



Sports,
page 21

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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Inside News

- Free foreclosure assistance..... 2
- FD 16 responds to public 6
- Computer scams hit KP..... 8
- Citizens of the Year nominees... 16-17

Sections

- Peninsula Views..... 4
- Business..... 9
- Health 10
- People..... 12
- Faith..... 13
- Community Works 14-15
- Education 18
- Sports..... 21



Photo by Vic Renz, KP News

Drivers line up at tollbooths to pay \$4 to drive over the Tacoma Narrows bridge.

Citizens oppose bridge toll hike

By Irene Torres, KP News

Of the 120 who signed up for public comment at the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting in Gig Harbor on Feb. 9, not one expressed a favorable opinion about the Washington Transportation Commission's proposal presented by Dan O'Neal.

State Treasurer James McIntire explained rationale to support an increase in tolls to \$3.25 for those with a Good To Go transponder, and \$5 at the tollbooth.

A reserve of 110 percent is needed, according to McIntire, which would provide a three-month cushion against unanticipated situations. These include such things as, "Spikes in gasoline, (economic) trends that might have an impact, insurance," he said. "We can't predict what will happen ... Forecasts are almost always wrong." He went on to say, "I've been

asked to come here with a professional opinion."

Sen. Derek Kilmer read a letter prepared by him, Rep. Larry Seaquist, and Rep. Jan Angel, in which they opposed higher tolls. At least two KP residents spoke against toll increases, as did Jud Morris, Executive Director of KP Community Services.

Warren Zimmerman, a representative from the Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce, said he opposes the increase due to impact on jobs and tourism.

Businessmen, seniors and low-income citizens as well as those who commute addressed their concerns about higher tolls.

Randy Boss cautioned that the Citizens Against Tolls group is alive and will hold Transportation officials to RCW 4746. Boss

(See TOLL, Page 26)

Community questions foster home development

By Ted Olinger, KP News

Developers of the proposed Homestead at Alder Cove foster care facility in Vaughn and local DSHS officials addressed about 100 residents at the Key Peninsula Council meeting Feb. 10 at Vaughn Elementary School.

Sue and Ken Braaten, the founders of the project, and Eva Jacobson, a private land use consultant were there to answer questions. Jacobson is assembling the conditional use permit application to be submitted to Pierce County.

"We're only about halfway through the process of putting together all of the required information for the application," said Jacobson. "But because we've been asked to talk to you at this stage, we're more than happy to answer what questions we can."

Though the master plan is not finished, the Braatens said they want to build a private, nonprofit, dedicated campus. It will be "programmed from the ground up," to provide a permanent home for foster children 8 and older who might otherwise face many moves before "aging out of the system" at 18, they said.

The rate of successful placement or adoption is much lower for children over 7 than for younger kids, and children could return to Homestead if needed instead of moving from one foster home to another, they said.

Two and a half years ago, the cost was estimated at \$6 million, and has grown to \$20 million currently.

"What we have here is a vision for a campus for foster children to provide a facility that is an alternative for children that are being left behind," said Jacobson. "This is not for children that have severe emotional issues, violent behavior, sexual misconduct, or known deviant problems."

The 45-acre site is situated on Hall Road, east of Vaughn Elementary.

Plans include a large commons building with offices, an adoption agency working in conjunction with DSHS, recreational facilities, and as many as eight residential buildings subdivided into three dwelling spaces for eight children, or 24 per building. A

(See FOSTER, Page 23)

Free foreclosure assistance available through state

By Danna Webster, KP News

Free help is available for homeowners facing foreclosure in the state of Washington. "Spending money is the last thing you need when seeking assistance with a pending foreclosure," said Christin Alexander, spokeswoman for Attorney General Rob McKenna. Her office sees too many people reaching for the wrong type of help.

There are some "less than scrupulous businesses" taking money for foreclosure assistance. Homeowners need to know they "don't have to pay for help. Call the Washington State Homeownership Hotline, 877-894-HOME," she said.

The acquisition of \$1.8 million in funds for foreclosure relief and preventive measure programs was announced by McKenna at a Feb. 11 press conference.

"The foreclosure prevention programs we're funding are lifelines for Washington homeowners. Nationally, one in seven homeowners is already behind on their mortgage payments. By helping families now, we have a chance to slow rising default rates and help heal our communities," he said.

Washington's funds come from a settlement that Attorney General McKenna and five of his state attorney general colleagues negotiated in October 2008 concerning the unfair lending practices of Countrywide Financial.

The funds are a portion of the \$150 million Bank of America will spend nationwide on foreclosure relief. Many lenders across the nation have adopted the Bank of America relief model which offers modified loan payments; stopped the use of pay-option and adjustable-rate mortgages; and curtailed "low-documentation" and "no-documentation" loans. The Attorney General's Office is allocating Washington's share of the settlement payment as follows:

- ▶ More than half (\$925,000) will go to Washington residents who lost their homes. Checks were mailed Feb. 12 to 491 Washington residents, who will each receive \$1,884 to help offset the origination fees and other costs they paid when they applied for their Countrywide loans.

- ▶ Nearly \$600,000 will be distributed among qualified housing counselors to provide one-

on-one counseling for up to 2,300 homeowners. The grant will also fund 100 statewide Homebuyer Education seminars. The funds will enable the state to continue providing services available through the Washington State Homeownership Hotline, 1-877-894-HOME.

- ▶ \$320,000 to the Washington State Bar Association to fund the Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project, which provides pro bono legal services to homeowners facing foreclosure.

- ▶ \$10,000 for data analysis to assist the State Foreclosure Prevention Working Group. This multistate group of attorneys general and financial regulators collects loan data from non-federal servicers and publishes reports on the effectiveness of loan modification efforts.

Alexander said she is surprised by how many people wait until the last minute to seek help when facing a foreclosure. Though she recognizes it is overwhelming to face hardships of job loss and a bad loan product, her advice is to take action immediately.

"People should reach out early when they can't make their payments. Stand, be strong, and make that call. Help is available," she said.

For assistance call Washington State Homeownership Hotline at 1-877-894-HOME.

Vaughn farmer declares candidacy for PC Council seat

It's a race familiar to Vaughn resident Larry Wingard, and he plans to run for the Pierce County Council District No. 7 seat being vacated by Terry Lee.

Wingard ran for the same seat in 1994, and narrowly lost to Karen Biskey in the primary.

Wingard, 72, said his campaign will include much of the same platform he had in 1994, including public safety.

"We still need more deputies," he said. "As I

said then, in 1994, I would find more money for more deputies if elected."

Wingard retired from the Pierce County Public Works Department in 1985. He also served on the Key Peninsula Park Board as chairman, and worked as a volunteer for the Pierce County Elections Department.

He and his wife own Shiloh Farms in Lakebay, and grow the famous Dill's Atlantic Giant Pumpkin.

Wingard plans to run as a Republican.

KP Civic Center seeks non-profits, sponsors

Key Peninsula Civic Center will host the Ninth Annual Livable Community Fair on May 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 17010 S. Vaughn Road KPN in Vaughn.

This annual event began as an open house for non-profits on the Key Peninsula, and also includes the Lakebay Fuchsia Society plant sale, kids craft activities, entertainment and more.

"Touch a Truck" will return for a second year, allowing kids to get up close to local and region-

al service trucks from Peninsula Light, Fire District 16, Pierce County and more.

Sponsorship opportunities are available to local organizations who are interested in promoting their business through event website links, posters, counter cards, advertisements and more.

For a sponsorship packet or exhibit space, please contact the Key Peninsula Civic Center at 253-884-3456 or email: kpciviccenter@centurytel.net.

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2. The objective of Key Peninsula News is to support and create community by reporting news and features and providing a forum for local information. News and editorial coverage focuses on the Key Peninsula and immediately adjacent areas within Five District 16.

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More IRS Oversight for Tax Preparers Planned

By Irene Torres, KP News

That all-important time of year has arrived, and for some it is a dreadful time.

Tax returns. According to the Web site, IRS.gov, IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman announced on Jan. 4 the implementation of new and higher standards for tax preparers this tax season.

These changes are designed to increase confidence in the tax system, result in greater compliance with tax laws, and enhance protections and service for taxpayers.

“As tax season begins, most Americans will turn to tax return preparers to help with one of their biggest financial transactions of the year. The decisions announced today represent a monumental shift in the way the IRS will oversee tax preparers,” Shulman said in a press release. “Our proposals will help ensure taxpayers receive competent, ethical service from qualified professionals and strengthen the integrity of the nation’s tax system. In addition, we are taking immediate action to step up oversight of tax preparers this filing season.”

Tax professionals on the Key Peninsula have a variety of responses to this announcement.

“I have mixed emotions about it,” said Marvin

Keizur of Myr-Mar Accounting Services. Keizur said The National Society of Tax Professionals, the National Association of Tax Professionals and the Washington State Tax Consultants have proposed a “grandfather” clause to waive the new requirements for existing tax preparers.

“I think it’s wasting the taxpayer’s money, but I understand why it is needed,” he said.

New standards for tax preparers are in place this year.

“Some (tax preparers) set up in town, promise refunds, file fake returns, then leave town ahead of the IRS. By then, it’s too late. The rest of the honest tax preparers pay for it. The IRS expects us to act like an unpaid auditor, to check twice with clients, to see the evidence.”

As an enrolled agent, Laurie Ellis of Ellis Accounting is exempt from the new competency requirements.

“It is a good thing to get preparers licensed,” Ellis said. “I hear every year about people who file false tax returns. We’re paying for that.”

Tara Hendrickson, owner of the Tax Shack in Purdy since 2006, said, “It is a step in the right direction. There should be accountability. There are some pitfalls to the proposal. They need to refine it more.” She added, “Self-filers and accounting firms do not have to register.” Hendrickson said she plans to become an enrolled agent during the coming year.

Steps for choosing a tax preparer

“Taxpayers should protect themselves from unscrupulous preparers,” IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman said. “There are some simple steps people can take to choose a reputable tax preparer.”

► Be wary of tax preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than others.

► Avoid tax preparers who base their fees on a percentage of the refund.

► Use a reputable tax professional who signs the tax return and provides a copy.

► Consider whether the individual or firm will be around months or years after the return has been filed to answer questions about the preparation of the tax return.

► Check the person’s credentials. Only attorneys, CPAs and enrolled agents can represent taxpayers before the IRS in all matters, including audits, collection and appeals. Other return preparers may only represent taxpayers for audits of returns they actually prepared.

► Find out if the return preparer is affiliated with a professional organization that provides its members with continuing education and other resources and holds them to a code of ethics.

More information about choosing a tax return

1040 Central: Help for Individual Filers

- Tax Breaks in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- Lost your job or the victim of foreclosure? The IRS can help in difficult situations
- E-file and Free File
- Taxpayer assistance centers

preparer and avoiding fraud can be found in IRS Fact Sheet 2010-03, How to Choose a Tax Preparer and Avoid Tax Fraud.

IRS.gov has a variety of features to help taxpayers. There’s a special section to help taxpayers get information on a variety of Recovery Tax benefits. The website also has information for people who lost a job or experienced financial problems in 2009.

IRS.gov also has information to help people track their refund.

IRS.gov will once again host the IRS Free File program, which allows virtually everyone to file their taxes for free through the website.

Judge holds Legislature to the promise of education funding reform

OLYMPIA — A King County Superior Court judge ruled on Feb. 4 that the state does not provide ample funding for basic education then directed the Legislature to establish the cost of providing all Washington children with a basic education and establish how it will fully fund such education with stable and dependable state sources.

In his oral ruling in McCleary v. State, also known as the “Basic Education case,” King County Superior Court Judge John Erlick also indicated the state’s 2009 education funding measure (HB 2261) could be a means to satisfy this direction.

The court emailed the entire 73-page ruling to counsel immediately following the hearing.

“Judge Erlick rightly recognizes in his ruling the Legislature’s authority to set education funding policy,” said Attorney General Rob McKenna. “The Legislature took positive steps with its 2009 education funding reform efforts, and we understand the decision to suggest those reforms could be the basis for progress in this case.”

“My legal team will review the specifics of this complex decision with our state clients to deter-

“Judge Erlick rightly recognizes in his ruling the Legislature’s authority to set education funding policy.”

— Attorney General Rob McKenna

mine appropriate next steps,” McKenna said. The case brought by a coalition of Washington teachers, school districts, community groups and parents in January 2007 alleged Washington had not fulfilled its Constitutional obligation to fully fund basic education and relied too heavily on local levy funding assistance.

The deadline for appeal will be 30 days after the entry of the judgment.

Courtesy of the Washington State Office of the Attorney General.



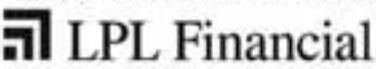
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Court ruling affirms Constitution; Legislature must act

By Mike Blair, Catherine Ahl
and Bill Williams

Washington State is failing its children. Not a campaign slogan, not a political statement, not a platitude, this reality is now the subject of a recent Superior Court ruling declaring our State in violation of its constitutional "paramount duty" to make ample provision for the education of all students.

We urge the Legislature to follow through promptly on the court's order to (1) determine the actual costs of providing all children with the knowledge and skills to compete in our economy and meaningfully participate in our democracy, and (2) establish a stable, reliable means to pay for it with state resources.

Although the court has not yet imposed a deadline date to finish, it did order the state to immediately make "real and measurable progress." Legislators and the governor should honor the oaths of office they took to uphold our constitution — today.

Each day they delay is another day that they are breaking the highest law of our state. No

GUEST EDITORIAL

one who got a traffic ticket today would be allowed to tell the patrol officer, "I promise to stop speeding next year or in five years or in eight years."

Declaring that fully funding public education is "the State's first and highest priority before any other State programs or operations," the court ruling leaves no doubt that there must be no additional cuts to education during the current legislative session. Instead, the Legislature must take prompt action to fund education fully.

Every day we wait, children get further behind. Test scores prove that the State's chronic underfunding of education is setting up far too many students, particularly low-income kids and children of color, for failure — not just in school but in life.

To quote the court ruling: "Society will ul-

timately pay for these students. The State will pay for their education now or society will pay for them later through unemployment, welfare or incarceration." The ruling affirms that fully funding education is the State's responsibility.

No longer can school districts be forced to "scrape by," as the court says, with local levies to make up the ever-widening gap between State funds and what it actually costs to educate students. The court confirmed that "basic education" means the knowledge and skills students need to succeed in today's world, meaningfully participate in our democracy and contribute to society — a definition that ensures school funding is focused on student achievement, not arbitrary calculations of whatever the Legislature feels like spending from year to year.

Lawmakers must be held accountable to follow court orders. These tight economic times are no excuse to delay. The Legislature's constitutional duty is to fund education first and to fund it fully. The result will be better-educated citizens, a higher skilled workforce and

a more robust economy for us all.

For those who believe our schools are doing well enough as they are and that it's OK to wait 'til better times, consider the analogy given at trial by Nick Brossoit, superintendent of the Edmonds School District. Asked why he couldn't be satisfied with an 80 percent school graduation rate, he replied:

"If you take 100 kids on a field trip and only bring back 80, is that acceptable?" Of course, it isn't. Appealing the court's ruling would waste scarce resources just to put off what the State should have been doing all along. The State should abide by the court's decision — abide by the Constitution — and begin today to give our students the education our Constitution has long promised them.

Mike Blair is president of the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS), the statewide coalition of 70+ school districts and other organizations that filed the school funding lawsuit. Catherine Ahl is education chair for the League of Women Voters of Washington and Bill Williams is executive director of the Washington State PTA.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your parks, your choice

\$10,000,000 OF REASONS FOR READING ON. That is the amount of YOUR money we Key Pen Parks Commissioners are responsible for. With a budget of over a half million dollars and grants of over \$7 million, we feel a tremendous responsibility to "get it right." Do you want fair grounds, equestrian facility? Or ball fields, community center or swimming pool, hiking or kayak trails? What about BMX or mountain bike courses, summer camps or recreation classes, community pea patch or working farm? Your Parks Commissioners all want to hear from you. As president, I am willing to come to any meeting of PTA, church, social club or youth group to share with you our dreams and listen to your needs and concerns. Call me directly at 253-884-2020 or email cottagebythecove@aol.com with your ideas or to schedule me to come to your meeting. Check out KeyPenParks.com or come to a Park Board meeting the second Monday of the month. It is your money and your parks. Please get involved.

Greg Anglemeyer, President, KP Parks

Support the fire department, demand excellence from board

Thank you for the excellent editorial in the February issue of the KP News, concerning a PR firm hunting for work. Paying an outside Flack Firm to cover up from our electorate the history of stupid and boorish behavior within the Board is like asking an elephant to properly dispose of his "leavings" on a Hawaiian beach.

Key Peninsula residents and voters know (or certainly should know) that the men and women of Department 16 have served (and will continue to serve) us in an efficient and professional manner before and throughout the various antics of Members of Board of Commissioners that have appeared in the news services throughout the United States. To tolerate and continue to pay for such "leadership" certainly paints us all as a bunch of Country Bumpkins who have just fallen off the turnip truck.

For our own (and our family's) lives and our own real property it should be our aim and duty to support the department and to expect excellence in the actions of the "New" Board of Commissioners, seated in January of this year. We may all help this process by learning to discredit the stories of "Someone did something to someone, somewhere, at some unstated time, but I won't tell you anything about it." The Letter to the Editor from Mr. Robert Elliot in the February issue takes an excellent view on this subject. Otherwise my thanks to the department for so many good actions over the past many years.

Keith Stiles, Wauna

Fences needed for pets

I am deeply saddened by the recent massacre that happened at the Brookside Veterinary Hos-

pital. Perhaps if the fine was more than a mere \$120 those irresponsible pet owners might consider putting their money into a fence that would

protect their own pets as well as everyone else's.

Leslie Potter

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Dear Community Members,
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Here's Something

In January, I had an extremely painful, non-life-threatening medical condition that my doctor thought should last five days, but ended up lasting over a month. As a personal, absolutely free service to you, I won't sicken you with the medical details of my particular affliction. But I could do little more than lie perfectly still in one or two positions for most of that time.

After watching me squirm around like a dying earthworm one morning on Day 26, my wife went around my unalarmed doctor and called a specialist up at the shiny new St. Anthony Franciscan Hospital in Gig Harbor.

I managed to drive up there, and pulled right into a parking spot that didn't cost anything. Buoyed by this early success, I hobbled up to the front door, admiring the shining glass and attractive stone exterior of the building.

Inside, I met the wonderful specialist, who gave me a partial diagnosis that day and recommended some outpatient surgery to fix part of the problem. She told me that when she did the surgery, she'd snoop around to identify any other problems causing the pain. They scheduled surgery for the very next morning.

You pre-register on the phone. A woman called me, and one of the questions was "Religious preference?" I almost said, "Catholic!" because, you know, I wanted to give the right an-

Kevin Reed HERE'S SOMETHING



swer so they'd try to save me if something bad happened. I decided to trust them and be honest so I said "none."

When I went in for surgery, there were giant sculptures of robed people and crosses in the lobby, which can make an agnostic a little nervous in a 1970s horror movie sort of way, but I quickly got over it.

I was the only one there, and the receptionist happily checked me in. Then a bellhop/steward-like guy in a tie appeared and led me upstairs via the mystical talking elevators to the surgical waiting area. While I was gazing out the second floor window at a huge rock with a fountain drilled through the center, a guy came up and said, "Looks like Moses struck that boulder," and for just a second I worried about my "none" phone answer to the religious preference question.

They admitted me to the nearly empty operating room staging area. I donned my cozy gown and a nice pair of hospital socks in a curtained room.

I saw the anesthesiologist and my surgeon. A nurse wheeled me to the operating room, where a different team taunted me with tales of the huge sandwiches they'd just eaten. I've mostly been in old hospitals, but this operating room was high tech and brand new, so I felt like the guest star in a prime time ER show.

The anesthesiologist started my drip, and as always I tried to stay awake and lasted about four seconds.

I awoke in a quiet room with a few other folks, and talked to a terrific lady who then wheeled me back to the prep area. There, another nurse got me ready to leave.

My four-year old was relieved to see me alive, and hugged one of the nurses when we said goodbye before they wheeled me to the curb.

Two weeks later, I went in for a follow-up with my surgeon and her organized, friendly staff, and it went great. I healed up just when she said I would. Then, all the 12 or so people that had shuffled me through this surgery signed a card that they sent to our house, which closed what has been my best hospital experience ever.

So if you're sick and need some surgery, don't hold back. Get up there and enjoy yourself today!



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Fire Department 16 responds to the public

Most of the repair work is completed at the Wauna station after a section of the sprinkler system damaged the ceiling during last year's cold snap.

By Ted Olinger, KP News

The Wauna station is not closed. Firefighters did not shut off heat there in December so pipes would freeze. The department is not censoring news with an expensive public relations firm.

These are some of the responses the Key Pen fire department has made to citizens angry over what they recently read in the Key Peninsula News.

"We had several people call here and had a couple people come to the front desk about the [Wauna] closure, and accused the chief of intentionally shutting off power to the building to let the pipes freeze," said Division Chief of Operations Guy Allen.

"We never really closed the building and prohibited operations from it," said Allen. "[We] even responded out of that station once during that two day period when the ceiling was coming down."

"I overreacted, I really did. And a lot of people did," said Robert Elliott, a longtime Key Pen resident and vocal fire department observer. "All I could see is they were closing something that we'd had before and we were worse off than we'd ever been."

Wauna Operational

On Dec. 10, during the cold snap last year, a section of the sprinkler system and domestic water running through the attic of the Wauna station froze, cracked and leaked, rapidly saturating the sheet rock above the apparatus bay.

Firefighters shut off the water and vulnerable electrical circuits and moved rigs and equipment out of the bay. Within 30 minutes the ceiling was on the floor. No fire equipment or vehi-



Photo by Ted Olinger, KP News

After a section of the sprinkler system in the attic of the Wauna station froze and cracked, the ceiling began to fall. The open truss design will prevent the same situation from happening again, and made repair costs lower than initially projected.

cles were damaged.

"We heat the apparatus bay and there's a little scuttle door that we keep open so that heat gets up into the attic to keep that area warm," said Chief Tom Lique. But the attic was well insulated above and below, unintentionally trapping cold air inside, causing the break.

As cleanup got underway, the decision was made to move the career crew out.

"We were going to be moving these people down to the Home Station after the first of the year anyway, so that just evolved into moving a little bit earlier," Lique said.

Consolidating staff in the Home station was planned for Jan. 1 to accommodate the department's new three person per shift minimum, an effort to contain overtime costs.

Most of the repair work at Wauna is done, with the exception of some minor plumbing, and insurance paid for it all: \$8,231.47. That was lower than the initial \$20,000 estimated because of the way the ceiling has been modified into an open truss design to prevent the same thing from happening again.

"I was pretty upset with myself after reacting so quickly on that article. I should have looked

further, because really it was there," said Elliott.

"Wright Bliss, Longbranch, and the Wauna stations right now are staffed with our volunteer responders," said Lique.

Finances and Volunteers

Fire Commissioner Sheila Hunt also fielded complaints.

"I was asked by the Lions Club to come in, talk to them about what the commissioners are doing," said Hunt. "I was able to clear up some of the misperceptions ... I was also told we should go back to volunteers."

"I had to explain we don't have the money to train them," said Hunt.

"We get a lot of applicants, and with Gig Harbor shutting down their volunteer program, I'm getting calls from over there, too," said Division Chief of Technical Services Chuck West. He plans to take five, "because that's all we can afford," he said.

West has submitted a grant application to FEMA that would help pay to train and equip more volunteers.

Michael Razmek, one of the Key Pen Lions at the meeting, said later, "I don't know enough about the structure of the fire department, but the appearance is that our firefighters enjoy one of the better paying jobs in the community, and I'm just wondering are we getting out of whack with our civil servants? I'm just going by perception, what I've heard."

Communicating

"At the Lions Club, they also wanted to know about how we were 'censoring' information coming from the fire department, taken from the editorial in the KP News," Hunt said.

That editorial encouraged the department to be as transparent as possible to build, or rebuild, community trust instead of relying on a public relations firm. Part of the firm's proposal was to conduct a telephone survey of Key Pen voters to learn their opinion of the department and why the last four levies have been voted down, even before the recession, and what can be done to renew the EMS levy coming up this fall.

(See FD 16, Page 25)

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Wednesday, March 17, 6-7 p.m.
Featuring orthopedic surgeon Lance Bear, MD

Making End-of-Life Decisions: A Primer on Franciscan Hospice
Thursday, March 18, 6-7 p.m.
Featuring David Bucher of Franciscan Hospice

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Computer scams spread damage on KP

By Rick Sorrels, Special to the KP News

Unidentified persons have invaded computers belonging to KP residents, stolen data from those computers, caused email systems to crash, and then used that stolen information in a fraudulent email scam.

Three local residents have had their computers invaded and information stolen. Another dozen individuals have acknowledged receipt of the fraudulent requests for money.

Don Porter, a Lakebay resident, was the earliest victim identified. In mid-January, Porter found that his email system had crashed. He could no longer transmit or receive email, or access his stored mail. Porter changed to a different email server and was none the wiser until he started to receive phone calls from dozens of friends asking if everything was all right.

Email addresses had been stolen from Porter's computer and used to send out requests to send \$1,815 to Porter in the U.K. where he was supposed to be stranded, having lost his wallet, and locked out of his hotel room for which he could not pay because of the lost wallet. The only address provided for response was Porter's email address, which all of the addressees already had, so everything appeared legit.

"They stole my email," said Porter. "I haven't left Washington State in decades. I would not use the term 'U.K.' I would have said 'England'. I even received one phone call from a NOAA ship in the Indian Ocean, which I had worked on many years ago, asking me what was going on."

Andy Mattingly is a computer technician with KC Computers in Key Center. Mattingly has also been on contract with the U.S. Army, and is well on top of the latest computer invasion techniques.

"In order to access your email system, the invader must first access your computer, whether your email storage is internal in your own computer, or online with your server," said Mattingly. "Once they have accessed your computer, they have full run of all information stored there, and could leave behind all kinds of virus, worms, spyware, or trojans."

"Once infected, your computer needs to be 'cleaned out' and the operating system re-installed, at a cost of about \$150," said Mattingly. "There's a lot of this going around. We are clearing viruses out of computers all day long."

"If you use Quicken, MS Money, or have your bank account numbers, social security numbers, birth date, passwords, pin numbers, or anything else in your computer memory, it is all vulnerable for theft once an outsider gains access," said Mattingly. "Anti-virus programs are good, but they always lag behind the latest techniques used by the bad guys."

A backup of an infected computer will only re-load the virus, Mattingly said. The same goes for a disc or memory stick.

"Technology exists to combat viruses in personal computers, but it is either cost prohibitive, or else so exceedingly complicated that it would make your computer unusable," said Mattingly. "The best course of action is to load a good anti-virus, clean as necessary, and be careful what your computer is exposed to."

Scam emails that ask for money are becoming more common, and are under a special designation by the state.

"This falls under what we call 'Advance Fee Fraud,'" said Maggie Salazar, who works at the Washington State Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline. "This fraud includes alleged sweepstakes winners and distributions from the estates of dead relatives. They usually request that you forward a sum of money first, before they forward a large sum of money to you. We receive hundreds of this type of complaint every day."

Only when money has changed hands does the state intervene, Salazar said.

"If an identified Washington State business is involved, the AG office will act as a mediator to try to have your money returned," said Salazar. "Most times the names are phony, the perpetrator is located out of the country, and there is no hope of recovery."

Other money scams include those that mimic a family member.

"There are also similarities to what is called the Grandparent Scam," said Kristin Alexander, the Media Relationship Manager for the Attorney General. "This involves someone claiming to be a child or grandchild needing money sent to get them out of trouble."

"A virus is used to infect your computer to turn it into a 'bot' (robot) or 'zombie,' which does the bidding of the invader's programmer," said Alexander. "It's very important that the virus is scrubbed out of your computer quickly, as it will continue to do all kinds of potential damage, including being passed on to your friends' computers."

Lt. Larry Minturn, who is in charge of

(See SCAMS, Page 22)



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Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

After three successful years as president of the Key Peninsula Business Association, Jud Morris swears in the organization's Board of Directors for the year 2010. From left: President Laurie Ellis, Co-Secretaries CC Williams and Todd Rosenbach, Treasurer Bek Ashby, and Vice President Danna Webster.

KPBA installs officers for 2010

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Incoming 2010 officers were sworn in during the annual Key Peninsula Business Association awards dinner in February. The KPBA has been a community business association for 20 years. The new board of directors are: President Laurie Ellis, Co-Secretaries CC Williams and Todd Rosenbach, Treasurer Bek Ashby, and Vice President Danna Webster.

"Our major project this year is the promotion of a Buy Local campaign for the Key Peninsula," said Webster. "The association is publishing a directory of all Key Pen businesses at no charge to those listed. The directory will be featured in the KP News."

In addition, all KPBA members will be promoted in the association's colorful KP brochure which is being updated and made available throughout Gig Harbor and Key Pen businesses."

For information about joining the association or to participate in the Buy Local campaign,

call 253-884-4777 or visit the KPBA website at www.kpba.org.

Fundraiser for local non-profit gets a bit of spice

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Partnered with Catholic Community Services, The Mustard Seed Project provides services allowing Key Peninsula senior citizens to remain in the comfort and dignity of their own homes.

The Mustard Seed Project was started by Edie Morgan, and the office is located on the South side of the Key Center Library building at the back of the hall.

Volunteers provide transportation for seniors, help out with housework and meal preparation, and support caregivers.

Fundraising for The Mustard Seed Project has been given a boost by uniquely appropriate condiment sales. Mustard Seed board member, Phyllis Henry, came up with the idea as well as providing the perfect solution to meet the project's needs. What better way for the Mustard Seed Project to earn money than to sell mustard?

In the early 1900's, Gustav Wrage, Henry's great uncle, owned a mustard factory in Gladbrook, Iowa. When he sold the factory, the sale's agreement mandated the original family recipe

Fundraising for The Mustard Seed Project has been given a boost by uniquely appropriate condiment sales — mustard. The unique jars sell for \$5 each.

would continue to be marketed in Gladbrook, Henry's hometown.

Henry contacted the factory as well as the Gladbrook city council and obtained permission to order two cases, 488 jars of mustard at a time.

Domoni Glass, Henry's daughter, designed a number of label variations and the board made their selection. Volunteers glue labels on the bottles and tie a ribbon with an information tag around each one.

Jars of the uniquely flavorful mustard sell for \$5 each.

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Mar 17 General Meeting
Join your friends and neighbors for a potluck dessert buffet and meeting. 7 pm in the LIC Clubhouse.

Plan ahead
Spring Cleanup at building and marina April 17-18. Jan @884-2030 to sign up.

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County EMS cardiac procedures to improve

The Pierce County Department of Emergency Management is working on new protocols to make sure that cardiac patients are taken to the right medical facility.

By Ted Olinger, KP News

New transport protocols called the "Pre hospital Acute Coronary Syndrome Procedure" are being drafted by the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management to streamline EMS cardiac care.

"It's an operating procedure," said Key Pen Division Chief of Training and EMS Paul Bosch, a paramedic himself. The trauma triage tool already used by the department is similar, he said. It resembles a checklist matching patient symptoms with treatment and transport instructions.

"We take the patient to the right place the first time," said Bosch. "Now I'm certain there's been cases where they [cardiac patients] get to St. Anthony's and they develop other symptoms or the presentation changes and that would dictate they're going somewhere else."

However, patients suffering an emergency heart attack must be transported to a dif-

ferent hospital, one with Code STEMI treatment.

"Of the ER patients that come to us every month, there are fewer than three that are suffering emergency heart attacks that need Code STEMI treatment," said Gale Robinette, media relations manager for the Franciscan Health Care System, which includes St. Anthony Hospital.

"Code STEMI" means "ST segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction," and describes a patient on the way to a life threatening heart attack. The term comes from part of the graph created by an electrocardiogram (EKG) used to measure heart function. Portions of the graph are labeled S and T. An ST elevation means a rise in that part of the graph. Most patients with ST elevation will develop acute myocardial infarction — a heart attack.

St. Anthony Hospital in Gig Harbor is the obvious choice for Key Pen cardiac patients, and the hospital is equipped to handle those

patients, said Kathy Bay, a registered nurse and associate administrator and director of emergency service at St. Anthony Hospital in Gig Harbor.

"We are a fully equipped emergency department, ... and our staff are exceptionally well trained when it comes to cardiac modalities," Bay said. "We can handle anything that comes in the door."

"There are certain types of patients when they're having a heart attack that need to go straight to the cath lab [for intervention]," said Bay. "Our cath lab does diagnostic procedures."

A cardiac catheterization lab is an advanced medical facility where detailed diagnostic procedures and "interventions" can be performed, such as emergency stent placement to support a blood vessel, or even emergency bypass surgery.

"I looked at every single cardiac patient that was brought in by EMS [from when St. Anthony opened in March to October 2009] and there were none that we couldn't manage," said Bay. She has not completed the data from October through January but is unaware of a dramatic change in the numbers.

"One of the things that is problematic," said Bay, "is when a call is made in the pre-hospital

environment when maybe a medic doesn't identify that there's anything that needs to be seen by a cardiologist quickly, or maybe on the other side they call it a Code STEMI and that's actually not what's going on."

The Key Pen fire department has been working with the Gig Harbor department and the hospital to address that concern, Bay said.

"Our intent is to put modems in the ambulances that would be attached to the defibrillator and EKGs [and] allow them to transmit an EKG to us," said Bay.

That real-time communication would give the cardiology crew time to prepare for any treatment before the patient even arrives.

"We're paying for it as part of our base station responsibility," said Bay, referring to the communication upgrades in the Key Pen and Gig Harbor ambulances. "It allows us to [make] sure that the patients get to where they need to go. That doesn't mean they're all coming to St. Anthony, because once we rule out a STEMI it's the patient's choice to go elsewhere ... We don't have any call over that," she said.

"I haven't seen it in writing yet," said Key Pen Fire Chief Tom Lique, but he confirmed that the department is moving ahead with Gig Harbor on the communication upgrades.

"Our staff are exceptionally well trained when it comes to cardiac modalities." — Kathy Bay of St. Anthony Hospital

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Theater On The Key Drama Camp
March 29-April 2
Students will learn a different lesson on the aspects of dramaturgy. They'll learn theater terms, projection, character development, improvisation, pantomime, and how to express themselves through a variety of fun games and warm ups. The accumulative project will be the performance of "Cinderella Outgrows the Glass Slipper" in front of family and friends. The camp will help students improve their skills in public speaking, reading, writing, and cognitive thinking.

Grade: 3rd-5th
Location: Vol. Park Conc. Bld.
Time: 9:00-12:00pm
Fee: \$95
Min/Max: 10/20
Notes: Registration deadline is March 25th by 4:00pm

Note: Friday April 2nd will be held at KPCC from 1:00-3:00pm for performance

Spring Tennis Clinic
This clinic is designed to peak your youths interest by learning how to play tennis fast by having fun with specialized equipment, short courts, modified scoring, and games. Make sure to bring your rackets! Only a few will be on site for use.

When: Sat., April 17-May 15
Where: KPCC Tennis Courts
Session #1 10-10:50 am (Ages: 5-8)
Session # 2 11-11:50 am (Ages: 9-12)
Fee: \$40
Min/Max: 6/12 per age group
Note: Registration deadline is April 12th by 4 pm

Washington State History
Museum tour for Adults set for
March 10th
Join us for a self guided tour of the Washington State History Museum where

through interactive exhibits you will learn about our state's unique people and places, as well as their impact on the county and the world. After the museum we will travel to the Old Spaghetti Factory for a delicious lunch (bring lunch money).

Fee: \$40
Age: 18 +
Time: 9:30-3:00pm
Min/Max: 5/7

Parks Appreciation Day
April 24th 9-12 pm
Join us, PenMet Parks, and the City of Gig Harbor as we host the 9th Annual Parks Appreciation Day. Come out and support your local parks by helping to clean up trash, brush trimming, and light construction. No registration required. Bring your enthusiasm, smiles, and appreciation for our parks. Burn a few calories and have some fun, too! LDS Key Center parking lot, hotdog lunch at noon.

Sponsored by PETCO
2nd Annual Pet Easter Treat Hunt
Saturday April 3rd 10-12 pm
Come join us for our 2nd Annual Pet Easter Treat Hunt at Volunteer Park. Check in will begin at 10:00 am and the hunt will start promptly at 10:30. The hunt will last until supplies run out or at 12 pm. Put your pet's nose to work uncovering eggs containing treats or something special. Prizes will be given for best holiday dressed, funniest, and most unique. Come and sniff around at the agility course. Don't forget to get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny! Please bring a collection bag for your treats. Concession building will be open at 9 am to fulfill your apatites! (DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH)

For more information contact
Key Pen Parks at 253-884-9240 or
chad@keypenparks.com



Key Pen Parks
"The key to your next adventure"



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Evergreen Elementary fourth grader Ruthie Kanouse, sits impishly at Feast or Famine's "Aristocracy" table and enjoys a sumptuous beef dinner. Her parents wound up at the "Petite Bourgeoise" table with crepes. Most of the 107 attendees were at "Cruel Gruel" tables offering porridge and water.

Feast or Famine and a French twist

By Hugh McMillan, KP News



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

"Marie Antoinette," babbling incoherent "French," is introduced by her husband, David Starkweather, before being seated "royally" on the throne at the head table.

The third annual "Feast or Famine Hunger Banquet" at the Longbranch Improvement Club in mid-February drew 107 paying guests.

Ten percent of paying supporters of the cause gained seats at the "Aristocracy" head table and a multi course sumptuous standing rib roast feast.

Twenty percent, representing the middle class, received crepes at the "Petite Bourgeoise" tables.

Porridge and water was the bill of fare at "Cruel Gruel" tables for 70 percent of the guests. No matter what, the cost was \$25. It coincided with Mardi Gras' "Fat Tuesday" celebrations and was all for a good cause, support of the Key Peninsula Community Services/Food Bank.

A featured attraction was "Marie Antoinette" aka Diane Gressley, babbling incoherent "French" when introduced to the "roiling, embittered commoners" several of whom mounted comedic "revolutionary demonstrations" punctuated by "Off with her Head" clamoring.

It was a fun night for all — even those "Cruel Gruel" folk whose first act on returning home was to "get something to eat."

For more information on the KPCCS/Food Bank, call 253-884-4440 or write PO Box 392, Lakebay, WA 98349.

Research, design sustain creative drive for KP woman

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Denise Hendrick, costume designer of Lakebay, says, "I make everything but the socks and shoes!"

She always sewed, as did her mother and grandmother, but she majored in Foreign Studies in college, planning to do something with her language skills.

As a child, she tagged after her parents on their visits to Victorian era homes, and from the gift shop, she always selected a book of Victorian paper dolls.

"I loved the historic fashions," she says, but never expected to do anything with that interest.

Hendrick created her first costume while in college. She did a brief stint with a local community theatre, but realized those costumes didn't need to be authentic. Velcro closings are often used to facilitate quick changes.

"My true love is doing research (on the fashions) from the inside out," she says.

Individuals doing re-enactments, such as at Renaissance Faires, are her prime customers.

Hendrick has been doing the local Ren Faire for 10 years or more, being a volunteer actor.

Regency events such as Jane Austen re-enactments are becoming popular. Austen aficionados dress up, go out to tea or to an event or to stroll in a park.



Photo courtesy of Denise Hendrick

Denise Hendrick models a hat and bodice she designed.

She is expanding her passion and research to Regency, and may consider other time periods, "but nothing after 1915!"

She took a two-year course in Apparel Design that included designs from corsets to hats. Her

"My true love is doing research (on the fashions) from the inside out."
— Denise Hendrick

book from the class has examples of different items she made.

A current project is a custom fit for a man who wants a steampunk suit. Steampunk derives from the Victorian industrial era and has been a big hit in Hollywood for perhaps 20 years. The second annual Steamcon in Seattle will be next November. People interested in that era of cool gadgets and secretive machines enjoy dressing up and going places together.

Steampunks liked goggles, watches and big gloves, Hendrick says.

Her customer sent pictures of examples and noted what he liked of color and design. With that information, she has a free hand to design the costume.

She attends a wholesale fabric show in Seattle twice a year and collects business cards and swatches. A dress may take 10-12 yards of material, so she wants to be sure before she buys. There are several fabric shops in Portland she frequents, as well as doing mail order.

She sets prices according to the time she figures to use her various skills as well as the cost of materials. For example, custom pattern making is a higher skill level than hand hemming. She prefers vintage lace and authentic looking fabrics. Tiny silver sequins are part of her decorative collection.

Hendrick's studio, made from pre-fab panels, includes a steep pitched roof, good windows and lighting that add a sense of spaciousness to the cabin-sized building.

"It's hard to work from the house," she says, but this is a bright no-rent space a short walk away.

She plans to enter a competition next February with complete costumes for both a woman and a man. She's already collecting pictures of outfits and fabric swatches.

A competition like this is a good way to learn new techniques. A gentleman's vest she is considering includes embroidery. Close inspection suggested the area under the coat was painted, while the rest was done by hand. Hendrick may combine painting, machine and hand embroidery.

She's still not doing socks, but for the competition project, she plans to try her hand at shoes. Not from scratch, but to pick a pair of pumps with the correct heel shape and height, refashion the top of the shoe, and glue on fabric.

To contact Hendrick, call 678-4925 or go to Denise@RomanticRecollections.com.

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Crawford's Chirp & Company has just opened a new location in Gig Harbor!
We would like to extend an invitation to all bird and animal lovers to stop by
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Crawford's is a bird, cat, dog, and wild animal supply store specializing in organic and
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A Changing of Seasons

Outside my window, winter is giving way to spring. In the Christian church, we have said goodbye to Epiphany, and find ourselves in the season of Lent, anticipating Holy Week and Easter in just a few short days.

This is the high point in the life of the Church, as we reflect on the sacrifice made by Jesus 2,000 years ago. This is the foundation of our faith. While Christmas gets most of the press, it is Holy Week and Easter that define who we are in this world.

One reason this season is so powerful is the way it reflects the whole range of human experience. It is a reminder that this world can be a painful, ugly place. Rejection, abandonment, abuse of power, suffering, death, and the victimization of the weak — these all find their place in the days between Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

Those who have felt the sting of death, those who face abuse at the hands of authority, those who watch loved ones suffer or die find their place in this story, because Jesus faced it all: unjustly accused, unfairly condemned, beaten by bullies, executed in innocence.

Yet the story doesn't end there.

The week doesn't end in death, but in resurrection. Not in hopelessness, but in hope. Not in injustice, but in a pronouncement that all is made well. Not in anger, but in the word "Peace."

All fear is gone, all doubt vanquished, our deepest questions answered in an empty tomb. Death gives way to life. The powerful are shown to be powerless. The bully is silenced, and God makes a final pronouncement that he is on our side. Death is shown to be empty, because in the resurrection, God proves that life wins out.

This is the story we remember at Easter. We look to the world and see the themes of this tale reflected around us.

We recognize the reality of pain and suffering, we read of wars and violence and we grieve, especially when we find that, often, it is we who are culpable, we who are prone to anger and unholy mischief.

And we look to Jesus, and see that his suffering was the result of our mistakes in this world,

Dan Whitmarsh
A CHANGING OF SEASONS

our grasping after power, our pride and deceit.

In the end, however, we walk away with hope. The scriptural story tells us that after death there is life. That after suffering there is peace. That violence doesn't have the final say, that peace and hope win in the end. That love overcomes fear and hate.

And this is why we celebrate. This is why we gather on cold Easter mornings around bonfires, why we join together in churches all over the world to remember, and to proclaim. To remember the birth of our hope, and to proclaim with Christians around the world throughout all ages, "Alleluia! He is Risen!"

And because he is risen our hope is secure, our joy is complete.

On behalf of the Key Peninsula Ministerial Association, I wish you a joyous and hopeful Easter season, and pray that spring becomes a time of renewal and rebirth for us all.

Two Waters

ARTS ALLIANCE

A registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
PO Box 868 • Vaughn, WA 98394 • www.twowaters.org



Two Waters Arts Alliance invites you to our signature event on the evening of Saturday, March 6th at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Rd. KPN in Vaughn, for our 8th annual Art Exhibit/Sale.

The event will open its doors from 7pm to 10pm and will include Live Music by Jazz Musette, a Student Art Exhibit, hors d'oeuvres and no host bar. 2010 Patrons & Members \$20 (non-Members \$25 (16 years & older)).

It's not too late! Continuing our CALL TO ARTISTS and STUDENTS for Spring Fling artwork. See E-newsletter on TWAA website, www.twowaters.org, for details.

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Drama Camp for 3rd - 5th graders
Spring Break - Mar. 29th - Apr. 2nd

Faith Higgins, award-winning actress & local arts instructor spending a fun-filled week with your children.

Accumulative project will be a performance of "Cinderella outgrows the Glass Slipper" in front of family and friends.

Space is limited. Sign up at www.keypenparks.com or in person at Volunteer Park office.

A partnership with KP Parks

COMMUNITY WORKS

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

Now-April 3 - Pierce County reads

Get a copy of the best-selling "Garlic and Sapphires" by award-winning author Ruth Reichl to be a part of the third annual Pierce County READS. Join with thousands of other people to read, share, and talk about the same book in the free community one-book program through April 3. During the 10-week program, one may participate in any of the 50 free events on topics including food, frugal grocery shopping, the art of disguise and local growing and buying local food. The program concludes with Ms. Reichl giving a free presentation and book signing at Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood on Saturday, March 27, at 7 p.m. 884-2242.

March 3 - Beat Night

Beat Night returns to O'Callahan's Pub beginning with drums at 6 p.m. Listen to poems, stories and music by locals. 884-6455.

March 4 - Fuschsia club meets

The Lakebay Fuschsia Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Call Ginnie Aardal, 884-9744.

March 1, 8, 9, 15, 22, 29 - Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile will be at the Albertson's store from 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. each Monday. It will be at Peninsula Light on March 9 from 12-4:30 p.m.

March 9 - Crochet or knit

Loving Hearts, volunteers who crochet or knit items for non-profits in the community, meets from 1-3 p.m. on the second Tuesday and from 7-9 p.m. on the fourth Thursday, March 26, at the WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Ave. KPN. The group welcomes new members and donations of yarn, buttons and needles. Contact lovingheartsonkp@aol.com or Cyndi, 884-9619.

March 10 - Adult trip set

Key Pen Parks offers a self-guided tour of the Washington State History Museum (for those 18 and older) from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The museum features interactive exhibits to learn about Washington's unique people and places. After the museum visit, participants travel to the Old

Spaghetti Factory for lunch (bring lunch money). The trip departs from Volunteer Park; be there by 9:15 a.m. Participants must pre-register by March 3. Cost is \$40 and 5 to 7 people are needed. Contact Chad, 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com.

March 12 - Tax help

The South Sound Outreach provides free tax preparation assistance, by appointment only, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Whitmore Room of the KP Civic Center. Call Robert, 253-970-5578 for an appointment.

March 12 - Contest deadline

Young musicians, ages 6 to 18, are invited to vie for a \$1,000 scholarship and a chance to perform on stage at Benaroya Hall. The competition is open to non-professional acoustic instrumentalists, vocalists, or ensembles of up to six people. The entry submission is an audition recording, including YouTube clips up to 5 minutes long, and an entry form due by March 12. Official contest rules and entry forms are online at www.king.org.

The competition is presented in collaboration with Ten Grands Seattle and The Snowman Foundation (www.thesnowmanfoundation.org), which is a non-profit charity to give the gift of music to children. The Snowman Foundation awarded 12 Puget Sound-area grants after the Ten Grands concert in 2009.

March 12 - Words and Music

Words and Music presents poet, Jack McCarthy and singer/songwriter, Greg Greenway on Friday, March 12, on the waterfront in Vaughn. Horderves and beverages will be served. A \$15 donation is requested, \$25 per couple. The funds support the Young Writers' Workshops. Seating limited to 50. Call 253-778-6559 to make a reservation.

March 13 - Orchestra performs

The Gig Harbor Peninsula Civic Orchestra performs at 7 p.m. at Peninsula High School. Contact www.ghpcorchestra.com.

March 13 & 14 - Rummage sale

The second annual Peninsula High School Rummage Sale will be held Saturday from 9

a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Peninsula High School. Proceeds benefit the PHS Band and PBBC. Contact Jacqueline Lewis, 884-5321.

March 14 - Market vendors wanted

The KP Farmers Market meets from 4-6 p.m. at the Key Center Library. This meeting is for interested volunteers and vendors, including large or small farmers, crafters, food producers, and those participating in full or a partial season during the 2010 market. Call 884-1088 or kpfarmersmarket.org.

March 15 - KPVI open house

The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute hosts a dinner and informational membership meeting at 6 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Community Services building in Home. KPVI is an organization consisting of honorably discharged military veterans and/or their family members. KPVI members actively serve the Key Peninsula community, along with raising funds for local veterans and their family needs. KPVI also supports local school programs and scholarships, American Lake Veterans hospital residents, Fischer House with the Fort Lewis Wounded Warriors, the annual "Aisle of Honor" on Memorial Day weekend and the Key Peninsula Community Services. Call Mike Coffin, 884-9852.

March 16 - Organic planting information

The Friends of the Key Center Library present a talk, "Planting an Organic Garden," by Willi Evans Galloway at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Ms. Galloway is the West Coast Editor of Organic Gardening magazine. Donations to the Key Peninsula Food Bank are encouraged. 884-2242.

March 16, 23, 30 - Baby time

Baby Explorers presented at 11 a.m. for infants 0-24 months at the Key Center Library. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver. 884-2242.

March 17 - Attorney speak

Attorney Roger Sherrard will speak at the Lions Club meeting, which begins at 6 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. The Lions Club al-

so hosts the Citizens of the Year Banquet on March 20.

March 17, 24, 31 - Family story time

Family story time presented at 11 a.m. for families with preschool children at the Key Center Library. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver. 884-2242.

March 18 - Community forum held

The Mustard Seed Project's Third Thursday Community Forum focuses on "Adult Day Programs & Respite Care" from 10 a.m. to noon at the Key Center Library. Get an update on local respite options for family caregivers and hear from several adult day programs and review other caregiver supports that are currently available. The use of these supportive services can make a very positive difference in the lives of the caregiver and the person receiving care. Please bring any family caregivers to this forum or gather this resource information and share with them. 884-9814.

March 27 - KPHS meets

The Key Peninsula Historical Society holds its first quarter meeting from 12-3 p.m. in the VFW room of the KP Civic Center. Coffee and tea provided; bring table service and something to share.

The museum will be open with new displays of local marine life. All members, guests and others interested are invited to attend. 884-3702 or 884-3272.

March 27 - Scrapbooking class

Carla Swainston offers scrapbooking instruction and open crop time from noon-6 p.m. at the Civic Center. Bring current projects or materials for something new. Class fee is \$15, payable to the Civic Center; register at www.kpciviccenter.org or in the Civic Center office. carlaswainston@hotmail.com.

March 29-April 2 - Spring break camp

Key Pen Parks sponsors a "Theater on the Key" Drama Camp during spring break for children in grades 3-5. Camp is held in the Volunteer Park Concession building daily from 9-12 a.m. The accumulative project is the

performance for family and friends of "Cinderella Outgrows the Glass Slipper" at 1 p.m. on April 2. The camp director is Faith Higgins, who is trained in opera and classical voice and also acts locally. The camp costs \$95 and registration deadline is 4 p.m. on March 25. A minimum of ten and maximum of 20 is needed to hold camp. Contact Chad, 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com.

April 15 - Adult softball starts

Key Pen Parks is now accepting team registrations for adult coed softball. Teams will play an eight game season plus playoffs at the end. Games will be held Thursday nights from April 15 to June 24. Fee is \$525. Please see website under the Adult Program section for NEW registration procedures or call for more information. Fee includes umpires and softballs. Max of eight teams. Chad, 884-9240.

Tuesdays & Thursdays - Martial arts offered

The new KP Mixed Martial Arts Club, owned and operated by Evolution Martial Arts, LLC, offers classes from 7-9 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Any resident, aged 10 and over, is welcome to stop by and try a free class. Kurt, 572-9066 or www.kpnmma.com.

Tuesdays - TOPS #1325

Take-Off Pounds Sensibly meets at 9 a.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Free child care, fun and support are provided. 884-2554.

Thursdays - Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet from 8-9 a.m. at Key Center Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability.

Thursdays - Lakebay writers to meet

The Lakebay Writers meet from 1:30-3:30

p.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-3931.

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 9-11 a.m. at Key Center Library; 884-6455.

MARCH PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Lions Club, March 3 & 17, 6 p.m. social, 6:35 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. meeting, KP Civic Center
- KP Metro Parks, March 8, regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.; March 22, study session at 7 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex
- Fire District 16, March 9 & 23, 3 p.m. at meeting room, Key Center Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Council, March 10, 6:30 p.m., KC Fire Station
- KP Civic Center Board, March 11, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room
- Peninsula School District Board, March 11, 6 p.m. regular meeting; March 25, study session, 6 p.m., both meetings at district office
- LIC dessert potluck meeting, March 17, 7 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club

OFF THE KEY

March 6 - Fox Island market

The Fox Island March Indoor Market runs from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Nichols Community Center. 690 Ninth Ave., Fox Island. Free admission, free parking and playground are available. Refreshments are available for purchase. All kinds of crafts, collectibles, yard art, bedding, etc. are featured. Door prizes are given. Lise Ohlson, 253-549-2701 or ficra@foxisland.net.

March 13 - Rummage sale

The Fox Island Yacht Club hosts a rummage sale from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Fox Island Yacht Club, 1061 12th Ave., Fox Island. All kinds of gently used items are available. Contact Cindy Rychard, 549-7007 or Tracy Butzko, 617-9670.

March 17 - Republicans meet

The general meeting of the Gig Harbor Republican Women begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Inn at Gig Harbor. Renee Radcliff Sinclair, NW Regional Director of Congressional and Public Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, is the speaker. Contact Beckie Kantz, bkrants@knsinfo.com or 857-6590.

March 8 - Deadline to help pets

The annual Whiskers Wine and Dine will be held March 12 from 6-10 p.m. at the Sharon McGavick Conference Center, Building #23, Clover Park Technical College, 4500 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, Lakewood. Tickets are \$50 and must be purchased by March 8.

For information about the benefit, auction or dinner, go to www.psn.org/html/wwd2010.htm.

March 12 - Play opens

"The Taming on the Shrew" written by William Shakespeare will play on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 5 p.m. at the Encore! Theater through March 28. Tickets can be reserved online at www.encoretheater.org or call 858-2282.

March 19 - Free movie

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club presents "The Big Country" at 10 a.m. at the Galaxy Theatre. Coffee and discussions follow the movie. 238-6490.

March 27 - Quilt show

A Quilted Arts Show is held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Harbor Life Church in Gig Harbor. The free show features over 70 pieces of work designed by eight women who took a challenge to create one fabric block each day for 365 days. www.harborlife.com.

To submit an event

To submit an event for the Community Works calendar, please email to news@keypennews.com, or mail to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394. Briefs must be submitted by the 15th of the month.

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CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Annual dinner, awards ceremony planned

There were 29 nominees for this year's Citizen of the Year, an award that is given by the Key Peninsula Lions Club to recognize an outstanding volunteer in the Key Peninsula community.

Nominations are submitted to Hugh McMillan, a member of the Lions who will be emceeing the event again this year.

Nominees must be residents of, work on, or own property on the Key Peninsula and can be any age.

No members of the Lions can be nominated, and though McMillan said every nominee is a Citizen of the Year in his book, the community spoke out and preferred a winner at the event, he said.

This year's celebration and dinner will be held March 20 at 6 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

The keynote speaker scheduled for the event is Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy.

Last year's winner was Edie Morgan, executive director of The Mustard Seed Project.

A catered dinner will be served. Reserved tickets are available at Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center.

For tickets, or more information, call 853-2721 or 884-3319 or email HMcMNP1000@centurytel.net.



BRITTEN

In November 2008 while on the bus to school, Henderson Bay High School students **Will Britten** and **Patrick Mirenta** rescued four other high school students who were involved in a single vehicle accident. Their story was told in the "Kids' Corner" column of the Gateway (Oct. 28, 2009). Britten and Mirenta were honored by the The American Red Cross, and received the Good Neighbor Hero Award at a ceremony held at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma on Dec. 4, 2009.



MIRENTA



ARGABRIGHT

Communities In Schools of Peninsula nominates **Dolores Argabright**, a retired teacher who enjoys volunteering with 1st and 2nd grade students in the Evergreen Elementary Reading Mentor Program, which she started as a volunteer in September of 2005. She dedicates countless hours to the children paired with her in CISP's reading program. She is patient, caring and supportive of the young readers she helps each week.



HENSLEY

Ramona Hensley, Peninsula High School's Band Boosters president, is a dynamo of cajoling, recruiting, inspiring and generally driving all who come in her path to make a success of the effort to raise funds to enable the PHS band to represent the State of Washington in the annual Independence Day celebrations in Washington, D.C., this year. She has earned the right to recognition.



MAYER

Ron Mayer is a retired police officer. Last year, he committed another selfless act and became a community volunteer with the KPF's Citizen's Advisory Committee. This committee was asked to review business operations and make recommendations. Ron was an active member, and he deserves a heartfelt 'thank-you.'



WILEY

Carolyn Wiley has put together a string of worthwhile events at the Longbranch Improvement Club over the past three years as the Events chair. She helped put together the "Feast or Famine" dinner, held on Fat Tuesday each year raising a lot of money for local food banks. She dreamt up the "Suds and Spuds" night of fun celebrating St. Patrick's Day with a transformation of the LIC Hall into an Irish pub. Her Fabric Fair project fills the LIC hall with weavers, knitters, sewers, and fabric freaks of all kinds in conjunction with the annual Farm Tour in the Fall. She spearheads "Kids for Christmas," which works with the Toys For Tots program and others to provide Christmas cheer to many local needy children. She was also an enthusiastic supporter and helper on Beyond the Borders Music and Art Festival held each August. And the list goes on.



HUMBERD

Russ Humberd represented the GH/KP communities as vice chair and chair on the Pierce County Youth Violence Allocations Committee. With the Peninsula Athletic Association he has served as coach, Sport Commissioner, Sport Chair, equipment manager, vice president and president. He is with the Peninsula School District's Safety Committee. He has been president, vice president, and treasurer of the KP Community Council. He has served on the KP Community Plan Development Committee and KP Land use Advisory Committee. He is with the PHS Boosters and PHS Scholarship Committee and has been treasurer and president of PHS' Football Unlimited. He also is with Stand for Children.



MILLER

Tami Miller, an employee of Children's Home Society, spends countless hours organizing and collecting food for KP's food bank. She holds a board position at Minter Creek Elementary and volunteers for many projects at the school. She has spent many of her summers working at day camp through CHS. She has run or been active in the Holiday Helper Program for low-income families, the Key Peninsula Indoor Play Park at the Civic Center, and the Glad U R Here camp at the Civic Center, and Camp Happy to C U. She served on Minter Creek Elementary's PTA as vice president and volunteer coordinator. She has also worked as a math tutor in the Minter Math Academy.



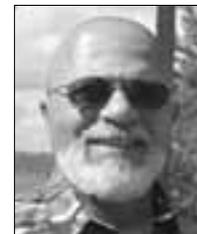
SALATINO

Mike Salatino is devoted to the Key Peninsula and its rural way of life. He is active in the Pierce County Italian community, often serving as Chair of the Tacoma Columbus Day dinner. For 30 years, he and his wife, Joyce, have hosted a Christmas dinner at the KP Civic Center. He has been a Civic Center board member for 28 years, its past president and served as chair of many Civic Center activities such as "Pioneer Days." He has been active in KP Parks and helped form the current KP Metropolitan Park District. Mike was a founder of the KP Community Fair and provided local youth opportunities to show animal husbandry skills and to exhibit and learn about agricultural skills.



RUSSELL

Deanna Russell has given extensive work to the Key Peninsula Little League as the Player Manager. In this capacity, she has been instrumental in the operation and success of the league. She actively works to improve the players' experience by enhancing the league operations, team competitiveness and manager effectiveness. She is the primary driving force of the league without whom the league would flounder.



BARROW

When you think of someone who is efficient and determined to get a job done, **Joe Barrow** is the person who comes to mind. When Joe submitted his letter of intent to be a volunteer on the KPF's Citizen's Advisory Committee, it was quickly accepted. He volunteered his time over a five month period to be able to deliver the finished product back to the fire department: review of business and recommendations.



MILLS

Committing selfless acts comes as no surprise when it comes to **Don Mills**. He served as the KPF's last volunteer Fire Chief. Last year, he repeated this selfless act by becoming a volunteer of the KPF's Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) to review business and make recommendations. Don volunteered his time for five months to deliver the requested recommendations.



LILYBLADE

Ted Lilyblade has been a volunteer for Key Peninsula Com-

munity Services for several years. Not many people who work a regular job are willing or able to volunteer at the center, but Ted does and gives his free time generously. We appreciate his dedication to the work we do and the many talents he brings to KPCS.

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR



KUHN

Steve Kuhn volunteers with the VFW Honor Guard, which frequently conducts funerals for Veterans wherever they are needed. He has been president of the KP Sportsman's Club and under his direction it has contributed much to the community, including manning the fish tank at the community fair, collecting donations for a park bench for Home Park, collecting and distributing Christmas baskets to needy families, and having a collection point at the Sportsman's Club for members to bring food for the KP Community Services/Food Bank.



PARTYKA

When the KP Board of Fire Commissioners asked the community for volunteers to review business and make recommendations last year, **John Partyka** jumped at the chance to participate. John volunteered his time for five months to be able to deliver this much needed information to the fire department.



WEBSTER

Danna Webster has held several offices on the KP Community Council, the most recent as president where she spearheaded the effort to better connect the Council with other organizations in the community, and continues to be an active contributor to all its projects. She is involved in the Writers Workshop, the Farm Tour, the Farmers Market, the KP Business Association and the KP News. She is currently on the committee planning a parade through Key Center to Volunteer Park next summer, and was the founder of the "Key Peninsula Topless Ladies Club," a group of women who drive convertibles.



MORRIS

Jud Morris is manager of the KP Family Resource Center of which the Children's Home Society is part, and has been president of the KP Business Association, member of the KPCCA board, KP Fair board member, KP News columnist, and Keynote speaker at the annual KP GED Graduation.



BAUM

Mike Baum is vice president of the KP Community Council and past chair of the Safety Committee. He brings news to our community on transportation issues. He is the new president of Citizen's Against Crime and is working to revamp and modernize it to increase its effectiveness. He has coached middle school soccer for many years, being a mentor to many of our young people in the community and is a volunteer with the KP Youth Council helping members with community service projects. When he sees something that needs doing, he jumps in and does it.



FROODE

Tara Froode is the most committed community member I know. She is a business owner who donates much time and energy to make our community better. She sits on just about every board. She was instrumental in getting a Farmers Market out here. Her passion for supporting local businesses is contagious.



ALHEIM

Sheri Alheim, a Peninsula High math teacher, took on the responsibility of re-energizing the school's Debate Club, which having lost its advisor, had all but ceased to exist. This year many have won matches and some are even going to State. She also started the PHS Robotics Club, which participated in tournaments at Santa Clara University in California over a three year span; the team was awarded several commendations amongst which was Good Sportsmanship.



WEEKS

Linda Weeks gives her all. That is what she did when asked to participate in the KPFd Citizen's Advisory Committee last year. When asked to review FD business for community input and direction, she wholeheartedly agreed. Little knowing it would consume her evenings for five months. She acted as recording secretary. With her help, the CAC reviewed the FD's business and gave direction for the future.



WHITE

Candy White, a resident of the KP her whole life, is raising two children alone. She is a school bus driver who has been the first responder in four accidents in six months. In one accident, she put a fire out in a car that had crashed with the occupants trapped. She also had a food drive where she filled a school bus FULL of food for our local food banks. She is known to help community members in need. Her heart is in the right place, the KP community.



EGELSTON

Trisha Egelston can put a smile on anyone. A self-employed novelist and part-time employee at CostLess Pharmacy, she surprised everyone last year when she volunteered for KPFd's Citizen's Advisory Committee. At the first CAC meeting, she put her hand down on the table and announced she would be their chairperson. Trisha volunteered weekly with the CAC for a total of five months to review KPFd's business and make recommendations.



ROBISON

Ed Robison, a certified engineer, donated his expertise designing the picnic shelter for Home Park. His work on the project was interrupted as he pulled duty as a U.S. Navy Cdr. in Iraq. Since then, he has contributed several volunteer projects for Key Pen Metro Parks from building repair engineering to slope retention walls and drainage design. He was recently elected to the KP Metro Park board of directors and continues to contribute his talents on behalf of the KP community.



NILES

Key Peninsula Community Services is fortunate to have **Linda Niles** as a volunteer. Her talents in office applications have enabled us to expand our record keeping, which gives us and the community a better picture of the amount of food that is needed to support struggling families. She also is a wonderful bookkeeper for her church and works in the meal program at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church.



HICKS

Last year, **Kris Hicks**, a volunteer firefighter with KPFd responded to a call to donate blood to a very sick firefighter who was in Seattle from Florida for treatment of a rare blood cancer. KOMO News covered the story of Catherine Wall at the University of Washington Medical Center undergoing an intense round of radiation. Hicks found Wall on Facebook and that they had more than a badge in common. Wall needed a specific type of blood, and Hicks, emailed to say, "hey if you need my blood, I'm a match."



PETERSEN

Hannah Petersen works hard to keep everything organized and flowing smoothly for Cub Scout Pack 222 for which she is Pack Committee Chairperson. She does all of the paper work and acts as the Pack's treasurer, too. Pack master Tim Calhoun said, "If it wasn't for her, I can not imagine where our pack would be." She has been volunteering for the past three years.



FITZGERALD

Chris Fitzgerald, an active member of the KP Community Council, has chaired several committees including putting together the community forum on the geoduck farming issue. She is working on a project with KP Metro Parks to establish a trail system on the Key for walkers and riders. She is the president of the Friends of the Key Center Library and has led that group from a small, struggling enterprise to a thriving, energetic, group of dedicated volunteers. Chris continues to champion the cause of our four-footed friends and is also involved in finding and rescuing abandoned pets and livestock.



YOUNG

Cy Young volunteered his time over five months to the KPFd's Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) which reviewed FD business and made recommendations. He brought a down-to-earth perspective to the group that was much appreciated.



Photo by Sharon Hicks, KP News

Cheyenne Holland and Bailey Goddard teamed up with some employees at Cost Less Pharmacy to raise money for the Haiti earthquake victims. All proceeds from their bake sale were donated to the Red Cross.

Students raise money for victims of Haiti earthquake

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

Hearing the sad news of the earthquake in Haiti, and having close ties to some of the victims, local students have taken action to help in the efforts to rebuild.

After learning of a close family friend's death in the Haitian earthquake Jan. 12, Mary Lysand, fourth-period leadership class teacher at Peninsula High School, asked her students to challenge all students and teachers to donate \$1 to Our Little Brothers and Sisters Orphanage.

Ryan Kloss was killed in the rubble of the earthquake while visiting his sister, Erin, an international volunteer with Friends of the Orphans when the five-story administrative building collapsed, killing him instantly.

He had planned on leaving the following day. Erin was rescued the day after the quake and was sent to a southern Florida hospital where she was in intensive care and is now recovering at home with severe injuries to her arms, Lysand said.

Both Ryan and Erin were close friends of Lysand's son, John, a 2000 graduate of Gig Harbor High School, and close friends of fellow volunteer, Molly Hightower, the Port Orchard woman who was also killed in the earthquake.

"One dollar can feed an orphan in Haiti for three days," Lysand said. "They lost so much equipment and are in dire need of supplies and water."

She was hoping to raise \$650 and by the end of the first day \$500 was donated. On the third day of the fundraiser, donations totaled \$1,150. The money was sent to the orphanage in Petionville, Haiti. Many of the children there have HIV, cerebral palsy and other severe neurolog-

ical damage from malnutrition, she said. Lysand said she hopes Peninsula High School can adopt the orphanage as its sister school.

Two Key Peninsula girls were so moved by the tragedy they wanted to raise money for the Red Cross. Bailey Goddard, a fifth grader at Minter Creek Elementary, and Cheyenne Holland, a sixth grade student at Harbor Ridge Middle School in Gig Harbor, got together with their mothers to plan a bake sale.

Penny Goddard, Bailey's mother, works at Cost Less Pharmacy. Employees at Cost Less Pharmacy helped with the baking, and the girls made the signs. The bake sale was held Feb. 13, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., outside the pharmacy, but all of the goodies were sold out by 3:30 p.m. The girls had raised \$320.

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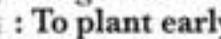
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Community Program Brings Art into Classrooms

A community-driven arts program that has reached more than 2,500 Peninsula School District students brings hands-on art projects into the classrooms four times a year. Peninsula Hands On Art provides art lessons to five elementary schools that are designed around history, creative thinking, art techniques and more.

The projects are taught by volunteer parents, trained directly by the artists who create each project. The goal is to include four projects annually that use different media and each year, the projects center around a theme.



Students at five PSD elementary schools get the opportunity to create projects and learn art terminology and history, thanks to Peninsula Hands On Art volunteers.

Based on this year's theme of architecture, students are learning basic concepts of architectural design elements and vocabulary, decorative and functional aspects of a building and creating sculptures.

"(Peninsula) Hands On Art gives the kids the opportunity to work with materials they don't typically have and to be exposed to art terminology," says Marla Morgan, one of the program's founders and president since inception. "It also utilizes many volunteers who normally don't volunteer in the school because they can only come once or twice a year."

The program started at Harbor Heights Elementary School five years ago by parents in collaboration with local artists and was so successful, it soon grew to reach four other schools. Its biggest source of funds is from SalmonChanted Harbor. The Gig Harbor Gallery Association has been a big supporter of the program and continues to help coordinate SalmonChanted, which is organized approximately every other year and will be back this spring.

"I think the connection to the community is extremely important because it gives parents the opportunity to interact with students on a level they normally don't get to," says Harbor Heights fifth-grade teacher Terry McClelland. "Having a local artist work with the parents, even though the students do not meet the artist, is another positive part of (Peninsula) Hands On Art, another way schools and the community can connect."

Superintendent Forum March 15

The second unstructured forum allowing community members to raise issues and ask questions pertinent to the Peninsula School District is scheduled for March 15 at Harbor Ridge Middle School from 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. The evening will be hosted by Superintendent Terry Bouck. Everyone is welcome whether or not you have students who attend Harbor Ridge or any of our schools. Two additional forums are planned:

- May 4, 2010 Key Peninsula Middle School, 6:30 p.m.
- June 1, 2010 Kopachuck Middle School, 6:30 p.m.

Did You Know...

Superior Court Judge John Erlick recently ruled that the State of Washington is failing in its constitutional duty to fully fund basic education. This ruling could influence our legislature to re-think the Governor's proposed reductions for education. You can expect more details regarding our 2010-2011 budget in the coming weeks. Your support of our schools and your suggestions regarding the budgeting process is appreciated. Remember you can follow us on Twitter where we will be providing periodic updates about our finances and support operations: <http://twitter.com/psdfinance>

At a Glance

Our kindergarten program continues to be a focus for the district. If we did not have the budget constraints we are anticipating, we would continue with our current program. That is still our hope, but we will not know definitively until the first of April. Parents of entering kindergartners need to mark their calendars for April 10. That's when kindergarten registration will kick off in all eight elementary schools and continue throughout the spring, during the school day. Please visit our website for periodic updates: www.psd401.net

March Events

- 6 Commencement Bay Regional Vocal Solo & Ensemble Contest at Mt. Tahoma High School from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 - 11 School Board Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. at Kopachuck Middle School
 - 11-13 Gig Harbor High School presents the musical "Kiss Me Kate!" 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. in the GHHS auditorium. Students \$8 Adults \$10
 - 12 Possible snow make up day—no school
 - 15 Superintendent Forum 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. at Harbor Ridge Middle School library—Everyone is invited to participate!
 - 18-19 Elementary parent/teacher conferences with early dismissal at 12 noon
 - 18-20 Gig Harbor High School presents the musical "Kiss Me Kate!" 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. in the GHHS auditorium. Students \$8 Adults \$10
 - 24 Commencement Bay Regional High School Band Contest at Peninsula High School from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
 - 25 School Board Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. at District Office
- Vaughn music program
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Vaughn Elementary School
- 26 Community Inclusion Program auction and dinner event at Peninsula High School from 1:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. All proceeds benefit the CIP Youth Program.

KPMS teacher receives KCTS Golden Apple

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Key Peninsula Middle School literacy/science teacher Cindy Knisely was presented the Stanley O. McNaughton Golden Apple Award before a packed house at Seattle's Intiman Theatre Playhouse at KCTS Channel 9's 18th annual Golden Apple Awards ceremony.

The Stanley O. McNaughton Golden Apple Award acknowledges teaching that enhances students' abilities to think and act both logically and creatively and to work effectively both independently and as part of a team. It is named for the late McNaughton, CEO of PEMCO Insurance, which has provided funding for the event for the past 17 years, and is presented to only one nominee each year.

This year over 130 nominations were evaluated by a panel of representatives from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington Education Association, Washington State Parent Teacher Association, Association of Washington School Principals, prior Golden Apple winners and other educators. Seven outstanding individuals and three innovative programs were chosen. As a NASA Explorer School, KPMS is part of a system promoting STEM, a science, technology, engineering, and math program.

Knisely took on this additional challenge serving both as a member of the school's NASA team and as NASA Explorer Outreach coordinator. She designed and teaches "Mission Specialist," where students learn subjects from robotics to rocketry and she oversees well-attended NASA family nights at KPMS. She also accompanies NASA funded students across the country to learn alongside professional scientists and serves on KPMS' Improvement Team, which has witnessed steady improvement in the school's WASL scores.

"The NASA team is extraordinarily proud of Cindy and the critical role that she plays in



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News
Key Peninsula Middle School literacy/science teacher Cindy Knisely happily displays her Golden Apple.

the NASA Explorer School program," said fellow NASA colleague Karen Borders. "Cindy is a true team player, an inquisitive and responsive teacher, and has a work ethic that is unequaled. She is dynamic in all that she does. She brings laughter, collaboration, and new ideas to our team on a consistent basis. We, meaning the students, staff, parents, and NASA, are very fortunate that Cindy is part of our team. I can't wait to see what the future will bring."

Peninsula High Students go to D.C.

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

Close-Up.org has been a non-profit program in Washington, D.C., since 1971 where teachers and students experience democracy in action and learn about business, law and education.

This year Ken Brown, a teacher of civics at Peninsula High, and five "good role model students," Hannah Hobaugh of Vaughn, along with Katy Stefanoff, Sharin Webster, Lynnea Price and Adeeb Hamad all had the opportunity to travel to D.C. to see government in action.

They were the only group from our state and arrived a day late on Feb. 7 at 6 a.m. due to two feet of snow and airline delays.

To make the trip even more challenging each

student had to come up with \$1,800 to pay their own way.

The first day upon arrival the students visited Chinatown where it was asked of business owners if the economy was hurting their businesses like everywhere else and all replied "very much so and in some instances, more so."

The following two days, the Penn High group was impressed to see the White House from a tour bus but after disembarking, Hobaugh said, "it was a life altering experience to see it for real." She waved at two security guards on top and against regulations they waved back. Other impressive places visited were The Capitol, Civil-War Memorial, Iwo Jima

(See **STUDENTS**, Page 25)

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KP Girl will try out for PHS Boys' Baseball

By Ted Olinger, KP News

She had to walk by the doorway a few times. She wasn't used to being nervous. She quickly glanced into the room. There were a dozen boys her age and older listening to the Peninsula High School varsity baseball coach. He was explaining how to tryout for the team.

She stepped through that doorway and sat down. She was asked what she was doing there. Then Hannah Carlson said out loud what she'd been thinking all freshman year: she wanted to play on the boys' baseball team.

Hannah was sent to the Athletic Director's office to confirm that league rules forbade girls from a boys' team. By the time she had the regulation proving she could play, she said, the tryout meeting was over.

Her mother, Tricia Carlson, came to school looking for answers.

"They told me that because she was a girl she wouldn't be able to keep up with the boys at this level. They told me she can't hit as hard or throw as far, and that basically the boys are going to pass her up," said Tricia.

"She's been hearing that since she was 8."

The coaching staff backed away from their initial resistance, said Tricia, stressing they care about the kids and just didn't know whether by senior year Hannah would be able to keep up with the boys on the team.

"When I was younger, I remember talking about playing high school when I got to that age, so it's just kind of been there for a long time," said Hannah.

Watching Hannah at the KPLL tryouts in February, hurling balls back and forth with boys her age, nothing stands out but her skill, and the short blond braids under her All Stars cap. She doesn't look like a girl when she's standing at the plate, or running across the infield. She doesn't even look like a teenager.

She looks like an athlete.

Hannah and her family moved to the Key Peninsula when she was 6. She attended Vaughn Elementary and Key Peninsula Middle School, and is a 14-year-old freshman at Peninsula High.

"I love the school," said Hannah. "I have all my friends there." Hannah admits to enjoying roller blading, swimming, and math (she's a ninth grader in tenth grade geometry), but really it's all about baseball.

She started with the Key Pen Little League at age 6 playing coach-pitch, then minors, majors, juniors, All Stars, one Select Team for two seasons, and this year she's trying out for KPLL seniors.

Now 5' 6" and a fit 140 lbs, Hannah has never played a season on an all girls' team. She was the only girl on her ball team in fourth grade. In fifth grade, she pitched most of the season and her team won first place. In seventh grade, she

struck out six batters in a row. Hannah isn't a real fast pitcher, she says, just a good one.

"I really prefer first base," said Hannah. "That's where the action is."

Peninsula would be the first school team she played on.

"I've had coaches try to switch me to softball, but I just wasn't interested in it. I like playing baseball. It's more competitive," said Hannah.

Last year, Hannah was the only girl on her juniors team and her Select team, where coaches assemble handpicked players to face other Select teams in the region and compete in tournaments. "There was one other girl on all those teams we played," said Hannah, "and her name was Hannah, too."

Since Hannah was a year younger than the other players on her Select team two years in a row, it was like "having eleven older brothers."

"The boys are all my friends," said Hannah. "We all get along."

"She got plowed into pretty hard playing Select ball last year," said Tricia.

"She went to go for a ball and wasn't looking at the runner, and he dropped his head and knocked her right in the stomach. He knocked her down, knocked the wind out of her. She popped right back up and the umpire went over and shook her hand."

Hannah will get her shot at high school ball on March 1.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Hannah Carlson has been playing baseball since she was 6, and has no plans of stopping.

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March 2010 Third Thursday Community Forum "Adult Day Programs & Respite Care"

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March 18, 2010 10 a.m.

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KP musicians vital part of GHPC Orchestra

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

The Gig Harbor Peninsula Civic Orchestra conducted by Matthew Underwood will present the second concert of its sixth season at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 13th, at the Peninsula High School auditorium, 14105 Purdy Drive NW.

This concert will include Coates Summer Days Suite, Debussy's Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun, Dvorak's The Noon Witch, Leroy Anderson's First Day of Spring, Beethoven's Namsfeier Overture and Jay Chattaway's Sunday Drive.

The orchestra is still accepting new members. Rehearsals are held at Peninsula High School (band room), 14105 Purdy Drive NW, Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. If interested in playing, please e-mail: ghpcdirector@centurytel.com. No auditions are necessary.

"We play because we love to play," said conductor Underwood. "Our orchestra is funded entirely by member contributions and audience donations. We offer three concerts a year, in December, March and June. Our concerts are free. We do not charge admission because we want everyone to have the opportunity to attend."

The Orchestra is a non-profit organization. If you would like to support the orchestra, write: GHPC Orchestra, P.M.B. #64, 3110 Judson St., Gig Harbor, WA 98335-1254. For more information, go to www.ghpcorchestra.com/.



The Gig Harbor Peninsula Civic Orchestra conducted by Matthew Underwood rehearses for its March concert.

Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

(From SCAMS, Page 8)

Major Crimes Investigations for the Pierce County Sheriff, said, "By all means file a police report, it just might connect the dots so that we can identify a trend, but the budget is short and manning has been cut. We only have one detective working fraud, and does he ever have a workload. It would have to be a real significant loss before it would get a priority for an investigation."

A Tacoma forensics computer expert who requests anonymity due to the sensitivity of his work, reveals that, if the computer hard drive is brought to him promptly, there is a 50 percent chance that he can track down the IP address of the computer that originated the email, no matter where in the World that computer is located. He can do this even if there was an attempt to disguise the identity through re-routes through multiple routers.

"But my work is rather expensive," he said.

The Attorney General's website at atg.wa.gov gives tips for Internet security.

If you believe that your computer has been attacked, information stolen, or have been targeted for a scam, you might contact: Pierce County Sheriff, 798-7540; Washington State Attorney General, Consumer Protection Hotline, 1-800-551-4636; FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center, www.ic3.gov; the Federal Trade Commission for spam tracking at www.ftc.gov; and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Unit, www.phonebusters.com (a lot of the sweepstakes fraud originates from Canada).

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EASTER ON THE PENINSULA

The Key Peninsula Ministerial Association
invites you the following events:

March 28th - April 4th

Stations of the Cross Art Installation

Lakebay Community Church featuring local
KP Artists

April 1st

Maundy Thursday Supper and Worship

5:30-6:45pm, Longbranch Community Church

Seder Service

6:30pm, Lakebay Community Church

April 2nd

Good Friday Vigil

Noon - 6pm for quiet mediation, reflection and
prayer, Longbranch Community Church

Good Friday Service

7pm, WayPoint Church

**EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 4TH**

Lakebay Community Church Sunrise Service

- 7am Penrose Pt State Park

WayPoint Church - 8:45am & 11am

Lakebay Community Church - 10:30 am

Longbranch Community Church - 11am

CHRIST IS RISEN!



Vaughn resident and parent Julie Clark speaks out during the KP Council meeting at Vaughn Elementary School in February. Discussion centered around the proposed Homestead at Alder Cove foster care facility.

Photo by Kyle Coster, KP News

(From **FOSTER**, Page 1)

built-in vacancy rate of 10 or 15 percent means the facility as proposed could house approximately 160 children.

"There is nothing like what we're proposing in the country," said Ken Braaten. What does exist is often old, eclectic, or poorly planned, he said.

Many of the questions posed to the panel by the audience were about the type of child DSHS would place there.

Nancy Sutton, Regional Administrator for DSHS Children's Administration, said, "We have federal and state law that directs us to place children in the most family-like setting possible. The eight-bed facility as described is not a foster home; it's a group home. So we would not be looking first to group care placements."

"We are in desperate need of foster homes," said Linda Kalinowski, the Area Administrator for the Division of Licensed Resources of DSHS. "We have about 30 homes in Pierce County, on this side of the bridge."

Sue Braaten said, "Because it's still so early on in what we're actually going to do and how we're going to do it, and because we are working with [DSHS], I think it's a little bit early to expect them to have an answer," about what kind of child would or would not be placed at Homestead.

After the meeting, Jacobson said, "I think we're ahead of the curve with this project in

what will become a new model for foster care ... and it's something we have to work out with Licensing and DSHS."

Panel questions ended after 90 minutes, but perhaps half the audience remained afterward. For another 40 minutes, more than a dozen expressed their concerns to the Community Council.

Dan Martin, a 17-year Vaughn resident with a young son at Vaughn said, "I am completely against this project ... It doesn't fit in the community. There's no precedent that allows for this kind of development in Vaughn or on the Key Peninsula."

Minter Creek resident Marilyn Kennedy asked, "Why would they not go to the rural area on Borgen Boulevard [in Gig Harbor], near medical services and part-time job opportunities and facilities such as the YMCA, things that would really benefit these children?"

Maureen Morlang has lived on the peninsula for 34 years, has been a foster parent for 26, and spent part of her childhood in an orphanage. "I can't think of a worse place to raise children than in a group facility like this," she said. "When these children turn 18 and they send them out the door, who do they call 'gramma' when they start having kids? Where do they go for holidays? Who goes to their graduation?"

"We're listening," said Jacobson after the meeting. "We're going to try to find a way to resolve the issues so that it will be a win-win for everybody. And if it's not, we won't build it."

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(From FD 16, Page 6)

That firm, Liz Loomis Public Affairs, based in Snohomish, has not signed a contract with the department.

"They are not a public relations firm," said Lique. "They could teach us in the department how to communicate more effectively with each other and the community. They were never going to be speaking for us."

The company's website describes their work, in part, as assisting public organizations through polling, opinion research, and "strategic communication."

Referring to the editorial, Lique said, "It validates the public's distrust of us and I don't know that that's completely deserved ... I believe it does make it more difficult [to hire the company] because the perception is out there that the fire district is doing this underhanded thing, when in fact we're trying to make positive steps and say, 'we as an organization don't understand necessarily the way we've been impacting the public.'"

"How is it the message we put out there gets interpreted into something like 'we shut the building down and let the pipes freeze up?'" he said.

"That tells me we're not communicating as well as we should."

About the poll, estimated at \$20,000, Lique said, "Organizationally we're not in the right place to be spending that kind of money."

"It might be more important just to concentrate on the communication piece than doing

a poll at this point," he said. "When the EMS levy comes up at the end of the year, it's going to be such a critical thing to the organization and the way we provide service to the community, we can't afford to mis-communicate that message."

Neighbors

The news wasn't all bad. The department received thank you notes, as it does almost every month, from grateful community members who were aided by firefighters, on or off duty. And then there's the occasional donation.

Pat Osmon has owned and operated Northwest Auto Clinic in Wauna, just up the road from the fire station, for 21 years.

"I had an accidental drowning in my backyard," said Osmon. "First guy on the scene showed up in his personal vehicle with no back-up, took my dead child out of my arms and tried to do mouth-to-mouth 'til the fire truck showed up."

"Most people don't know what they're getting. It's like when I give somebody a deal when they buy something off of me. Unless I spell it out in the bottom line of what the discount is, they've just got the price. They don't know if they got a good deal or a bad deal. They don't even have the perception that they're getting a good deal."

Editor's note: This is the fifth in a series of six stories on FD 16.

(From STUDENTS, Page 20)

Memorial, Washington Monument and Union Station. Traffic and pedestrians were few or none preceding a blizzard that hit the area on Wednesday stranding all Close-Up teachers and students at the hotel.

A day for these enthusiastic learners started at eight in the morning until arriving back at their hotel between six and seven where they would meet in the conference room to engage in debates. The Close-Ups were then divided into different groups where they were given varied topics for the debate.

Arranged by Close-Up, Democrats and Republicans, some from the legislature, were on hand and each student group would have a chance to ask questions of their own choosing for the politicians to answer or debate. At this point students were independent of the teachers who were only there to oversee and not guide or give opinions.

Hannah's question was asking "what's your position on 13-year-olds keeping their own prescription without parental consent?" It received many opposing and conflicting views.

Another issue was whether or not the Pledge of Allegiance should be allowed only in public, private or both schools. The same debating situation happened with opponents walking away neutral and friends.

The highlight of this trip was a visit to the Senate. Capitol Hill was closed due to the weather but a few offices were remaining open.

Taking their chances, the group were walk-

ing by Norm Dick's office and although Dicks was not there his staff talked about his daily routine and what he does. Being invited in, Brown, Hobaugh, Stefanoff, Webster, Price and Homad gathered around his desk where Hobaugh had the privilege of sitting in his chair for a picture.

Leaving Dicks' office the group arrived at Marie Cantwell's office, which was open so they went in and were greeted by her receptionist who started talking to them and offered each student and Brown a ticket to the Senate. This is a rare occurrence and by the time they arrived, Senate was already in session. All had to go through three different security checks and Hannah was the last one of the Peninsula group to go through and students after her were not allowed in as the session was too far along to be disrupted. Teachers wanted as many as could to see how the senate portion of the government is run so the Peninsula High group considered themselves fortunate. An added bonus was that the group did see Cantwell as well as John McCain in their respective seats.

When asked of Hobaugh what she had learned from this trip her reply was "by having disagreements you can still be friends. It only made me a stronger person on different issues."

Brown says the trip was a real success and that "friends made friends from a variety of life and cultures. They came away not afraid to engage in discussion."

He says he is proud to represent the peninsula and Pen High and would like to see this become a regular event.

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(From TOLL, Page 1)

claims that the law provides for no reserve account, noting that toll charges must be imposed in amounts sufficient to provide for annual operating and maintenance expenses, make payments that include insurance costs and principal and interest on bonds issued for any particular toll bridge and repay the motor vehicle fund. The bond principal and interest payments constitute a first and exclusive charge and lien on all tolls and other revenues from the toll bridge.

McIntire's comments included an explanation of the planned escalating debt repayment schedule, which is a "contract with bond holders. I can't change that. I wouldn't have done that." He apologized for not attending last fall's CAC meeting because he "didn't want to appear as an advocate (of raising tolls); and that was a mistake," he said. "I take full responsibility for that."

In response to questions whether the bridge's revenue account would be used as collateral to rate bonds to fund other state transportation projects, McIntire said, "No ... and I would be angry if someone were sent here to tell me that." He cited RCW 47.56.165, noting that toll revenues cannot be used for any other project.

After extending the meeting for half an hour to accommodate all public comments, members of the CAC added their input. Jim Pasin questioned the justification for any reserve amount.

Melody Griggs favors keeping the differential (between transponder and booth tolls) in place, and keeping the transponder toll as low as possible; but said that the public needs to know tolls will need to be increased at some point and sug-

Information

For more information, or to voice your concerns, contact Washington Department of Transportation

Citizens Advisory Committee:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/Tolling/TNB-Tolling/CACFeedback.htm

Washington State Transportation Commission:

► Reema Griffith, Executive Director
360-705-7070; E-mail: griffir@wstc.wa.gov

► Jennifer Ziegler, Toll Division Government Relations and Communications Director
206-464-1194; E-mail: ZiegleJ@wsdot.wa.gov

gested a future special study session to review the reserve account proposal. She encouraged more people to get transponders to save on toll expenses.

Chris Myers quoted Dick Ford, Washington Transportation Commission member, who said, "It's a gross injustice to ordinary people," when he discussed a widening spread between the toll amounts. Myers went on to say, "They're ordinary people who have been extraordinarily screwed."

The CAC recommended to the Washington State Transportation Commission on Feb. 16 that current transponder tolls be retained at \$2.75 and cash tolls be increased to \$5.

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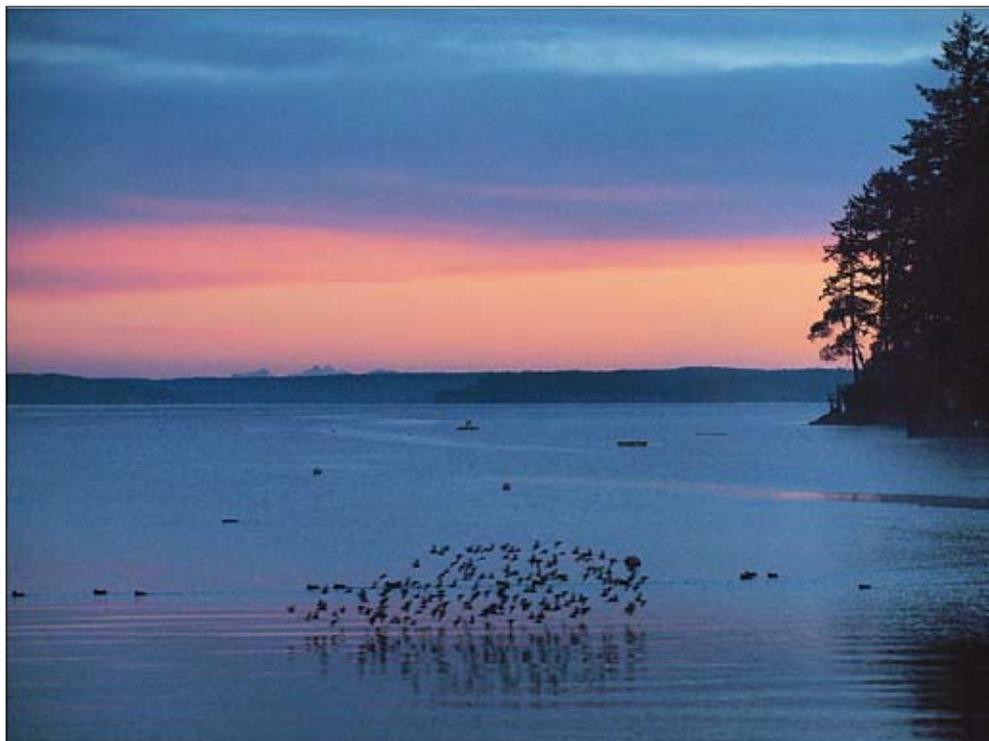


Photo by Ron Cameron, Special to the KP News

After months of rain, the sun made a spectacular appearance in this February sunrise on Von Geldern Cove.



Photo by Sharon Hicks, KP News

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Turning 102 is a very big event, and long-time Longbranch resident Arvilla Merchant celebrated that special day Feb. 4. She now resides in a retirement home, but has fond memories of the Key Peninsula. She moved to the Key Peninsula in 1973 and moved to the retirement home last year. She celebrated her birthday with a cake, and her friends around her.

KP News 'Where in the World'



Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Craig D. Hanson

Master Sgt. Craig D. Hanson of Vaughn took a break during his mission in Baghdad to read the February edition of the Key Peninsula News. His wife, Jenny, and children, Cody, Madison and Abigail eagerly await his return home.

How far do you go with your KP News? Send us a pic at news@keypennews.com.

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A sure sign that spring is on the way, these cute triplet lambs, Peter, Paul and Mary were born in February on Cape E Farm & Vineyard in Home.

Photo by Danna Webster, KP News