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 In Martin Luther King Jr.



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KP population increases

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Tree lighting brings out the Jolly Old Elf

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KPC targets three key issues for 2012 action

Staff Report

The directors' workshop on Dec. 3 for the Key Peninsula Community Council developed action plans for the 2012 agenda. KPC will focus on three major issues: A Safe SR-302; Emergency Preparedness for Key Pen residents; and Logging the KP. Some of the regular meeting dates, held the second Wednesday of the month, will be dedicated to these topics and educational forums will be conducted with guest panel presentations.

"Building action plans is a first for the KPC. The directors worked enthusiastically setting goals, agendas and schedules for all three topics," said Danna Webster, KPC president. "The 2012 directors are an extraordinarily competent and diverse council and their dedication, skills and abilities promise to serve the Key Peninsula well in 2012."

Washington State Department of Transportation project manager, Steve Fuchs, addressed the current status of SR-302 projects during the meeting. This presentation was arranged by the KPC transportation committee through the initiation of the

Michael Iverson family.

Iverson, son of Danna Burnett, was the victim of a fatality accident Sept. 25 near mile marker 11 on SR 302. The chair of the KPC transportation committee is Phyllis Henry.

The workshops of the newly formed Emergency Preparedness committee have succeeded in raising awareness for KP residents. The Minter Creek community is currently engaged in an eight-week preparedness course sponsored by PC-Net. Information and dates for future workshops and activities and updates regarding the developmental status of emergency resource centers at the Key Peninsula Civic Center and Longbranch Improvement Club are available through KPC committee chair, Mary Blythe.

The Logging Committee is planning an educational forum in April. The committee is contacting state and county authorities, logging businesses and environmental agencies to attend as guest presenters at the forum. Suggestions for this action plan and forum may be addressed to the committee chair, David Mikelson. Contact for all of the directors is available at www.kpcouncil.org.

Medical marijuana business growing

By Danna Webster, KP News

By the end of November two medicinal marijuana stores were open on the Key Peninsula. After a sting operation in early November by law enforcement, the Key Center store reopened under a new owner and manager. The second store occupies the former antique shop of 2 Crazy Cousins at 12402 134th Ave. KP N near the intersection of 134th Avenue and Key Peninsula Highway N.

Neither business is an affiliate of the Seattle Cross organization which opened the original store in Key Center. KP Cross was the owner of the store at the time of the November sting operation by Pierce County sheriff and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents. On Tuesday morning, Nov. 15, DEA agents executed raids against more than a dozen

(See Marijuana, Page 2)



Photo by Marshi Hart, KP News

Cheney land logging operation continues

According to Washington State Department of Natural Resources, the logging operation on SR 302 near mile marker 11 was permitted on Nov. 2, 2011 to Cheney Tenants in Common. The permit is for 41.3 acres with no rivers, no lakes, no wet lands impacted on ground with a 15 percent slope. Also permitted is 1,550 feet of road. The stumps will be left and the land will remain forest. Owners have three years after harvest completion to replant. Harvest completion date is listed as Nov. 2, 2013 and the replant completion date is Nov. 2, 2016. See keypennews.com for a complete story.



Key Peninsula Parks & Recreation Foundation



Your Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation Foundation (KPPR-Foundation) exists to help the Park District and aid in preserving the natural rural character of our community. Whether you're on the political left, right or in the middle, watching the news can be frustrating and leave you wondering.

*Is anything working?
Is there anything I can do to help?*

The answer is yes, there is something you can do to help and it may begin in your very own backyard.

Active Parks and Passive Parks

Everyone knows what an active park looks like – ball fields, lights, bleachers, concessions etc. but a park may also be a passive use area or scenic piece of land with trails, bird watching areas and a few benches.



Passive use areas may

act as land conservation areas protecting the look, feel and character of our community.

What we have on the Key Peninsula is in part up to all of us. One choice is to look at clear cutting or natural forest. No one clear cuts because they want to; Land owners do it because they need money. By donating money, assets, or



land, your Parks Foundation can possibly help. How? Here's just one example:

A land owner may face financial pressures such as property taxes, property maintenance, or even medical bills. One solution may involve clear-cutting.

Another solution could be for the Park Foundation to assist the land owner with funding options in exchange for a land conservation easement, protecting the property from clear-cutting or development. This is just one idea that can provide the land owner with an economic option in return for a newly protected piece of the Key Peninsula. In addition, that same land could then become an active park, a passive one or just a protected piece of property depending on the situation, the land owner's wishes and its location or terrain.

There are still other ways in which your Parks Foundation can help the Park District, and our community. Ask yourself - would you like to preserve the place where we all live and support your Parks?

If your answer is yes, your KPPR-Foundation can refer you to trusted independent legal and financial resources. These legal and financial advisors can help you set up and/or assist you with several other options including a land/asset donation, a charitable remainder trust or a lifetime estate. Such arrangements could provide you with the comfort of staying in your own home, and possibly, an income stream. If preserving the natural and rural character of the Key Peninsula is important to you – it can all begin in your own backyard. Contact us at the KPPR-Foundation for more information and to start defining the right solution for you, your family, and your community

Contact us

Through your Parks & Recreation Foundation you may be able to help yourself, the community you live in, the Park District and do something about making this world a little better place too.

See our website

www.keypenparksfoundation.org

Email us

info@keypenparksfoundation.org

Mail us

Key Peninsula Parks & Recreation Foundation

PO Box 188, Lakebay WA 98349

Call us (253) 220-5090

(From Marijuana, Page 1)

dispensaries in Western Washington and the raid in Key Center caused the store to close briefly until the new ownership of the business was established.

Four patients were in the Key Center store when the authorities arrived.

"I was here when they raided," says a 54-year-old female patient named Karen. She and three older men were in the store that Tuesday. Karen has lived on the Key Peninsula for 33 years and although the raid scared her, she is grateful that it didn't take place at gunpoint.

"The Feds asked for IDs and of course I showed my paperwork. They were very careful, courteous, and very pleasant to the patients," she said, and described the operation as organized, quiet, and quick. The four patients were allowed to leave with only one drawback. "You couldn't buy your medication," Karen said.

The new owner of the Key Center store is in the process of selecting a new name. Under consideration is the inclusion of the term collective garden; one example is KP Garden.

The term collective garden is language used in bill E2SSB5073 addressing medical use of cannabis that was signed into law by Governor Chris Gregoire, effective date July 22, 2011.

The bill says collective gardens may be formed by qualifying patients and their designated providers to produce cannabis for the medical use of members. Collective gardens are limited to 10 qualifying patients and a total of 45 plants and 72 ounces of useable cannabis. In order to qualify for the use of medical marijuana, patients must have a terminal or debilitating medical condition (cancer, HIV, multiple sclerosis, intractable pain, glaucoma, Crohn's disease, hepatitis C, nausea/seizure diseases, or a disease approved by the Medical Quality Assurance Commission) and the diagnosis must be made by a health care professional.

In a press release dated Nov.30, Gregoire announced that she filed a petition with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration asking the agency to reclassify marijuana as a Schedule 2 drug, which will allow its use for treatment – prescribed by doctors and filled by pharmacists. Rhode Island governor, Lincoln Chafee also signed the petition. The petition will require the Federal Drug Administration to conduct a new scientific review and analysis of recent ad-

vances in Cannabis research.

According to Rhode Island Gov. Chafee (I), "Americans' attitudes toward medically prescribed marijuana are changing and the Rhode Island Medical Society and the American Medical Association – have come to recognize the potential benefits of marijuana for medical use. Governor Gregoire and I are taking this step to urge the Federal Government to consider allowing the safe, reliable, regulated use of marijuana for patients who are suffering," he said.

Gregoire added that two years ago the American Medical Association reversed its position and now supports investigation and clinical research of cannabis for medicinal use. The American College of Physicians recently expressed similar support. Both the Washington State Medical Association and the Washington State Pharmacy support reclassification, as do the Rhode Island Medical Society and other state medical associations.

The petition includes a substantive science-based report that has been peer reviewed and cites more than 700 independent references, many of which are new science since 2006. It details non-smoking methods, and describes how recent scientific developments like affordable DNA analysis supports the pharmacy model. With modern DNA analysis, it is easy to determine the plant's beneficial compound – and with current technology readily available today, a compounding pharmacist could easily and inexpensively quantify the levels of cannabinoids, and then use the appropriate cannabis blend to create a customized medication for an individual patient.

"Sadly, patients must find their way along unfamiliar, uncertain paths to get what their doctors tell them would help – medical cannabis to relieve their suffering," Gregoire said. "People weak and sick with cancer, multiple sclerosis, and other diseases and conditions suddenly feel like – or in fact become – law breakers. In the year 2011, why can't medical cannabis be prescribed by a physician and filled at the drug store just like any other medication? The answer is surprisingly simple. It can. But only if the federal government stops classifying marijuana as unsuitable for medical treatment."

At both Key Peninsula stores, patients present their proof of authorization in the

(See Marijuana, Page 3)

Key Center crosswalk and school district levy topics for council meeting

Staff Report

Two important topics for the Key Peninsula will be discussed at the Key Peninsula Council meeting. Representatives from the Peninsula School District will explain what the Peninsula School District levy supports and how it affects your property taxes on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station.

The Pierce County department of public works representatives will introduce a

proposal for an additional crosswalk in Key Center.

Both of these government agencies look forward to community input regarding these very important issues. Key Peninsula residents and Key Center business owners can voice opinions and concerns about the future of the community at the meeting.

For more information call 884-9363.

The Key Peninsula Community Council is an organization dedicated to the enrichment of life on the Key Peninsula.

(From Marijuana, Page 2)

form of a watermark document with heat sensitive strips at the bottom. Each of the stores has a reception area where the forms are presented before the patient is taken to the supply area, registers and receives distribution of their allotted amount.

Current owner and manager Shannon and Jenne were also two of the original staff at the Key Center store. "We would like to use our first-names-only until we decide on a (business) name," said the newest manager on the Key Center team, David. He was formerly a manager for Seattle Cross in Capitol Hill.

Taking care not to use their full name was also a request of the newest store on 134th Avenue, CareMeds Co-op. This store is a family-owned business and members of the family are residents of the Key Peninsula. The store owners asked that their names not be published because they are concerned about acts of discrimination by disapproving members

of the community and also about the possibility of having their homes targeted for break-ins and thefts by those assuming the product is stored at their residences.

The CareMed Co-op is managed by two sons of the business owner. They willingly tell their father's story including that he was a Navy man, born and raised in Kentucky, and was adamantly opposed to the use of marijuana as an illegal drug. After their father's retirement from duties as Master Chief in the Navy, he was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. He could not tolerate the pain pills diagnosed that caused severe nausea and this began his education into the alternative of medicinal marijuana.

According to his younger son, he learned it was very difficult to obtain medical marijuana for himself and for his veteran friends who suffered similarly. With the guidance of support groups such as the Cannabis Defense Coalition, their father started the process to open a collective garden. The first business plan

Nominees sought for Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year to be submitted by January 15

It's that time of year again. Nominations for the annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Awards are due now. Please email your nominations to hmcamp1000@centruytle.net or call 853-2721 or 884-3319 before January 15.

Anyone living on, working on, or owning property on the Key Peninsula is eligible to be nominated for the honor for recognition of voluntary work or contributions of benefit to the KP community. Members of the Lions Club are not eli-

gible for nomination.

Letters of nomination must include the full name, telephone number, and mailing address of the nominee and a brief comment explaining why the nominee should be considered.

Volunteer work for the KP may be in the form of a single large contribution of work, money, or material, or for recognition of sustained volunteer work over an extended time. Nominations must be submitted before January 15.

was for a store in Shelton. When that plan didn't materialize, the family decided to return to their home community of the Key Peninsula. They had a quiet opening in late November and planned for a grand opening on Dec. 17. Their father went on a cruise to celebrate the success of opening a new business. He didn't make it home for a grand opening. He succumbed to the lung cancer while on the cruise.

The Care Med Co-op store relies on word of mouth advertising only. "We're not looking for high volume, we're not advertising," says the younger son, a Peninsula High School graduate and former student at Key Peninsula Middle School. "The Co-op patients live only on the Peninsula," he says and adds that their product is all from people on the peninsula. "We're not looking to make a million dollars, we cater to the residents," he says. The Co-op also provides free transportation for kidney dialysis patients and free loans of wheel chairs and walkers. When asked about having two medical marijua-

na stores on the KP, the younger son says the Co-op is not looking for competition. "If the other store doesn't have it (product supply), maybe we will," he says.

He refers to a reference notebook with photos, labels, descriptors and attributes for the many different marijuana plants. He identifies the two most dominant strains as Indica and Sativa explaining their differing effects for the patient. According to this son, patients have to find the product that best serves their medical needs and alleviate the disease symptoms they are combating.

The CareMed Co-op opened after the raid in Key Center. Though the owners said they work to stay within the guidelines, they fear what will happen to the patients if they have to go on the street for their medicine, where they have no guarantee of what product they are buying. Legal retaliation is a possibility the co-op must face. "It's a big chance to take," says the younger son. "When you see the people come in here, it's worth it."

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

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Annual Key Peninsula Civic Center

Crab Feed!

Saturday, January 28, 2012
4:00 to 7:00 PM

Featuring Pacific Coast
Dungeness Crab from
Winks Seafood



Bring your own seafood
crackers & picks

Dinner includes:
Fresh Crab • Spaghetti
Salad • Garlic Bread

~ Soda, Beer & Wine for sale ~

\$25 Adults • \$10 kids (6-12yrs)
children under 6, free



Tickets available at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, the
Sound Credit Union & Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center,
or, at the door, depending upon availability.

www.kpciviccenter.org • Facebook • 884-3456

BRIEFS

Community

Spell-a-thon fundraiser benefits Minter Creek

Minter Creek students participated in the 2011 Spell-a-thon on Nov. 15. Test day was well attended and 80 super-spellers received 100 percent! Peninsula Market, Vaughn Civic Center, Subway, Purdy Pizza, Galaxy Movie Theater, Baskin Robbins, and Teaching Toys Too donated prizes to make this event a success. The money raised from this fundraiser will help the Parent/Teacher Association provide reading and math programs to Minter Creek students as well as enhance music, art, physical education, and writing curriculums.

Legislative session offers opportunity for students

The Washington state House of Representatives and Senate are now accepting applications from students to serve as legislative pages during the 2012 legislative session.

"I really encourage students and their parents to consider this," said Rep. Larry Seaquist. "This is a great way for school-room study of history and democracy to come alive. Our pages really enjoy this week in the House."

As a legislative page, students spend a week in Olympia and are responsible for a wide variety of tasks. Some of those responsibilities involve important assignments, from distributing bills and amendments to legislative members on the House or Senate floor to performing ceremonial tasks such as the presentation of the flags before the day's legislative session.

Students or parents interested in the page program should contact Seaquist's office. Young men and women in the page program spend one week in Olympia, with housing and a meal allowance provided.

To serve as a page, a student must be at least 14 years old but not yet 17, have permission from their school and from their parents or legal guardian, and be sponsored by a member of the House or Senate.

For more information on the House Page Program visit <http://www.leg.wa.gov/House/Pages/HousePageProgram.aspx>

For information on the Senate Page Program visit <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Administration/PageProgram/>

[Pages/default.aspx](http://www.leg.wa.gov/AN/WhatIsAPageVideo.mp4)

A video is available on the Page program at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/AN/WhatIsAPageVideo.mp4>

KP resident gets special attention at news studio

KP resident gets special attention at news studio

Judith Crowley, a Key Peninsula resident, was featured in the December edition of the KP News, "Judith's Christmas blessing." The story was about her service dog who alerts her for blood sugar levels. Crowley has diabetes.

She was sitting in the studio for television Channel 5 in downtown Seattle on Nov. 29, along with three other diabetics and their service dogs, when all four dogs alerted on Judith because of a very low blood sugar level. It was all caught on camera while they were taping for a new news magazine segment, with an airing date not yet determined.

"An inadequate breakfast and too much walking up those steep hills in Seattle while rushing to meet the 6 a.m. appointment caused my blood sugar to drop," said Crowley. "It caused a lot of unintended excitement, but the cameras kept rolling. It should be interesting to watch when it airs."

The original story can be found online at keypennews.com.

India subject of Travel Club meeting

"Namaste." The Travel Club will meet Jan. 2 at 7 p.m. in the Brones Room at the Key Center Library for a presentation by Louise and Ron Talley of their two-month trip to India.

The seventh largest country in the world is one-third the size of the U.S. and the second highest in population. It is a diverse nation, from the desert northwest to the tropical south with lush green tea and pineapple plantations. A very ancient India, with 28 UNESCO World Heritage sites, proudly boasts modern medical and technical facilities, as well. Their numerous celebrations are rooted in ancient traditions.



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PSD will Ask Voters for Replacement Levy Approval

Peninsula School District will place a measure on the Feb. 14 ballot asking voters to approve an Educational Program and Operations Levy. This levy would replace the one that was approved by voters in 2009 and is set to expire at the end of this year.

The proposal for the four-year replacement levy was developed by a task force comprised of school board, staff and community members. The task force placed priority on technology additions, capital projects, teachers and support staff.

The levy funds over 20 percent of the school district's budget, and would bring in nearly \$20 million in the first year. Depending on changes in assessed property values, taxpayers could see a slight increase over current rates, but less than levels paid in early 2000's.

"If we look at the \$15 million cut from our budget over the last four years, and you couple that with the prospect of losing \$18 million in one year after the levy expires, we know it would be absolutely devastating to the children, parents and the community within the Peninsula School District," said Superintendent Terry Bouck.

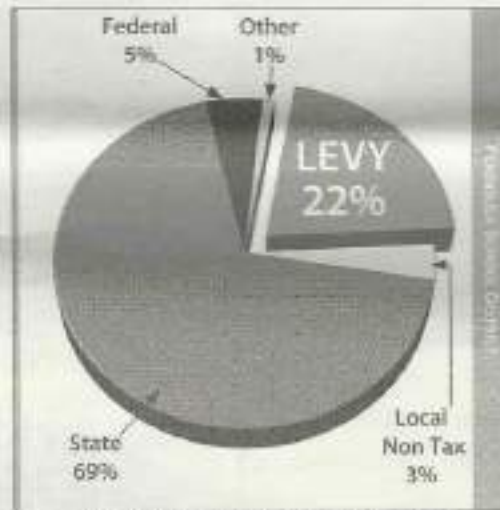
If approved, the levy will be collected starting in January 2013 and pay for the following:

- nearly 20 percent of salaries and benefits for certificated staff including teachers and counselors;
- 40 percent of salaries and benefits for classified staff including paraeducators and custodians;
- the increase from a half-day to four-day, full-day kindergarten;
- 85 percent of technology staff and equipment;

- all districtwide capital maintenance projects;
- more than 80 percent of co-curricular and athletic costs
- all the health technicians at the schools

In addition, the levy would bring in supplemental funding for school security, emergency preparedness, textbooks and instructional materials, professional development for staff, equipment and bus replacement and other needs.

"Over time, as the state reduces funding to education, we rely on the levy more and more for basic services," said Deputy Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto. "We can't afford to lose 22 percent of our budget. There's nothing left to cut."



Over 20% of the District's General Fund 2011-2012 budget comes from the Levy.



PHS Fall Sports Earn Academic Recognition

Once again, all Peninsula High School teams received acknowledgements for their hard work in the classroom.

WIAA AWARDS DISTINGUISHED Scholar Athletes 3.0-3.49

Team average

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Football: | 3.17 |
| G Soccer: | 3.39 |
| Volleyball: | 3.48 |
| B XC: | 3.26 |
| B Golf: | 3.03 |
| B Tennis: | 3.36 |

OUTSTANDING Scholar Athletes 3.5-4.0

Team average

| | |
|---------|------|
| G XC: | 3.73 |
| G Golf: | 3.53 |
| G Swim: | 3.70 |

JANUARY EVENTS

- 10 Superintendent's Forum 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Kopachuck Middle School. Please join Terry Bouck for an informal visit where anyone can ask questions or raise issues pertinent to the Peninsula School District. You do not need to have students enrolled in the school district to attend.
- 12 School Board Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. at District Office
- 16 No School—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Observed
- 24 District Choral Festival 7:00 p.m. at Chapel Hill
- 26 School Board Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. at Harbor Ridge Middle School Library

Gig Harbor High School Student Awarded 1st Place by Asia Society Jack Chakerian, a third-year Chinese student at GHHS, recently took first place in a nationwide competition sponsored by the Asia Society. Students who participated in the "China Bridge" camp for high school students this past summer were asked to submit multimedia projects about their experience, all done in Chinese. Chinese language courses are offered at Gig Harbor and Peninsula High Schools. If you have any questions, please contact Chinese Language Instructor, Heidi Steele: steeleh@psd401.net

SafeSchools LifeLine 1-866-548-3847 (LIVE-TIP) The SafeSchools LifeLine is a completely anonymous, toll-free tip line that students and parents can access 24/7/365 any time you need to tip off school administration about a potential crisis. You will be asked to enter our district code: 162. Please do your part to keep our schools safe.

Did You Know... Evergreen was the first school in the district to implement a School-wide Title I project. The project supports a multi-tiered reading program that reduces reading class size and matches student needs with appropriate instructional programs. Evergreen is fortunate to have a .8 Title I Coordinator/Teacher on staff. Susan Brummitt works with staff members to meet the needs of students. Cathy Carter, Special Education teacher also works part-time with Title I/LAP funds. Evergreen's efforts are recognized with these awards:

- 2008 Title I School Improvement Award
- 2008-2009 Title I Washington State Distinguished School Award
- 2009-2010 Title I Academic Achievement Award

Peninsula Views

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Hoping for fresh start from KP Community Council

There aren't many ways the Key Peninsula can affect change and influence the powers that be in Pierce County. Unlike our neighbors in Gig Harbor, the Key Peninsula does not have a city council. We don't have a representative on the Pierce County Council who lives here, and we only have two government entities. The fire commissioners set policy and approve the budget for the fire department, the parks district board is vocal on issues that directly affect its funding, such as the flood district tax, but our only recourse for issues specific to our community lies with individual voices of residents, and the Key Peninsula Community Council.

Our Key Peninsula Community Council has been in existence since 2002. Representatives from the communities on the Key Peninsula meet once a month, and recently those representatives got together to come up with a plan to tackle some big issues in 2012.

Action plans were established for addressing the problems with SR 302 and how to push to make it a safer corridor, emergency preparedness on the KP, and logging on the Key Peninsula.

Committees have been established to focus on these issues. The council plans to invite guest speakers and panelists to help educate the council and citizens on the issues.

In the past the council has tried to tackle some of the issues, such as the traffic signal project in Key Center, but seemed to lack a real vision for its role as representatives. It's a New Year. The council appears to have a desire to move in a new direction and truly represent residents and find ways to elicit positive changes for our community. We will be watching.



Marsha Hart, editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Vietnam chaotic but personable

By Michael Silk
Special to the KP News

Hanoi is a short, two-hour flight away from Hong Kong. From the first minute I arrived in the taxi I knew that Vietnam would be an adventure. There were no apparent traffic laws that I could discern. The streets were jammed with motorbikes, bikes, cars, and pedestrians. Pedestrians were even walking on the side of the freeways. There were almost no traffic lights.

Cars or mopeds just honk their horns and boldly venture into the intersection. Cars often rocket down the wrong way of a one-way street with their horn blaring and headlights flashing. It is complete madness and I loved every minute of it.

Everything you can think of is transported on mopeds in Vietnam. I saw whole pigs, propane tanks, furniture, and mattresses tied down to mopeds. I couldn't help but laugh when I saw a moped blast through the congested street traffic with an entire family of four on it.

The chaos in Hanoi is even more extreme than in Hong Kong. Hanoi is a much more lively and personable city. In Hong Kong, everyone goes about their business and doesn't pay attention to what anyone else is doing. You can stand in a crowd in an urban centre of 11 million people and feel absolutely alone. There's a very different quality to Hanoi. You're constantly bombarded by people, both helpful and self-interested. Tourists are a commodity. I have a big red beard and was approached several times by Vietnamese who wanted their photo with me. That has never happened to me in Hong Kong.

A common food in Vietnam is called

pho, pronounced like "fun" but without the "n". It was invented as a food that would accommodate the tastes of both French colonists and Chinese immigrants. It is a rice noodle soup with beef or chicken and the diner can add Vietnamese mint, bean sprouts, and lime. I had a bowl of this food in a mountain village outside of Hanoi that was cooked in the villager's home. It was one of the most incredibly delicious things I've ever eaten. You find yourself still hungry after eating the food and noodles but that hot broth fills you right up.

After my visit to Hanoi, I took a four-hour bus ride to Ha Long Bay. It was recently voted one of the seven natural wonders of the world. The Vietnamese have a myth that all the limestone isles are actually the back of a great dragon that descended into the bay. This place had a magical quality to it. As I sailed by I could tell that as steep as these isles are, many of them surely have never been touched. If you could get off the boat and manage to scale these walls, you could step foot where no other human being has ever walked.

This isolated beauty was also contrasted by garbage floating by in the water. This natural wonder has become polluted by garbage from the tourists and the villagers who live on small floating houses. It reminded me of the garbage you see on some of the roads back home on the Peninsula. It breaks your heart to see such beauty corrupted. People must see this beauty but they must also respect it. Ha Long Bay is truly a natural treasure.

Michael Silk has completed all four exams for his CPA, has a bachelor's in accountancy and is pursuing a masters of science in international banking and finance in Lingnan University in Hong Kong.

Letters Policy

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FRANCISCAN HEALTH SYSTEM

++



Richard Brynestad
Gig Harbor, WA

Thanks to St. Anthony Hospital, I feel 80-years-young again.

St. Anthony provides Peninsula residents with advanced medical care close to home.

Today, when someone asks Gig Harbor resident Dick Brynestad about his knee pain, he has to stop and remember. For years, the pain made it impossible for Dick to fully enjoy life. But now it's become a distant memory.

"Dr. Jiganti performed knee replacement surgery and with the help of the St. Anthony Joint Camp team, I was up and walking the very next day," says Dick. Today Dick is back to fixing faucets and cleaning gutters for family members, pain-free.

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"With each case, I think about how I can help ensure the best recovery possible for my patients. At St. Anthony Hospital, our team works together to help people return to enjoying everyday activities again."

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A Part of Franciscan Medical Group

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SOLUTIONS

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The power to be...



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Signaling a change

KP Community Council president Danna Webster watches as Pierce County Council member Stan Flemming and KP's own Shirley Olson cut the ribbon officially opening the new Key Center traffic lights to action as Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy catches the severed ribbon. Later, Pierce County crews dismantled the old flashing beacon and transported it to the Key Peninsula Historical Society museum behind the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Marguerite Bussard, on right, has lived on the Key Peninsula all of her 84 years.

KP residents become published authors

Staff Report

Seven Key Peninsula authors have published a book this past year, and two authors have previous books that are available.

Leslie Bratspis's "Good Fortune" is an inspirational novel of Chinese wisdom secretly passed through handwritten fortunes that connect the lives of two men from different cultures. Each overcomes adversity to achieve happiness and inner awareness through personal journeys.

Dick Dixon's "Dillon's War: The Weretiger of Kontum" is a dark, edgy novel about the

adventures of a young man who bonds prematurely with a tiger in the jungles of Vietnam.

The pair is detected in their predations by primitive natives who perceive them as a single entity—the legendary weretiger, able to shape-shift at will.

Lorraine Hart's "There I Had to Go" is a book of poetry that journeys through the world outside, and worlds within. Travel with Ms. Hart, from lamp-lit corner

to exotic jungles, down English country lanes, in wild, sacred places on this Turtle Island, and home to your own heart.

Karen Lovett's "Beneath the Surface" is a combination of romance and suspense in a novel set on the west side of Puget Sound in the shadow of the Olympic Mountains. Jason and Carla's convoluted courtship comes to a crisis after a murder investigation verdict and a sudden near-death experience.

Colleen Slater's "Blue Deer – Four Generations of Poetry" covers over six decades in Western Washington by author, her father, a son and three grandchildren in a variety of poetic forms.

Kim Schaumburg's "Her Last Race" is a story of horse racing, relationships between mother and daughter, owners, trainers, jockeys and horses as well as ethical dilemmas.

Aaron Wayne's "Heckling Charles Bardsley, a Stuff Novella" is about a mystical chain reaction of people, places, events, memories, animal behavior, wild weather and Universal imagination around modern recession era Puget Sound.

A brand new grocery store for Key Center

By Danna Webster, KP News

As promised, the Peninsula Market, formerly known as Walt's, closed for its final day of business Tuesday, Dec. 13; and at 7 a.m. on Wednesday the Food Market at Key Center opened with the sunrise. Throughout opening day and on into the week, local residents flocked to tour the new store. At the entrance, shoppers are greeted with a welcome mat at their feet, a chandelier above their head and beckoning bins of colorful fruits and vegetables labeled with handwritten signs. The walls are painted in warm and somber hues of browns, greens and reds with a scrolling hand painted design that flows around the room.

"All the colors flow good," says Kip Bonds, the Operations Manager who got up at 4 a.m. to be in the store for the opening. "Don's wife did every bit of this, picked the colors, picked the styles," he adds speaking of storeowner Don Stolz and his wife Ann.

All five of the Stolz grocery markets will share the name Food Market and

each will add the name of their location. Before coming to the Peninsula stores, Bonds managed the store now named Food Market at Vashon Island. He is a 27-year veteran in the business but exhibits the pride of a new parent as he points out the added features to the Key Center store, including a large area for seasonal displays now featuring holiday items; a hot soup bar and hot foods island where only baked foods are offered, no fried foods; sections for organic produce and another for organic wines; five check stands plus a customer service center where money orders, money grams, stamps and bill pay services are available.

Nearby vending machines offer lotto and lottery tickets, change counting and Red Box movie rentals. Bonds also noted the new deli and floral departments and a frozen food section that is double the size of the former store. Many of the additions are recommendations from shoppers and he plans to continue adding to the store based on customer requests. "I asked customers the last few months try-



Photo by Danna Webster, KP News

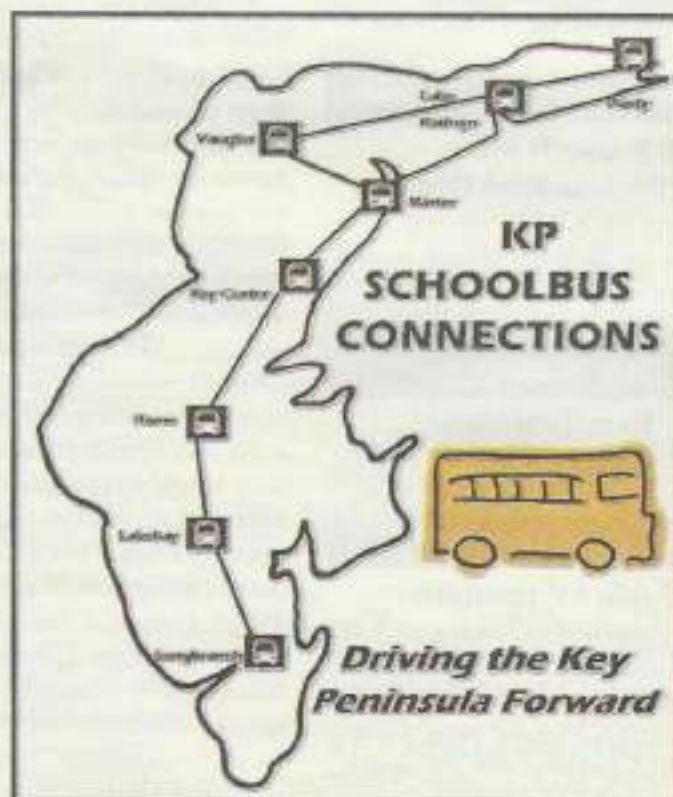
On Wednesday, Dec. 14 the new grocery store, Food Market at Key Center, opened at 7 a.m. It was a busy day and shoppers filled the new parking lot while workers completed finishing touches and planted trees and shrubs around the building.

ing to get an earful of what people want" he says.

Cashier Wendy Rodgers rang up the first purchases on opening morning. She counted seven employees working the opening shift including store manager, Fabian McFeron, who had worked in the store overnight and was still working

when the first customers walked through the front doors at sunrise. Rodgers admits the many improvements of the new store over the old one such as no more leaky roof and the ability to move two shopping baskets in the aisles. "Going to be able to walk down the aisle and not trip over the tuffs," Rodgers says.

FREE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION FOR THE KEY PENINSULA!



TUESDAY TRIPS TO TOWN

Off-duty SCHOOLBUSES WILL TRANSPORT the GENERAL PUBLIC for FREE

That's right! Peninsula Schoolbuses aren't just for kids anymore! Historically, schoolbuses have dropped students off at Vaughn & Evergreen Elementary schools, then returned to the Pardy Bus Barn - EMPTY.

This innovative grant-funded pilot project can fill those empty seats and provide community transportation up & down the Key Peninsula, connecting with Pierce Transit's Route 100 in Purdy, in the a.m. & p.m.

A free connecting van service is also available for seniors, aged 60+. We will pick you up at your home and drop you off at a central KP Schoolbus Connections stop, to make this service more accessible. Call 884-9814 to schedule.

At this time, service is available TUESDAYS ONLY - with morning, mid-day & p.m. routes, when school is in session, weather-permitting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & USER'S GUIDE With ROUTE SCHEDULES & MAPS:

Call The Mustard Seed Project at 884-9814 or email tmstp@centurytel.net or check our website:

www.themustardseedproject.org

COMMUNITY WORKS

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

NOW

Swim for fitness

Water aerobics and open swim times are available at the Camp Stand by Mc Easter Seals heated pool on South Vaughn Road. Classes meet at 8-9 a.m. or 9:20-10:20 a.m. and cost \$4.25/session paid monthly. Register with Donna, 884-4473. Evening open swims on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5-6 p.m. and family swim on Wednesday from 5-6 p.m. (children under 2 swim for free). Cost is \$4.25/swim or 10 swims with a punch card available for \$40. Call 884-2722 or email estone@va.easterseals.com to register.

Volunteer mentors needed

Communities in Schools of Peninsula needs reading and math mentors to give one hour of time each week after school to help a child learn/improve skills. Mentors are guided by staff in student instruction. Programs are scheduled for fall at these school sites: Minter Creek Elementary, Wednesdays, 3:45-4:45; Vaughn Elementary, Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30; Purdy Elementary, Thursday, 3:45-5:45; Key Peninsula Middle School, Tuesdays, 3-4:15; Peninsula High and Henderson Bay High, please call CISP office, 884-5733, for details.

GED classes

Key Peninsula residents may complete a basic skills education for college entrance, employment skills, or a GED. Class meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Home Fire Station. Evening classes (6-8 p.m.) are available at the TCC Gig Harbor Campus. One can enroll at any time. For detailed class information, registration and orientation call Tracy Clark, 253-460-2356.

JAN 2

Travel club

Ron and Louise Talley make a free presentation about their two-month trip to

India at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-4697.

JAN 3, 9, 16, 30

Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile is at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

JAN 3

Dance class offered

Colleen Masbruch offers a new Middle Eastern dance class on Tuesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. This is a low-impact workout learning Raqz Sharqi, Saidi, and Ghawazee dancing styles. For information or to register, call Colleen, 884-2130 or jigaway@comcast.net.

JAN 6, 13, 20, 27

Skate night

Friday night skate night for elementary and middle school students is from 6-9 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Entry is \$5 and includes skate rental, games and crafts. Fresh concessions are available. 884-3456.

JAN 7

First aid training

CPR and First Aid training will be held from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. Register at 884-2222.

Friends' open house

The Friends of the Key Center Library host an open house/coffee for current Friends and potential Friends from 2-5 p.m. at the KC Library. 253-548-3309.

JAN 9

Youth basketball deadline

Key Pen Parks offers coed Basketball Skill Clinics on Saturdays from Jan. 14-Feb. 18 at the KP Civic Center gym. Children, aged 4-7, will learn dribbling, passing and shooting with scaled-down equipment, specialized drills and games so all will succeed. Two times will be offered for groups of 10-20; fee is \$45 and parental involvement is required. Register at 884-9240 or jessica@keypenparks.com.

To submit an event

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

JAN 10, 17, 24, 31

Story time

Baby story time is held at 10:15 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Preschool story playtime follows at 11 a.m. 253-548-3309.

JAN 10, 19

Knit or crochet

Loving Hearts voluntarily knit and crochet hats for chemo patients and the backpack program for kids, baby items and blankets, wheelchair/walker bags, and fingerless gloves for veterans in the community. They meet from 1-3 p.m. at the WayPoint Church. They will meet on Thursday, Jan. 19 from 1-3 p.m. at the Ardena Gale Mobile Park in Fife. Yarn donations are always welcome. lovingheartsonkp@aol.com or Virginia, 884-9619.

JAN 10

KP youth meet

The Key Peninsula Youth Council, a committee of the KP Community Council, meets at 3 p.m. at KP Middle School. The youth are currently working on a radio show. All teens welcome.

JAN 11, 18, 25

Family time

Family story time is held at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. 253-548-3309.

JAN 12

Music 'n' motion

Key Pen Parks invites youth ages 3-12 to explore music and movement with fun, age-appropriate activities from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Cost is \$45/student and class size will be five

to 15 kids. Ages 3-5 meet on Tuesdays; ages 6-12 meet on Thursdays. jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

JAN 14

Second Saturday

Duct tape crafts, wallets and more, for the family at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. This free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library. 253-548-3309.

JAN 15

Sunday jam

Bluegrass Gospel Jam sessions held at Longbranch Church (16518 46th Street KPS) from 6-8:30 p.m. for all acoustic instruments, ages, and skill levels. Everyone's welcome to play, sing, or simply listen. Bring music stand, finger food to share; music and beverages are provided. 425-492-4177.

JAN 18-FEB 24

20-20-20 class

A class consisting of three 20-minute segments of cardio, strength training and stretching will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10-11 a.m. in the VFW Room of the KP Civic Center. There will be five to 20 (ages 16 and over) participants allowed; fee is \$45/1 day a week. This class will help improve everyone's fitness level no matter what age or condition one's in. Jessica, Key Pen Parks, at 884-9240 or jessica@keypenparks.com.

JAN 19

Weaver speaks

Cheryl Samuel, an author, artist and master of weaving, will speak at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Cheryl has been largely responsible for the revival of Ravenstail and Chilkat weaving blankets. She has led the revival of the ancient techniques of the Northwest Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian peoples. Her presentation shows the world's most fabulous woven garments and tells how age-old techniques have been rediscovered.

(See Community, Page 11)

(From Community, Page 10)

ered and shared with modern weavers. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library. Donations to the KP food bank are greatly appreciated. 253-548-3309.

JAN 21**Lyme group**

The Lyme support group meets from 1-3 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Lyme mimics over 300 other diseases including MS, and ALS. Positive group support for chronically-ill patients, caregivers and family members, and information and education on the fastest-growing vector-borne disease in the world is offered. Local doctors and nurses, on the frontlines for rural communities, are especially invited to come and learn from patients. Lyme has four times the number of AIDS patients in N. America and is growing.

'80s Dance

Party on with your favorite 1980s R&B, underground, pop and new wave tunes from master DJ Vix's Mix'x at the 80s dance beginning at 8 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Tease up your '80s hair, raid your closets for those legwarmers, neon prints, parachute pants, and high tops (prizes for best '80s attire) and get ready for a wicked good time. No host bar; 21+ only. Tickets are available at the KP Civic

Center and at the door. kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456.

JAN 28**Crab feed**

KPCCA's Crab Feed will be held from 4-7 p.m. at the Civic Center. The annual fundraiser features Dungeness Crabs from Winks Seafood in Purdy and dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and crab; bring your own crab crackers and seafood picks. Cost is \$25/adults and \$10/kids (6-12 yrs) with kids under 6 free. Tickets are available from Sound Credit Union and the Civic Center and at the door, if available. kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456.

JAN 29**Winter concert**

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra performs its free winter concert at 3 p.m. at the Peninsula High School auditorium. Four orchestras, from beginning to advanced, will perform. PYO is accepting mid-season registrations from experienced string musicians from Jan. 15-Feb. 15. Paula, 253-534-5384 or info@harborpyo.org.

FEB 2**KP Historical Museum**

The museum reopens with a new exhibit on Thursdays and Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. 884-3702.

PUBLIC MEETINGS**KP Community Fair Association**

Jan. 3, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room; www.keyfair.org.

Key Pen Parks

Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex.

Fire District 16

Jan. 10 & 24, 6 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station.

Key Peninsula Community Council

Jan. 11, 7 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station.

Peninsula School District Board

Jan. 12, 6 p.m. regular meeting at district office; Jan. 26, 6 p.m. at Harbor Ridge Middle School's Library.

KP Civic Center Board

Jan. 12, annual holiday party potluck at 6 p.m. & meeting at 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room.

LIC

Jan. 18, 6:30 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club.

KP Citizens Against Crime

Jan. 20, 7 p.m. at Home Fire Station.

FEB 4**CPR training**

CPR for health care providers is taught from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. 884-2222.

FEB 7**Key Singers**

The Key Singers begin the spring season at 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church. All interested singers welcome. 884-5615.

FEB 14**Camp deadline**

KP Parks offers mid-winter break camps for ages 6-12. Cost is \$15 session with five-15 students per session. Sign up for as many sessions as desired. Tuesday, Feb. 21 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. is Mad Science; Tuesday, Feb. 21 from 1-4 p.m. is Teamwork Theater; Thursday, Feb.

23 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. is Creative Artz; and Thursday Feb. 23 is Teamwork Fitness. Participants must register by Feb. 14 at 884-9240 or Jessica@keypenparks.com. Kids staying for both sessions must bring a sack lunch and will be supervised during break.

FEB 16**Salmon group meets**

Washington State Parks in partnership with the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group are in the planning stages of a grant-funded, shoreline habitat restoration project to remove an old 750-foot long creosote bulkhead from the shoreline at Penrose Point State Park. Please attend an informational meeting at 6 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at the K.P. Civic Center to learn how this project will restore valuable salmon habitat and improve public access to the beach.

WEEKLY EVENTS**TUESDAYS****TOPS #1325**

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

Key singers

The Key Singers, the KP community chorus, meets from 7-8:30 p.m. in the KP Lutheran Church sanctuary. 884-5615.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**Preschool play time**

The Children's Home Society KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Care-givers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay for as long as you can. A \$1 donation per child is suggested. 884-5433.

WEDNESDAYS**Lakebay writers**

The Lakebay Writers meet from 1:30-4 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-3931.

Watermark writers

The Watermark Writers present a

free writer's workshop from 5-8 pm in Vaughn. Call 253-778-6559 for information.

THURSDAYS**Toastmasters**

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

Senior Society

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' guild**

The Writers' Guild meets from 9-11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-6455.

SATURDAYS & TUESDAYS**Zumba class**

Zumba for ages 16+ is offered on Saturdays from 9-10 a.m. and Tuesdays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. 884-9240 or jessica@keypenparks.com.

(See Off the Key, Page 14)

HOUSE to HOME

YOUR GUIDE TO HOMES, PROPERTIES AND THE REAL ESTATE MARKET TRENDS ON THE KEY PENINSULA

EXCLUSIVELY PRESENTED BY Windermere Real Estate

Featured Listing



VAUGHN \$229,900

Sellers loss could be your gain! Home is less than 5 years old. Large kitchen w/ SS appliances & oak cabinets, bonus/ media room, on an acre of privacy. Walk-in closet in master & a slider to the huge deck that spans the entire back of the house. This is the best deal in town.

Andee Bemrose 253-857-3304 #299474



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LONGBRANCH \$53,000

Great lot with water & septic! Ready to build your dream home or summer cottage. No height restrictions on this lot offering a potential view of the Puget Sound's Drayton Passage!

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LONGBRANCH \$55,000

Secluded & private 5 acres surrounded by nature where you can watch wildlife in its own habitat. If you enjoy fishing, Case Inlet is nearby & State Parks are a few minutes away from camping & more. 2 other 5 acre parcels available.

Dottie Mazza & Andee Bemrose 253-857-3304 #251247



VAUGHN \$103,000

Comfort, quiet & serene area with a salmon creek running through. Commercial timber & brush. Nice large outbuilding for shop/hobby area. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is over 1200 sq ft. Easy access to Key Center or Home, fresh & salt water & more.

Bill Poch 253-857-3304 #297826



KEY PENINSULA \$125,000

Lots of room to expand in this darling 1 bedroom home with a 3 bedroom septic! Great open location to build a shop/garage. Picture framed by tall firs on over an acre of secluded land. Newer carpet, paint, fixtures & appliances.

Dottie Mazza & Andee Bemrose 253-857-3304 #279421



LAKE OF THE WOODS \$129,900

Open & bright 3 bedroom, 3 bath home located on a dead end street. 2 car garage & is fenced for your pets. Energy efficient heat pump, decks on the front & back. Lake privileges for swimming & fishing.

Mike Edmonson 253-857-3304 #283175



TAYLOR BAY \$135,000

Unique floor plan with living on upper level. This well kept home is a natural for outdoor entertaining. 2 huge decks that overlook the expansive lawn & fire pit area. All appliances stay. Short walk to club house & boat launch.

Andee Bemrose 253-857-3304 #239766

Thru December 2011 Key Peninsula Real Estate MARKET REPORT

NON-WATERFRONT HOMES REPORT

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Homes for Sale | 137 |
| Average List Price | \$233,199 |
| (price per sq ft) | \$119 |
| Average Days on Market | 211 |
| Homes Sold (ytd) | 183 |
| Average Sold Price | \$162,310 |
| (price per sq ft) | \$100 |
| Average Days on Market | 129 |
| Properties Pending | 40 |

WATERFRONT REPORT

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Homes for Sale | 37 |
| Average List Price | \$320,631 |
| (price per sq ft) | \$210 |
| Average Days on Market | 230 |
| Homes Sold (ytd) | 22 |
| Average Sold Price | \$430,716 |
| (price per sq ft) | \$220 |
| Average Days on Market | 170 |
| Properties Pending | 5 |

LAND REPORT

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Land for Sale | 210 |
| Average List Price | \$97,805 |
| (price per acre) | \$80,905 |
| Average Days on Market | 504 |
| Land Sold (ytd) | 21 |
| Average Sold Price | \$72,626 |
| (price per acre) | \$63,142 |
| Average Days on Market | 251 |
| Properties Pending | 5 |

This report is provided as a generic reference only...as all properties are unique. Contact a REALTOR® for specific pricing information.

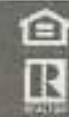
Key Peninsula Market Report provided by:



Tracy Butzko
253 617 9670

tracybutzko@jwscott.com

John L. Scott
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Gig Harbor 253-857-3304 windermerekeypen.com

Key Pen Parks accepting applications for Park Enhancement Grant

Key Pen Parks is now accepting applications for the 2012 Park Enhancement Grant Program. The Park Enhancement Grant Program was established to help community groups improve park and recreation opportunities through smaller projects on the Key Peninsula. Applications for 2012 will be accepted from Dec. 1 to Feb. 1, 2012. Successful applicants in the past have included: Children's Home Society for Summer Fun, Key Peninsula Community Services for SAIL program, Beyond the Borders Art and Music Festival, Key Peninsula Farm Tour, Key Peninsula Community Garden, and Key Peninsula Civic Center for tennis court resurfacing.

A total of \$5,000 is available in \$1,000 grants. The grants will support physical improvement projects, park maintenance and programs.

In order to qualify, community groups must match the Key Pen Parks contribution with volunteer time, in-kind donations of goods and services, and/or financial contributions. Interested applicants may contact the Key Pen Parks office at 253-884-9240 or online at www.keypenparks.com for more information on the grant program.

Source: Key Pen Parks

The Voice of the Key Peninsula

KEY PENINSULA
NEWS



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\$267,500 MLS#282302



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4 bd/2.5 ba.

Wind N Tide

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Custom View Home

5 bdrm, 2.5 bath, 2512 sqft., 2009 custom home,
1200 ft. community beach.
Spectacular views on .37 acres.

\$329,000 MLS#289558
Linda Helm, owner* 253-229-8545



Welcome to Lakebay!

3 bdrm, 2 ba., 1,100 sq ft. manufactured home sits
on 1.2 acres of solitude. Just painted—ready to sell.
WA shortsale. Bring offers!

\$85,000 MLS#272598
Chip Buteko, owner*, se 253-617-9671

John L. Scott
REAL ESTATE

2727 194th Ave. SE, Gig Harbor
253-836-7100

Key
Peninsula
Real Estate

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HOME LOAN DIVISION

Wishing you
a Happy
&
Prosperous
New Year

Best Flood Waterfront



Low Bank Dream!

Low bank waterfront, 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, 1850 sqft., with
tidelands located 7 block from Long Branch Marina.
Have your boat/kayak at water's edge.

\$224,000 MLS#296584



Sweet Low Bank

View...View...View

Low bank waterfront, 4 bdrm, 3.25 bath, 3275 sqft.,
bulkhead, guest cottage/boat house. Gourmet kitchen
along with open floor plan and cathedral ceilings.

\$649,000 MLS#239392



Mavi MacFarlane
Associate Broker/Realtor
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KEY PEN PARKS



www.keypenparks.com ~ 253-884-9240
answers@keypenparks.com

WINTER YOUTH CLASSES SESSION 1: JAN 14-FEB 23

Basketball Skill Clinics

Youth will learn basketball skills such as dribbling, passing, and shooting, while also learning sportsmanship and teamwork. Age appropriate equipment and specialized drills will ensure success for all participants. Parent involvement is required. Fee includes 1-shirt and photo.

Ages: 4-7
Location: Key Pen Civic Center
Day: Saturdays 1/14-2/18
Times: 9-9:50am (age 6-7)
10-10:50am (age 4-5)
Fee: \$45
Min/Max: 10/20 per age group

Note: Registration Deadline 1/9

Music N Motion

Youth will explore music and movement with a range of fun, age-appropriate activities. We will dance, sing, play instruments, discover rhythms, & create a performance for the last day of class.

Ages: 3-12
Location: Key Pen Civic Center
Days: Tuesdays (ages 3-5)
Thursdays (ages 6-12)
Time: 4:30-5:30pm
Fee: \$45
Min/Max: 5/15 per age group

Note: Registration Deadline 1/12

WINTER ADULT CLASSES

Zumba

Come party yourself into shape! Zumba is an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness class that is like nothing you've ever tried before.

Ages: 16+
Location: Civic Center, VFW Room
Date/Time: Tues 9:15-10:15 am
Sat 9:00-10:00 am
Fee: \$53 for 6x punch card
Min/Max: 5/20 per class

Note: Punch cards are good for 2 months after purchase date.

20-20-20: Beginner's Fitness

20 minutes of cardio, 20 minutes of strength training and 20 minutes of stretching is the perfect way to begin a fitness routine—this class will build stamina, strength and flexibility. This workout uses no fancy equipment and can be continued at home.

Ages: 16+
Location: Civic Center, VFW Room
Days/Times: Wed, 10:00-11:00 am
Fri, 10:00-11:00 am
Session: 1/14-2/18 - six weeks
Fee: \$45 for 1 class/week,
\$90 for 2 classes/week
Min/Max: 5/15 per class
Note: Registration Deadline 1/11

MID-WINTER BREAK CAMPS

Spend your Mid-Winter Break doing something fun! Sign up for 1, 2, 3, or all 4 sessions. Explore the world at Mad Science Camp; put on a show at Teamwork Theater Camp; draw, paint, and sculpt something zany at Creative Artz Camp; or play games at Teamwork Fitness Camp. Each camp is a 3-hour session. If you sign up for 2 sessions on the same day, children will be supervised between sessions and must bring a sack lunch.

Ages: 6-12
Location: Volunteer Park
Camp Days/Times:

MAD SCIENCE

Tuesday 2/21

9:30am-12:30 pm

TEAMWORK THEATER

Tuesday 2/21

1:00-4:00 pm

CREATIVE ARTZ

Thursday 2/23

9:30am-12:30 pm

TEAMWORK FITNESS

Thursday 2/23

1:00-4:00 pm

Fee: \$15 per session

Min/Max: 5/15 per session

Note: Registration Deadline 2/14

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

(From Off the Key, Page 11)

OFF THE KEY

JAN 7

Fox Island market

The Fabulous Fox Island January Market is held at the Nichols Community Center with thousands of hand-crafted and unique items. Refreshments are available for purchase. Free parking, free admission and a huge playground for the kids are included. Bring a non-perishable food item for the FISH Food Bank. See foxislandmarket.com for list of crafters and vendors. Lise* at 253-549-2701.

JAN 8

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in the Parish Center Room from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

JAN 10, 17, 24

Rug hooking class

Learn to hook a small handmade rug in three sessions held from 10 a.m.-noon or 1-3 p.m. Learn all aspects of rug hooking as well as color planning. The basic kit is \$60, which includes a hook, 16"x16" pattern and all the wool you will need. Class fee is \$75. Reserve a space with Carlie Schulz, 206-351-7739.

JAN 11, 14

Needle felting class

Learn to needle felt a heart, cat or dog from a pattern from 10 a.m.-noon or 1-3 p.m. Class fee is \$35; kit fee is \$32. Register with Carlie Schulz, 206-351-7739.

JAN 12

Bloodmobile stops

The bloodmobile is at the Kiwanis Club of Peninsula-Gig Harbor from 12-7 p.m. and at the Adventure of Faith Church, Treasure Land Room, in Port Orchard from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

JAN 14

Run for the heroes

The third annual "Resolution Run for the Heroes" begins, and ends, at Skansie Brothers Park and is a 5k and 10k race. This annual run benefits the Behind the Badge Foundation for families of fallen officers. DeeAnne at 253-377-4417 for information.

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at the Gig Harbor Safeway from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

JAN 20-FEB 5

Play opens

The Paradise Theater presents "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. A special dinner theatre is Feb. 4 at 6 p.m. 851-7529 or paradisetheatre.org.

JAN 21

Wine tasting 101

An introduction to wine tasting "Wine 101: Sensory Perception through Component Tasting" will happen at Morso Wine Bar. This is a hands-on approach to examine smells and tastes. Cost is \$15/person. Call Steve at 253-530-3463 or info@morsowinebar.com for information and registration.

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| Adams, James/Dee | Vaughn | Harris, Jeff/Marcia | Wauna | Riemersma, Fannie | Gig Harbor |
| Anglemyer, Greg/Rebecca | Lakebay | Heather V, Karen A | Wauna | Rippon, George/Donna | Lakebay |
| Argabright, Delores | Lakebay | Heiberg, Andreas/Monica | Bellevue | Sage, Robin/Jerry | Vaughn |
| Beal, Michael/Betty | Vaughn | Jardin, Phyllis | Gig Harbor | Sandquist, Robert | Wauna |
| Bennett, Marilyn/Al | Longbranch | Jewell, John/Andrea | Vaughn | Sandquist, Maryellen | Vaughn |
| Berst, Carla | Lakebay | Kellogg, Janet/Paul | Minneapolis, MN & Vaughn | Sherrod, Marilyn | Longbranch |
| Bingham, Bill/Julie | Des Moines, WA | Kelly, Patrick/Cynthia | Gig Harbor | Smith, Walt/Janice | Vaughn |
| Bradley, Marcia | Gig Harbor | Konicek, Steven/Martina | Longbranch | Stackhouse, Robert/Elizabeth | Longbranch |
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| Callahan, Richard | Lakebay | Lupro, Michael | Gig Harbor | Tovey, Michael/Joyce | Lakebay |
| Carr, Lynn/Nancy | Lakebay | Major, Virginia | Lakebay | Trandum, Bill/Georganne | Vaughn |
| Chapman, Kyle/Adelaide | Lakebay | Marra, Herb/Pam | Vaughn | Torgerson, Rolf | Longbranch |
| Clinton, Kip | Lakebay | Mazur, Mary | Longbranch | Ullsh, Leslie/Delores | Lakebay |
| Copley, Barbara | Lakebay | McCourt, Jerome/Jayne | Lakebay | Van Bogart, Clark/Barb | Longbranch |
| Croppi, Carmen | Gig Harbor | McDonald, William | Lakebay | Van Der Voorn, Neal | Gig Harbor |
| Cushing, Daniel | Gig Harbor | Mills, Judy/Don | Vaughn | Vezzani, Bob/Elsie | Gig Harbor |
| Hallowell, Darrel | Longbranch | Minor, Richard/Francine | Gig Harbor | Waldo, Ann | Lakebay |
| Davis, Jim/Dotty | Longbranch | Moergeli, George | Gig Harbor | Watson, Mary | Gig Harbor |
| Doering, Brent | Gig Harbor | Mowry, Dick | Lakebay | West, Steve/Sharon | Lakebay |
| Ellis, Kit | Gig Harbor | Nelson, Gene/Judy | Gig Harbor | Wheeler, Doug/Betsy | Lakebay |
| Evans, Evelyn | Lakebay | Owen, Steve/Linda | Vaughn | Williams, Marsha | Gig Harbor |
| Finkle, Phyllis | Gig Harbor | Paterson, Andy/Stacy | Vaughn | Willis, Linwood/Mary | Gig Harbor |
| Finn, Jo | Gig Harbor | Penner, Donald/Carolyn | | Woods, Cleve/Ann | Wauna |
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FIRE DISTRICT 16 CALL LOG

A summary of calls for FD 16 for Nov. 16 to Dec. 15

Total Calls: 117
EMS: 90
Fire/service: 11
Other: 16

Nov. 17

A Lakebay woman went looking for her husband after he had been alone in the garage for an extended time. She found the 38-year-old man had collapsed on the garage floor, unable to speak and had difficulty moving. Key Peninsula Medic One transported him in the "priority" mode to a Tacoma hospital that specializes in stroke care and intervention.

Nov. 19

Police and fire units were dispatched to a Glencove home where a 15-year-old girl was allegedly intentionally cutting herself with glass. Respond-

ers arrived to find the girl who has an extensive history of psychological problems had merely left scratches on herself. Under lawful direction of a Sheriff's deputy, Key Peninsula Medic One transported her to a local hospital for a mental evaluation.

Nov. 20

KPFD responded to two diabetic emergencies today. A man in his 30's, and a female in her 50's both suffered from low sugar. In both cases KP Paramedics were able to revive the individuals with some good ole fashion sugar. No transports were needed.

Nov. 21

Fire Department EMS personnel responded to the Tiedeman area of Lakebay for a 20-month-old girl who, according to the parents, was displaying an altered level of consciousness

and tugging on her ears. The toddler was treated and transported to a children's hospital in Tacoma by the Medic crew.

Nov. 28

A 20-year-old Allyn man narrowly escaped injury after striking a guardrail on SR 302 near Rocky Creek. The man reported he lost control while negotiating the tricky "S" curves on the dark road. Drugs or alcohol were not suspected to be involved. WSP investigated the incident while firefighters provided traffic control. His newer model sedan was totaled.

Nov. 24

Thanksgiving turkeys took longer to cook this morning for three families on the Key Peninsula when a rotting tree fell across a power line and broke the transformer supplying the group of

homes. Firefighters established a safe area and contacted the power company. Peninsula Light Company was on the scene in 40 minutes and worked to restore power for the residents.

Dec. 2

Fire Department EMTs responded to a local store to assist a 21-year-old homeless man who was reported to have had fainting spells. The man had been staying with his father in the town of Home until his father asked him to leave. The man then walked around the Key Peninsula area for two days until he began to feel poorly and requested assistance of EMS.

Dec. 3

A 57-year-old Port Orchard man escaped serious injury when a SUV

(See Fire, Page 17)

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(From Fire, Page 16)

pulled out in front of him while he was riding his motorcycle on SR 302 KPN. The 63-year-old SUV driver from Gig Harbor reported that he must have inadvertently been pressing on the accelerator while his foot was on the brake pedal. The harder he stepped on the brake, the further out into the highway his SUV traveled. The motorcyclist was able to brake sufficiently to a speed of 10-15 MPH before impacting the side of the SUV. The motorcyclist was transported to a Tacoma trauma center for evaluation as a precaution. Neither drugs nor alcohol are suspected to be involved. WSP investigated the incident.

Dec. 4

A 63-year-old woman of Lakebay overdosed on her medication and was experiencing serious respiratory difficulty. The woman was treated by KP Medic One and was transported to St Anthony hospital for further treatment.

Dec. 9

A 78-year-old Lakebay man was

pinned under an alder tree after he cut the tree down. The man called out to his neighbor for help and the neighbor called for emergency services. While pinned under the tree the man used the saw, with his non-dominant hand, to cut the trunk of the tree in an effort to remove it from his leg. He was, however, unable to remove the section of tree and remained pinned until fire dept. members arrived, removed the section, and treated and transported the man to St Anthony hospital.

Dec. 13

Fire Department EMTs responded to the aid of an 84-year-old man from Wauna who was experiencing chest and shoulder pain. The man was treated and transported to St Anthony hospital.

Dec. 15

Key Peninsula Medics were called to a Herron Island residence where a woman in her mid 60's was found unconscious by family members. After a lengthy response, that included a ferry ride to the island, the medics acted swiftly to transport the patient to the local Hospital.



Courtesy photo

KP resident celebrates 90th birthday

Hazel Kingsbury, a longtime resident of Vaughn, celebrated her 90th birthday at an open house at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Dec. 30. Born in Kellogg, Idaho, she moved to Longbranch before attending Vaughn Union High School. As a freshman she first met her future husband, Ralph Kingsbury, when he carved his initials in her lunchbox. Hazel and Ralph raised three boys while farming in Longbranch. They owned and operated some cabin courts in Montana, and raised chickens on Lackey Road before operating Kingsbury's RedEmix near Horseshoe Lake for many years. Upon retirement in the early '70s Hazel and Ralph returned to live in Vaughn where Hazel resides today.

The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly... 80's dance night
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SHERIFF'S BLOTTER

A summary of calls for Pierce County Sheriff's Department for Nov. 15 to Dec. 11

Nov. 15

15200 block of 82nd Ave. NW

Residential burglary. Victim and his girlfriend said sometime between Nov. 15 and 16 someone broke in through the kitchen window, took playstation, laptop and jewelry. No suspect info.

Nov. 15-17

14700 block of 71st St., Lakebay

Motor vehicle theft. A green Ford F250 pickup with a mounted camper was stolen from the driveway. Victim has had other items stolen from her yard including a 2hp Mercury boat motor and a 8-foot Zodiac rubber dinghy and two gallon gas cans.

Nov. 17

7000 block of Lackey Road

Burglary. Suspects entered the home through a bedroom window. Laptop computers and digital camera and

some clothing were stolen. Neighbor told the victims they saw two suspects walking down driveways in the area telling people they were looking for their lost dog.

Nov. 18

12300 block of 114th Ave. NW

Burglary. Victim said he left his house and returned to find it burglarized. Items touched and moved in every room, dresser drawer contents tossed on the floor. Two antique firearms were taken, and silver utensils. Fingerprints were found on the box that contained the utensils.

Nov. 19

800 block of Sanford Avenue, Lakebay

Burglary. Victim reported the residence was locked and entry was gained by using a shovel to shatter a window.

Nintendo Wii game system and 32-inch flat screen tv were stolen.

Nov. 20

900 block of Sanford Ave., Lakebay

Burglary. Victim discovered unknown suspects had used his motor home to sleep in, pried open the door to gain entry, but no items were taken.

Dec. 4

98522 KP Highway North

Harassment, verbal threats. Suspect, male, 41, threatened a female coffee barista when she was calling the police to report the harassment. Suspect had a DWLS warrant for his arrest. Suspect was gone when deputies arrived. Victim said suspect was creeping out her employees and customers by standing around behind the coffee stand, but not ordering anything. Suspect disappeared into a cluster of storage units after verbally threatening her. Fish and Wildlife officers helped deputies search the units and the suspect was held at gunpoint while another deputy took him into custody.

Dec. 7

13800 block of 97th Ave. NW

Drugs, amphetamine, methamphetamine. Male, 28, Tacoma resident, was arrested on an outstanding warrant for amphetamine possession, and during the arrest the suspect was charged with unlawful possession of a controlled substance when two small baggies of substance tested positive for metham-

phetamine.

Dec. 9

10100 block of 135th St. NW

Burglary. Victim said someone broke into his home by prying open the garage door. Every room was gone through, and items were on the floor. Victim said rifle, two laptops, autographed baseball and about \$80 in change was stolen.

Dec. 10

Capitol Lumber, 15500 block of 92nd Ave. KP N

Theft. Postmaster of the Lakebay Post Office is responsible for the drop mailbox located at Capitol Lumber. The postal carrier emptied the box on Dec. 11, and when the carrier went to pick up the mail on Dec. 13, the box had been removed.

Bolts were sawed off. While the deputy was at Capitol Lumber investigating, he received a call from the postmaster saying the box was found by a postal carrier at Vaughn Cemetery. Fingerprints were found on the box and prints were processed.

Dec. 11

2900 block of McEwan Road, Lakebay

Theft from a building. Victim said someone took his padlock and removed his wallet from his locker at Gateway Fitness. Suspect used the victim's Visa card and charged \$1,100. No suspect info.

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KP Lions give gift of words to school district students

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

This year the Key Peninsula Lions Club distributed 192 copies of Webster's Dictionary/Thesaurus to language arts classes at the KP Middle School and 336 copies of A Student's Dictionary to each 3rd and 4th grade student in Evergreen, Minter Creek and Vaughn Elementary Schools.

World wide 2,461,342 books were distributed in 2010. Some 300 groups and organizations in Washington State alone, including 30 Lions Clubs, participate in the program.

"The goal," said KP Lion George Robinson who promoted the program with the KP Lions, "is to see that every student receives a dictionary at a grade level where it helps develop communication skills throughout their school career and lifetime."

The cost to KP Lions, \$1,162, provided a resource to schools and students free of cost to the school district. This will be an annual project of the KP Lions Club as is the Club's annual American Flag distribution program started last year in 3rd



Minter Creek Elementary teachers Wendy Webster, Lauren Schnitzer, and Oksana Kobasa assist the KP Lions in handing out dictionaries provided free by the KP Lions to Minter students.

Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

grades in KP elementary schools. The flag project is appropriately staged near Veterans' Day each year.

KPMS principal Jeri Goebel said, "students had to share dictionaries last year on the MSP. Some of our dictionaries didn't have the word computer." They were outdated and not enough to help the students

on the writing test on the MSP and for daily classroom use. Now we have enough for every language arts class! We are elated with the Lion's generous donation!"

Minter's principal, Steve Leitz, sort of summed things up with,

"Our 3rd and 4th graders are thrilled with the gift of words the Lions present-

ed them in personal dictionaries. They eagerly wrote thank you letters, which (were) presented in book form for the Lion's enjoyment. During my classroom walk-throughs, students pull out their dictionaries and proclaim, 'Look what I discovered!' and show me something they've learned from their new books."

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Trixie and the Nazis

The little berg known as Home has a hidden treasure. A living "time capsule" known to her friends as Trixie. She is a link to our darker history. Trixie aka Beatrix Schick was born in 1931 in Graz, Austria to the proud parents Ewald and Justine Schick.

Trixie grew up with two older sisters, Herta and Helgay and a younger sister, Alice. Growing up in Austria was good until 1939 when the Nazi war machine roared through. Surprisingly, life under the Nazi occupation changed very little at first. All the Jews Trixie had known fled before the German onslaught, leaving most of their possessions behind for the lowlifes to steal.

"As the war progressed, life in Austria became increasingly difficult. The years 1944 and 1945 brought incessant bombing and Trixie was nearly killed when a Russian decided to use her for target practice.

"I know he could see I was just a girl, but he shot at me anyway," she complained in anger. By this time civilization was crumbling. Shops were empty, people were leaving if they could, and supplies were dwindling. Trixie had a mean neighbor, and one time when she was returning home with her wagon he attacked her so he could steal what little food she had been able to find. After he struck her repeatedly, she was saved by her mother who heard the commotion.

The end and the aftermath of the war were the worst. First was the Russian occupation, followed by the Americans and the British.

"The Russian occupation was bad because through their ignorance they mismanaged most things and of course raped our women. The Americans were the worst! They raped and they stole; and they knew what they were doing."



The British were the best, as they governed fairly, treated everyone with respect, and as far as she knew, raped no one.

In 1956 Trixie met an American major. After corresponding for two years, he proposed marriage. The marriage was planned for Germany where he was going to be stationed, but then got switched to Japan, which also didn't

happen. He eventually was stationed in Viet Nam.

Two years later she was stateside, as the major was now stationed at Ft. Lewis. In 1974 Trixie moved to Home and opened a "Mom and Pop" type grocery store. She's had some bad experience with the county having to move locations, but she's been at her little country store for the last 23 years. Entering her store for us older folks is like taking a trip back through our childhood.

When I was young most stores were small Mom and Pop operations. With Trixie there's no Pop she runs things by herself, with the help of her son and an occasional friend. Inside the small store there is a little bit of everything. Her motto could be "if I don't have it you don't need it!"

Steve Whitford is a guest columnist for Key Peninsula News.

The Mustard Seed Project

Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula

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Home Health Services for the Key Peninsula



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Love of horses and leather leads to business for KP man

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

George Peichoto's sole-proprietorship business is conducted at his picturesque home, shops, and stables located near the Pierce and Kitsap County line at 118th and Hunter Road.

In 1980, while racing, an unexpected and sudden contact between a horse's head and Peichoto's face caused a blow-off fracture to his left eye socket, which ended Peichoto's accomplished career as a professional race horse jockey. Peichoto was 47 years old with a wife and four kids.

After his injuries, Peichoto repaired tack part-time and invested heavily, developing race horses which he owned. After an extremely frustrating experience with a very promising horse which could "lope" faster than some horses could run at the racetrack, Peichoto realized that he was not cut out to be a horse owner (relying on purse winnings for income) when, no matter what he did, "that horse would simply not run". To make matters even more ironic, that same horse won a \$5,000 purse the year after Peichoto sold him.

Peichoto has operated a full-time tack business since 1985, starting in Pleasanton Calif, moving to his current location in 1987.

Peichoto is aware of only two other tack businesses in this part of the Puget Sound, one in Spanaway, and one in Olympia. Customers have related that there is a lot of work that these companies will not touch that he does routinely, such as billets, English saddles, and flogging.

"I will do everything except shoes, upholstery, and clothes", said Peichoto. "Besides saddles and tack, I have also done custom work and repairs to chaps, wallets, purses, belts, holsters, rifle scabbards, saddle bags, and even leather canteens. Most anything with leather."

"Ninety percent of my business is repeat customers", said Peichoto. "During the racing season (February through September), 75 percent of my business is with the tracks, and 25 percent local. Off season it's split 50/50."

"Business from the tracks has dropped 50 percent due to the economy", said Peichoto. "The purses are smaller and the owners' expenses have gone up. Everybody is feeling the pinch."



George Peichoto

Just inside the door to his workshop sits a tiny saddle, which weighs only one and a half pounds, the type that he custom makes for the jockeys. Next to it is an extravagant and well-embossed Western saddle that belonged to Peichoto's father, which is irreplaceable and invaluable.

Back near his industrial-strength sewing machines, Peichoto is constructing a custom "Plantation" saddle, made to a customer's detailed specifications and fit.

"A Plantation saddle was the type used by foremen on a Southern plantation when they went out to oversee the slaves", said Peichoto. "I do not know of any saddle maker who routinely makes these, they are all custom made."

"An off-the-shelf Western saddle would cost \$2,000 from a decent company, a mass-produced saddle might be as little as \$1,000 to \$1,200. King Saddles in Sheridan Wyo. is considered the Cadillac of saddle makers. They charge \$4,000 to 5,000 for a custom saddle."

Peichoto confided that he's charging \$2,500 for the Plantation saddle.

"My earliest memories are from when I was 4 years old when I would sneak my father's saddled, but unattended, horse over to the fence where I would climb into the saddle and gallop off into the hills," he said. "I loved horses. I just knew that I would grow up to be a jockey."

"After my jockey days were over, I was very fortunate to find a second love. I love working with leather, I love creating with my own hands something of quality that can be appreciated for a long time to come, and I love the appreciation that the customers show when they receive something that they need and will cherish."

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Arvilla M. Scharf Merchant

Arvilla M. Scharf Merchant, age 103, passed away in her own bed on Nov. 27, 2011.

Born Feb. 4, 1908 to Lucy & George Jones in Kapowsin, Arvilla lived in Orting until 8th grade. She and her family then moved to Tacoma where she attended

Lincoln High School.

She moved to Longbranch in 1973 full time to her vacation home on Filzey Bay, after retiring from American Plywood Association.

Arvilla loved to dance and took square dance lessons. She joined the Swing-

ing Singles square dance club where she made many life-long friends. She traveled to many dances with them, some out of state.

Arvilla loved to knit, tat and crochet. She made many items to help raise money for the community. She was one of the first eight ladies to start the Angel Guild of Key Peninsula over 30 years ago. She was a member of Penrose Orthopedic Guild, Garden Club, Peninsula Neighbors, and Longbranch Community Church.

She will be greatly missed by her son, Richard Scharf and his wife Delores of Puyallup, grandson Tony Scharf, of Wenatchee, Wash. and step-granddaughters Kelly White of Mariposa, Calif., and Lisa Sears of Puyallup and her four step-great grandchildren.

A Memorial to celebrate her life will be held in early spring at the Longbranch Community Church. Please visit our guest



Arvilla Merchant

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Donations may be made in Arvilla's name to the Penrose Orthopedic Guild or the Angel Guild of Key Peninsula.

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Out & About

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Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Vaughn kindergartener Maris Johnson hopes Santa will hear her wish list during the annual Key Center tree lighting event.



Photo by Vic Roveg, KP News

Children at the gift-wrapping station at Minter Creek Elementary School's Make It 'n' Take It event.

Where in the World...



12th Man Travels to Arlington

Matt Lester with All Around Gutters & Donna Lester with Key Peninsula Real Estate along with Bernie Murphy Wiles from Key Peninsula Real Estate & her brother Greg Murphy of Murph's BBQ from Volunteer Park cheered for their Seabawks during November's road game.

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Herron Island ferry Charlie Wells.