation of this feeling, as you creep slowly down the Burnham Drive hill from State Route 16, hoping to make the super-long traffic light, than to cover this structure with lights that will reflect on the water and beckon you with the promise of comfort and joy? You may even hear a chorus of angels while you shout obscenities at the drivers in front of you for driving incredibly slow around the corner as they turn left onto 302.

And while we're at it, we can light up the bridge on the KP Highway down in Home, especially for those folks who live so far down the KP that the warm/fuzzy feeling from the beautifully decorated Purdy Spit Bridge may be wearing off by the time they get to Home — they may need a little Christmas cheer booster to get the rest of the way to their homes.

But, where will all the lights come from? I guess we could gather them up from around town, or perhaps fund some from the county budget. We'll need quite a few extension cords to get to a plug someplace. We'll need to pay for the power, or maybe someone will donate it. There must be some sort of fire permit and other various, necessary safety permits we'll need to acquire. Then we'll have the

“

Perhaps we could start a collection to gather up a bunch of extra lights and decorate our own beloved Purdy Spit Bridge.

”

national attention to deal with. Concerns, perhaps from the International Dark Sky Association (The Light Pollution Authority) about increases in area “sky glow.” There may be additional worry about the lights blinding local aircraft by the FAA or Coast Guard. Additional concerns could be raised by environmental groups on the lights affecting fish passing under the structures.

These hurdles could jeopardize the whole project! We'd have to launch a grass-roots campaign to “Save the Bridge Lights” and sell Purdy Spit Bridge key chains and hats to raise awareness and working capital. Big-gun lawyers would duke it out in various courts while special interest lobbyists would hit up our state representatives. Elections would be won or lost based on a candidates' opinion on the lighting of these two bridges. The whole thing would spiral out of control for years until we all reached some half-baked compromise where we'd only get ultra-dim, barely visible, eco-friendly, cheaply made, nonoffensive Holiday Illumination Systems that would only be on from 9 to 11 p.m. the week before Christmas.

On second thought, maybe we should just decorate the power line towers as gargantuan Christmas trees.

(From LETTERS, Page 4)

## Party thank-you

I would like to say thank you for everything that was done for my 80th birthday party Oct. 20 at Longbranch Church. Special thanks to my daughter, Dinah, and grandson, Zachary, Ruth Circle, Key Singers, Bayshore Garden Club, friends from Federal Way and Fire District #6, Leonard and Loretta Hawkins. Thanks for all the cards, gifts, flowers, and all who came. It was a wonderful day.

*Marguerite Bussard, Longbranch*

## Garbage sights appalling

My husband and I moved to the Key Peninsula 19 months ago and while we love the beauty and serenity of our surroundings, we are appalled at the quantities of trash thrown on the roadsides. I'm referring mainly to the KP Highway; Lackey, Whiteman, Herron and Tiedman roads; part of State Route 302, and a few others. Perhaps if more signage were posted on all the Key Peninsula main roads advising of penalties for littering, the culprits would think twice about tossing bags full of trash from their vehicles and depositing their unwanted trash the proper way.

*Anna Lee, Lakebay*

## Ban on flag-folding ritual a shame

Democracy... freedom of speech and religion (among many things)... the rights of the majority to rule and choose. Why then, with the protest of one, is there a national ban enacted on the flag-folding ritual of our national symbol, at the burial of our nation's veterans (see article by Joe Vargo in the Tacoma News Tribune, Oct. 26, page A9 “National ban on flag-folding ritual angers vets.”)

Where is the backbone of our National Cemetery Association that they would bend over to such a complaint? Maybe we, as patriotic American, had best get behind them and administer a swift kick to straighten them out on the rights of our brave, deceased veterans and their families!

We do not need the government to dictate, on the protest of one, how we bury our heroes, nor do we need “uniformity” to appease a single protester. One might ask, with such action, are we becoming a Godless nation in fear of offending the minority?

As members of the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute, we, 62 strong, object to the ban and add our voices for an immediate reversal of this new “policy.”

*Mike Coffin, KPVI president*

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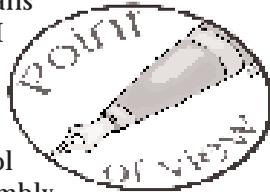
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# Veterans deserve our respect

By Samantha Baimas  
Special to KP News

As I listened to the murmuring around me during the moment of silence at Peninsula High School's Veterans Day assembly, I thought to myself, "Has this school no pride?" My school was in an assembly for honoring veterans, yet no one was honoring them. As a teacher introduced a guest speaker who was a graduate of Peninsula High school from 2000, I caught a little bit of a conversation of two boys sitting next to me. One said, "He looks too old to be a graduate from seven years ago." When he caught my glare, I said, "War makes everyone look old," and he quickly looked away. I tried once again in vain to focus on the speaker. There were a lot of side conversations, and text-messaging on cellphones, or just sleeping. I did not



hear enough to really appreciate what he was saying, catching phrases like "appreciating the things we take for granted" and "water can be very precious." That made me really mad. A boy a little bit below me asked his neighbor what the veteran was talking about. His neighbor said, "I don't know, something boring probably." Then, he replaced his iPod ear piece in his ear. I almost started to say something, and then decided against it.

During the rest of the assembly, I sat there thinking to myself about this county's patriotism, or the lack thereof. How can people of this country use the freedom that's given to them, yet not support the men and women who serve and protect their freedom?

Finally the bell chimed for us to go to our next class. I got out of there as fast as I could. I was angry with everyone and everything. I didn't even want to touch the people around me. They made fun of the people who protect them. Is that right? I think not.

I am very disappointed that many

others do not share my pride in our country. I find it hard to believe that people criticize everything that is done for them in this country. They say they want the troops to come home. But if they come home and don't finish their job, what was the point of them going in the first place? Soldiers sacrificed their lives because they knew they were protecting the country they love. Yet people still don't seem to understand that these soldiers fight and die to protect this country's freedom of speech. As I shared my thoughts with my mom, my eyes started to fill with tears.

I am only writing this to raise awareness. If one person can raise awareness in two others and those two arouse two more, then eventually there will be a crowd. Then the crowd will turn into a city, a city into a state, that state into the nation, then that nation will turn into something to fight for.

*Samantha Baimas is a 10th-grade student at Peninsula High School.*

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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.

## Key Pen Parks thanks Volunteers, Business, and organizations for their support to the District in 2007

- Bob Queenin
- Key Peninsula Little League
- Kurt Self
- Glen George
- Marty Price
- Scott & Deanna Russell
- John & Jodi Kvinsland
- Teri Lewellen
- Deanna Russell
- Todd Davis
- Shima Garrison
- Andy Mattingly
- Dan Silberman
- Greg Vanoverbeke
- Don Wilcox
- Monica Wuff
- Key Peninsula Lions Club
- George Robison
- Laura Armstrong
- Bob Armstrong
- Bill Onstad
- Zech & Adi West Memorial Foundation
- Chuck West
- Ed Robison
- Nick Robison
- Bomac Concrete
- Key Peninsula Fire District 16
- Key Center Auto Repair
- Dick Hassen
- Ed Taylor
- Ben Thompson
- Lystand Concrete Construction
- Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints Key Center Ward
- Windermere Realty Foundation
- Trust for Public Land
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- Capital Lumber
- Cascade Recreation
- Key Peninsula Civic Center
- Bob Snider
- Kim Sutherin
- Marilyn and Hartley
- Paula DeMoss
- Caril Ridley
- Greg Anglemyer
- Elmer Anderson
- Kip Clinton
- Ross Bischoff
- Loyd Miller

## Holiday Experience

Jump on a motor coach and let someone else drive, park and pay the toll as we head to Downtown Seattle to experience the holiday season. Take a ride over to Seattle Center on the monorail, venture down to the Pike Place Market, ride the carousel, gaze at the lights, and visit all the shops for that last minute gift. December 16. Depart from Volunteer Park at 10 am, return around 8 pm Cost: \$25 per person (includes transportation and snack); lunch and any other necessities are on your own. Participants must preregister by December 7. Minimum of 25 and maximum of 45. To sign up for this experience contact the park office at 253-884-9240 or email at info@keypeninsulaparks.com

## K-2 Youth Basketball Skills Clinic

Key Pen Parks will again be offering Youth Basketball Skills Clinics starting January 26-March 1 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Clinics will be coed and offered for the following age/grades at the following times:

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 2nd Grade        | 9:00-9:50 am   |
| 1st Grade        | 10:00-10:50 am |
| Kindergarten     | 11:00-11:50 am |
| Pre-Kindergarten | 12:00-12:50 pm |



Program focus is upon basketball skills development (dribbling, passing, and shooting). Adult involvement is required during the weekly clinics. Scaled down equipment, specialized drills and games will be used to ensure success for all participants. Cost is \$39 per participant and includes Basketball and Shirt. Minimum of 10 participants per grade and a maximum of 30 participants per grade.

## Adult 3 on 3 Recreational Basketball League

Start the New Year off by putting a basketball team together. Key Pen Parks is now accepting team registrations for Adult 3 on 3 basketball league. Teams will play a 10 (ten) game season plus compete in a season concluding tournament. All games will be played on Sunday late afternoon and evenings. Games will be starting the end of January and be played at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Individuals with out a team may contact the parks office and request to be put on a player availability list. League and tournament champions receive individual awards. Cost \$ 275.00/team. Minimum of 4 teams and a maximum of 12 teams.





# A salute to our veterans

On Nov. 9, the annual display of flags at Vaughn Cemetery paid tribute to our veterans, and local schools honored past and present service men and women in special assemblies. Below are the stories of some of the local veterans whom we salute.

Lt. Olaf H. Christoffersen, deceased, was a World War I U.S. Army medical physician who served in several divisions, eventually responsible for a pneumonia ward. In 1918, on his way to service in France, the Armistice was signed. He returned to private practice as a general physician and surgeon in Seattle, retiring in 1967. His children were raised with service to country: One son was a medic in World War II, another son was a physician in Korea and his daughter, Jean, is a stateside nurse.

C. "Cy" Young is an Army veteran of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and began his 24-year career at Fort Leavenworth, Kans. "I have no regrets," he writes. "It was the right thing to do. WWII brought our country together for a single purpose: freedom."

Thomas Ross Cromie, a U.S. Army Korean war veteran, served stateside in Fort Lewis, "Mickey Operation" in Hawaii, Colorado, and Kansas. His overseas duty included Tokyo, Japan and Pusan, Korea. Cromie received the "Korean War Medal" and letter of appreciation from the president of Korea 50 years later. He was married 54 years to Shirley. They had four children, 10 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. After military service, he worked as an electrician for 35 years, and served as manager for Camp Woodworth (Northwest Bible Ministries) for over 20 years. Cromie was a member of Lakebay and Vaughn community churches, assisted at the Key Peninsula Senior Center, and Key Peninsula Veterans Institute.

Henry "Hank" Ramsdell is a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean war. He served stateside, in the Aleutians Islands, Alaska, and Tokyo, Japan. Ramsdell was attached to the 2nd

Division, 24th Infantry shipped to Yokohama, Japan, then to Korea, where he boarded a troop ship as a medic during the invasion at Inchon Harbor. When Ramsdell returned to Washington on July 4, he hitchhiked home to Longbranch. He married and had eight children. He worked for the Great Northern Railroad in Montana, then came home and worked at American Lake Veterans Hospital for 25 years before retiring. Ramsdell has served on the board of Key Peninsula Community Services and is an active member of the KPVI Veterans.

Steven McCleskey, a U.S. Army Iraq war veteran currently stationed in Texas, received airborne school training in Texas and Georgia. His overseas duty includes Qatar (2005-06), and Iraq (2006-08). McCleskey writes, "...I love to lead soldiers both professionally and in their personal life. I know what I am doing over here in Iraq is making a difference and saves coalition lives... I know that there is a lot of controversy over this war, whether to support the war or not support it. I don't want to sound like a mindless grunt, but I just do what I am told and in doing that for my country, I am very proud. The people in Iraq really need our help..." Not sure if he will stay in the Army beyond 2008, McCleskey says job skills he is acquiring will enable him to better himself "in a civilian job that may assist the military... but can't wait to get home to the family." McCleskey and his wife, Kristen, have three children: Aidan, Adelynn and Asabella.

Warren E. Ensor, U.S. Navy Vietnam veteran, was stationed in Florida and California as a Mine Sweeper 496. He was honorably discharged after serving one year in Vietnam. Ensor is a retired corrections' officer and the current head cook and kitchen manager at the KP Community Center. Ensor and his wife, Peggy, have five children, and grandchildren. He is active in Longbranch Community Church and Key Peninsula Veterans Institute.

(Information provided by KPVI)



## Flag salute

Old Glory flies at half mast at Vaughn Bay Cemetery in tribute to fallen service men and women until noon on Veterans Day, when it was run to the top of the pole by members of the Key Peninsula Veterans' Institute.

## Celebrating veterans

Vaughn Elementary students sing patriotic songs for a full house of fellow students and visitors, including veterans and active duty personnel, during the school's Veterans Day assembly.

Photos by Hugh McMillan



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# Foss geoduck farm remains in limbo

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Both the aquaculture industry and private tidelands owners they represent, as well as a coalition of environmental organizations opposed to current geoduck farming practices, packed a hearing room at Pierce County Planning and Land Services in early November. They were there to hear the polite and pointed legal battle among five attorneys representing four interests: Pierce County, Taylor Resources, Inc., North Bay Partners, and a five-organization environmental coalition. The hearing was convened to address two key issues concerning Foss Farm, a private tideland farm adjacent to Joemma Beach State Park. The hearing examiner's ultimate decision will affect not only this farm, but potentially all others now operating under the same permit system countywide.

Two days of testimony failed to be enough time to conclude the witness lineup the five clients' counsel had crafted to influence Pierce County Hearing Examiner Terry McCarthy, who continued the venue to January.

The Pierce County staff report prepared



The hearing room on the Foss Farm case is packed with people representing various interest groups in November.

Photo by Chris Fitzgerald

by Ty Booth, senior planner, shows the two issues are that Taylor Shellfish believes the permit should operate into perpetuity, and that, since the company does not concede the apparatus of aquaculture farming constitutes "structures," no permit is necessary. According to the report, Pierce County disagreed with Taylor, and so notified Taylor through an Aug. 8 administrative determination. Citing a section of the Pierce County Shoreline Management Use Regulations, Booth writes, "Substantial Development permit shall be obtained for any develop-

ment or use consisting of the construction or exterior alteration of structures... removal of any sand, gravel, or mineral... placing of obstructions, or any project of a permanent or temporary nature which interferes with the normal public use of the surface waters overlying lands subject to the Shoreline Management Act at any state of water level..."

Booth testified at the hearing that he was "the face of Pierce County" to the shellfish industry. He recalled that in 2000, he shared his personal opinion with Diane Cooper, Taylor's representative, saying, "I believe geoduck should be allowed to operate into perpetuity, if the farm is an established farm in the six-year (permit time) period." When asked by an attorney why he said this while representing the county, he replied he wanted a "free-flow of information." Later in his testimony, he conceded his was a minority opinion in the planning department. A statement in his staff report reads, "PALS (Planning and Land Services) has a history of pursuing unpermitted geoduck activities in Pierce County... If the appellant (Taylor) knows of others, they should file a complaint with Pierce County Code Enforcement." Jill Guernsey, Pierce County counsel, concluded county testimony by saying, "We are requesting the hearing examiner uphold our decision (of) July 2007."

Cooper testified that her employer's goal was to "work with agencies to find solutions to complicated problems." She was instrumental in the Foss lease, and said, "(The application was) not so much about getting a permit, but going through a process (to develop relationships with county agencies)... For anything other than geoduck, we would not have applied."

## Foss Farm history

When Taylor Shellfish Farms originally applied for this first Pierce County

geoduck farm in 2000, the company had successfully negotiated the site on a mile-long stretch of beach that has come to be known as the Foss Farm. The parcel is zoned "Conservancy and Natural Shoreline Environments and Rural 10." The 120-plus acre high-bank property has been owned for multiple generations by families of the founder of Foss Tug, and is vested in a trust under the name of North Bay Partners. Upon the granting of a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit (SSDP) and Department of Ecology review shortly thereafter, Taylor's geoduck operation commenced on the new lease.

Fast forward to early 2007, prior to which time at least one harvest on the private tideland farm had occurred. Beachfront residents residing a few lots from the site filed a complaint with PALS, arguing, according to the staff report, "that the permit had expired and that approved activity was creating a variety of adverse impacts." In May, the county sent an email to Taylor stating, "...The activity may be operating outside the allowable timelines... and may need to cease operations and/or obtain new approval."

According to the neighbors, in the first days of July, Taylor began a full-crew flurry of tube-placement activity on the site. A revocation of the permit on behalf of neighboring property owners and citizen groups was filed by their attorney, David Bricklin, on July 9. A month later, the county issued the determination stating, "Taylor was properly required to obtain the SSDP in 2000, the permit has now expired, and a new permit is required to continue the activity." Subsequent to that issuance, and Taylor's filing of appeal of the decision, Bricklin's hearing request was withdrawn.

In response to a question at the November hearing regarding the current value of the in-ground "crop" at the Foss Farm, Taylor farm manager Brian Phipps said "approximately \$6 million." When asked why crews returned in July to pull hundreds of planting tubes that had just been placed on the site, Phipps appeared to be unaware of any company rush to beat the county clock. "We didn't have enough seed to plant," he said.

When the hearing reconvenes in January, Bricklin will continue with opposition testimony; Pierce County, Taylor Shellfish, and North Bay Partners witnesses have previously testified. McCarthy anticipates his findings will be forthcoming sometime in late February, unless unforeseen events delay that process.

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# BRIEFS

news

## Safe Streets open house

A few weeks after acquiring office space in the Key Center fire station, Andrea Jerabek, Safe Streets Campaign community mobilization specialist for Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula, is settled and getting to know community members. On Wednesday, Dec. 5, from 4 to 7 p.m., she will host an open house in her new office. This will provide "an opportunity for folks to come down and see what Safe Streets is all about and meet your community mobilizer," she says. For more information about this event or Safe Streets, call Jerabek at 884-1616.

## KP land-use advisory board appointed

On Nov. 13, the Pierce County Council voted to confirm the appointments of nine members to the new Key Peninsula Advisory Commission (KPAC): Frank DiBiase, Tara Froode, Michael Hays, Russell Humberd, David Mikelson, Barbara Rowland, Barbara Schoos, Frank

Shirley, and Chuck West. Four of the commission appointees are also area directors on the Key Peninsula Community Council.

This commission (PC Resolution R2007-134) was created to serve as a land use advisory board to the county executive, the county council, hearing examiner, planning commission, and the Planning and Land Services Department on matters relative to the Key Peninsula Comprehensive Plan.

## Citizen of the Year nominations sought

The Key Peninsula Lions Club is accepting nominations for the annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Awards to be held in early 2008 at the KP Civic Center. Nominees of any age must reside, own property, or work on the Key Peninsula; no member of the Lions Club may be nominated. Nominees should have rendered volunteer service on behalf of the Key Peninsula community, either for a single outstanding contribution or for sustained contributions over many years. Send nominee names, telephone numbers, and mailing addresses to KP Lions, PO Box 63, Vaughn, WA 98394, or via email to

HMcMNP1000@centurytel.net. For information, call 884-3319 or 884-6417.

## 'Farmbudsman' aims to support small farms

In Pierce County, the loss of farmland is a concerning downside of urbanization to county leaders, who recently created the Farming Assistance, Revitalization and Marketing (FARM) program. The board is comprised of commercial farmers and other agriculture experts, representatives of Pierce Conservation District, Pierce County's Economic Development Division, Planning and Land Services Department, and WSU Extension.

The new "farmbudsman," Carrie Sikorski, brings communications, marketing and regulatory experience to the position. "The most challenging part is the race against time, because lands that are suitable for agriculture are being paved and forever lost to development at an alarming rate... It will take strong public policy and key shifts in consumer behavior to hold on to agricultural assets," she said.

The FARM Board meetings, held the fourth Monday evening of the month, are open to the public. More informa-

tion is available by calling 798-FARM (3276), or contacting Carrie Sikorski, Department of Community Services, at 798-3253 or via email at csikors@co.pierce.wa.us.

## Native plant sale

The 2008 native bare root tree and shrub sale through Pierce Conservation District has begun, and orders will continue to be accepted until Jan. 31. According to "The Tahoma View," PCD's newsletter, the plants arrive at district headquarters in Puyallup in late February from the Washington Association of Conservation Districts nursery in Skagit County. They will have been harvested from growing fields while dormant, ready for replanting. Proceeds from the sale cover staff time to hold the event, and contributes toward Conservation District programs.

Members of PCD can find the plant descriptions and order form in their Fall 2007 newsletter. PCD small farm planner Erin Ewald has additional order forms at the Key Center office in The Landing. She will also accept prepaid plant-list order forms through the end of January.



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# New KPCS director looks ahead to expanded services

By Donna Gates-Smeall  
Special to KP News

Longtime Key Peninsula resident Penny Gazabat took over the duties of executive director for the Key Peninsula Community Services last month. Her current focus is to continue to review the existing services, write grants to fill current needs, and to develop relationships within and outside of the community to benefit the clients. Following the holiday season, she plans to look at expanding the services for 2008.



GAZABAT

The KPCS board embraces Gazabat's philosophy that "everyone in our community deserves to be emotionally/physically safe and healthy."

"We are so thrilled to have Penny on board here. She has so much to offer to the Key Peninsula community," said Assistant Director Kyong Bertsch.

Key Peninsula Community Services has two central programs that benefit residents

**"I am excited to begin looking at developing new opportunities and programs for our seniors to become involved with."**

— Penny Gazabat,  
KPCS executive director

of the Key Pen community. One is a senior center that provides and helps coordinate activities, lunches and transportation for seniors and helps with their health-related needs such as foot care, blood pressure checks, and flu shots. The second is a food bank that serves at least 120 families every month, which helps to take the edge off their food bills. "I would encourage people to come in and use this service if they qualify according to the Washington state 2007 income guidelines," Gazabat said.

Her position as director gives her the opportunity to create an image for the center in the community as well as to offer sustainable activities for its members and visitors. "I am excited to begin looking at developing new opportunities and programs for our seniors to become

involved with," she said.

Already, the center has received some nice benefits from Gazabat's work. A recent grant was written and submitted to acquire a new commercial glass door refrigerator for the food bank. "Good news, we're getting it," she said with enthusiasm. Additionally, a new relationship has been established with the new Costco in Gig Harbor, plus food drives are going on throughout the Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas.

KPCS is largely a volunteer-driven organization with a board that oversees the activities and needs of the center. Help is always needed, Gazabat said. The food bank needs helpers to stock shelves and distribute food to recipients and drivers to help pick up donations. "Our senior center can use kitchen/server help on Wednesdays and Fridays," Gazabat said. "We also are in need of folks willing to put in a few hours a week on janitorial duties like window washing, vacuuming and dusting the center."

Gazabat has long ties to the community and an extensive list of contributions. She and her husband, Fred, lived in the Minter area for 16 years and in Lakebay for the

past 14 years. All three sons have graduated from Peninsula High School. She continues to volunteer with I.M.Pact's domestic violence program and serves on the advisory board of Communities in Schools of Peninsula.

"For me, volunteering for any organization provides a physical way to value people and community and in turn serves to enrich and benefit all of us as a whole," she said.

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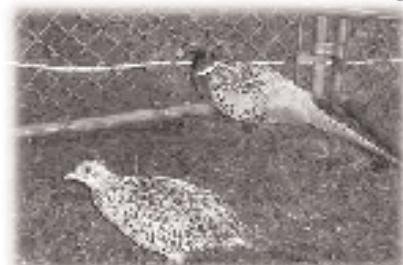
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# Fair caters to caregivers

Organized by The Mustard Seed Project, the first Key Peninsula Opportunity Fair for In-Home Care Workers attracted some 30 current and prospective caregivers in early November to the Civic Center.

This event will be followed by a "Caregiver Connection" gathering in early 2008, where the needs and employment interests of in-home care workers will be addressed through further discussion and networking.



Organization founder Edie Morgan is pictured here talking with Kim Muniz, president of Hearts of Grace Homecare, Inc., a caregiver agency located in Port Orchard.

In the background are Jan Sweeten and Patricia Von Knorring of Tacoma Community College at the school's booth.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

# BRIEFS

news

## Auction brings success

The Dr. Penrose Orthopedic Guild grossed \$10,000 at its annual luncheon/auction in early November. The sold-out event created an early holiday atmosphere, with a good variety of items for sale, including many hand-made ones.

## Fair gears up for 2008

Newly elected Key Peninsula Community Fair Board President Mike Hays said the board had its first meeting on Nov. 14 to plan for next year's event. Returning as vice-president is Tom Boardman, Barb Heard remains as secretary, and newcomer Jeff Baker is treasurer. In 2008, the eighth year of the fair, the board hopes to add more programs for kids and families, possibly pony rides, and a rock-climbing wall. The fair is set for the second weekend in July.

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### December Calendar of Bands and Events

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| EVERY SUNDAY MONDAY KIRKCELSBACKI                           |                                 |
| SING ALONG WITH GARY  | 7-11PM                          |
| EVERY TUESDAY OPEN MC WITH BILLY FARMER                     | 7-11PM                          |
| EVERY WEDNESDAY JUNKYARD JUNE TRO                           | ON STAGE 8-9PM                  |
| DEC. 1st NEED TAILOR & TAILOR MADE                          | ALL JAZZ 8-9PM                  |
| DEC. 7th HAWKIE   | COUNTRY & OLD ROCK & ROLL 8-9PM |
| DEC. 9th CROSSBONDS   | ALL ROCK & ROLL 8-9PM           |
| DEC. 14th KIM MURCHER BAND                                  | HARD ROCK & BLUES 8-9PM         |
| DEC. 16th BLUES ATTITUDE                                    | BLUES & OLD ROCK & ROLL 8-9PM   |
| DEC. 21st BILLY FARMER & THE RAMBLERS                       | COUNTRY/ROCK 8-9PM              |
| DEC. 23rd MARK FOLEY TRO BLUES & AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC 8-9PM |                                 |
| DEC. 26th FINEBLODE TRAIN                                   | COUNTRY & BALLADS 8-9PM         |
| DECEMBER 29th BLUES CREATORS                                | BLUES & ROCK 8-9PM              |

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*Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

JoAnne Gray of Pep-C was one of the three workshop presenters.

# Disaster preparedness focus of workshop

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Low attendance at an emergency preparation workshop in November may have been an indication that people on the Key Peninsula are already well prepared — or that the memory of the aftermath of last year's windstorms has already faded. But a video shown to participants by Sheri Badger of Pierce County's Emergency Management Department was a reminder of many natural disasters that can hit the local area at any time. Images of uprooted trees falling on homes, heavy snow toppling marina roofs and sinking boats, submerged cars, salmon "crossing" flooded highways, and a sinking Hood Canal Bridge set the stage for the workshop, which focused on vulnerable populations but covered basic preparedness for any major disaster.

According to Badger, Pierce County has had the most federally declared disasters in Western Washington, and is the only county with two federally declared disasters at the same time.

"How well we prepared ahead of time for disaster is how well we'll fare it," said Debbie Bailey with the county's PC-NET program that helps neighborhoods prepare for disasters. "(Hurricane) Katrina taught us first responders will be overwhelmed and will not be able to get here any time too soon... and we will need to step up to the plate and be the first responders." She said preparedness "is not rocket science," and PC-NET gets neighbors together, through a series of six meetings, to help

## Resources

KHGP-FM, Peninsula High School's radio station (93.7, 89.9 or 89.3) broadcasts emergency information including road closure and power updates; the county's emergency broadcast system can link into KGHP directly for announcements in case of emergencies.

PEP-C's Website at [www.pep-c.org](http://www.pep-c.org) has an extensive list of resources, tips and other information including how to buy \$25 55-gallon drums for storing water.

Pierce County's Website at [www.co.pierce.wa.us](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us) has a list of resources, tips and more under the Emergency Management link.

them prepare a response scenario in their neighborhood.

JoAnne Gray with Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee (or PEP-C), a nonprofit whose mission is educating Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula residents, was one of the presenters. She said most stores work on a "just in time" system that allows them to have only enough merchandise for three days under normal circumstances, "and there isn't going to be more in the back." She said emergency preparedness may feel overwhelming, but the PEP-C Website ([www.pep-c.org](http://www.pep-c.org)) has a monthly activity list that breaks down the steps. "You can start now and do one activity this month, (and one each month), and in a year you'll be prepared," she said.

# Home Feed and Grocery owner has colorful history

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

In the heart of Home, situated on a hill off Key Peninsula Highway, is a small rural business called Home Feed and Grocery. This little grocery and feed store has been owned and run by a friendly, ambitious and hard-working Key Pen resident, Trixie Schick, for 35 years. It serves mostly locals, but summertime brings a lot of tourists.

Schick was born and grew up in Graz, Austria, the same city where Arnold Schwarzenegger was born. In 1949, she left Austria to make her own living. She worked a variety of jobs all around the Mediterranean in different countries and says one of her most unusual ones was "on the job training" as a magician's assistant. "I eventually started training other women as assistants and did a lot of costume sewing," she said.

While traveling and working, Schick met her husband in Trieste, Italy, and they were married in Saigon, Vietnam. He was in the military and was transferred to Ft. Lewis in 1958, where he retired two years later. Schick managed



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh  
Trixie Schick in front of her store in Home.

two grocery mini-marts and quit after being held up at each one. In 1971, she took on a franchise at Mode 'O Day (a small but popular women's dress shop) at the Tacoma Mall. In conjunction with that, two years later, she started making bulk mail deliveries (so-called speed

runs) for the USPS from Bremerton to Belfair, Vaughn to Purdy, and the whole Key Peninsula.

She liked the greenery of the Key Pen so when she saw the grocery and feed store for lease (then located across from the Home Marina), Schick decided to open a business. In 1974 she purchased the lease, packed her belongings and moved here. Business was off to a surviving start with tourists adding to her income, then in 1983 her lease expired and she moved to her current location. For eight years, until 1981, she kept busy maintaining three jobs until she let go of the first two.

Asked what she likes the most about being on the Key Peninsula, she said: "the greenery, as it reminds me of 'home,' and you get to know everybody."

Schick has been robbed at gunpoint twice at the current location. During a recent power outage, someone broke into the store, and two days later another robbery attempt was made but this one was interrupted by one of her sons.

She still has a photo of a 500-year-old building where her mother once worked.

"Life and business go on 'one day at a time.'"

— Trixie Schick

Schick decided years ago to never return to her home country. She has seen pictures of changes but wants to remember things as they were.

The original signs that were used for the early and current stores still exist at Home Feed and Grocery, serving as memories of the past. One can be seen as you go up the antique ramp and the other perched on top of the store's roof. The eye catcher, however, is the tall, yellow neon sign that seems to say, "Come on in, I'm open."

The store is open seven days a week, every day of the year. When Schick is gone, one of her two sons helps out. Asked if she has any dreams for the immediate future, she said, "For now, no, but you never know. Life and business go on 'one day at a time.'"

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The LIC Christmas tree and the beautifully decorated Christmas set the tone for a joyful day.

Co-Ed Exercise Aerobics & Yoga will resume January 22

Wishing you all a joyous season

253-884-6022 for LIC information or  
253-884-9157 for event info or tickets  
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Photo by Vic Renz

Harley master John Baillargeon in his shop.

# Just what the (hog) doctor ordered...

By Irene Torres, KP News

Tucked away in a neighborhood on Hunter Road, just north of the Key Peninsula, is a motorcycle specialty shop, John's Performance Shop (JPS). Owner John Baillargeon is a Vietnam veteran and former nuclear submarine chief machinist who specializes in Harley Davidson motorcycles. He brings 30 years of experience in all aspects of practical and high-perform-

ance engine modifications and tuning.

"If you want to modify your bike to improve ride and power delivery, you've found your shop," he said.

He offers superior service in his customer-friendly shop. Once a week, customers congregate at the shop to talk about motorcycles. His demand for perfection contributes to his reputation of excellence, and he has many customers who've offered their testimonials as to the quality of his work. One satisfied customer is KP resident Jim Dubois. He said, "John changed out the pistons and muscled my bike out completely, taking it from 90 horses to 100... with a 110 torque. I still haven't opened it up all the way."

Baillargeon owns a 1992 Dyna Daytona, and said he squeezes its routine maintenance in as best as he can, considering his clients' bikes are usually occupying the lifts. "We work with our customers to determine exactly what is wanted and deliver the most practical and affordable options available," he said.

His focus is on Harley Big-Twin motorcycles, and he welcomes Sportys, Shovelheads, and Evos as well as the Twin Cams.

"John has an almost photographic memory of any engine. He puts his heart and soul into his work, and never gets tired of talking about engines," Dubois said. "And John expects your bike to be shiny all the time. If it's not, he will let you know."

Baillargeon uses quality tools to install the highest quality parts and consumables. He uses state-of-the-art equipment for fast and accurate tire changes. The shop features a Snap-on wheel balancer, which was specifically designed for motorcycle wheel and tire use. His Neway valve seat-cutting machine and valve-cutting lathe offer precision head work, and true three-angle valve jobs.

He welcomes special orders and offers substantial discounts from dealer prices, due to his low overhead and a labor rate that is lower than dealerships offer.

Since he retired from the shipyards about a year ago, Baillargeon said he is now "happy riding and tuning Harleys to their top capabilities." His goal is "to provide you a level of service excellence that you have never had, and further, to do it rapidly and get you back on the road where you belong."

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# COMMUNITY WORKS

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

## Dec. 1 – SAVE open house

SAVE Thrift Store will host its annual Holiday Open House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The store will be decorated for Christmas with holiday themes, and the regular merchandise of clothing, housewares, toys, etc. All proceeds are used for scholarships for seniors from Peninsula High School. SAVE is located below PHS in Purdy.

Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., SAVE; 857-2800

## Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 – Bloodmobile dates

The Bloodmobile will be at Albertson's, 11330 51st Ave NW, from 12:30-7 p.m. on the following Mondays: Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31.

## Dec. 7 – Mustard Seed Project meeting

The Senior Information & Referral group will meet at 10 a.m. at the Key Center Library. The meeting will be followed by an 11 a.m. occupational therapy presentation on "Nutrition and Falls Prevention," which will be immediately followed by refreshments and holiday cheer for any task group members who come by.

The Key Senior Information Center is staffed by community volunteers, trained to provide information about services and programs available for older adults. Hours are 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center in the Key Center Library building. Closed Dec. 25-Jan.1.

Friday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. Key Center Library; Edie 884-9814

## Dec. 9 – Key Singers' Christmas concert

Key Singers present their annual Christmas concert, a benefit performance for Community House. Please bring nonperishable food items and/or money for the food bank. The Key Singers will also sing at the Longbranch Improvement Club Christmas party and will present a Christmas performance at Cottesmore Nursing Home on Dec. 21 at

2:30 p.m. Their musical selections vary. They practice on Tuesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Longbranch Church and welcome new members.

Sunday, Dec. 9, 3 p.m. KP Lutheran Church, Lackey Rd; 884-5615

## Dec. 10 – Key Pen Parks to adopt plan

The Key Peninsula Parks will adopt a six-year park comprehensive plan. The purpose is to be able to plan for the future recreational needs of the Key Peninsula and to apply for state and federal grants. There are six areas to the plan: Goals & Objectives, Public Involvement, Inventory, Demand & Needs Analysis, Capital Improvement Program, and Adoption. A draft copy is available at [www.keypeninsulaparks.com](http://www.keypeninsulaparks.com) and public comments are strongly encouraged.

Monday, Dec. 10, Volunteer Park Annex, 5514 Key Pen Hwy, 7:30 p.m. Scott, 884-9240

## Dec. 13 – KPCCA general meeting

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association will have its annual Christmas potluck dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the general meeting at 7 p.m. The main item on the agenda is the election of 2008 officers and board members. All are welcome.

Thursday, Dec.13, 6 p.m., KP Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road

## Dec. 14 – Peacemakers hold vigil

Key Peacemakers will hold a candle-light peace vigil to honor those involved in the wars and to hope for peace. Bring wind-proof candles and flashlights.

Friday, Dec 14, 5:30-6:30, Purdy Bridge; Dory, 884-9299

## Dec. 16 – Shop in Seattle

Jump on a motor coach and let someone else drive, pay the toll and park, and head to downtown Seattle to experience the holiday season. Take a ride to Seattle Center on the monorail, venture to the Pike Place Market, ride the carousel, gaze at the lights, and shop for that last-minute gift. Depart

## Church contributes to CHS



Church of Latter Day Saints of Key Peninsula members Lynne Bassey and Sharon Glenn display some of the items members of the church made or collected for those in need to Children's Home Society's Vicki Biggs, there on behalf of CHS.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Key Peninsula's Church of Latter Day Saints member Sharon Glenn said she was given an assignment in August to find a community group to provide service to. "I called a couple of places," she said, "and they didn't call me back and then I remembered Vikki Biggs helps at the Children's Home Society, so I called her and asked if they would be open to letting us do something for them." Biggs gave her a shopping list of items families always need, including hygiene items, laundry soap, bath towels and blankets.

"As the leader of our group, I talked to the sisters I work with and we decided that in addition to the above

items we would like to make dresses for little girls," Glenn said. That led to pants for little boys and quilts for whomever needed them.

One of the reasons for doing all this, Glenn said, was to raise awareness in the community about the services provided by the Children's Home Society and also to let people know that the Church is on the peninsula. "We love to have visitors to our church and to help the community when possible. Our humanitarian group meets every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to work on whatever projects we have going. It is a comfortable place for those who want to learn to sew or would just like to visit with us." For information, call Sharon Glenn at 884-5992.

Sunday from Volunteer Park at 10 a.m. and return around 8 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person, which includes transportation and snack; lunch and any other necessities are on you. Participants must pre-register by Dec. 7 by calling 884-9240.

Tickets for this family event are \$4 and are available at the door.

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m. Key Peninsula Civic Center, \$4; 884-2269 or [office@vaughnchurch.org](mailto:office@vaughnchurch.org)

## Dec. 20 – KP Senior Society celebrates

Yesterday's Teenagers will celebrate Christmas on Thursday with a special dinner at noon. Newcomers are welcome to join.

Thursday, Dec. 20, noon, Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road, 884-4981 or 884-5052

## Dec. 18 – Celebrate Christmas

Vaughn Community Church invites all to celebrate Christmas at a special evening that will include the play "Eyewitness News: Christmas," carolers, live musicians and delicious desserts.

# OBITUARIES

## Harmon L. Van Slyke

Harmon (Harm) L. Van Slyke died at the age of 88 on Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2007, at St. Clare Hospital in Tacoma. He was a lifelong resident of Vaughn and Victor.

Van Slyke and his twin sister, Helen, were born to Harmon Sr. and Grace Van Slyke on Feb. 14, 1919. He graduated from Vaughn Union High School in 1938 and Pacific Lutheran College in 1942, and worked briefly as a school teacher in Belfair before enlisting in the Army Corps of Engineers during WWII. Upon his return he began H. L. Van Slyke Lumber Co. (now Vaughn Bay Lumber Co.) and operated it until his retirement.

Van Slyke had many loves — his wife and family, salmon fishing, gardening, singing, square dancing, and bingo. He was a member of the Key Singers, Gig Harbor Elks, and the Historic Vaughn Bay Church. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Jane; daughter Carmon (Art) Fenton Jr. of Gig Harbor; sons Tom (Ursula) and Dale (Diann) Van Slyke,



VAN SLYKE & WOLNIEWICZ

both of Vaughn; eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Preceding him in death was his sister, Martha McEntee.

A memorial service was held Nov. 3, at Haven of Rest Funeral Home in Gig Harbor.

## Helen Grace (Van Slyke) Wolniewicz

Helen Wolniewicz died at the age of 88 on Monday, Oct. 29, 2007, in Tacoma. She and her twin brother, Harmon, were born to Harmon Sr. and Grace Van Slyke on Feb. 14, 1919. She grew up in Vaughn

and graduated from Vaughn Union High School in 1938.

Wolniewicz worked as office manager for the medical laboratories currently at Allenmore Medical Center. She lived in Tacoma/Midland for more than 35 years before retiring to Vaughn over 30 years ago, where she was a member of Historic Vaughn Bay Church.

Wolniewicz was an active member of the Cootiette (Supreme Cootiette Club of the United States — a service club to veterans), Jackson Lake Sportsman Club, Key Peninsula Historical Society, Vaughn Bay Garden Club, and senior activities at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. She enjoyed gardening, especially flowers; traveling, gathering with family at their Vaughn beach, and her monthly card game with girlfriends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald S. Wolniewicz, sister Martha McEntee, and twin brother Harmon L. Van Slyke, just six days prior. She is survived by her son, Jerry Wolniewicz of Vaughn, daughter Donna (Gary) Docken of Parkland, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held Nov. 6 at Vaughn Bay Cemetery. Remembrances may be made to the Vaughn Bay Cemetery Association.

# Christmas dinner invites seniors

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Mike and Joyce Salatino and their friends are once again preparing for their annual dinner on Christmas Day at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Many years ago, the Salatinos invited one elderly man to dine with them on Christmas. The next year, they invited a busload of people.

Last year, three Pierce Transit buses, with volunteer drivers and attendants, brought many of the guests to dinner. Salatino has said it's not a poverty program — a person's annual income doesn't determine who can be invited. It's for people who would otherwise be alone on Christmas. Most are seniors, and some are people with special needs.

Up to three dozen volunteers help shop, prepare food, set up, serve, and clean up. The crew varies from year to year, but there are always enough who are familiar with the event, so it runs smoothly. Many people donate food, money and gifts, and the donations come in all year round.

They serve a turkey dinner with all the trimmings to about 100 people, and each guest leaves with a special gift. Reservations must be made by Dec. 15, so they can plan the food purchases. If you or someone you know would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day, call 857-4556, or 884-5608.

# OFF THE KEY

## Through Dec. 16 – Family holiday show

The Paradise Theatre presents "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!" on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. This is a hilarious Christmas tale about trying to turn childhood mayhem into a pageant and is a huge holiday favorite. Tickets are available online at [www.paradisetheatre.org](http://www.paradisetheatre.org) or 253-851-PLAY.

## Dec. 8 – Civic Orchestra concert

Now in its fourth season, the Gig Harbor Peninsula Civic Orchestra will present its "Let's Dance" concert that will include Weber's Invitation to the Dance, Ponchielli's Dance of the Hours, Rimsky-Korsakov's Dance of the Tumblers, Tchaikovsky's Capriccio Italian and dances from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker ballet.

Saturday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m. Peninsula High School auditorium, 14105 Purdy Dr. NW,

free; Ed, 853-6550 or [www.ghpcorchestra.com](http://www.ghpcorchestra.com)

## Dec. 8 – 'Tour of Homes'

Altrusa Holiday Tour of Homes, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., all throughout Gig Harbor. Proceeds go to the Peninsula Youth Orchestra and other service projects. \$20 advance tickets, \$25 at door. 858-0088

## Dec. 15 – League of Women Voters meeting

The LWV-Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Unit meets from 10 a.m. to noon at the Volunteer Center in Gig Harbor. The issue of discussion will be ranked choice voting. The league welcomes public participation. The unit's local study is the relocation issue of State Route 302.

Saturday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m., Volunteer Center, 3125 Judson, GH; Mary, 884-1061 or Liz, 851-2210

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## School district revisits strategic planning

Peninsula School District has embarked in a strategic planning process that will culminate in setting district-wide goals. The plan will be used as a road map for all district operations including academic achievement.



*Focus groups discuss school district goals during a strategic plan meeting at Henderson Bay High School.*

The plan will be created with input from various district stakeholders as well as parent groups and community members ranging from civic and business leaders to booster organizations. More than 60 focus groups will participate in



*Student Services Executive Director Dr. Sarah Drinkwater leads the strategic plan focus group at Henderson Bay High.*

discussions about the district's priorities, and later public forums will be scheduled in early 2008.

The focus groups were launched in October at several schools. "We are here to listen to your creative ideas on how we can deliver the best education for our students—that's the bottom line," Superintendent Terry Bouck told the Henderson Bay High School focus group, comprised of school staff and teachers.

The Board of Directors will use the input from the focus groups to develop objectives and action plans for the next

five years. The focus groups will be instrumental in prioritizing important issues. The goal is to complete the background work by February and develop goals by April.

"The timing is very good because it will lead us into budget planning next spring and levy planning," says Associate Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto.

The district's previous strategic plan was developed in 2000 and later revised in order to assess progress. "Many things have changed in eight years, but a lot of the work we've done will still fit in future goals," Cuzzetto says.

### DECEMBER 2007

- 1-2** Gig Harbor High School TideFest. Saturday, December 1 from 10-5 & Sunday, December 2 from 11-4. Admission is \$5. A Gig Harbor tradition since 1981. Call for more information: 253-530-1478.
- 13** School Board Regular Meeting 6:30 p.m. District Office
- Goodman Middle School Choir Concert 7:00 p.m. in the Commons
- Key Peninsula Middle School Choir Concert 7:30 p.m. in the Commons

**20-31** No School— Winter Break

### JANUARY 2007

**1** No School— Winter Break

#### Pool Holiday Closures:

GHHS: Dec 1-2 (closed for TideFest),  
GHHS & PHS Dec 23-25 and Dec 30-Jan 1

For additional information visit  
[www.pools.psd401.net](http://www.pools.psd401.net).

#### PSD BOARD GOALS 2004 - 2009

- A Safe Learning Environment for All Students and Staff
- An Equitable Educational Program for Each Student that Guarantees Academic Success
- An Articulated, Student-Centered, and Dynamic Curriculum that Prepares All Students for Their Future
- A Systems Approach to District Operations that Supports Student Learning
- Recruit and Retain a High Quality Workforce through Comprehensive Programs & Policies
- Fiscal Strategies and Policies that Balance District Needs and Revenues and Ensure Efficient and Equitable Use of Resources
- An Evolving Plan for Facility Maintenance, Replacement and Use that Addresses Options in a Changing Community
- Communications that Inform and Invite Community Participation, Parent & Staff Involvement and Encourages Partnerships.

#### Did you know

In the event of an emergency situation such as water, power, heat failure or sudden change in weather conditions after the regular school day has begun emergency bus routes may be used to take students home. During such an emergency, you will receive instructions from your school Principal or by radio/TV concerning a plan for delivering students home. Each family should have a plan covering what to do when students arrive home in emergency situations; i.e., daycare providers, phone contacts, house keys, neighbors, etc. For more information visit: [www.psd401.net](http://www.psd401.net) and view emergency procedures under Helpful Links.

#### At a glance

SafeSchools LifeLine is an anonymous tip line for school safety—a safety line for our district. Everyone has the power to keep our school district safe. Administrators rely on you to be their eyes and ears by letting them know when a member of our schools or a district building is in danger. Be a life saver and help stop school crises before they happen. Call 1-866-LIVE-TIP and provide the district code: 162.

# FROM PIONEER STOCK

## WILLARD WRIGHT - 4 GENERATIONS FROM HOMESTEADER

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Willard Wright lives near where his great-grandfather, Willard Carney, homesteaded in 1888.

Carney, born in New York, served in the Civil War. After the war, he moved to Yates Center, Kan., with many other veterans. He came to Vaughn soon after other friends and fellow veterans had staked out land in and around Vaughn. His homestead was on the Kitsap end of the lake that now bears his name. Three Carney children arrived with their parents: Minnie, who was about 16, Mary, and Billie.

Elmer Wright came from McHenry, Ill., with three of his seven brothers. He was apparently the only one who settled in Vaughn. He married Minnie Carney in 1897, and they moved to Tacoma, where their only child, Elmer, was born about the time his father died in an industrial accident.

Willard Wright, son of Elmer and Ruth, says he first visited the Carney Lake homestead at age 1, when his parents put



*Photos courtesy of Willard Wright*

Four generations: Ruth Wright with grandson, daughters and mother-in-law Minnie Carnie Wright Hall.

him in the lake water and he cried. Once they turned him around to face the beach, he loved it. He doesn't recall that incident, but holds plenty of memories of the times he spent at the lake during those growing up years.

Wright recalls a 4th of July celebration at the Vaughn schoolyard when he was about 10. He lit a firecracker, but it exploded in his hand before he could throw it. He didn't lose any fingers, but he

was cautious with firecrackers after that.

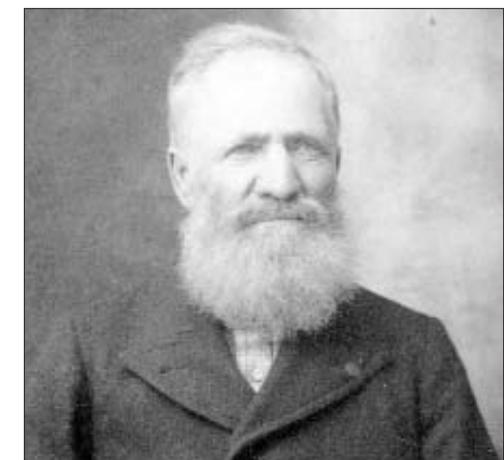
His mother's sisters came out from Missouri, and the cousins grew up together in Tacoma. They fished and swam at the lake in the summer.

Wright recalls "Uncle John" Hall cutting small trees from the center of the two-track road in the early 1930s so the family car could be driven to the property. That road is now Wright-Bliss. Wright says the road was named for a different family of no relation.

John Hall, son of Dr. John and Cornelia Fletcher Hall, vowed to stay with his widowed mother until she died. He helped widow Minnie Wright and her family as he could. Her children and grandchildren, including Willard, called him Uncle John, even after Hall married Minnie in 1935.

In the late 1930s, Minnie let the land go for taxes; the property surrounding the lake was subdivided soon after.

Willard's parents bought two lots on the Pierce County end of the lake in 1945. When the intervening lot came up



Willard Carney ca. 1910.

for sale in early 1946, they asked Willard if he wanted it. He was in the Philippines with the 32nd Infantry Division, but bought the property for \$475.

He graduated as an electrical engineer from the University of Washington, and worked for Bonneville Power Administration, where he met his future wife.

"I gravitated to Boeing," he says. He retired from the company in 1989.

Willard and Evelyn built a cabin on their lot in 1964, and moved into their new home last year. "We are not on the original homestead," he says, "but at least on the lake that bears my great-grandfather's name."



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# BRIEFS

## school

### More Key Peninsula teachers receive national certification

Ten local teachers, Therese Souers of Evergreen Elementary; Phyllis Krueger-Isbell, Vicky Schauer, and Mary Waterbly of Key Peninsula Middle School; Carianne Ferencik and Beth Harrison of Vaughn Elementary; Jeff Stafki of Minter Creek Elementary; and Molly Pugh, Michelle Gilbert and Kristen Zetterstrom of Peninsula High School, were notified on Nov. 9 they had qualified as National Board Certified Teachers, as high an honor as is awarded anyone in the U.S. teaching profession.

Ten other teachers in the Peninsula School District also received the honor. The new certifications brings the number of National Board Certified Teachers serving Key Peninsula students to 18 out of 41 districtwide. (For a complete story, read the January issue of the KP News.)

## School district communications go high-tech

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

When Vaughn Elementary students had to be dismissed late due to the school's field being used for a medical evacuation helicopter recently, parents received a call from the school shortly after dismissal explaining the delay. The automated message, from Principal Mike Benoit, was sent using the school district's SchoolMessenger, a new system that can be used to broadcast pre-recorded messages, simultaneously via the phone, to parents schoolwide as well as districtwide. According to Benoit, in an emergency situation where a message needs to be delivered to the 400 families quickly, it can be done in about 15 minutes using the program.

"One of our greatest challenges as a school is getting clear, efficient, accurate, timely and consistent communication to our families. The SchoolMessenger program is an efficient way to get a consistent message quickly to our families," he said.

Peninsula School district is part of a group of several districts in the region that implemented the emergency noti-

fication program, provided by a California-based company and geared specifically for K-12 educational organizations. The system is programmed to call the primary phone number of parents, and can be customized to broadcast only to specific schools or the entire district. Principals or district administrators record the message, and if no one answers the phone, the message is left on the answering machine/voicemail, or the system could be programmed to call a secondary number such as a mobile phone.

"After our extreme weather (last year), it became readily apparent we needed a more expedient way to contact parents, staff and students about late start or closures," said PSD Superintendent Terry Bouck. "As soon as I closed the schools, I knew we needed a better way to communicate."

In addition to emergencies, principals have used Messenger to remind parents about teacher-parent conferences and other school events, and are implementing it for school attendance — to generate a safety check call when a student is absent.

“

One of our goals as a school is to improve communication.

— Tim Winter, principal

”

Peninsula High School Principal Tim Winter said he likes the “ease at which we can get information to parents.” “One of our goals as a school is to improve communication,” he said.

Bouck said SchoolMessenger is not a replacement for the personal touch or direct communication between the schools and parents. While the district doesn't want to overuse it, he said the program can be used for a variety of situations, from snow day announcements to announcements about report-card mailings and picture day reminders.

“A couple of things I try to keep in mind when considering uses for this new tool is to be brief with the message and not use it too frequently,” Benoit said.



### SR 302 – Establish New Corridor Open House

The Washington State Department of Transportation will host two open houses in December to share progress made in the preliminary SR 302 corridor analysis. To accommodate the community, we have arranged different meeting dates and locations. Please attend the open house most convenient for you.

**Tuesday, December 4, 2007, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

**Peninsula High School Auxiliary Gym (near pool & tennis courts)  
14105 Purdy Drive NW, Gig Harbor**

**Thursday, December 6, 2007, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

**Key Peninsula Civic Center  
17010 South Vaughn Road, Vaughn**

For more information, visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR302/NewCorridor/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR302/NewCorridor/)

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information:** The meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Accommodations for people with disabilities can be arranged. Call the contractor, Lepp Construction, at (360) 836-7000 for more information.

**Title VI Statement to Public:** It is the policy of the Washington State Department of Transportation to provide equal access to its programs and services to all people regardless of race, color, or national origin. If you believe you have been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, or national origin, you may file a complaint with the Federal Highway Administration. For questions regarding WSDOT's Title VI Program, you may contact the Department of Transportation at (206) 736-7100.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



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# Show & Tell



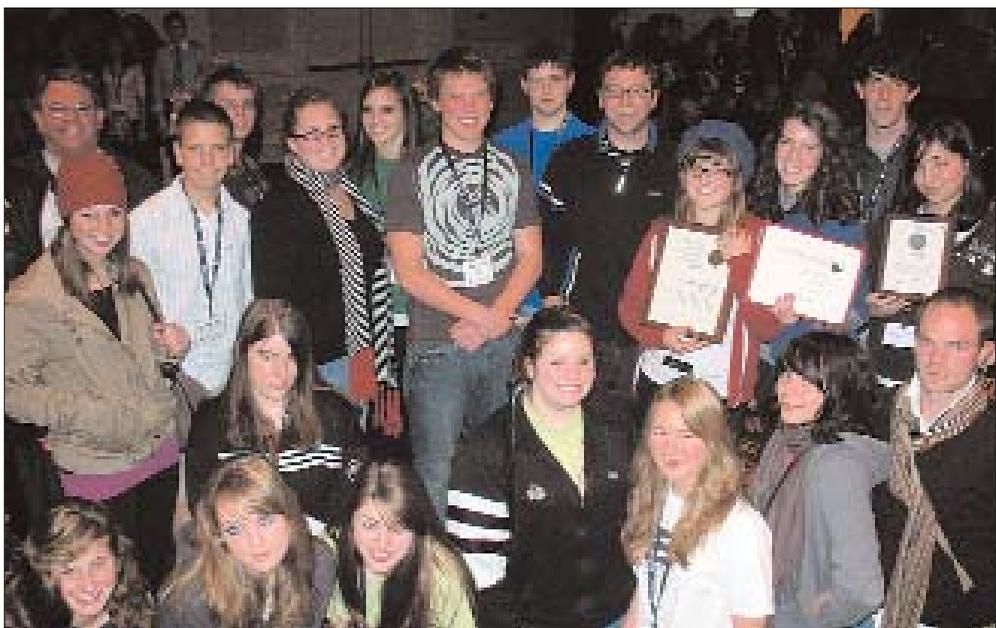
Gathered in Spanish language teacher Mrs. Herrera's classroom, clusters of mixed Chinese and Peninsula High School students share ideas and experiences as part of an exchange program with China. Here, Li Yitan, Katie Vaudt, Brian Templet, ASB president Lyndsi LaRose, and Gracie Newman compare their different lives. For a complete, online-exclusive story, visit [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com). *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Left, Jolen Striheckir and Jezzie Riley of Vaughn Elementary School's ECEAP program give some pointers on proper techniques for highway construction to state Sen. Derek Kilmer, who was on a mission to seek firsthand knowledge from those in the know during his visit to the school in November. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Right, Key Peninsula Middle School teacher Cynthia Holley sings during the school's Veterans Day assembly. For more photos from Key Pen schools celebrating Veterans Day, visit our photo gallery at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com).

*Photo by Mindi LaRose*



The Peninsula Outlook, Peninsula High School's student newspaper, won the NSPA Pacemaker award at the recent National Scholastic Press Association fall convention in Philadelphia. A nine-time finalist, The Outlook has had seven victories in the past 25 years. This national Pacemaker is their second in a row; The Outlook was the only Washington state winner. Judge E. Kersey said, "I have run out of positive words to describe The Outlook." In the photo, Outlook staff on the right holding the award, with the staff of The Sound, Gig Harbor High School's newspaper. *Photo courtesy PHS*



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

|           | Sold Oct 2006 | Sold Oct 2007 | For Sale of 11/19/2007 |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|
|           | 72 Homes      | 76 Homes      | 625 for Sale           |
| High est. | \$1,945,000   | \$1,694,000   | \$4,800,000            |
| Lowest    | \$115,000     | \$47,000      | \$89,000               |
| Median    | \$340,000     | \$373,750     | \$519,000              |

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Minter Elementary's Principal Steve Leitz, teachers Paula DeMoss (not pictured) and Cindy Drager, fifth grade students Anna Gergalo, Hannah Wagaman, and Maddie Kennedy and custodian Nate Sandberg, deliver food collected by students for the Key Peninsula Community Services' food bank.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

# The fire that changed the face of Key Center

By Rick Sorrels  
Special to KP News

Key Center, recognized as the commercial hub and unofficial "capital" of the Key Peninsula, drastically changed on Feb. 4, 1970. A fire of unprecedented proportion consumed nearly the entire Key Center on that winter morning.

Reduced to nothing more than some ashes lying in a hole in the ground were the grocery store (Dominic's Foods), Visell Lumber and Hardware Co., a lawyer's office, a barber shop, a liquor store, a butcher shop, freezer and storage units, and an apartment. The tavern across the street and the Shell gas station (currently the KP Smoke and Wine Shop) cornerwise across the intersection escaped with scorched paint and burst windows.

Newspaper reports stated the firemen and the seven engines that responded were unable to get close enough to get water on the blaze. Flames were shooting 100 feet into the air, and scorched power poles, melted phone lines, and burned through electric power lines.

Don Olson, a battalion chief for Fire District 16 at the time, lived across the street from the fire. "An explosion that blew the windows out of the building woke me up. I called in to report the fire," he recalls. "Within 30 seconds, the phone lines burned through while I was still talking. The heat was intense, like a coke oven. Russ Christine and I had been renting a garage under the building. We lost tools, equipment, and a welder."

Don Mills, the fire chief at the time, says, "The fire started before 3 a.m.; that's when Don Olson called it in. When I got there at 4 a.m., there wasn't anything left to save. We concentrated on saving nearby buildings and the power poles. The dry wood, stacked lumber, paint, and fuel oils created incredibly intense heat. By 5 a.m. there was nothing left except ashes in a hole in the ground. It was the worst fire the Key Peninsula has ever seen. That same night the lighthouse in Longbranch burned."

Bud Ulsh, a volunteer fireman who responded, recalls, "All that was left besides ash was a safe and glass from booze bottles. The fire was so hot that even the sheetrock burned."

Ross Bischoff drove through Key Center before the sun came up that morning on his way to teach classes at the high school in Port Orchard. "Even after the fire was out, the heat was so intense that you could hardly stand it to drive by the scene," he says. "I had just purchased a side of beef to

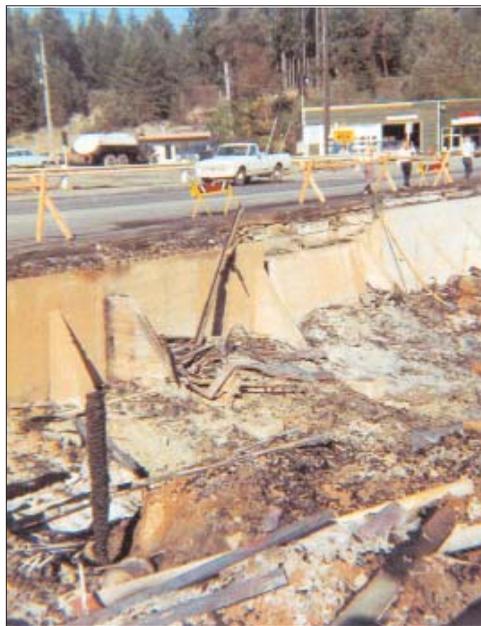


Photo courtesy KP museum

The view of Key Center after the fire destroyed numerous buildings nearly 38 years ago. More photos at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)

store in a freezer unit in the basement under the grocery. I lost it all."

Joyce Niemann lived less than half-mile away and was awakened by exploding paint cans. "It was horrible. The sky was all red. My husband and son went down to watch it burn," she says.

The Key Center Fire Station was a cinder block building (still standing today) up the hill (east) from the fire scene. Mills says, "When I tried to start the tender (water tanker), it wouldn't start, so I had to roll it down the hill to compression-start it to get more water to the fire."

Dominic Foods and the liquor store were owned and operated by Dominic and Shirley Marietta. Shirley Marietta says, "Remains of a chainsaw indicated that somebody had cut through the wall from the hardware store into the liquor store. Insufficient glass remained to account for all of the liquor bottles in stock. A case of R&R Canadian Whiskey stolen from the liquor store was found under the Purdy Bridge. The thieving arsonist was caught in Oregon, was returned for trial, found guilty, and sentenced."

Marietta's store was insured, so all their debts were covered. "Kenny Brones, who owned the lumber and hardware store, was not insured. He was hurt bad financially," she says. "There was a lot of offers from the community to help those impacted by the fire."

In 1970, a deep and wide ravine ran through Key Center. The west side of the

“

**It was horrible. The sky was all red. My husband and son went down to watch it burn.**

— Joyce Niemann

”

buildings that burned was right up next to the road. The east side was built on "stilts." The lumber trucks would drive under the building to unload.

"Brones owned the land. He hired my dad and I to cut trees. We started before the fire occurred, and finished after the fire," says Art Hinzman. "When we were done, Brones used his earthmoving equipment to cut down the vertical hillside east of the fire scene and filled in the ravine. There are culverts all under Key Center to handle the water that used to flow through the ravine."

Marietta recalls that a new grocery store and lumber/hardware store opened about one year after the fire under different owners. "We didn't go back to the grocery business; instead, one week after the fire, we reopened the liquor store across the street in the only available space, where it still exists today, managed by my daughter," she says.

The firemen saved the cabinet shop, which later became the KP Trading Post, and recently reopened as a mini-mall called The Landing. The Shell station later relocated to new facilities diagonally across the intersection, which later became Windermere Key Realty and last month became RE/MAX Red Door. The 1970 restaurant remains a restaurant, until recently operating under the name Huckleberry Inn, and soon to become El Sombrero. The tavern is now a bar.

The KC Corral was built later, as was Red Dogs (occupied today by Nimrick's) and others. Businesses have come and gone since the 1970 death and rebirth of Key Center; forecast population growth and development may well see another face change for Key Center.

## Key Peninsula Community Services 2007 Volunteers of the Year

Becky Nichols  
Bud Ulsh  
Carolyn Carpenter  
Dave Nordberg  
Debbie Weber  
Donna Chapman  
Earle Saxer  
Fern Hagen  
Flo Williams  
Florance Zvara  
Gloria Farnman  
Jean Pease  
Jeanette Brown

Jessie Cousins  
John Glennon  
JoyAnn Snape  
Kap Pease  
Karl Bonn  
Kristin Wylie  
LeRoy McGriff  
Linda Hubbard  
Linda Niles  
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Patsy Tiegs  
Ron Kingsburg  
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Susan Cousins  
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# 'Sunstars and Moonsnails': A book by local artist

By Colleen Slater, KP News

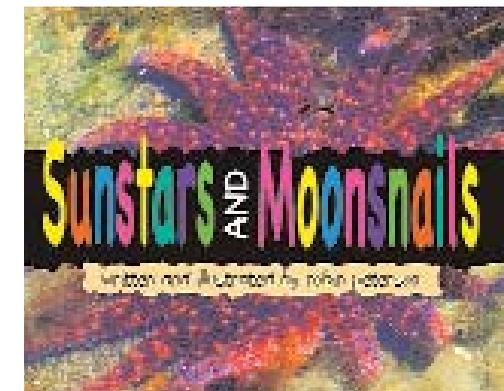
Robin Peterson, a local artist, has just published her second book, "Sunstars and Moonsnails: An alphabet of life on the beach."

Peterson's aunt and mom bought waterfront property just outside of Vaughn Bay about 60 years ago. Her grandfather and uncle replaced the cabin with a house used by the entire family. Peterson lived in the house while her current home was under construction.

As a 2006 Artist in Residence at Glacier National Park, she painted a poster to show the diversity of the park. Included

### For more information

Both books are print-on-demand from [www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/102584](http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/102584). For more about Peterson, visit her Website at <http://fernwoodstudio.com>.



in the picture is the cabin that became her home for her four-week sojourn there. The poster painting became the cover of her first book, "Jewels in the Crown." Both books are a combination of photographs and her paintings.

Peterson began college with an art major, but switched to veterinary medicine. She worked as a veterinarian for 12 years in California and Pennsylvania before starting a second career as an illustrator.

"I can't remember when I didn't draw," she says. She carries a sketch pad as well as a camera with her on hikes and other adventures.

"Sunstars and Moonsnails" contains photographs of people, scenery and Puget Sound salt-water creatures. The text describes aspects of the beach. Each letter is illustrated with a tile Peterson painted.

Alliteration is a hallmark of the book. C claims "Clamdiggers congregating on cobble beaches can closely contemplate clams, crabs and other crustaceans."

Peterson says the book is intended to be read by adults to children, but any adult who enjoys time on the beach will appreciate this colorful book.



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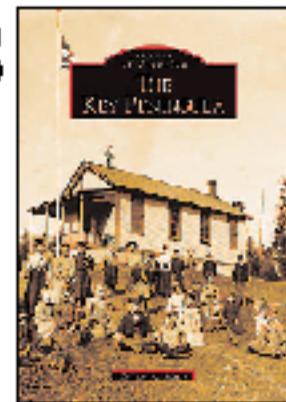
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Non-cash donations considered on case by case basis, call 884-4099.



## A boo-tiful party

Huge crowds of all ages visited the Civic Center in Vaughn on Oct. 31 for the traditional Halloween party organized and sponsored by many local organizations and volunteers. The fest included a haunted house, games, costume contests and, of course, lots of candy. Pictured here is Elijah Campbell, 6, a first-grade student at Vaughn Elementary, a true pirate. For more festival photos, visit our gallery at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com). *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

## BRIEFS

arts&recreation



### 'A Christmas Carol' comes to life

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" will come to life at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church on Dec. 7 and 8. Under the leadership of Jim Davis as producer and Marianne McColley as director, a cast of 30 will present dessert theatre Friday and dinner theatre Saturday evenings. Davis narrates the scenes, Dan Boone plays Scrooge, Mark Roberts is Bob Cratchit, and Raymond Malon becomes Tiny Tim. Call 884-3312 for ticket information.

In the photo: At an early rehearsal are, left to right, Dotty Davis, James Patarozzi (back to camera), Warren Harmic, Stephen Baran, Saun Patarozzi with daughter Tracy, Lynnette Stoddard, Mark

Roberts, Marianne McColley, and Jim Davis. *Photo by Colleen Slater*

### Know your mushrooms

Ready to learn how to identify mushrooms? You're invited to a mushroom identification workshop at Penrose Point State Park on Saturday, Dec. 29 from 1 to 3 p.m. Participants will learn characteristics of mushrooms helpful for identification. Some local mushrooms will be displayed. The workshop is held under a picnic shelter and does not include a walk; it is limited to the first 15 people who call to register. There is no charge. Call Dan Christian at 884-2514 to register.

In the photo: Dan Christian surrounded by a group during one of the recent educational events at the park. *Photo courtesy Janet Shonk, Penrose Point State Park*



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(From FIRE, Page 1)

number of residential dwelling fires in 2006 to the number of incidents in 2007, "to see if we really have seen an increase or if it just felt like it because of the most recent fires being within close timeframes."

"(The) end result of the analysis (is that) we have certainly had an increase in residential fires this year," he reported.

In 2006, there were six fires in one- and two-family residential homes. This number includes typical homes and duplexes but does not include exterior buildings. Of the six fires, three were listed as unintentional and two were failure of equipment or heat source. One fire was listed as "cause under investigation," which does not mean it was intentional, only that the report has not been completed.

In 2007, there have been 18 fires as of Nov. 16 in one- and two-family dwellings.

Of the 18 fires, 12 were listed as unintentional, one was failure of equipment or heat source and five are listed as cause under investigation. By mid-November, the number of fires in those types of buildings tripled. The esti-

### Fire report correction

In follow-up to a previously published report from FD-16 about an Aug. 12 fire on property near Peninsula Iron Works, Guy Allen, division chief of Fire District 16, issued this statement: "After checking into this report, I found that a retraction should be done. The report suggested that the fire occurred at the Ironworks property. However, the 2-foot-diameter fire was in the driveway next to their entrance. After traveling to the site... to see it for myself, it is clear... that this was more of a vandalism incident."

ated dollar loss associated with those fires in 2007 was \$1,783,100, which is also nearly triple the \$637,750 estimated loss for 2006.

Pierce County Fire Marshal Mike Patti is also researching the significant increase in residence fires. He is looking into what kinds of fires have occurred. For instance, one of the 2007 fires was a lightning strike and that was an anomaly, according to Patti. "There are all kinds of things we can look at and if nothing else, we can raise aware-

ness," he said. "A lot of the fire numbers are up because the population is up on the Peninsula. With those numbers, there is an increase in a lot of activity."

Fire safety awareness is high on Chief Allen's list, too. "With a month and a half left in the year and combined with it being the winter season, there is potential that the year total will pass \$2 million. Hopefully, people will be extra careful with their holiday decorations, get their chimneys cleaned, and not leave candles burning in rooms not occupied by someone who is alert," he said.

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Dallas Amidon 253/606-0972



**NEW LAKEBAY HOME- 1.24 AC \$299,950**  
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Mike Maroney  
253/820-1020



Dottie Mazza  
253/225-0530



A.J. Million  
253/884-9537



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253/377-6025



Jessica Smith  
253/514-0471



Cyndi Wilson  
253/219-5483



Ben Urvina  
253/459-2108



(From 2020, Page 1)

first meeting at the end of June. At that time, he said the group's motto would be "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally" to plan sustainable economic development.

In August, the group elected Tara Froode as chair and Kari Trivette as the secretary. In September, the KP Community Council made Livable Key 2020 a subcommittee of its Community Involvement Committee.

"The goal of 2020 is to create and direct change that we can be happy with, proud of, that is sustainable, (and) that demonstrates what we would like the Key Peninsula to become as change and development occur," Froode said.

Participants are "all KP locals with a common goal of identifying projects and visions from the KP Community Plan and transforming the goals of the document into reality," she said.

Mike Kruger, the lead Pierce County planner for Key Peninsula Community Plan who is now a legislative analyst for the county council, said, "I think that the Livable Key 2020 project and project proponents are interested in working towards enhancing the char-

## KP 2020 Meeting

The next meeting of the group will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at the Key Center Library.

acter of the KP and quality of life for local residents. This is consistent with Pierce County's KP Community Plan... (which) contains a number of 'action items'... that the Livable Key 2020 group is taking advantage of in terms of ideas on how to improve the community."



FROODE

While a broad range of issues will need to be addressed — affordable housing, senior services, transportation, global warming, logging regulations, solid waste/recycling, and land use/agriculture — the group has begun with a short list of major projects, starting with signage on the KP: a sign cleanup effort by local volunteers, a new "Welcome to the Key Peninsula" sign, consistent gateway signs to identify each

commercial center, and a pilot program to allow cottage industries, farms, wineries and other home occupations to place tourist information signs within the county right-of-way.

A larger goal and ambition is the creation of a tourist/community resource center, to be built with low-impact, "green" building standards, public restrooms and parking. The group also envisions a farmer's market as a long-term project.

Kruger said, "I expect the county will work to support the efforts of Livable Key 2020 group, particularly when they are attempting to implement items from the community plan."

Froode said more participation from volunteers is needed. "Our group isn't a fixed entity. We are transforming as new volunteers come forward and I am also reaching out to other community volunteer groups to create cohesion," she said. "I believe we can find projects that serve many interest groups, and the community as a whole, and by merging the groups together we can accomplish more when we all focus on similar goals."

For meeting dates or to put your ideas on the agenda, email Froode at tarafroode@centurytel.net.



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(From **EXERCISE**, Page 1)

churches. The groups produced doable action plans with assignment of people, resources, and a timeline for completion.

One of the participants representing the Key Peninsula was Dr. William Roes of the Key Medical Center. Dr. Roes shared his observation of the summit in an email to KP News. "I was not able to attend the full retreat, but I was able to come away with a sense of where it was going and the tasks it was hoping to achieve. The goal sounds simple, to improve the health of our community... The consensus was that there needs to be new opportunities for people to learn and practice healthy lifestyles," he wrote. "Diet and nutrition seems paramount, and something that we are not teaching our children well. The other side of the coin is increasing physical activity, both for the kids in our community, but also making this a lifelong goal. Plans are being made for ways to affect this, from the new YMCA to planning walking trails on the Key Peninsula. There was an impressive coalition of community activists, medical professionals, educators and businessmen at the meeting, and I am hopeful it can have a beneficial effect on our community."

At the summit, participants reviewed the

history of health challenges in the community and discussed the many current efforts and issues regarding physical activity and healthy nutrition. Before the 1960s, most Americans were healthy because they were kept physically active with work. With the advent of television and mass marketing in the 1970s, and growing consumerism in the 1980s, Americans found it easy to stay inside and watch television. By the turn of the millennium, the obesity rate escalated and brought an epidemic of diabetes, especially in children. Statistics by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that one of three babies born in 2000 will develop diabetes at some point in their life. Obesity is the top risk factor for diabetes, and Pierce County's obesity rate is 30 percent (highest in Washington state).

Preventing and controlling obesity, as well as chronic disease and other adverse health conditions, is the goal of the three task forces created at the summit: policy and environment; active aging and workplace; and children, youth and education. The plans created by the task forces promote environmental solutions and develop policy and practices for government and institutional agencies. Each of the three groups set goals and outlined the work ahead.

The Policy and Environment group



Photo by Minda LaRose

Summit participants discuss local health issues and priorities in small groups.

divided their goals into three major tasks, including to investigate the current status of trails and the development of a trail system connecting schools, neighborhoods, and community centers in the Key Peninsula. Other goals for this group are to investigate incorporation of the peninsula and to develop community centers throughout Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula.

The Active Aging and Adult in the Workplace task force has two major goals: to develop a resolution to create a healthy community that can be presented to the city and county councils for adoption, and to create education tools and resources to provide a unified message about the importance of physical activity and healthy nutrition for all segments of the community.

The Child, Youth and Education task force's goals include to develop a community-school summit similar to this summit to be presented at a school in the Peninsula School District, to increase the visibility of current and future community activities, and to help recruit community members and leaders to serve as role models.

Several Key Pen community leaders are

taking charge of various major tasks, including Chuck West of the KP Fire Department and Jud Morris of KP Family Resources Center.

The Community Health Collaborative Summit was led by Jane A. Moore, MD, director of Healthy Communities of Pierce County. Involvement of a rural area like the Key Peninsula is new to the healthy community project, according to Moore. "A number of cities in Washington state and across the nation have started healthy communities projects, but I am not aware of any being done in rural areas with lower population density," she said. "The Key Peninsula people who attended the summit were among the most enthusiastic. If that enthusiasm is maintained and transformed into work, the Key Peninsula could become a great example of healthy living in healthy communities for the rest of the state and beyond. This would result in healthier, more productive residents, lower incidences of chronic diseases, and flattening (or reversal) of the curve of increasing obesity rates."

Enthusiasm for the conference was shared by the participants, sponsors and facilitators. Dr. Sumner Schoenike, MD, president of the Pierce County Medical Society, is one of the organizers. "The energy at the summit speaks for itself. People were there because they understand how critical this issue is and they understand the toll these problems have exacted from our society. They were there to take a stand and they were there to be part of the solution," he said.

The summit participants will meet again after the first of the year and report results. People interested in the Healthy Community project are welcome to attend the next meeting. "A follow-up meeting will be held at Gig Harbor City Hall in February or March. At this meeting, we will share what we have been able to accomplish between now and then," Moore said.

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## **NOTICE: TWO FIRE COMMISSIONER VACANCIES**

On November 6, 2007, the registered voters of Pierce County Fire District No. 16 (Key Peninsula) approved an increase to a five-member board for the fire district. The Board of Fire Commissioners is the governing body and policy-making group for the department. The District and its three commissioners are now requesting resumes and "letters of interest" from any registered voter who resides in the fire district and is interested in being appointed to one of the two fire commissioner vacancies. In the letter of interest, each person should, in their own words, tell why they would be interested in serving as a fire commissioner for the Key Peninsula Fire Department and stress the particular parts of their background they believe makes them well qualified to serve as a commissioner.

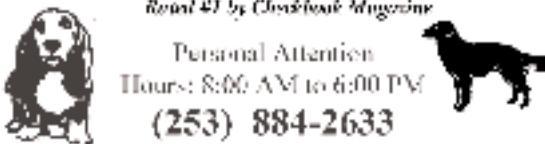
Letters and resumes should be sent to:  
District Secretary  
Pierce County FPD 16  
8911 Key Peninsula Hwy KPN  
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The deadline for such submittals is December 14, 2007 at 4:00p.m.

The Key Peninsula Fire Department is selling a set of 'jet skis' with trailer, (2)1997 Yamaha, WVT1100, VIN# YAMA4816F697 and YAMA1950H697 with a 'Spirit' trailer, VIN# 1SPTC617T1005558. Minimum bid price of \$2000. Bid will be accepted until 4:30 pm on Dec. 10 with opening of bids at the commissioners meeting of 9am Dec. 11. The items will be available for inspection at the Key Canter Station, 8911 Key Peninsula Hwy North, M-F, 9am - 4pm.

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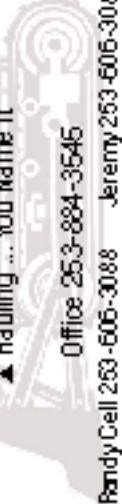
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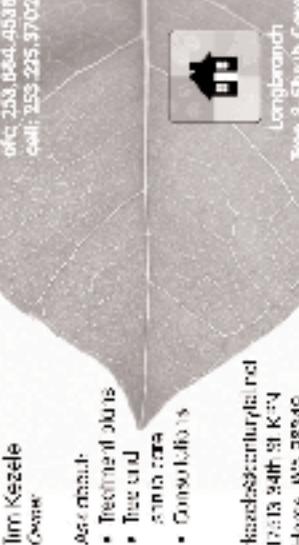
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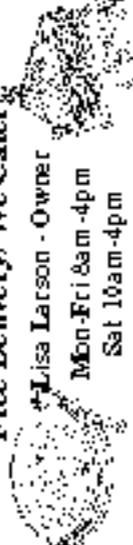


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President Carol Rosenbach and Doris Warner prepare to sell handmade tree ornaments and gift items at the annual Ruth Circle Holiday Bazaar at the Longbranch Church in November. *Photo by Colleen Slater*



Above, The crowd attending a fundraiser for Joseph Lindhartsen's family at the Civic Center in November learns how to clog. *Photo by Danna Webster*

INSERT: Sheryl Mirenta of KC Computers, who organized the fundraiser, with Marty Marcus, one of the many supporters who came to the spaghetti feed. *Photo by Jeanette Brown*



Members of VFW District 4 Color Honor Guard team largely made up of Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula veterans, Gary Helmick, Bob Cate, Steve Kuhn, Karl Bonn, Kent Lachner, Dale Goheen, Paul Dulac, Dale Spittler, Bill Dandeneau, Kirk Viestenz, Mike Smith, and Fred Green, fire a volley commemorating the ceremonies at the dedication of the Kitsap Veterans' Memorial for our fallen heroes at Bremerton High School's Memorial Stadium on Nov. 3. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Key Peninsula Middle School teacher Dighina Chilson came out to watch and support her seventh- and eighth-grade students at their last game of the fall PAA soccer season. Here, one of the students is taking a picture of the team with Ms. Chilson (center) and the team's coach, Sheri Medley (kneeling). *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Common bonds: Peninsula High School Principal Tim Winter and China's Jinan No. 1 High School Principal Ma Baoschan meet at Anthony's restaurant in Gig Harbor for a special celebration with PHS and Chinese students. Lt. Governor Brad Owen made a special appearance at the event, which was coordinated by teacher Heidi Steele. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*