

Celebrate
the Holidays,
**SPECIAL
SECTION
INSIDE**



KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**
from the staff
at Key Pen News

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INSIDE

DECEMBER 2008



KP tutu
maker
brightens
lives of
dancers,
page 21

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area Christmas
performances in
our Community
Works section.
Encore! Theater's
Nutcracker will be
Dec. 20-21.
page 14-15



Public meeting of the KP Community Fair Board

By Marsha Hart, KP News

There may not be a Key Peninsula Community Fair in 2009. A meeting is set for Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. at the Longbranch Improvement Club to discuss the future of the fair. Plans are to either seat a new board and officers and move forward with plans for a 2009 fair, take a year off to investigate alternatives, or work with the founding organizations to liquidate the assets of the fair, said Mike Hays, president of the 2008 KPCF.

For eight years the Key Peninsula has

attracted thousands of people to the fair, with 4,000 in attendance this year. The bills have been paid, but except for a little bit of money set aside for next year, Hays said 2009 will require starting from scratch. With economic woes resounding across the country, 2009 is expected to be a hard year to raise funds.

Hays became president of the fair in 2006, when the Longbranch Improvement Club was talking about pulling out of the partnership with the

(See **FAIR**, Page 22)

School board votes to put levy on ballot

By Rick Sorrels,
Special to the KP News

Voters will decide on a school levy at the Special Election to be held on Feb. 3. The motion, which passed the School Board unanimously on Nov. 13, was a result of an in-depth study by a large group of community members.

"The 26 people in the focus group came

(See **LEVY**, Page 20)

Young KP mom fights for time with sons

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Her reason for living is the very thing that is killing her. While most people may understand that life is short, Julia Carson knows that each moment she has is precious. She feels it in her body, in her mind, in her soul. She has been fighting brain cancer for seven years.

Every chance she gets to spend with her two boys, Roman, who is 13, and Zev who is 9 years old, is the fuel that keeps her fighting for another day, and cancer drives her to savor each day, she said.



Julia Carson sits in the living room of her father's Key Peninsula home, where she has lived part time for several years. She is looking forward to spending the holidays with her family, and hopes to be well enough to enjoy them. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*

Julia is 35 years old, and she knows that is miraculous.

"Cancer gives you a reason to live. I don't want to miss a minute of life. If not for my kids, I wouldn't be doing this.

"I don't fight this for my parents or my

brothers. My goal is I want to see my kids graduate. I want to stay healthy enough for that, and I would love to see my grandkids," she said.

But she knows that with the way she

(See **JULIA**, Page 19)

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Assistance available for heating bills

By Irene Torres, KP News

Key Peninsula residents can stay warm and snug this winter, even with the recent economic downturn. Several programs offer assistance with the payment of heating bills for those who qualify.

Clients who cannot afford to pay their electric bill may call Peninsula Light Company to ask for a Project Help appointment. Depending on circumstances and with documentation, assistance can be requested from November through April. Program representatives can be reached by phone at 253-857-1510 or 1-888-809-8021.

Designated donations from Pen Light members are accepted for emergency assistance for low-income families on the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula. The utility company matches those donations dollar-for-dollar. The program is administered by Key Peninsula Community Services. Call 253-884-4440 for information. Additionally, Pen Light offers discounts of 25 percent to income-eligible seniors, 62 or older, and disabled customers.

Applications are on the website: www.penlight.org/paydiscounts.aspx.

A federally-funded block grant, called LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) provides aid to low income residents (renters and homeowners) to make home heating more affordable. These funds can help avoid shutoff of utility services during the winter and aid homes with children, elderly, or disabled residents to keep their homes warm. The LIHEAP Act requires that the highest level of assistance be provided to the lowest income households with the highest energy consumption, taking

family size into account. The assistance from LIHEAP runs from November through May, as long as funds remain available. To apply for assistance, call the Energy Assistance line toll-free at 800.348.7144 to schedule an appointment. Walk-in appointments are not available. Appointments are not made via e-mail or any other electronic means.

Documentation required at the time of the appointment follows:

All gross income received for all household members during the previous three calendar months not including the month of your appointment must be shown. Income documents include all pay stubs, award letters, proof of TANF, GAU, SSI or Social Security, unemployment printouts or stubs, bank statements, business ledgers (if self-employed), child support documents or a signed statement from the payor. Also required is a Social Security card or legal document with the social security number for each person in the household, unless the individual has never been issued a social security card. Acceptable legal documents that contain social security numbers are tax documents, pay stubs, or unemployment stubs. For children under 18, birth certificates, ID cards, medical coupons or medical cards are accepted. Additional documents required are a photo ID with the birth date of the person who will be signing the application, and a second proof of address. These can include a phone bill, a subsidized housing calculation worksheet, a lease agreement or rent receipt, a mortgage or tax statement, your current heating bill and an electric bill, if they are not the same.

Other Utility Assistance: Pierce County Community Services may have other resources for utility assistance. Call 866-223-1359. Also available for assistance is the Washington Energy Assistance Program (EAP). In most cases, the EAP provides payments to energy companies, or directly to clients, to help pay a portion of their home heating costs. Natural Gas: Puget Sound Energy Warm Home Fund can help clients find resources to pay their natural gas bills. The telephone number is 1-888-321-4123 or 1-800-321-4123.

The United Way of Pierce County may be able to find resources for needed energy assistance. Call 2-1-1. The call center is open Mon. through Fri. from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with 24-hour voicemail. Phone United Way toll free at 1-877-211-WASH (9274), or contact by email at 211@uwpc.org.

Aged and Disabled: In Pierce County, the Aging & Disability Resource Center assists residents in finding resources and services, and can be reached at 253-798-4600, 1-800-562-0332 or via email at ADRC@co.pierce.wa.us The website is www.PierceADRC.org

Furnace Repair and Replacement: Client education, weatherization assistance, and furnace repair and replacement are offered through a network of 27 local community nonprofit organizations and local government units. The Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) is designated by the Governor as the administering agency. Statewide, in an estimated 302,000 homes, 21 percent of those who qualify are receiving an energy assistance

Low Income Heating Assistance Program Eligibility

2008-2009

Household Size	Monthly Income*	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,083	\$1,354
2	\$1,458	\$1,823
3	\$1,833	\$2,291
4	\$2,208	\$2,760
5	\$2,583	\$3,229
6	\$2,958	\$3,698
7	\$3,333	\$4,166
8	\$3,708	\$4,635
9	\$4,083	\$5,104
10	\$4,458	\$5,573
11	\$4,833	\$6,041
12	\$5,208	\$6,510
13	\$5,583	\$6,979
14	\$5,958	\$7,448
15	\$6,333	\$7,916
16	\$6,708	\$8,385
17	\$7,083	\$8,854
18	\$7,458	\$9,323
19	\$7,833	\$9,791
20	\$8,208	\$10,260
21	\$8,583	\$10,729
22	\$8,958	\$11,198
23	\$9,333	\$11,666
24	\$9,708	\$12,135

*This column is net income (gross monthly income X .8).

SIDEBOX: SOURCE:
<http://www.liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/profiles/WA.htm>

grant. To qualify for this benefit program, the applicant must be a resident of the state of Washington and need financial assistance for home energy costs.



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EDITORIAL

The fate of the Key Peninsula Community Fair will be decided in December. With the economic troubles the country is facing as a whole, 2009 could be a hard year for fundraising. The fair needs funds to continue, but it needs more than money.

There are 14,983 people who live on the Key Peninsula. Currently there is no board

for the 2009 fair, and without leadership and direction, the fair will not survive.

It is a human tendency to let those who will do, do everything. Though this makes life easier for the rest, sitting on the sidelines won't bring about the needed results. According to Mike Hays, president of the 2008 KPCF, more input is needed from the community, more people need to get involved, and the fair needs some new visionaries.

It is also possible that the Key doesn't need a fair, but some other event that will bring people together. Some ideas are on the table, but the same people have been involved for eight years, and it's time for new faces, and new voices.

Being open to innovative ideas can give an event a big boost for the future.

With a goal to bring the community together, and a hope to produce income for the fair's founding organizations, the fair has come up a bit short.

Complaints can be helpful when they are backed by a solution. It is action that is needed to bring about change.

With more involvement from residents who are willing to become part of what makes the Key such a great place to live, both of those can be accomplished.

Living on the Key Peninsula is a choice for most residents. Instead of the noise and crowds of a city, we choose to live in a quiet setting with more open space. Our life out here is a simpler life, and for the most part, it is a tight community.

It is important to have an event that will appeal to the entire community, and give people something that is unique to the life on the Key.

The first step is to attend the meeting on Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Longbranch Improvement Club. This meeting is open to everyone who lives on the Key Peninsula, and it has been called to determine the future of the fair.

Whether there is a fair in 2009, or a bluegrass festival, or slug races, the Key needs something this community can call its own.

Silverdale has Whaling Days, Port Orchard has a Seagull Calling Festival that has been part of that community for 20 years, Gig Harbor has the Maritime Gig Festival, and Allyn has the annual Allyn Days Festival and Salmon Bake.

Some residents don't care about the fair, but the Key Peninsula needs an event that will give it an identity, something residents of all ages can enjoy, and a chance for the Key Peninsula to put itself on the map.



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Think about these KP issues

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SHORELINE REGULATIONS

Pierce County's Shoreline Citizens Advisory Committee is starting to draft regulations affecting geoduck harvesting, dock usage, which properties will be prohibited from having docks, etc. It's easier to protect your rights now by influencing the wording than fighting in the courts later. Meetings are the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at the County Annex.

FD16 COLLECTION AGENCY

FD16 Commissioners just signed a contract with a collections agency to recover accident cleanup costs from negligent parties. This action was driven by two failed levies and a short budget. Will billed citizens be upset

enough to cause the next levy to fail as well?

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The KP Community Council voted changes to its bylaws that effectively eliminate oversight by its members. This action is anathema to the founders' intentions. Will members be upset enough to rein in the loose cannon?

CLEAR CUTTING THE '360'

DNR is in the process of issuing a contract to clear-cut the 360 acres along SR302 that our parks department expects to receive for use as a park. Harvesting will be finished before the end of 2009.

The only trees to remain will be in a buffer along a stream and a few large trees for reseeded. Are bald parks our future norm?

FUTURE SR 302 ROUTING

Effects of SR 302 routing options are becoming felt by affected landowners.

Properties will be either purchased or condemned to create a right-of-way at least 120 feet wide (much wider where it joins SR16). If SR 302 goes through Purdy, then that 100-year-old community will be condemned out of existence. Same for Burley, if it's routed down Spruce. Crossing the Burley Lagoon at 144th will be cost prohibitive (\$270 million). The practical option routes north of Spruce, near Pine (only \$60 million).

Current planning only goes as far west as the Elgin-Clifton "Y". If the current routing is followed past the real estate offices and Ravensara, all of these existing businesses will be threatened by the wider roadway. The KP cannot withstand these losses. We have so few commercial areas now.

The least destructive option for the KP community seems to be Spruce with traffic traveling diagonally down to old SR 302 near Harvestime and then west down 144th (Powerline Road), with a jog down 134th to Elgin-Clifton. This is cheaper, less disruptive, provides less

environmental impact, faster travel time, safer, uses existing 120 foot right-of-way for Powerline Road, resolves access issues for Powerline Road residents, etc.)

DOT has not yet decided whether the new SR 302 will be two lanes or four. Right! If only two lanes, why bother? Get your comments in before it's too late. Next public meeting is Jan. 12 at the civic center. But then, most of us would have died from old age before construction is completed.

FINAL THOUGHT

Shortly before we marked our ballots in November, Sam Reed, Washington's Secretary of State had just finished purging 15 percent of all registered voters from the voting roles because these voters were either already dead, convicted felons, or registered in multiple counties. Not reported was how many of the more than 88,000 deceased voters were still casting ballots.

And some of you thought the economy was our only concern.

Santa needs a new safety net

We've all heard about the \$700 billion bailout/rescue. Who is it bailing out or rescuing? Bear Stearns, AIG, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac; and some of us remember the bailouts of Chrysler and Lockheed, but who is going to help Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the elves? And who will pay for reindeer feed? Reindeer feed must be very expensive or more people would have reindeer instead of horses. As you can see there has been much government assistance for business, including farm subsidies and small business loans.

There has been government assistance for individuals and families such as social security, Medicare, TANF, Medicaid, food stamps, and unemployment compensation. There are Pell and Stafford grants to help students attend college. FEMA helps people and businesses with disaster relief. But once again I ask you, who will help out Santa and his family?

JUD MORRIS
FROM THE WATER'S EDGE



Some would say Santa should use up all his savings, though I have never heard that Santa gets paid for delivering toys. Maybe Santa and Mrs. Claus should get jobs that pay, and second jobs, too. Or possibly Santa should take out a bank loan or a second mortgage on his home. Maybe Santa and Mrs. Claus can get a small business loan, or declare bankruptcy, or even start charging for the toys they deliver on Christmas Eve. Possibly the elves can pay Santa for the "privilege" of making toys for children. If all else fails Santa can buy some lottery tickets or go to a casino.

If Santa is innovative he can start a bio-diesel business with reindeer

product, and he can rent out the reindeer during the year for reindeer rides at fairs. See them at the Key Peninsula Community Fair.

The bottom line is Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the elves need help, just like everyone else during these difficult financial times. If the politicians think they have problems now, just imagine what would happen if Santa could not deliver toys to children because his reindeer didn't get enough food to fly. Children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren would be very sad. Children don't vote, but their family members do. So, let's tell our representatives that we all need to be rescued, just like Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the elves do. And please don't let the politicians forget Rudolph and all the reindeer.

Just like all of us, Santa's safety net is tattered, frayed, and unraveling. What Santa, Mrs. Claus, the elves, and the reindeer really need is a financial tram-

poline so that they can all bounce up and back to where they were before our economic meltdown occurred (watch out North Pole). They can continue to make toys for all the children without the fear and stress that comes with worrying about where their next meal is coming from, whether they still have a roof over their heads because their home may be in foreclosure, and whether they have to choose this month between eating or heating. Burn more Yuletide logs. It's very cold during the winter at the North Pole and on the Key Peninsula, so this winter lets be especially thankful for Santa, let's be sure to help each other, and a very special thanks to those who are helping others here on the Key Peninsula.

Jud Morris is the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center Program Manager and President of the Key Peninsula Business Association.

Merge and be merry

Remember the days when rush hour traffic on the SR 302 off-ramp from westbound SR 16 would spill up out of the exit, onto the shoulder, up into the Burnham drive ramp? Those were good times. And then in September WSDOT restriped the Purdy off-ramp to allow shoulder driving on weekdays between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. And today, when I drive home, rush-hour traffic spills out of the exit, onto the shoulder, up into the Burnham drive ramp, just like before! Only not as much. No, I'm kidding, it's much better than it was, I think. I'm not completely sure.

It's better as far as having to jockey for position between the Burnham drive exit and the Purdy exit on 16, especially at a high rate of speed, which is what WSDOT was trying to achieve in a cheap, short-term solution while they continue to study the expensive, long-term solutions. The suggestion for the shoulder driving came from a Belfair woman's email in July that happened to

KEVIN REED HERE'S SOMETHING



jive with the traffic engineers' existing ideas. Did you know WSDOT has a blog to keep you informed with such developments? (wsdotblog.blogspot.com) You should check it out. Some of the posts are not just interesting, but dang funny. It's a Google blog, so it doesn't cost anything to the state and doesn't take any time to maintain.

I like to think that, as we all take the Purdy exit and head towards the KP, that in a way we're already home. We made it back from Tacoma or Seattle or Everett or wherever the heck we were, and it's like "Ahhhh...I didn't wreck and I'm almost home." And for a fleeting moment it seems like we're all "KP-ers" or "K-Peeps" or whatever we would call ourselves if we had to vote on it, and

that, in a bizarre sort of way, we're all family. That's for a nanosecond. Then, as you approach the Purdy off-ramp, you see it's backed up onto the shoulder. You may curse lightly under your breath or loudly out the window. You take your position in line in either the "real" lane, or the new, improved "shoulder" lane, inching slowly, sporadically forward, alternating between first gear and brakes, getting more agitated as you work your way down towards the bridge, dreading the moment when you either have to merge or let someone in. You've been in stop-and-go traffic for the last one or two hours and it just doesn't seem right that you have to hit it here on the Purdy ramp too.

I'm amazed at the hostility out there at this phase of the ride home – mostly from the people in the "real" lane. Boy, right up on each others' rear ends, most of 'em, like "Nobody's getting' in front of ME, man!" Like they're going to get to the light any faster by not letting one person in. Now, I could understand that attitude if people were racing ahead of you in the shoulder lane, but not when we're all just backed

up in there trying to get safely off of 16. The rule generally is to let at least one person in from the merging lane. If everyone lets in one person, then the flow moves along okay. If you've had a great day, you might feel extra confident and let two, yes that's right, two people in from the merging lane. But when you don't let anyone in front of you, then that's usually a sign of some sort of mental issue that may require clinical attention. An unaddressed control issue, perhaps. So, I have a proposal. It's going to be Christmas soon. The Higher Power of your choice is watching. Let's all try to be civil on the Purdy off-ramp, and, if you're in the position of power in the regular lane, feel the greater power of giving and slow down under the bridge and let one of them shoulder folks over in front of you. Don't make them sit there and beg with their blinker on. They probably won't wave "thanks" to you, but you're looking strong and confident on the road, easing tension for all of us, lowering our collective blood pressure, and making the trek home just a tad more enjoyable.

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.

Meet Dan Towey



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

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Dan has also archived for J.P. Patches, Pat O' Day, and John Maynard as well as countless other families. Dan can also edit your video tapes.

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Dan is an archiving wonder machine at work. He has had a professional background as a producer and editor at KIRO, Seattle.

He now restores Family motion pictures from 8mm, Super 8 films and slides.

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

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BRIEF news

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has scheduled an additional open house for those who want to review and discuss the study range of alternatives. Stop by to learn more about the study and to speak with project staff.

Time: 4-6 p.m.

Date: Tues. Dec. 9

Place: Burley Community Club, 14853 Burley Ave SE, Port Orchard (Located next to the Burley Post Office)

For more information, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr302/newcorridor/ or contact John Donahue, WSDOT Project Manager, at 360-357-2788.

How to submit your brief

Send your brief information to news@keypennews.com or call 253-884-4699.

Vaughn Bay Bridge to be replaced

Construction is scheduled for next year, and the new bridge is expected to cost \$2.99 million

By Irene Torres, KP News

CRP 5352 is the shorthand reference for a Pierce County project to replace the Vaughn Bay Bridge.

The project began in December 2005 with permits, environmental documents, plans and estimates. Since that time, it has been quietly moving forward with right-of-way plans and land acquisitions, until now. With \$1.69 million from the federal bridge replacement fund and \$1.30 million from the Pierce County road fund, construction is set to begin in 2009.

The breakdown of costs is: Engineering: \$218,000 Right of Way: \$122,000 Construction: \$2,650,000. The project is scheduled for completion in 2010.

Preliminary engineering has been completed, and final engineering is underway. The project will remove the existing five span bridge over Vaughn

Project details

Contact: Bridge Engineering Supervisor

Email: Kraig W. Shaner, P.E.
(kraig.shaner@co.pierce.wa.us)

Phone & address: (253) 798-2764
Pierce County Public Works and Utilities
Tacoma Mall Office Building
4301 South Pine St., Suite 446
Tacoma, WA 98409-7207

SOURCE:
www.piercecountywa.org/crp

Bay on So. Vaughn Road; then reconstruct the new bridge and approaches with a single-span, pre-stressed, post-tensioned concrete girder bridge.

The new bridge will be 219 feet long, consisting of two 12-foot wide travel lanes and two 6-foot wide shoulders. Construction will include storm water

treatment embankments, installed at several locations for treatment of runoff.

The construction project will coordinate a schedule of potential, high voltage power outages that may be necessary.



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"For the first time in our 83 year history, we will be in the power production business," stated Jafar Taghavi, CEO of PenLight. "We must step up to meet the demands of the future. We

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

Stretching Our Dollars

We are continuing to hold steady on our rates. PenLight ratepayers have not had an increase since 2001. And just like everyone else, PenLight must stretch our buying power. So by investing now in wind power, rather than later, we will be able to continue to offer our members sustainable, affordable, green energy while adhering to the wishes of the voters of Washington and the passing of Initiative 937.

PenLight will carry on with our existing efforts to keep rates stable and bring reliable power to all our members. By continuing to invest in new



Penlight has invested in wind power generation to keep up with our community's future demand for electrical energy.

technologies, under grounding our power lines, improving power transmission and now, power generation, PenLight can continue to offer great service for a great community.

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Key Center Stoplight Update

\$1.16 million project set for 2009

By Irene Torres, KP News

Since May 2008, Pierce County engineers have been surveying the existing roadway and preparing environmental documents, construction plans and estimates for a new traffic light to be installed in Key Center. The project design includes roadway alignments, a traffic signal system, traffic channelization, an enclosed storm drain system, as well as storm water treatment and storage facilities.

In November, the right-of-way plans were to be finalized, and land and easement acquisitions were to begin. This phase includes land appraisal for affected properties, and offer letter to those property owners. In Jan. 2009, the County hopes to begin the final engineering phase on the Key Pen Hwy N/Olson Dr KPN/Cramer Rd KPN.

Contact information

Engineering Resources Supervisor
 Patrick Baughman, P.E.

Email:
 patrick.baughman@co.pierce.wa.us.

Phone: (253) 798-3157
 Pierce County Public Works and Utilities
 4301 South Pine Street, Suite 446
 Tacoma, WA 98409-7207

This project will be designed to relieve traffic congestion and add northbound and southbound left-turn lanes on the KP Hwy. It will widen the existing roadway and include paved shoulders, and replace the existing flashing beacon traffic signal system with a new, fully actuated traffic signal system. The cost breakdown: Engineering: \$150,000, Right-of-way acquisition: \$260,000, and Construction: \$750,000. The funding sources include the State Rural Arterial Program: \$792,000 and Traffic Impact Fee Funds: \$368,000.



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 Leroy McGriff, Janet Anker and John Glennon

Holiday topiary easy, elegant décor

By Holly Hendrick,
Special to KP News

For your holiday décor this month, consider native plants such as salal, huckleberry, Oregon grape, evergreen boughs, and moss, or any of the hearty herbs or holly. This year, I am decorating my buffet, bar, and mantle with tabletop moss topiaries.

A tabletop topiary is made of three main parts: a base, a support, and the sculpture. Creating your own lovely tabletop topiary is quite simple with the right tools and can be accomplished easily in an afternoon.

First, decide where you will place your topiary, getting a sense of the available space, height and width. Choose your container based on your space constraints. In the past I have used ceramic pots, vases, tin tubs, urns, and wooden boxes; generally, any symmetrical container will do. You will also need to consider how to stabilize the topiary in your chosen container: dirt, rocks, marbles, or extra foam are common.

The taller the overall arrangement, the heavier the sculpture is likely to be. You can choose one main support, such as a dowel, metal tube, or stump, or a collection of smaller items bound together, such as twigs, stems, cinnamon sticks, or bamboo skewers.

A general rule of thumb in the floral design world is that the height of your arrangement, above the

container, can be 1-2 times taller than the container. Anything taller will be visually unappealing and difficult to support.

Stop by the floral section of your local craft store and pick out any of the Styrofoam shapes that suit your fancy. Simple forms can be made at home with cardboard, paper mache, or grapevine wreaths, if you prefer.

While you're at the craft store, pick up a package of 22-gauge, green floral wire. For this project, you will also need a pair of scissors capable of cutting that wire.

Determine which greenery you want to use to cover your form. A great base from which to build a variety of designs is moss. You can purchase sphagnum moss in craft stores, or on-line; however, chances are if you have a wooded area on your property, north facing trees and forest edges will be growing all the moss you could want.

Work from the bottom of the tree and peel moss upwards, keeping sheets and clumps as intact as possible.

Spread out newspaper on a table; collect your scissors, wire, container, weight, support, form and greenery. Cut several lengths of the floral wire into one-inch pieces and fold them in half. Use these wire hairpins to

Tools you will need:

Newsprint, scissors, dowel, bamboo skewers, floral wire, bended floral wire, pearl headed pins, container (optional)

secure bits of the moss in place, piecing together sheets and clumps around the top, sides, bottom and back of your topiary form.

This sculpture base can further be embellished with fruit, nuts, bows and ribbons, ornaments, berries, dried or fresh flowers, pinecones, feathers, rhinestones, beads and more, or nothing at all!

Fill your base with dirt, marbles, foam, or combination thereof and insert the support. Make sure the base and support are stable before attaching your sculpture top. Take care to not push the support too high into the Styrofoam, breaking the form, or otherwise compromising the integrity of the support.

Repeat these steps to make short, cranberry studded topiary balls, tall pyramids of pinecones, or to whatever else your creativity leads you. Happy holidays!

Holly Hendrick is a graduate of the Floral Design Institute in Seattle and a resident of the Key Peninsula since Sept. 2003.



Photo by Holly Hendrick
With a few tools, a walk around the yard and some imagination, you can create a holiday decoration.

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New Math Tool to Help with Intervention for Students at all Academic Levels

Peninsula School District has added a new math intervention tool this school year that will help teachers with individualized instruction for both struggling and highly capable students.

Called Orchard, this tool is a software program that allows for group instruction as well as individually tailored plans. The activities and tutorials in the program are linked to the district's mathematics curriculum and state standards.

'I think it will be a useful tool and will help us understand where the student is academically, and help resource teachers collaborate with the classroom teachers,' said Tina Erickson, a resource teacher at Purdy Elementary School.

The interactive program can be used by teachers to display math concepts via the classroom projector, to assess students, and to give assignments. Students can also view tutorials, practice their skills, and play games that require them to solve math problems.

'The teachers can pull reports to see how well students understand the standards, then look at each student's data,' says Amy Barber, PSD's math coach. 'As a diagnostic tool, the



PSD math coach Amy Barber and Purdy Elementary fifth grade teacher Bridgit Reichel observe students using the Orchard program to view tutorials or play math-related games.

teacher can use Orchard to assign individual activities.'

The program was selected by a math intervention advisory committee last year from 45 different products.

'We realized we needed a tool for math intervention for teachers to help kids who were struggling as well as kids who needed more challenges, so we could cover both ends of the spectrum,' Barber says. Barber has been training the teachers during

Collaboration Wednesdays in how to utilize the program and to customize it to their students.

Purdy Elementary fifth-grade teacher Bridgit Reichel is one of the K-8 teachers who has started to use Orchard. She said even students who struggle at math love to play the games, which are helping them understand difficult concepts.

'They work really hard at it,' she says. 'It's a great intervention tool.'

Strategic Planning

Peninsula School District has completed the strategic planning process with the involvement of parents, community members, staff and students.

The result was the adoption of a Mission Statement, Goals and Beliefs for the District.

We invite you to review the strategic plan presentation given at a recent Rotary meeting: www.psd401.net/video/Rotary200810a.swf

Inclement weather Q&A

Q. What would happen if it snowed on a Wednesday late start day?

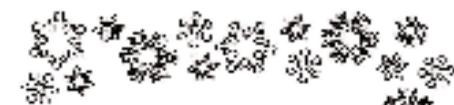
A. School would run two hours late from the original bell schedule, due to weather conditions, and no collaboration time would occur on that day.

Q. What happens to co-curricular trips during inclement weather?

A. Co-curricular trips and field trips will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Q. What happens to co-curricular trips when school is closed?

A. No away co-curricular trips and field trips. (Home games may be held if participating schools agree to travel according to their respective district policies.) No district transportation provided. After-school and evening activities, including PAA are cancelled.



December Events

- 6** Gig Harbor High School TideFest. Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10-5 & Sunday, Dec. 7 from 11-4. Admission is \$5. A Gig Harbor tradition since 1981. New this year is a TideFest t-shirt which can be purchased at tidefest.org as a ticket for early entry into the show! Call Eleanor Ledbetter for more information: 253-530-1478
- 11** School Board Regular meeting 6:00 p.m. at District Office

Vaughn Elementary School music 4th & 5th graders perform A Small Part of the World at 7-8 p.m. in the commons/gym
- 16** Key Peninsula Middle School advanced / intermediate jazz band concert at 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the commons
- 17** Key Peninsula Middle School choir concert at 7:30-8:30 in the commons
- 22-31** No school - Winter Break

January Events

- 1-2** No school - Winter Break
- 6** School Board Regular meeting 6:00 p.m. at Discovery Elementary
- 13** Key Peninsula Middle School beginning band concert 7:30-8:15 p.m. in the commons
- 15** No school - Martin Luther King Day observed
- 22** School Board Study Session 6:00 p.m. at District Office

New to the area?

When registering your child, bring to school:

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records (Proof of the start of a series of immunizations is acceptable & will be followed up by your school)
- Proof of Address (We will only accept a utility bill. No lease agreements will be accepted.)

You can go to the PSD website at www.psd401.net and print the forms:

- Enrollment/Emergency form
- New Student Info - half sheet
- History of Ear and Hearing form
- Health Information Survey

For more information visit the Education Programs scroll down menu at the PSD website.

Salatino Christmas Dinner delivers magic

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Sometimes the lowest points in life produce some of the sweetest results. It was a lonely Christmas 30 years ago that pushed Mike Salatino and his wife Joyce into action to host a Christmas dinner, and it has become a tradition on the Key Peninsula.

For most, hosting a Christmas dinner can mean about 20 people. The Salatinos had bigger plans.

Most of the community has encountered Mike Salatino at some point. He has been involved in the community for many years, served on the Key Peninsula Civic Center Board, been a Key Pen business owner, and currently owns The Farm in Wauna.

"I used to be in the produce business and owned the Harvest Time on the Key Peninsula Highway," Salatino said. "At Christmas time we used to go around to nursing homes and took some baskets around."

One year, after the baskets were delivered, the couple spent Christmas alone. The family had arranged for an early celebration, so when the actual day came, Salatino and his wife sat home. He said he thought of a man he met at a nursing home who had been crying when they were there with the baskets.

He was determined to do something for the senior citizens who were alone on Christmas.

"The first year we had less than 50 people, and that first year was horrible," he said.

When the kitchen was remodeled at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, Salatino said he saw the potential to serve more.

"I invite 100 seniors that don't have a place to go on Christmas day," he said. "My wife wraps a gift for each of them and this doesn't cost them a thing."

Salatino said he has people in the community who contribute to the event, which helps with the cost. He personally cooks the five turkeys that are served, and he has a crew of 30 volunteers who do the rest.

"I act as the General," he said, "and I have ladies that make gravy, crews put out stuff on the tables at the same time, then we clean up and sit around and eat and

"I invite 100 seniors that don't have a place to go on Christmas day."

— Mike Salatino

that's always fun."

He never has trouble getting his crew, he said, because there are so many people who are eager to volunteer.

Marlies Van Cise and her husband Richard have been serving at the dinner for seven years, and it has become a family tradition. This year, she said she is in charge of spreading the word to invite more seniors from the Key Peninsula.

"We have several buses coming from Tacoma with people from group homes," she said, "but we want more people to come from the Key Peninsula."

The Salatino Christmas Dinner is special, Van Cise said, because it is what Christmas is all about.

"Santa Claus comes and Joyce Salatino secures gifts from businesses, and she and a team of volunteers wrap every single gift," she said. "When Santa calls out their name it makes it even more special. When you see the look of excitement on their faces, and these adults are getting crayons and coloring books, or a wool shawl, it's just so Christmas, not the Christmas we know."

Everyone involved is a volunteer. The guests don't pay for anything the celebration includes dinner, gifts, music and a sing-along.

"I get musicians that volunteer their time to play piano, and different people all the time, ladies that bake pies, and Joyce likes to do her own wrapping," Salatino said. "As they go out the door they get a bag of candy and fruit."

If you know of a senior citizen on the Key or Gig Harbor Peninsulas who will be alone at Christmas, you can call Marlies Van Cise or Mike Salatino to have their name added to the guest list.

"Please call one of us soon because time is of the essence, and we don't want to miss extending a warm welcome to anyone interested in attending," Salatino said.

Call Marlies Van Cise at 884-5608, or Mike Salatino at 851-4556.

New! Artist Gift Gallery

Shop Key Peninsula's very own permanent Artist's Gallery. Featuring all local artists with a variety of beautiful hand craft art. Perfect for Christmas Gift Giving!

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 - Reni Moriarity-Water Colors
 - Gary Anderson-Lakebay Pottery
 - Krista Halinen-Candles
 - Robin Peterson-Paintings & Cards
 - Donna Dailey-Market Bags
 - Brynn Rydell-Bead Jewelry
 - Pat Thompson-Paintings
- Books by Local Authors-Jerry Libstaff & Scott Heffernan

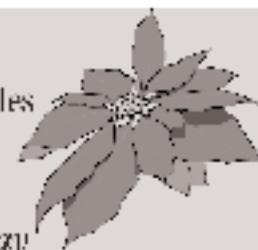
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Another step forward for Megan

By Jeanette Brown
Special to the KP News

The Blunk family has some great news! Megan Blunk, the young Key Peninsula woman who never gives up, can now walk with the assistance of a walker and the brand new leg braces her dad purchased for her recently. She is also driving an automatic transmission car, and will not need hand controls.

In September family and friends organized "Megan's Day," a fundraiser to help Megan raise money to offset medical expenses she incurred as the result of a motorcycle accident on July 20th, when the driver of the motorcycle she was riding on crashed after losing control of the bike.

Megan was at Harborview Medical Center for three weeks and her family credits part of Megan's remarkable recovery to that of the "healing touch" and positive energy of message therapy.

Megan is adamant, she will walk again; and has made even more progress toward

that goal since the September event.

In November Megan could begin to curl the toes on her right foot. This is progress as she is gaining back the feeling and a small amount of muscle use in her right leg.

Megan will start the winter quarter at Tacoma Community College where she plans to finish her Associate of Arts degree.

"The money from the fundraiser is mainly going for occupational therapy and to purchase equipment that will help me regain my independence," she said.

Part of the money raised will pay for the occupational therapist who has taught her how to load her own wheelchair into the back of a car, fold the walker and put it behind her seat and drive herself to school and walk to class.

"The extra money has really helped," she said.

She is determined to go on with her college education and most likely will pursue a career in nursing.

Megan and her family also wanted to



KP News
Photo credit

take this opportunity to say "Thank You" once again to the residents of the Key Peninsula for their emotional support and monetary donations.

In a prepared statement they said, "Words cannot encompass our overwhelming gratefulness of your support and prayers for Megan and the "Megan's Day!" Fund Raiser. We would like to thank each and every one of you and let you know how sincerely grateful we are for your generosity. With your help, Megan is able to focus all her energy on her healing and physical therapy. With deepest love and respect, Megan Blunk and family."

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Toastmasters Club teaches public speaking, needs more members

By Irene Torres, KP News

The fear of public speaking has been said to be our greatest fear. Today's best speakers likely went through that same experience when facing their first audience. Many of them built the confidence to overcome their fear of speaking through a Toastmasters Club.

A small group of KP citizens decided to form a Toastmasters Club to help members overcome those fears, learn speaking skills and practice them in prepared or impromptu speeches. KP's club founder, Frank Shirley, noted that membership in Toastmasters was expected of him as a young man in business.

"When I first moved out to Tacoma, my boss took me to a Toastmasters meeting, back in the days of men-only in the organization," Shirley said. "It was expected of me as part of the job to attend Toastmasters. I have been a member ever since with the exception of a few years in the 1980s...it has helped me to be a leader in my profession and given me confidence to talk in public that I probably would not have learned had it not been for Toastmasters."

In an effort to stay closer to home on dark rainy nights, Shirley started a Toastmasters Club on the Key Peninsula. He was driving to Gig Harbor.

"We first started meeting in January of 2008 on Wednesdays at noon in the Key Center Library. We have about four to six people attending the meetings."

Rosina Vertz said she knew for a long time that she needed some help with public speaking, but kept putting it off.

"I have known about the Toastmasters Clubs for more than two decades and have known for as long that I needed exactly this kind of experience," Vertz said. "I have the same affliction as many others: having

to speak in front of a group larger than three induces terror, causes babbling incoherence or ulcers -and for the same reasons I found numerous excuses not to join."

But when Frank Shirley came to the library to set up a meeting room for the local club, Vertz said she couldn't say no to herself anymore.

"I was caught. It was right at my place of work, and on Wednesdays, I worked the late shift. No more excuses (or maybe I was just finally matured enough to face the demons) and I was in. As everyone will tell you, it is a tremendous opportunity for personal growth," she said.

Toastmaster Club meetings are very structured and organized, and that is one thing that keeps Vertz coming back.

"There is opening by the president of the club, then the toastmaster is in charge of the educational part of meeting, introducing the speakers, transition from one part to the other, announcing the different "jobs" like the grammarian, the time keeper, the evaluator, and the table topic master," she said.

Each speaker is evaluated in a positive way, with a particular focus on the speech's good points, and an offer of honest suggestions for improvement.

Toastmasters International began in 1924 at the YMCA in Santa Ana, Calif. Toastmasters has since grown to become a major help for people to increase their competence and comfort before an audience. The organization has nearly 235,000 members, with 11,700 clubs in 92 countries. They can offer a proven, enjoyable way to practice and hone speaking, communication, and leadership skills.

At least 20 members are required to gain an official chartered Toastmasters Club, though the KP Chapter has not yet

achieved that number.

"If we could find 10 more people to participate, I believe we could find enough extra people to be an official Toastmasters Club," Shirley said.

Though the risk of failure is often the scariest thing for people, Shirley said a Toastmasters club is the safest place to take that risk.

"A Toastmasters Club is a place where you can try something and fall flat on your face. The club members will pick you up, dust you off, and give you ideas on how you can improve your presentation... Toastmasters does not get rid of the butterflies, but gets them flying in formation," he said.

It is important to have as many members as possible to give everyone a chance to practice speaking in front of a larger crowd, but Vertz said the meetings have been small so far.

Learning to speak in front of a group of people is only one part of the club. By listening to the speeches of others, Vertz said she has learned so many things.

"I have learned about commercial fishing in Alaska, how to walk in a forest, what it was like to become a grandfather the first

time, and how the ethics of the Samurai warrior has relevance in lives," she said.

Preparing a speech for the club takes focus, Vertz said, and forces the person to slow down and take the time to think about a single subject.

"There are so many things going on in our busy lives. We have responsibilities at work and at home. We go from task to task, often on autopilot," she said. "When I have to prepare a speech, I take a topic and I spend a great deal of time thinking about, gathering notes, bringing arguments and wrestling with counter-arguments, shaping and polishing it. Most speeches are to be no shorter than five and no longer than seven minutes. And believe you me, it's a lot harder to do a short speech than you think."

"I enjoy the intellectual discipline it requires, and it is quite a source of pride to know that I delivered a good speech and to know that in a small way I entertained or informed my fellow toastmasters. Criticism is gently given; you always walk away with a sense of success. Thus starts a perfect day."

For more information about Toastmasters, visit the website, www.toastmasters.org.



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253.884-6022 for LIC information
253.884-9157 for event information
LIC Clubhouse at 462 Key Peninsula Blvd, 5 miles south of the Home for the Aged
www.longbranchimprovementclub.org



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The Key Peninsula News is looking for your suggestions, information and photographs.

Out & About
This picture page tells the stories of what is happening on the Key Peninsula. If you are at an event, see something interesting, or see news happening, we want you to let us know, and we will have your pictures.



Sports
We are launching a new page of sports, and we want your input. Whether at middle school, junior varsity, or high school, we want sports photos.



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Something cool going on in your classroom, or club? We want to know, and we would love to have some pictures.

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Cinde's Christmas trees

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Cinde Gardner-Gillespie is selling Christmas trees again this year in Minter, but across the highway from her previous set-up.

Her holiday trees are on the cutting edge, she says, with different grades of Grand, Noble, and Douglas Firs plus white pines offered for very competitive prices.

"We are accommodating the economy this year," says Gardner-Gillespie, with lower prices to help families out.

She buys her stock from Molalla Christmas Trees in Oregon, a third generation grower. The first trees will be cut a few days before they open, and the second cutting will be about a week later, so they are fresh.

Gardner-Gillespie's two youngest sons, Kaelyn, 9, and Alex, 6, will be eager helpers at the lot this year. To them, this annual tree lot is an essential part of the season.

Some of the Gillespie Classic Interiors workers will help out, too.

Gardner-Gillespie says they have always

been an outdoorsy family, with the kids as much at home in a camper as in their own house.

This year, they'll also have puppies for sale. She isn't sure why, but puppies and Christmas trees seem to go together for their family.

These puppies are from an AKC registered Husky mother and an AK registered Austrian Shepherd father.

Gardner-Gillespie coordinates with the Children's Home Society (CHS) to give trees to 25 selected families who otherwise would not have a tree. CHS also provides gifts, and Community Services provide food baskets from local donations.

She says the tree lot is a good family experience, as well as helping family members and employees earn some extra money for their holiday season.

Their lot will be on a corner of Jeff Charbonneau's Excavating at 11612 SR 302 NW, open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., beginning Nov. 28 through Dec. 14, or until sold out.

Check the Holiday Celebrations guide, inside this issue, for an ad with a coupon for Cinde's trees.



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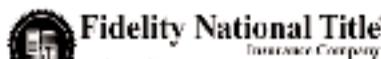
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Big Neck View front land				17 acre	\$750,000
Puyallup	1979	2706	3-2.25	.38 acre	\$299,000

OCTOBER HOME SALES

Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula

	Sold Oct 2007	Sold Oct 2008	For Sale as of 11/14/2008
	76 Homes	49 Homes	898 For Sale
Highest	\$1,694,000	\$1,665,000	\$4,800,000
Lowest	\$67,000	\$55,000	\$57,500
Median	\$373,000	\$330,000	\$390,000



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COMMUNITY WORKS

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

Dec. 3 – Space lecture

Key Peninsula Middle School is sponsoring Dr. Michelle Thaller, from Spitzer Space Telescope, who will be giving a free community lecture at Galaxy Theatres at 6:30 p.m. Kareen, 253-530-4257

Dec. 4 – Strut Busters meet

The Narrows Strut Busters Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meets on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Chapter President Al Prante's house. New members are being accepted at this time. With event planning for next year's banquet and community outreach programs, now is the best time to meet wild turkey conservationists and find out about their great outreach programs. For information about the chapter, visit www.gigharbornwtf.org or contact Al Prante, 884-9663 or turkeydancer@centurytel.net

Dec. 6 – SAVE Holiday Open House

The annual Holiday Open House at the SAVE Thrift Store in Purdy will be held on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The store will be filled with Christmas decorations, clothing and gift items such as books, jewelry and glassware. Refreshments will be available. Marsha, 857-7557

Dec. 6 – Christmas for critters

The Friends of the Key Center Library are hosting a free family workshop at the Key Center Library at 2 p.m. to make edible outdoor ornaments for birds, squirrels and other wildlife. All materials are provided. Donations for the KP Food Bank are encouraged. Participants must pre-register at 884-2242

Dec. 6 – Holiday bazaar

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church is hosting the Heart and Hand Holiday Bazaar from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Shop early

for gifts, décor, baked goods (including lefse and other Scandinavian treats), all made by hand and given from the heart to support the Community Meals Program. The usual community breakfast precedes the bazaar.

The bazaar will be followed at 7 p.m. by a Down Home Christmas Concert featuring the Wickline family, with lots of audience participation and the proceeds benefitting the Community Meals Program. A special treat for the kids will be set up in the nursery where kids may choose and wrap one gift for a parent. Tickets are \$10/adults (children 5 and under free). Call 884-3312 to reserve your ticket.

Dec. 6 – Santa appearance

Free pictures with Santa offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Costless Pharmacy Open House in Lake Kathryn Shopping Center.

Santa will also be at Austin Estuary Park (across the street from the Beach Basket), Gig Harbor, (weather permitting) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 13 and 20. See story in Holiday section.

Dec. 7 – KP Tree lighting

The annual tree lighting will be held at the Key Center Corral beginning at 4 p.m. This free event, sponsored by the KP Business Association, features the Key Singers, Dr. Roes' Down Home Band, Santa, and more. Jud, 884-5433

Dec. 9 – Community forum held

The Mustard Seed Project invites all to a community forum from 10 a.m. to noon at the Key Center Library. The "Beacon Hill Village" model for aging in place will be examined. Details of this program can be found online at www.beaconhillvillage.org and print materials can be obtained by calling the Key Senior Information Center prior to the meeting at 884-9814.

During the second hour of the meeting updates and exchanges of local informa-

tion on Housing Options for Aging in Place, and Transportation & Mobility for Elders will occur. Light refreshments will be served, and brown bag lunches are welcome. 884-9814 or ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org

Dec. 11 – Teen gaming

Teen gaming is held from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-2242

Dec. 11 – Helios Trio

This annual free holiday musical program, a gift from the Friends of the Key Center Library, will be a repeat performance by three accomplished musicians. It will be held at 7 p.m. in McColley Hall the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road. Donations to the KP Food Bank are encouraged. 884-2242

Dec. 13 – Christmas Cabaret

The Key Singers present their holiday concert in a cabaret atmosphere at 2 p.m. at McColley Hall at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. The performance will be a mix of traditional, contemporary and sing-alongs. Please bring non-perishable food, checks and cash donations to benefit Community House Food Bank.

Dec. 13 – Waterbirds walk

Folks who want to identify birds out on the water or to see which birds are at Penrose Point are encouraged to meet at 11 a.m. at Penrose Point State Park. One scope and a few pairs of binoculars are available. The group is limited to the first 15 who register for this free event. To register, call 884-2514.

Dec. 13 – Zoo Lights

The Point Defiance Zoo Lights are on display for the 21st year. Bundle up and stroll the zoo, enjoying live entertainment, animal visits, holiday shopping and more on Saturday from 4:30 to 9 p.m. Depart from Key Center Fire Station and

return around 9 p.m. \$19 fee includes transportation, admission, & light snack. Reserve by Dec. 5 with Chad, 884-2240

Dec. 20 – Gingerbread houses

Families are invited to a fun pre-Christmas activity at 10:30 a.m. at the Key Center Library. The event is free and all materials to build a graham cracker house are provided. Donations for the local food bank are appreciated. To register, call 884-2242.

Jan. 25 – Farmers Market Meeting

The Key Peninsula Farmers Market seeks more farmers, artists, and other vendors to join the market for the 2009 season. An informational meeting will be held at the Key Center Library at 4 p.m.; everyone who is interested in joining the market is invited to attend. The new fees, application rules, and guidelines will be discussed. Farmers Market applications will be available and are due on May 1st for participation in the 2009 season. For questions or to be put on an update email list, contact Holly at: Manager@kpfarmersmarket.org.

Now – Nominations needed

The sponsoring Key Peninsula Lions Club is currently accepting nominations for the annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Awards. Nominees may be of any age, should be residents of, work on, or own property on the Key Peninsula. No member of the Lions Club may be nominated. Persons nominated should be considered for having volunteered their service on behalf of the Key Peninsula community, whether for a single outstanding contribution or for sustained contributions over several years. The awards dinner will be held in early 2009 at the KP Civic Center. Send nominee's name, telephone number, mailing addresses, and a brief description of why the person deserves recognition to: KP Lions, PO Box 63, Vaughn,



Celebrate the HOLIDAYS

~ See Santa Schedule back page ~

Grandma's Gingerbread Recipe

5 cups all purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons ginger
2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon cloves
1 cup vegetable shortening
1 cup sugar
1 ¼ cup unsulphured molasses
2 eggs, beaten

Thoroughly blend flour and spices; set aside.

Melt shortening in large saucepan.

Add sugar, molasses and eggs; mix well.

When mixture is cool, add 4 cups of the blended flour mixture, mixing well and turn onto lightly floured surface. Knead in remaining mixture by hand, to make a firm but not sticky dough.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Roll out dough on lightly oiled cookie sheets and cut shapes directly from dough, removing any excess.

Bake large pieces up to ¼ inch thick for 17 to 20 minutes

For thinner, smaller pieces 6 to 15 minutes is adequate.

Remove to wire racks to cool about 30 minutes.

Cover flat surface with paper towel and place baked pieces on it to dry overnight.

Store unused dough in tightly sealed plastic wrap and refrigerate, kneading again to roll out.

Sharon Hicks note: If using other recipes, omit baking soda and use unsulphured molasses to eliminate dough from rising during baking. This makes assembly much easier.

The gingerbread house - holiday connection

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

"While visions of gingerbread danced in their heads." The aroma of gingerbread has permeated homes since the early 1600s, beginning primarily in Europe. In Medieval England, gingerbread simply meant preserved ginger. It is a spice from Indo-Malaysia and was introduced to the Europeans in the eleventh century. The English created ginger candy; Two hundred years later breadcrumbs were added to the mixture and the gingerbread we know was born. Ginger was known to have a preservative effect when added to pastries and bread, leading to recipes for ginger cakes and cookies.

A cookbook published in 1615 used a quart of honie [honey], ginger, much Licoras, a quarter pound Aniseeds, red sandalwood, then heated and seared before adding a quarter of a pint of claret, finely grated white bread and stirre to a stiffe Past [paste] then make into cakes and drie gently. Gradually molasses and flour replaced the honey and bread-crumbs.

In the 17th century, Germany was the country with the longest and strongest tradition of flat, shaped gingerbread pieces, decorated with white and colored icing and tied with ribbons. It wasn't long before Nuremberg became known as the "gingerbread capital" of the world. Sculptors, woodcarvers, painters and goldsmiths all took part in creating fabulous, intricate pieces. Artists would decorate them in frosting or gold paint.

The traditions in France were closer to the German than the English ones and in 1571, French bakers had their own guild separate from other pastry cooks and bakers. Spices were usually hard to get and pepper and ginger were the only ones

usually appearing in the thirteenth century English household until a junction of trade became available from Hungary, Venice and the Mediterranean.

The Gingerbread House: During the nineteenth century gingerbread was both modernized and romanticized by the Grimm brothers', Hansel and Gretel, who became lost in the woods and discovered a house made of bread, cake, and candies. Englebert Humperdink wrote an opera about the boy and girl and the gingerbread house. Christmas is the best time of year for this impressive delicacy. Elaborate Victorian houses, heavy with candies and sugar icicles vied in competition with Hansel and Gretel houses that were more richly decorated and ornamented than most children

could ever imagine. By the 19th century, America had been decorating gingerbread for decades. Our recipes usually called for fewer spices than the European ones but made use of ingredients that were regionally available.

Nowhere in the world is there a greater repertoire of gingerbread recipes than in America with many variations in taste, form and presentation. With the rich choice of ingredients and decorative items such as, candy canes, gum drops, hard candy, licorice, jelly beans, candied fruit slices, chocolate and much, much more, the imaginative cooks can create the most spectacular gingerbread houses and centerpieces ever.

To see some exotic, gingerbread houses designed by two local architecture firms and one by the hotel, visit the Seattle Sheraton Hotel during the holidays. There will be six or seven beautiful houses on display in the lobby from Nov. 25 to Jan. 4. These are worth seeing if you are in the area.



Wicklins return to Key Peninsula with 'A Down Home Family Christmas'



Bob and Lynda Wickline, daughters Mandi and Marcee, and two long-time musician friends bring their traditional "Down Home Family Christmas" to the Key Peninsula on Saturday, Dec. 6. The family-oriented show opens at McColley Hall with toe-tapping, hand-clapping sing-alongs to traditional Christmas favorites, and the lively music of banjo, mandolin, guitar, bass, dobro and flute.

Bob Wickline, raised in Lexington, Kentucky, became a hit on local Lexington TV and country music stages at age 9. He strummed his three-quarter Gibson guitar and sang the tunes of Little Jimmy Dickens and other country legends on demand.

His family pulled up their Southern roots and moved to Southern California in the early '60s. Bob thought he could finally move out of the spotlight and put away his guitar for good. He had found another musical calling — the drums. It was all about high school marching bands, big bands, dance bands, garage bands.

In Hawthorne, Calif., he became fast friends with his new neighbor, Carl Wilson. One day Carl asked Bob if he played any music. The answer was drums. Any instruments? Bob told him "guitar," but he didn't even know where his guitar was. He located it under a bed, the case dust-covered, and he and Carl enjoyed many guitar jam sessions. Carl's brother Brian said their fledgling garage band needed a drummer, and asked Bob to join them. Bob, 15, conferred with his folks, who didn't hold a high opinion of the Wilson brothers' "surfin' music." The Wilsons found another drummer, and The Beachboys made history.

Bob and Lynda intended to move to the Puget Sound area with her sister and husband, but delayed their own move for three years until 1975. Lynda's parents and brothers also moved from California to the Key Peninsula, but the Wicklines put down their roots on Fox Island.

Bob immediately grabbed his guitar, his wife, some great local talent, and put

together a group that would perform a mix of his songs and, of course, some well-loved Bluegrass standards. With "Wicklins' Natural Music Show," he returned to the road, hitting fairgrounds up and down the I-5 corridor in the '70s and '80s. They auditioned for the Washington State Arts Commission, and consequently spent the next 18 years demonstrating "The History of Bluegrass Music" to over 2,000 elementary schools statewide.

Since raising their daughters required roots and stability, Bob and Lynda reconnected with their teaching careers over the years, teaching at Peninsula schools from the 1970s to the present, including Vaughn, Evergreen and Minter Creek. Local performances grounded them in the community they loved, including lively concerts at Key Peninsula Civic

Center in the mid-1970s.

Over the years, their favorite concert is still the "Down Home Family Christmas," performed at Tacoma's Festival of Trees, Puyallup's Victorian Christmas, community centers far and wide, and 20-plus years of encores at the annual Fox Island Christmas Tree Lighting.

Old and new friends are invited to join them for their two local Christmas concerts: Saturday, Dec. 6 at McColley Hall (at the corner of Key Peninsula Highway and Lackey Road) and Sunday, Dec. 7 at Nichols Community Center, Fox Island. Performances begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10, with free admission for children 5 years and under. Call 884-3312 for tickets.

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Santa Sandy celebrates 55 years

By Colleen Slater

One local Santa is used to headlines. He appeared in photos with various kids, wearing his Santa duds on the ice-skating rink.

His photo with two cherubs showed up in an online RV publication, www.escapees.com. Perhaps the best headline was the year he married Nancy Austin, a Gig Harbor native.

The year before, Santa appeared in downtown Seattle the day after Thanksgiving, and expected to do so again, so they set their wedding date for the following Saturday. When the call came through for the Santa gig, it was for Saturday, and he declined the job. But after some thought, he said yes, he'd do it, and since the wedding invitations were not yet printed, the wedding was rescheduled for a later hour.

The Seattle PI headline read "Santa arrives with a girl, then off to Gig Harbor via monorail for wedding."

Sandy Elken's Santa career began as a Santa photographer at Frederick and Nelson in Seattle. Later he photographed youngsters riding Shetland ponies they took from door to door. Later, he snapped pictures of kids on Santa's lap in a Spokane department store.

The company he worked for provided good quality Santa wigs and beards for better photographs. "The best



Courtesy Sandy Elken

Cindy and Mike, shown with their grandmother, now have a grandchild each. Elken has played Santa to this family for 40 years.

ones were yak hair," Elken says.

In 1954, a department store Santa asked if he could borrow a beard and wig set. Elken made a deal — a borrowed beard and wig in exchange for a Santa suit.

He says his friends were getting married and having kids. He called a friend in Seattle and said "I'll play Santa for your children."

He continued to be Santa for this family, neighborhood children, and an occasional church youth group.

When they became full time RVers, Elken and his wife learned to take only what they needed, so he left his Santa suit in storage in Redmond, Ore. As Christmas season neared, they were in Edmonds, and he realized his outfit was 600 miles away, round trip. After that, he carried it in the RV. He may only put it on once during the year, but that way, it was with him when he needed it.

He's had some interesting incidents in his Santa career. One time he forgot to take his own shoes, so wore his Santa boots to dinner with his friends. Small boys playing under the table figured out who he was.

Another year, he spun a yarn when he surprised one little girl with a new puppy. She had just lost her dog. He told her the 101 Dalmatians from the recent movie needed homes with special kids.

"Santa doesn't lie," says Elken, "but he does tell stories."

Elken's sister made him his own Santa suit from a pajama pattern, trimmed with real rabbit fur. He bought himself a good beard and wig set, and started his own tradition. He still wears that outfit, but this year, for his 55th anniversary, he's grown his own white beard. He began growing this set of whiskers last Jan. 1, and it comes off on Jan. 2, after being "Father Time" for Tacoma's First Night party. He's polished up a gold scythe with a silver blade for the occasion.

"I charge \$150 to put on my suit," Elken says, whether it's for one child or a neighborhood. The money all goes to his favorite charity, The Elks Therapy Program for Children.

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Santa Comes To Town

Santa's 2008 Schedule

All Times Are
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Sunday - December 7 - 4:00 p.m.
Tree Lighting - KC Corral, Key Center

Tree lighting sponsored by
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Sunday - December 7
6:45 pm ~ Lake Minterwood

Wednesday - December 10
6:00 pm Lake of the Woods
6:45 pm Lake Holiday

Saturday - December 13
6:00 - 7:30 pm ~ Lake Katherine Shopping Center

Sunday - December 14
1:00 pm ~ Longbranch Improvement Center Christmas party

Monday - December 15
6:00 - 6:30 pm ~ Jackson Lake
6:45 - 7:30 pm ~ Home

Friday - December 19
5:30 - 6:45 pm ~ Key Peninsula Civic Center @ Vaughn before skate night
7:00 pm - Joemma Beach

Saturday - December 20
6:00 - 6:45 pm Palmer Lake
7:00 - 7:30 pm Taylor Bay Estates

WA 98394, or via email to HMCMNP1000@centurytel.net. 884-3319 or 853-2721

Now – Water aerobics offered

Monday, Wednesday and Friday water aerobic classes are offered from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp Easter Seal pool, where the water is 90 degrees. Call Donna at 884-4473 or donnasdaily@gmail.com to register. Classes are also available on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:20-10:20 a.m. Call Laurie, 884-2272

Now – Gifts for veterans

The Key Peninsula Veterans are collecting gifts for the veterans at American Lake Vets Hospital in Lakewood, WA. Last year local residents gave over 150 gifts for the veterans. Patsy, 509-0545

Now – Volunteer for youth

The citizens committee which advises Pierce County government on how to best use tax dollars for youth violence prevention programs is seeking new members. Interested persons should contact the Department of Community Services to obtain an application form for membership on the Allocation Advisory Committee for Prevention Programs.

The committee, composed of volunteers who live in the county's unincorporated area, helps provide programs for the prevention of violence in, among and to children and youth. During monthly

meetings starting in January and concluding in June, members work to increase understanding of the impact of violence prevention programs, evaluate funding applications and make recommendations on the allocations of 25 percent of the Criminal Justice Sales & Use Tax. The form can be obtained at www.piercecountywa.org/VPMember or by contacting Stephanie Bray at 253-798-7205 or sbray@co.pierce.wa.us.

Mondays – TOPS meets

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

Tuesdays – TOPS meets

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

Thursdays – Senior Society meets

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

Saturdays – Writers meet

The Writers' Guild meets from 9 to 11 a.m. at Key Center Library. All writers are welcome; 884-6455

DECEMBER PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Pierce County Council District 6, Dec. 9, 5:30 p.m. at Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main Street NW
- Fire District 16, Dec. 9 & 23, 3 p.m. at Lakebay Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council, Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at Key Center Library
- KP Metro Parks 2009 Budget Public Meetings, Dec. 8 & 22, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex
- Peninsula School District Board, Dec. 11, 6 p.m. (regular meeting) at district office, 14105 62nd Ave NW, Gig Harbor

OFF THE KEY

Dec. 5-14 – 'The Producers'

The Washington State premier of Mel Brooks' "The Producers" will play on weekends beginning Friday, Dec. 5 at the Paradise Theater. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 3 p.m. The show is directed by Jeff Richards, musical director is Marianne McColley and the choreographer is Vicki Richards. Tickets are \$10-\$20 online at www.paradisetheatre.org or by calling 253-851-PLAY. 9911 Burnham Dr NW in Gig Harbor.

Dec. 6 – Gig Harbor Art Walk

Enjoy the many shops and galleries in historic downtown Gig Harbor. Pick up an artwalk passport at any gallery and be eligible for a monthly drawing prize worth \$100. 888-843-9444

Dec. 6 – Gig Harbor tree lighting

Enjoy family fun, including Santa, at Skansie Brothers Park from 5 to 7 p.m. Free. Shop or dine in waterfront Gig Harbor afterwards. 857-4842

Dec. 6 & 7 – TideFest

Top quality artists from around the region display their creations from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Shopping abounds at the 27th year of the TideFest Art Fair. Admission is \$5 and children under 12 are free. Contact: Eleanor, 253-530-1478

Dec. 6 & 7 – Eagles Bazaar

The annual Gig Harbor Eagles Bazaar will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 and Sunday, Dec. 7. Free to the public. 253-851-2809.

Dec. 13 – Lighted boat parade

The annual Gig Harbor lighted boat parade begins at dusk all along the Gig Harbor Bay. 851-1807

Dec. 13 – Christmas events at Chapel Hill

The Sounds of Christmas celebration at Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Gig Harbor are free concerts and are scheduled for Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 14 at 3 p.m.

Pre-school children have a chance to celebrate the birth of Jesus during a party. Two party times are scheduled for Dec. 16. The first is early morning from 9 to 11:30 a.m., and the second is from 1 to 3 p.m.

Christmas Eve will provide five services, with the 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. services planned for the entire family to enjoy with candlelight and a children's play. The next two services at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. will include candlelight and carols, and the late service, at 10 p.m. will feature candlelight, carols and communion.

Dec. 16 – Argosy Christmas ship

The Argosy's Spirit of Seattle is expected in Gig Harbor from 8:20 to 8:40 p.m. Hear the St. Martin's University Chorale sing via speaker broadcast from ship to shore. 853-3554

Dec. 20 & 21 – Nutcracker presentation

Encore! Theater presents "Nutcracker, Beyond the Dream" at the Boyd Auditorium at Peninsula High School at 2 and 7 p.m. each day. Advance tickets are \$15/adults, \$10/seniors, and \$7 for children up through 12. At the door the tickets are \$20/adults, \$15/seniors, and \$12 for children. www.encoretheater.org or 858-2282

Now – Dec. 14 - 'Run for Your Wife'

Encore! Theater announces its presentation of "Run for Your Wife" written by Ray Cooney. Shows are on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. Call 858-2282 to reserve tickets; Adults/\$15, military, seniors, teens/\$11, children through 12/\$8. Ask about the economical flex-tix. The theater is located at 6615 38th Avenue Northwest, Gig Harbor, klynette@centurytel.net

Special joint meeting to consider amendments

The Gig Harbor Peninsula and Key Peninsula Advisory Commissions will have a special joint meeting on Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the City of Gig Harbor Council Chambers, 3510 Grandview in Gig Harbor.

Discussion will include a review and consideration of amendments to a number of Pierce County Development Regulations.

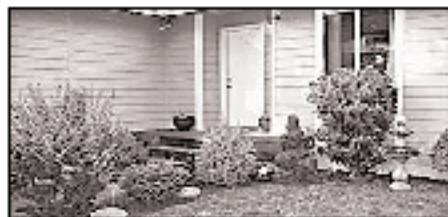
Public comment will be limited to five minutes, and no duplicate comments will be taken. It is best to have a spokesperson for a group with similar views to speak for the entire group.

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Dallas Amidon 857-3304 #28180091



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Dallas Amidon 857-3304 #28180284



PALMER LAKE **\$199,000**
Just in time for the holidays! Enjoy this 3 bd, 2 ba open concept home w/spacious kitchen allowing you to create gourmet holiday meals and enjoy your guests all at the same time. Just a short walk to the lake & enjoy feeding the ducks or catching a fish or two.
Cinda Baldwin 857-3304 #28181140



GIG HARBOR **\$38,500**
3 bedrm, 2 ba singlewide with vinyl and wall to wall carpeting! Other features include a dining room, bath off the master bdrm & walk-in closet. A peaceful & nicely landscaped property w/large trees, flower beds & an occasional family of deer who may just wander through!
Liz Gelfe 857-3304 #28183165



GIG HARBOR **\$155,000**
Landlord be gone! This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is close to Hwy 16 and minutes from new shopping area. Nice and private yard. This is the perfect way to own a home for almost what you could be paying in rent. Short walk to the Lake.
Dottie Mazza 253-225-0530 #28134784



LAKEBAY **\$299,500**
New construction on 1.73 acres! Spacious 1 1/2 story with 2,020 sq ft, 3 bed, 2.5 bath, den & 3-car attached garage. Private mstr bath, tile flooring, pantry & formal dining and living room. Many upgraded features are standard.
A.J. Millier 857-3304 #27033274



LAKEBAY **\$240,000**
A 71x28ft mfg home on 5 acres! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, living room, family room, spare room, large kitchen, walk-in pantry & closet. The master bedroom has a bonus sitting room or office & master bath. The property has a 14x20ft shed & a 3 bdrm septic system.
Susan Hoover 253-857-3304 #28125706



LONG BRANCH LAND **\$179,960**
5 Acres w/garage that includes full bath, power & deck. Pump house & well near street. 1000 gallon propane tank almost full. Private electric gate shared w/neighbor. Driveway into garage. Property is lightly treed, partially cleared. Outbuilding is storage/office.
Laura Mosley 253-857-3304 #28103845



LAKEBAY **\$199,000**
Newly carpeted & freshly painted 3 bd, 2 bath open concept home just waiting for you to move in! Enjoy lounging on the lg front porch or entertaining guests on the outdoor patio. Private back yard with play area, dog run & garden shed. Green belt located behind yard. Dallas Amidon 857-3304 #28174896



KEY PENINSULA NORTH **\$295,500**
Gorgeous interior remodel of this flowing floor plan. Spacious living area, cherry laminate floors & state fireplace. Upgrades include fixtures, lighting & appliances. Sprawling lawn & gardens on this large full-acre lot. Tall privacy fence, garden shed & backyard deck. A.J. Millier 857-3304 #28112439



PALMER LAKE **\$19,999**
2 Lots equaling .55 acres surrounded by trees. Trout-stocked, lake is popular w/fishermen & boat lovers alike. Two state parks nearby, Penrose & Joemma. Build your dream home or vacation get-away. Water & power at street.
Dottie Mazza 857-3304 #28143765



Dallas Amidon
253-606-0972



Cinda Baldwin
253-884-1544



Liz Gelfe
253-241-1737



Susan Hoover
800-979-3147



Dottie Mazza
253-225-0530



A.J. Millier
252-884-6557



Laura Mosley
252-377-6625



Janette Wester
253-358-0485



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Photo by Danna Webster

Scott Heffernan signs his new book of poems and stories at Borders in Gig Harbor on Oct. 25. The book is called "it's time..."

Key Peninsula poet introduces his new book

By Danna Webster, KP News

Key Peninsula resident, Scott Heffernan, a featured author at Borders bookstore in Gig Harbor, read from his first published book of poems and stories titled "it's time..." It is a collection of his reflections over the past year in which he has become the caretaker for his parents. Heffernan writes in his introduction that the book is a glimpse into life lessons he and his parents have shared. A poem called "The calluses" is about his father:

The calluses
are gone from his hands
they were never rough
but now
so far in the other direction

almost delicate
if that can be applied to a man
one who has beaten several
and killed a few
even his voice
almost a whisper
soft now
like him

Heffernan reads from this publication and other writings at the Poet Beat Nights at O'Callahan's. He is a founding member of Key Peninsula Writers' Guild and his publisher is Key Literary Concepts a publishing company owned by Jerry Libstaff of Vaughn. When asked what it was like to do his first book signing, he replied, "It was the scariest thing I've ever done and also the most gratifying, too."

Volunteer dedicated to the history of the KP

By Donna Smeall, KP News

Leona Britt is one of a small army of women who man the tiny historical museum located at the Key Peninsula Historical Society. She serves as a docent at the museum that depicts the wonders of the Key Peninsula's earliest residents. The museum is open two days a week, and Britt volunteers there one day a week.

Her goal and objective is "to try to sustain the Key Peninsula Historical Society's membership" as she believes she can't expect others to do what she isn't willing to do.

The historical society's first beginnings came from a small force of eight

women who sat down at the first meeting on February 16, 1972 to decide how to preserve the community's history for others to absorb and appreciate.

For the longest time, the society had no home until it received the benefit of the tiny room located at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in 1995. The nonprofit organization is a volunteer organization today and has about 66 members.

"Volunteering is so good for the soul," she stated as she put forth her plea for more docents to help her and the small staff preserve the community's history.

Britt also volunteered at the Angel Guild for more than nine years as a sorter until a vision impairment made sorting a difficulty for her. As a 10-year resident of the Lake of the Woods area, she first started volunteering back then to discover her new hometown following her family's migration here from the San Francisco Bay area in California.

"I have discovered that Key Peninsula reminds me of my hometown: Paradise, Calif. Very fitting and appropriate description of life here on Key Peninsula."

When not volunteering, Britt enjoys life with her husband, their three children, nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She is a voracious reader and claims to have read over 400 books since Jan. 1. "I just get a great kick out of Janet Evanovich's books . . . she just tickles my funny bone," Britt said.



Photo by Donna Smeall

Leona Britt doing what she love, being a docent at the KPHS museum in Vaughn.

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Holiday Safety Tips



When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, and needles are hard to pull from branches when bent between your fingers, needles do not break.

Cut away a few inches off the trunk of your tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption to keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.

Before using outdoor lights, check labels to be sure they are certified. To secure, string them through hooks or insulated staples, not nails or tacks. Never pull or tug to remove them.

Do not burn wrapping paper

in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite and suddenly burn intensely.

Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.

Never burn candles near evergreens. Burning evergreens in the fire place can also be hazardous. When dry greens burn like tinder, flames can burn out of control, and send sparks into the room or up a chimney to ignite creosote deposits.

Plan for safety. Remember, there is no substitute for common sense. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, trees, and/or electrical connections.

ATTENTION:



The **Key Peninsula Fire Department** is looking for **concerned residents** who are interested in participating in the **Citizens Advisory Committee**.

SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT/RESUME to the Key Center Fire Station

~ DEADLINE ~

DEC. 19, 2008 at 5pm
QUESTIONS: CALL CHIEF
TOM LIQUE 884-2222

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

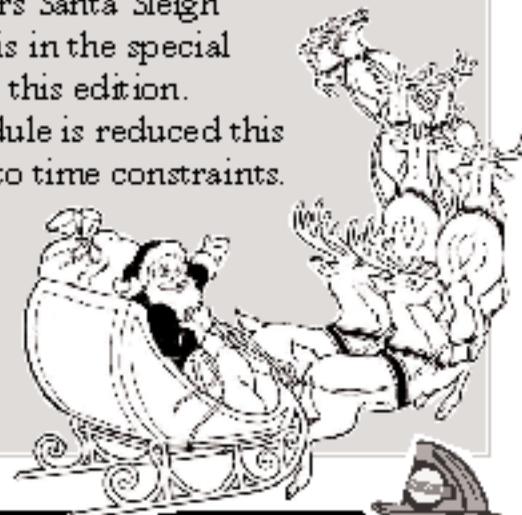
Kaci Sun

Kaci just finished her first year of probation as Career Firefighter/Paramedic. She is assigned to C-Shift where she is quickly making a name for herself as an outstanding Medic. She always wears a smile and her happy countenance inevitably seems to spread to her workmates and our customers.



Firefighters Santa Sleigh schedule is in the special section in this edition. The schedule is reduced this year due to time constraints.

Don't
Miss
Him!



"Winter Storm season is here, are you ready?"

SPARKY SAYS:

(From JULIA, Page 1)

feels now and her prognosis, it isn't likely. She admits she is dying, and her children know that as well.

She has been sick since they were very small.

"They really don't know any different," she said. "I've never been able to do much with them physically, because I've always been sick during their lives."

As she has endured more surgeries, and her strength and stamina have declined, she said it has gotten harder for the boys.

"Now they know that I'm dying, so it's harder for them."

Zev talks a lot about her illness and the fact that she will die someday. Ramon, she said, is more reserved and quiet.

It was also difficult for her husband. They have been legally separated for about five years, she said.

"He's a very hands-on dad," she said. "He just didn't deal with this. He couldn't talk about it."

Her immune system is so low now that she has to avoid crowds. It makes this time of year very difficult, and if her children have a cold, she can't be around them.

“

“Now they know that I'm dying, so it's harder for them.”

— Julia Carson, mom

”

"I don't go into their classrooms anymore, so I can't volunteer at their school or anything," she said.

Her weeks consist of medical appointments, sitting in doctor's offices waiting for her turn to have blood drawn, to be poked with needles and endure constant tests. She has four MRIs a year, she said.

In 2001, her vision started changing. At the time was working in the Group Health urgent care. She had the nurses take her blood pressure and test her blood sugar. Nothing seemed abnormal, but the vision kept getting worse.

She said she went for an eye exam, and then had to be fitted for a prism in her glasses. When Julia's eyes were dilated, she said the optometrist saw something.

1st Annual
Winter Warm-Up
Crafts Fair & Chili Cook-Off
Thanks to our volunteers!
 KP Lions
 Peninsula & Gig Harbor High School Key Clubs
 KP Senior Society
 KP Historical Society
 Barbara Heard, Sound Credit Union
 KPCCA Board & Staff
 Cheryl Force
 Chili Judges & Entrants
 Arts & Crafts Vendors
 ...and all attendees!

Key Peninsula Civic Center

"She backed away from me, and I saw her running around looking for my doctor," she said. "It was a surreal moment. He filled out a referral for an MRI and within 20 minutes after that the family practice doctor told me that I had a growth.

"Still, at that point it didn't click. He said they usually aren't cancerous."

A week later she saw the surgeon. That was on a Wednesday, she said, and by Friday morning she was having surgery to remove a tumor.

"He said if I had not gotten the surgery, I would've gone blind and wouldn't know who anyone was."

The diagnosis was a blow and made her question why she had to go through so much so young, with two little boys to raise.

After the surgery Julia had chemotherapy and radiation and was given two years to live, she said.

In order to have radiation, she said little metal bbs had to be placed in her head.

"They didn't put me to sleep, so I had to hear it all, the grinding and the whole idea of it was bad," she said.

A second surgery was performed in 2003 and a third in 2007 to remove tumor growth.

"I've had so much radiation that I can't have any more."

The treatments brought on leukemia, and she was admitted to Fred Hutchinson to prepare for a bone marrow transplant. Her brother was going to be the donor. Something went terribly wrong.

"The second week into it, they hit a main artery and I was rushed to University of Washington Hospital, and was in a coma for three weeks."

She lost much blood, but it had no place to go. She said the blood gathered in her body, forcing her skin to stretch, and form pockets on her back and her abdomen.

"I am Catholic, but that was so painful that I really thought of suicide," she said.

"That is the only time I've ever in my life thought of that."

Bone marrow transplant is no longer an option, she said.

With so much surgery on her brain, she said she has brain damage, and sometimes her thoughts come slowly.

Early in November she had a procedure called an endoscopy, and some biopsies were taken. A day later, she was rushed into the hospital. Her blood pressure was very low, she said. She was given blood transfusions, but those weren't really working the way they should have, and the doctors began talking to her about hospice, and funeral arrangements, and the important documents like power of attorney that she would need to get in order.

Those are papers she already has in order, she said. It was the news of hospice that was a bit of a shock.

The next morning she had exploratory surgery to find out where she was bleeding internally. It was the biopsy spots, she said.

She spends time with her father on the Key Peninsula and her mother in Puyallup.

No one can tell her for certain how long she will live, but she knows what she has is not curable.

Knowing that she has limited time here, she wanted to take a special, memorable trip, and her father sent her on what he calls a Make A Wish Trip, to Graceland. She spent a couple of weeks there at the end of September and beginning of October.

"I wanted to go someplace I could get medical care easily, and my dad raised me on Elvis music," she said. Though she enjoyed Graceland, she said the best part was the city of Memphis. Beale Street, the music, the barbeque, and the atmosphere of the legendary recording studios made the trip a fun time.

"It was really hard to leave," she said.

She has questioned why and she has gotten angry, but Julia said she has also seen the blessing in it all.

"I have dear friends," she said. "I learned that I'm loved a lot more than I ever thought I was, and I get a lot more prayers than I ever knew I would get."

When she was first diagnosed, her co-workers held fundraisers and raised enough money each month to pay her rent. This went on for a full year, she said.

"I think when I was young ...I didn't really think about much else until this happened. I realize there's so much more going on in the world than just me."

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KP Crock-pot Cookin'

Logger's bean soup

By Jeanette Brown

One of my families' favorite Crock-pot dishes besides Cheese ala Chili - Killen is what we call "Loggers bean soup". It has to be made with a big, thick, meaty ham hock; you know, something like Paul Bunion would eat.

Preferably the ham hock should be grown on one's own farm or given to the cook stamped, "not for sale" by a friend of the family. And by the way, bean soup has been served every day in the United States Senate dining room since the 1920s.

It seems that bean soup is economical, good nutrition and fun for every one, even United State Senators!

Ingredients:

1 large ham hock, about 1 1/2 lbs.
w/bone in

1 8oz. package navy beans

1 medium sweet onion - chopped

4 stalks celery - chopped

(Sauté onions and celery in butter first if desired - then add to soup)

4 carrots - grated

Salt and pepper to taste

garlic to taste

I use a 7 quart electric slow cooker with a low, medium and high switch on it.

The night before, I wash, sort and then let the beans soak over night, covering them with at least 2 inches of water.

Late the next morning I put the ham hock in the crock pot and fill it up with water and then add salt and pepper in addition to part of the chopped onions, celery and grated carrots for flavoring. I



turn the pot on high for about 2 hours and get some pretty good broth this way.

When the ham hock starts to fall off the bone, take it out and skim off the fat in the broth if needed or desired. Take meat off bone, chop and put back in broth. You can place bones back in and then discard after the beans are cooked. I keep my crock pot on high after I add the beans, until they are cooked; then turn the pot down to medium or low.

Add the beans, perhaps some more salt and pepper and don't forget the garlic. Then add some more onions, celery and grated carrots; but be sure to retain some of these veggies to add to the soup about 20 minutes before the beans are done. This varies from about 30 minutes to one hour or so.

I like to serve my bean soup with hot fresh bread and butter and a tossed green salad. The soup's on almost every day in my kitchen. So practical to have lunch handy and fast when finding time to fix dinner becomes difficult. Loggers bean soup is a very healthy and popular "woody" dish too - perfect for the soup thermos.

(From LEVY, Page 1)

from many walks of life," said Wendy Wojtanowicz, a School Board Director who lives in Wauna. "The group studied building and population trends, interest rates, school growth, and many other factors, concluding that we are in a slow down period with the economy not recovering for a few years before an upturn. They felt that economic conditions did not allow for any additional tax burden."

Superintendent Terry Bouck stated, "We are trying to hold the line for the next three years while economic conditions improve. There will be no increase in taxes, we are simply maintaining what we are doing by renewing the expiring levy."

The current property tax levy, which was approved by the voters in 2005, expires in December 2009. Approximately \$15 million will be collected under this levy for calendar year 2008. The total schools budget for 2008 is roughly \$80 million.

The proposed levy would start in January 2010 and run through December 2012. "We expect to collect just a little bit more than \$16 million the first year," said Karen Sexsmith, the director of finance for the school district.

Because of the construction boom and the great increase in property values since 2005, the proposed levy would effectively be a reduction in the rate per \$1,000 evaluation when you compare the actual dollars collected.

Both the expiring levy and the proposed levy are designated for operations and maintenance expenses, which cover such things as number of teachers, staff, security, curriculum development, bus fleet, equipment, after school programs, certificate programs, paraeducators, tutoring, and technology upgrades.

"Money collected from the levy comprises 20 percent of our entire budget," said Bouck. "If the proposed levy were to fail, we would need to carefully study and re-prioritize everything that we do."

The other 80 percent of the schools budget comes from the state and federal governments, fees for "pay to play", and donations from individuals, groups, and businesses.

"It's hard to put a finger on what programs would have to be cut," said Peninsula High School Principal Tim Winter. "Student learning would definitely suffer without the levy."

“Eighty percent of our budget is people. I don't know how to cut the budget without cutting people.”

— Mike Benoit, Vaughn principal

“Eighty percent of our budget is people. I don't know how to cut the budget without cutting people,” said Mike Benoit, Principal at Vaughn Elementary.

Kari Wilkinson has been involved with PTA for more than 12 years, has been President of the KPMS PTA for two years, and is the current Leadership Director for the Washington State PTA. Wilkinson said, "Our kids will lose if the levy fails. We will lose teachers, we will lose programs, everything will suffer. We would be letting our children down by not giving them the education that they deserve."

In January of 2007, Peninsula School District joined a plethora of other schools districts, parents, and educational associations in a lawsuit against the State of Washington for its failure to comply with constitutional mandates and court decisions that require the state to "fully fund basic education with stable and dependable funding sources as the State's first priority above all other state programs and operations."

"The outgoing Superintendent of Public Instruction does not believe that we are fully funded under the constitutional mandate," Bouck said. "We do not yet know the position of the newly elected SPI."

We believe that everything funded by the proposed levy is actually the responsibility of the State of Washington," said Bouck. "Until such time that this inequity is corrected, levies are necessary to provide quality education for all of our students."

Dale Sandretski is a low income Longbranch property owner who does not have any children of school age. Sandretski has a different point of view, "I will vote against the levy. Governor Gregoire ran for reelection on the pretense that she would take care of the educational problems in Washington State. By supporting the school levy, we would not be holding her hand against the flame."



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Photo by Mindi LaRose

Lynn Hollowell of Longbranch is a tutu builder for Evergreen City Ballet. Much of the intricate work is done by hand, and the tutus can take many hours to assemble. Tulle and crinoline, along with many hours of hand sewing produce beautiful results for the tutus Hollowell and her team create for Evergreen City Ballet productions.

Tutus to Ballet — *The art of making tutus*

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

The art of making tutus for the Evergreen City Ballet organization is a very precise and tedious side job for Lynn Hollowell of Longbranch, but, she says, it is personally rewarding. Her main job is teaching math at Pierce College in Puyallup. The number of days and hours she dedicates to the costumes depends on the production.

Lynn received her degree in fiber arts at the University of Washington where she met a lady from the Pacific Northwest Ballet, who piqued her interest in sewing costumes. For three years she did hand sewing on romantic skirts for productions such as Cinderella and Giselle.

For the past seven years Hollowell has

been sewing tutus for major productions with the Evergreen City Ballet. Much of the work is done by hand but occasionally a machine is used. Once the cutting is finished she works with two others in hand sewing the panties from a girdle fabric then attaching crinoline and tulle or a combination of both. A skirt can consist of up to 10 layers of fabric with as many as four additional rows of a crinoline and tulle per layer, depending on the shape and stiffness desired for the part being danced.

A classical tutu with a thin, stiff skirt uses more crinoline, she said, whereas a belle tutu would have more tulle for softness with only three to five layers of crinoline. The effect or intensity of a color is achieved by layering different

colors together. Lynn and her two assistants do the dying, using a warm water acid dye.

A 10-piece bodice and skirt will take 25 hours to assemble, and sometimes up to 100 hours or more. Seven years ago Hollowell spent six weeks on the 90 costumes for "Swan Lake." This required the three to work many hours into the night.

The average age of the ballet dancer is 14 to 20 and the bodices are adjustable for size. Hollowell's daughter Lysne says "looks don't matter, even if your feet or knees aren't the perfect quality, you can still be a beautiful dancer." Lysne performed while in her teens and now helps backstage with her mother who is the stage manager during production and producer as well.

A favorite production was Sleeping Beauty, three to four years ago, but topping that was Cinderella, which she is happy to be doing again in April. The Evergreen City Ballet does three to four productions a year in Renton at the IKEA Performing Arts Center and will do one performance of "The Nutcracker" this year in Auburn and three in Renton. Hollowell says the performances with ECB are "family friendly with audience participation in that the dancers will, at times, dance through the audience." The snow scene is felt to be the most spectacular.

This year Hollowell will be making two new costumes for "The Nutcracker" as they introduce a doll for the party scene and a dewdrop for the sugarplum in the final scene.

Hollowell has been sewing all her life, but that is not the only exciting work she has done. From 1978 to 1984 she worked with glass under the direction of Dale Chihully. When she was married Chihully attended, filled the courtyard at Pilchuck with glass pieces and blew a memento for each guest.

For information on upcoming ballets at Evergreen City Ballet, call (425) 228-6899 or visit the website at www.evergreencityballet.org.

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(From **FAIR**, Page 1)

Key Peninsula Civic Center and the Key Peninsula Business Association, he said.

"I thought we should really give one more big push to try to make it work before pulling out," Hays said. "So if they did pull out they could do so with good conscience."

After three years serving as president, Hays said he no longer wants the role. With a full time job, and service on other boards, he doesn't have enough time to devote to the job of fair president, he said.

No one has stepped forward as yet to act as president for the Key Peninsula Community Fair, and Hays said in order to survive, the fair must have a leader.

"If we come up with a new president, I am willing to help while the person gets started," he said.

Opinions were split on a decision for continuing the fair when the regular meeting of the Key Peninsula Civic Center board met Nov. 13.

Ed Taylor, representative of the civic center who sits on the fair board, asked for an opinion from the civic center board to take to the Dec. 8 fair board meeting.

"The founding fathers should have a position," said Phil Bauer, past president of the civic center.

Most in attendance said they want to see something happen on the Key Peninsula that will bring the community together, like Tom Boardman, who said the community needs something to gel us together.

But Tim Kezele said he doesn't want the fair.

"Everybody works way too hard for what it is," he said. "It's too long, and too much work and I think it just needs to go away. It doesn't represent our community with a quality event."

There was no consensus, and a special civic center board meeting is scheduled for Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. to decide.

The fair began eight years ago when Mike Salatino, Claudia Loy and Fred Ramsdell got together and came up with a plan.

Let your voice be heard

Public meeting of the Key Peninsula Civic Center Board

Determine a stance on whether to continue the fair

Public comment welcome and encouraged

Dec. 4, 7 p.m. at the civic center.

Determine the future of the fair

Public comment welcome and encouraged

Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m. at the Longbranch Improvement Club

"We went around to all of the groups and sold it, so we had a partnership," Salatino said. "After the first year we bought out the interest of the Key Peninsula Park Board."

Another Key Peninsula event, Pioneer Days, was hosted by the civic center, and it had been successful in the beginning, Salatino said.

"It became a losing proposition for a while and worse each year, just like the fair is now," he said. "A lot of people are burned out and tired, and that is one of the things we haven't done well, is replace ourselves. It's still the same people doing the job and they really are burned out. We should have created a system to better replace ourselves before they got so burned out."

If an annual event is approved, Salatino said it is best to make it a multiple day event.

"One of the things most don't understand is that with Pierce County set up the way it is, you can't afford to do one-day events because of the permit cost," he said.

Hays said while Salatino makes valid points on that issue and those points should be considered, there are plenty of one-day events throughout Pierce County.

Salatino said he doesn't want to see the fair end.

"I think it needs some retooling, and needs different focuses and needs to bring in a lot of new people to work," he said. "When we started this thing we had probably 300 volunteers. It is a big operation."

Three options will be considered at the Dec. 8 meeting, Hays said.

"Either it will go forward as it has before, or if we can't put a plan together, I will ask the board to form an executive committee to explore options for the future," he said, "which could mean a reformulated event. The third option would be liquidating the assets. I think it is highly unlikely we'll do the latter. I believe we will either go forward or take one year off and explore options."

~ Danna Webster contributed to this story.

Big Election Day turnout, slow county results

By Danna Webster, KP News

For many Washington voters, the 2008 elections were over by bedtime on Election Day but not if you live on the Key Peninsula within Pierce County. Notices on the WebPages from the Pierce County auditor's office advise that no election results are final until they have been certified 21 days after the election. Two weeks after the election, there were still 11,000 estimated ballots on hand to be counted for Pierce County. The only other county with a large number of ballots to count was King with 36,000. Seventeen of Washington's 39 counties, have less than 100 ballots to count. The uncounted ballots in Pierce are keeping the races for Executive and Assessor-Treasurer undecided. (At 14 days past the election Nov. 18)

Key Peninsula voters used a rank order voting method for the first time. Though rank voting guarantees there will be no run-off election, it may be responsible for the slow ballot processing which has kept

two races in Pierce County undecided. While the candidates for County Executive were reduced from four candidates to two and the Assessor-Treasurer from six candidates to two, the votes separating the remaining candidates were too narrow to call the election. At the two weeks up-date, Pat MacCarthy led Shawn Bunney by 3,384 votes for County Executive; and Dale Washam led Barbara Gelman by 6,687 votes. As of publication, both leaders won.

In the county sheriff race, Paul Pastor was out ranking his closest challenger, Jesse Hill by 139,391 votes. The races for Legislative District 26, which were not rank voted, are decided. For Position 1, Jan Angel defeated Kim Abel; and, for Position 2, Larry Seaquist defeated Marlyn Jensen.

Like the rest of the nation, the Key Pen voters hit the polls in record numbers. At the fire station in Key Center, Chief Tom Lique observed that voters were parking on the road clear up to the Dr. Roes' medical clinic. He moved the fire trucks



Photos by Danna Webster

Chief Tom Lique puts up makeshift posters to allow more parking in front of the large garage doors at the fire station in Key Center.

and hung signs allowing parking in front of the bay doors. "I'm dreading the lunchtime rush," Chief Lique said referencing the crowd of voters already exceeding the space in the lobby.

At Evergreen Elementary, precinct workers Linda O'Mallery, Jeanette Brown and Liz Gefre observed they had as many voters by noon as their total for the last election. "It's really busy for us. Good voter turnout. We still have a lot of people out here that want to come to the polls," said O'Mallery.

Jeanette Brown, who writes for the Key Pen News, shared notes about her poll work experiences in an email. "As far as I know, Pierce County is the only county

left that has not gone to an "all mail-in" election in Washington. I think that is coming soon. When I first started, it was mainly still people showing up at the polls; but mail-in soon became the most popular method of voting." Her prediction is supported by the numbers. The absentee ballot return for Key Peninsula's legislative District 26, was 91.2 percent and all of Pierce County absentee ballots had returns above 80 percent.

At the fire station polling place in Key Center, Sue Peterson, a Lackey Road resident, waited for her husband out front. She thought it took her about 20 minutes to go through the line. It was taking her husband longer because he was using the provisional ballot option. "Definitely a lot more people than you usually want to see," Peterson said, "...but the 'M through Z' line seems five times as long. I don't think I've ever waited in line to vote before."

Election Day voter turnout kept the polling workers busy. "I know that a lot of poll workers worked a lot more hours than we did... We all arrived at 6 a.m. and left at around 10 p.m.," Brown wrote about the workers at the Evergreen Elementary polls. She reminisced that her grandmother was only 24 in 1920 when women were first allowed to vote. "I doubt that women were allowed to work at the polls prior to 1920," she wrote.



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Seahawks bow out early in football post-season action

By Keith Stiles,
Special to the KP News

The Peninsula Seahawks football team saw their post-season play come to an abrupt end on Nov. 8, when the Mt. Si Wildcats defeated them 33-9 at Roy Anderson Field.

The Hawks entered the Class 3A preliminary round of the playoffs with strong hopes, as they had completed the regular season with an excellent record, but the Wildcats scored on their opening drive and never looked back.

Mt. Si's talented Sean Snead led a powerful ground attack that gave the Hawks trouble throughout the game

and ate time off the clock.

The ability of the Wildcats to convert on 3rd and 4th down situation was a major factor in sending the Seahawks home on the short end of the score.

On the previous Friday night, November 7, the Gig Harbor Tides also saw their post-season play come to an end with a 24-19 loss to the Federal Way Eagles in the preliminary round of Class 4A playoff action.

The Tides kept the game close and were threatening to score a possibly winning touchdown with only two minutes to play, but an Eagle recovery of a loose ball on the Federal Way 14-yard line shut down the Tide drive and wrote an end to the Gig Harbor season.

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The Narrows Strut Buster Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation is pleased to announce their plan to offer a local \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior at a West Puget Sound High School in the areas of Pierce, Kitsap, and Mason County from the Tacoma Narrows to the Hood Canal Bridge.

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chapter funded \$1,000 scholarship, and the state chapter winner will compete for a \$10,000 national scholarship.

Applicants for the scholarship are judged on their scholastic achievements, leadership abilities, community involvement and commitment to conservation.

More information and applications can be found at www.nwtf.org/jakes/educators/scholarships.html.

Applications must be received by Jan. 10, 2008 to be eligible and may be mailed to Chapter President Al Prante P.O. Box 616 Vaughn, Wa. 98394-0616, 253-884-9663, turkeydancer@centurytel.net. Al may be also contacted for more information.



Winter Sports Schedule

Girls Basketball

Nov. 29 at Gig Harbor Jamboree
2 to 6 p.m.

Dec. 2 at North Kitsap
5:15 to 9 p.m.

Dec. 6 v. Timberline
3:30 to 9 p.m. at PHS

Dec. 9 at White River
5:15 to 9 p.m.

Boys Basketball

Nov. 29 at Gig Harbor Jamboree
2 to 6 p.m.

Dec. 3 C team at North Kitsap
3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 5 v. Timberline
3:30 to 9 p.m. at PHS

Dec. 9 v. W.R.
3:30 to 9 p.m. at PHS

Boys Swim and Dive

Dec. 4 v. Lakes
3:30 to 6 p.m. at PHS

Dec. 11 v. Thurston
3:30 to 6 p.m. at PHS

Dec. 16 v. Timberline
3:30 to 6 p.m. at PHS

Dec. 18

3:30 to 6 p.m. at Clover Park HS

Girls Bowling

Dec. 2 v. N. Mason at Hi Joy in Port Orchard
2:45 to 6 p.m.

Boys Wrestling

All regular season dual meets:
JV at 6 p.m., Varsity at 7 p.m.
Dec. 4 at Lakes

Dec. 6 Bonney Lake/
Panther Invitational

Dec. 10 Clover Park at PHS

Dec. 12 JV Olympic Duals

Dec. 13 V Olympic Duals

Dec. 17 PHS at Enumclaw

Dec. 20 Franklin Pierce
Tournament

Dec. 23 Freshmen/JV
Tournament

Jan. 2/3 Rainshadow Tournament
(overnight)

Jan. 7 Bonney Lake at PHS

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RIF day at Evergreen made possible by local organizations

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Every child is encouraged to read. Some enjoy it, others not so much. But every child in every class at Evergreen Elementary School was excited to choose a book during the Reading Is Fun program in October.

The school receives a federal grant to fund the program, but it doesn't fully fund it, said school librarian Robin Roe. The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute donates a matching fund to make the program possible, along with donations from the Angel Guild, she said.

"Every student in the building will get three books each year," she said. "Each class has 20 minutes to select books."

Community members and parents participate in the exciting day as well, by reading the chosen book with the child.

Chawndra Hicks first chose an easy book, but was redirected by her teacher to find something more challenging. She hesitated at first, but chose a book of

poetry that she was happy with.

"I love poetry," she said. "My mom has a lot of poetry books, and there's rhymes in it and I love rhymes. I can read chapter books and I'm only 7."

Michelle Scherer teaches second grade, and she said the RIF program could spark a child's interest in reading.

"I think it's really exciting for them to realize where reading can take them," she said. "It's an opportunity for them to choose a new book, which many of them have probably not had the opportunity to do before."

Each RIF day has a theme at Evergreen, and this one was "Road Trip." The students were encouraged to wear shirts that were from different parts of the state or country, and each child was given a bookmark made from laminated pieces of old atlases.

RIF is something they don't forget. Second grader, Jeff (who didn't give his last name) said he enjoys all sorts of books.

"My other book from RIF was about heroes," he said.



Ross Allen and Curtis Staples carefully browse the selection of RIF books on the tables in the library of Evergreen Elementary School in late October. Parent and community member David Mikelson, in the background, waits to read with a student. The students are treated to RIF, a program that offers a free book to each student, three times a year.

Photo by
Mindi LaRose

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Out & About

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The Purdy restaurant formerly known as Pearl's has a new owner. Massimo and Cindy are bringing Italian dining to the Key Peninsula. At least one member of the new staff is an alumnus of Pearl's. Angela Downen will bar tend three days a week and was a former employee of Pearl's. The restaurant is called Massimo's Bar and Grill. Chef Massimo was the executive chef at Ristorante Terracciano Italiano on Judson Street in Gig Harbor. The new owners are working hard with hopes of opening by the middle of December. *Photo by Danna Webster*



Left, Chris Fudge cut the twine to allow the Christmas trees to display their shape. Above, Lot Manager Roger Hildebrand prepares wreaths for the Local Boys Christmas tree stand in Purdy. *Photos by Marsha Hart*



Photo by Danna Webster

Chili cook-off winners accept trophies: Joyce Niemann accepts third place for the Key Peninsula Historical Society, Leona Britt recipe; Shanon Klink, with his son Koen, accepts second place; and Debbie Lang accepts first place and \$100 prize money award.

Key Peninsula warms up for the start of the holiday season

By Danna Webster, KPNews

Holiday season kicked into swing with the first annual Winter Warm-Up and Chili Cook-Off at the civic center Nov. 15.

The judges awarded first place to Debbie Lang of Lakebay, second place to Shanon Klink of Lakebay, third place to the Key Peninsula Historical Society of Vaughn with chili prepared by Leona Britt, and fourth place was awarded to Linda Johnson of Lakebay.

"We couldn't be happier with the turnout. The quality of arts and crafts vendors was great, as well as the chili cook-off entries. I especially appreciated the help of our volunteers, including our chili judges, KP Lions, Senior Society, KP Historical Society, KPCCA Board, and Peninsula and Gig Harbor High School Key Club members. People are already asking about next year, so I'm sure we'll be back again in 2009," said PJ Calahan, civic center's event coordinator.



Jenna Davidson, a 10th grader at Peninsula High School, volunteered at the Minter Creek Elementary School carnival last month. Kindergarten student Elisha Gonzales was excited to get her face painted with a rainbow design.

Photo by September Hyde



Members of the Key Peninsula Middle School advanced band (in white shirts) perform during the Peninsula School District's all-district band festival at Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Gig Harbor, under the direction of guest conductor Dr. Edwin Powell. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*