



Burgers done the way a burger should be done
Page 20

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula



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Longbranch couple experiences Japan quake

By Marsha Hart, KP News

If there was one museum to see, it was the Tokyo National Museum in Ueno-koen Park in Tokyo. Sheila Hunt and Randy Niven made their way to the courtyard of the museum and noticed the beautiful water feature, a pond that was smooth like a piece of glass.

As the Longbranch couple walked through the doors to see the exhibits they felt movement, and the chandeliers started to sway. Some 200 miles from the epicenter of the earthquake in Sendai, the couple shot video of those chandeliers swaying, and as they walked back outside the water in that pool was sloshing.

"The glass in the windows never broke, but all the doors were falling open," Sheila said. "We could feel after shocks every 10 to 15 minutes."

Museum personnel remained calm as did all of the visitors, she said.

"We were told to wait and they sent someone to find out what happened in town," Sheila said. "They came back and

(See **Quake**, Page 4)



Randy Niven and Sheila Hunt had a sushi breakfast in Tokyo the morning after the earthquake hit Sendai.

Photo courtesy of Sheila Hunt, KP News

Community Services food bank truck stolen, totaled

By Marsha Hart, KP News

The Key Peninsula Community Services food bank truck was stolen sometime the morning of March 15, and it was found a few days later, trashed. The truck was used to pick up food donations.

"We found out where it was through the grapevine," said Kathy Gill, administrative assistant. "It was off of Herron Road and it was totaled and stripped."

Executive director Penny Gazabat said the damage was extensive.

A surveillance tape caught the images of two people taking the van, Gazabat said. That tape was turned over to the Pierce

County Sheriff's Department, but no charges have been filed yet.

"We're having to make do," said Gill, "We have a regular sized van that we use to do bread runs."

Four times a week the truck was used to visit six stores to pick up large amounts of bread, produce, meat and dairy and also to go to Tacoma to pick up commodities, Gazabat said.

It sat on the property, but the other smaller vehicles are parked inside compounds, Gazabat said. Construction of another one to house the truck was part of a board meeting discussion, but replacing the truck will be expensive. Gazabat said

(See **Truck**, Page 8)

Empty Homes: The Foreclosure Process

Editor's Note: This commentary is the second in a four-part series on foreclosure and its effects on KP residents. It originally appeared in our March online edition at keypennews.com.

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

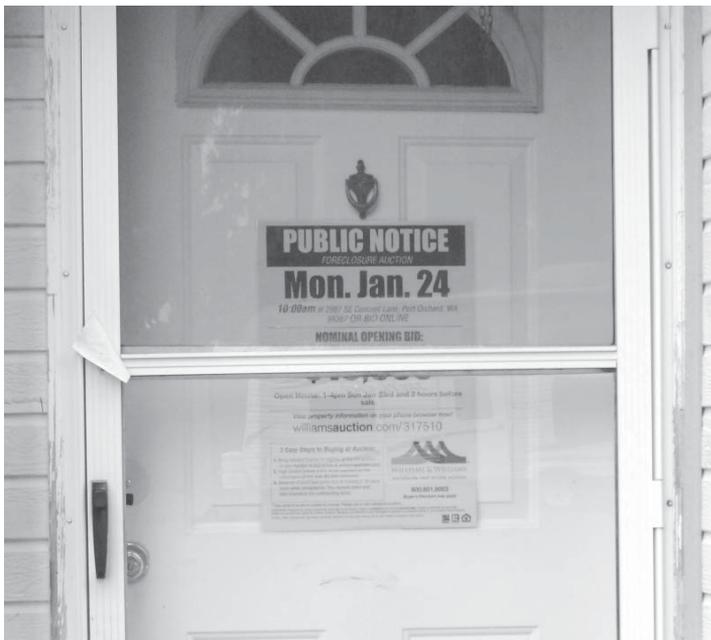
One out of every 45 homes in Pierce County was in foreclosure in 2010. For the vast majority of us, our home is the most valuable asset we will ever possess.

Prior to 1965, the only type of mortgage available was a "straight" mortgage (house and land used as collateral for a loan), and it was mandatory for the bank to foreclose through a costly and lengthy lawsuit in the courts.

The only real alternative was to purchase through a Real Estate Contract where the title remained in the seller's name until paid in full. This was risky for the buyer, as the contract could be cancelled upon the first missed payment, with the purchaser losing everything invested up to that point with little recourse. Real Estate Contracts are still used occasionally for purchase of unimproved land.

In 1965, the State Legislature created the Deed of Trust statutes (RCW 61.24), which allows the use of a Deed of Trust, which is a three-party mortgage, with the property "conveyed" to the somewhat-independent third-party Trustee with a power of sale to be used only if the mortgage terms are violated. Deeds of Trust are now the norm.

A Promissory Note contains the particulars of the debt and repayment. The



Deed of Trust secures that debt with the real property as collateral.

If a default occurs (failure to fulfill mortgage requirements) the Deed of Trust statutes allows the Trustee to sell the secured real property in as few as 120 days, without court intervention. The process is designed to be quick and efficient, but the statutes must be strictly construed in favor of the borrower because the courts are not involved.

The Trustee, however, is not compelled

to use the non-judicial foreclosure process. The Trustee can instead opt to use the lengthy and costly judicial process (a civil lawsuit). The non-judicial process has been the norm. Judicial foreclosures are rarely done.

A judicial foreclosure does allow deficiency judgments. If the property sells at auction for less than the debt owed, the court can enter judgment for the deficiency.

A non-judicial foreclosure does not

allow any deficiency judgment, and the property is sold with all junior-ranking liens extinguished. If a senior ranking lien exists, the property is sold "subject to" the existing senior debt.

Extinguishing a junior lien (Deed of Trust) does NOT extinguish the Promissory Note. It just changes from a secured debt, against the property, to an unsecured debt with no collateral.

A potential problem exists if there is more than one mortgage against the same property. If there is sufficient equity, then the second-place note holder may frequently "buy out" the senior debt in order to protect the security of his interests. If there is no remaining equity, there is no advantage for the junior lien holder to purchase, so the junior note holder loses his security, but can still attempt to collect his debt as an unsecured debt, through a lawsuit or collections action.

With about 95 percent of the homes in foreclosure being "underwater" (greater debt than the home is worth), property owners are tempted to "walk away", expecting all debts to be cancelled. This works sometimes, but the ex-homeowner may find a deficiency judgment or unsecured debts haunting them for decades.

Starting about a decade ago, banking regulations were eased up to allow a greater percentage of home ownership. The banks "qualified" homeowners for mortgages, which they could not really afford. These mortgages eventually turned

(See **Foreclosure**, Page 3)

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(From Foreclosure, Page 2)

“toxic”, with a huge number of foreclosures following. The downturn in property values multiplied the foreclosure rate.

During this same time period, the banking industry, always on the lookout for new ways to make money, started “bundling” stacks of mortgages into marketable “securities” which they sold to investors as top-rated and no-risk investments, similar to how stocks, bonds, bank notes, certificates of deposit, transferrable shares, and debentures are sold. The “toxic” mortgages in those bundles were ticking time bombs. Federal bailouts followed in order to save the banking and insurance industries from collapse.

The secondary and even the primary mortgage industry became a machine, feeding ever more mortgages into the securities markets. Industry sources estimate that 85 percent of all home mortgages have now been bundled together into security certificates.

A brick wall was hit in 2007 when the courts started ruling against banks, which were foreclosing these securitized mortgages. It turns out that the state laws, which govern deeds and mortgages are not compatible with the industry-wide policies practiced by securities managers.

State law requires that holders of interest in land (deed holders) must be real people or corporations, and that the original Promissory Note must be produced by the note holder upon demand.

When the mortgages became securities, the “note holder” became a meaningless bunch of words on a piece of paper, usually boiling down to just a “certificate number”. The note holders were no longer “real entities”. It has also been reported that bank personnel had celebrated the packaging and sale of bundles of security certificates with bonfires burning the original Promissory Notes.

In 2008 and 2009, the State Legislature amended the Deed of Trust and the Unlawful Detainer statutes to provide more protections for the homeowner. The Trustee must now be more impartial, and the foreclosure process is extended, requiring a mandatory negotiation process between the bank and the homeowner before a Notice of Default can be issued.

The Unlawful Detainer statutes were amended making it very difficult to evict the homeowner if the foreclosure statutes were violated.

Numbers for 2010

Washington State is now ranked number 10 in the nation for the highest number of foreclosures. The 2009 ranking was 24.

Pierce and Snohomish Counties are tied for the highest foreclosure rate in Washington State. This is an 8 percent increase for Pierce County since 2009.

Pierce County had one out of every 45 homes in foreclosure. That's 7,844 homes, or 2.45 percent of all housing units.

Las Vegas, Nev. still has the worst foreclosure rate in the nation with one out of every nine homes in foreclosure.

*Information from WebTrac Inc,
an online foreclosure reporting
service.*

In 2010, Rob McKenna, the Washington State Attorney General, joined with other Attorneys General in requesting a moratorium on foreclosures.

On Oct. 13, 2010, our Attorney General sent a letter to those entities who frequently act as Trustees for Deed of Trust foreclosures. McKenna addressed ongoing investigations, continuing violations of the state foreclosure statutes, and requested that the Trustees “Suspend all foreclosures in which you (the Trustees) have not yet confirmed that all foreclosure-related documents were lawfully signed, that the chain of ownership is clear and has been revealed to you in full, and that the state consumer protection requirements have been followed.”

McKenna's letter identified some very interesting (and fraudulent) practices commonly occurring, including that “Lenders are ‘reverse-engineering’ the chain of title, including back-dating documents to make it appear as though the loan was passed from company to company on certain dates when no such assignment actually occurred.”

Several bills are before the current legislature to further amend the statutes.

The result: Foreclosures are continuing at a record pace, families are displaced, and more homes stand empty now than ever before.

This article was compiled from Washington statutes, State and Federal case law, legal treatises, public records, and published news articles.



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Sunday, April 24th



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Thank you in advance for giving us the opportunity to be your realtors of choice.

(From **Quake**, Page 1)

said the trains were not working and they preferred that we all just stay there in this big courtyard. It was very organized and they said they had just gone through a trial the week before."

So they waited, and it was getting late, and there was still no word on the train situation.

A flat screen TV was brought in and someone at the museum translated, as they heard the news. "We had no idea it was so devastating."

It was getting dark, and Sheila and Randy needed to get back to their hotel. "Our hotel was in South Tokyo and they suggested that we walk to our hotel," Sheila said. "We didn't know where we were going, we didn't know if there was more damage along the way, didn't know if maybe our hotel had damage."

The couple walked for more than two hours to their hotel and saw quite a bit of damage along the way, she said. They also encountered friendly, calm and helpful people.

"The streets were jam-packed and every available taxi was on the street, and the restaurants were open and serving."

A couple offered to help them with directions to the hotel and walked them all the way there, Sheila said.

They arrived at their hotel and got the key to their room on the 12th floor. But the elevators weren't working, so they had to take the stairs. Fine, except the only stairs were the fire escape stairs on the outside of the building.

Once they got settled they began communicating with friends and family state-side.

The landlines and cell phones were not working.

"We were able to rent a laptop and I started emailing and posting on Facebook to let people know we were OK," she said.

The next morning things seemed pretty normal, she said, except that the fish market was closed because the fish boats weren't coming in due to the tsunami.

Sheila was scheduled to come home and the trains were not running to the airport. She was able to get a bus pass through the military because Randy works for the Navy, and though the bus ride took much longer than normal, she made it.

Randy stayed behind, but arrived home March 19 when the U.S. government decided to send everyone home.



Photo courtesy of Sheila Hunt, KP News

Though life went on as normal, the fish market auction was closed in Tsukiji as fishing boats were out at sea to ride out the tsunami.

"Back at work things were crazy because they started the rolling blackouts," he said. "Some of the trains weren't running, so we were trying to make sure people could get to work."

During the day it wasn't much of a hardship, except to figure out how to get around, he said.

And then the radiation detector on the ship went off.

"Ours are set really low so we catch it first," Randy said.

They moved the ship out of the wind pattern, and he said the general attitude was one of calm. For one day there was a bit of panic and a run on the base stores, but the commander told everyone to stop.

As he watched the news reports, Randy said he was upset.

"The sidewalks were crowded but orderly. Not chaos. You always hear how the press will blow things out of proportion, if you looked at news on CNN you'd think tsunami wiped the whole country out. I hope if we have a disaster it's even close to that nice. If you ever have to be in a disaster, hope it's in Japan."

District Prepares for New Middle School Schedule

Peninsula School District will change its middle school model next fall, moving from a four-period schedule that alternates every other day to a six-period daily schedule.

“The current model is not commonly used anymore because it tends to be an expensive model in terms of staffing,” said PSD K-12 Academic Officer Dan Gregory.

Last summer, a district budget task force began examining various district operations in order to identify areas that could function more efficiently. The task force recommended a review of the middle school model, and

approximately \$400,000.

“The number of instructional minutes in math classes will be reduced; however, our Learning and Teaching Department will be working with math teachers on instructional strategies to accommodate the change while maintaining support for students who need specific remediation,” Gregory said.

The daily schedule will provide better continuity for instruction as well.

“The new model will allow us to schedule more efficiently, flexibly and make it easier to balance class loads,” said Harbor Ridge Middle School Principal



Key Peninsula Middle School is one of the four middle schools that will transition to a trimester schedule next fall.

a committee of parents, teachers and administrators conducted initial research and brainstorming.

A group of teachers representing all middle schools along with a special education teacher and a counselor then joined building and district administrators to focus more in-depth on options that would be most cost-effective while providing ample time for core subjects and electives.

“Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies classes all gain instructional time in the new model. Additionally, the new model will save money and will be a closer match to the state funding model,” said Goodman Middle School Principal Scott McDaniel.

The move to trimesters will allow for the number of elective options available to students to remain consistent. The transition is expected to save the district

Mike Benoit. “The change has also prompted quality discussions on the most effective way to provide quality support and enrichment opportunities for our students.”

Student Transfers: Deadline April 30, 2011

Peninsula School District policies 3130 and 3140 speak to the process of requesting student transfers. The policies and forms are available online at www.psd401.net. All forms must be completed and returned to Peninsula School District, Attention: Dan Gregory, Academic Officer K-12 Programs, 14015 62nd Ave. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332 by April 30. Questions? Please call Roxann Tallman at (253) 530-1007.

April Events

- 5 Parent Council Meeting
9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon at the District Office Rooms 4 & 5
- 8-10 Peninsula High School's Production of Footloose—Friday and Saturday 7:00 p.m. Sunday 3:00 p.m. in the auditorium
- 9 Kindergarten Registration Kick-Off! 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at all elementary schools
- 14 School Board Regular Meeting
6:00 p.m. at the District Office
- 25-29 Spring Break—No School

2011-2012 School Calendar

The 2011-2012 School Calendar online survey generated over 3,000 responses which were considered by both the Peninsula Education Association and Peninsula School District representatives. The Board of Directors voted to adopt the calendar presented at the March 9, 2011 regular board meeting. It is posted to the PSD website at: www.psd401.net and located at the top of the page in the rotating announcements.

Bond

Superintendent Terry Bouck led a productive meeting on March 3 at the Boys & Girls Club with over 130 staff and community members present. Everyone provided great feedback on the February 2011 capital bond and the possibility of a future capital projects funding plan. This group also prioritized dates for a future capital projects election. After thoughtful consideration, Terry recommended to the Board that we focus on a possible 2012 replacement levy which funds 20 percent of our daily operation and, at the same time, build capacity for future capital projects. We will pledge that the extraordinary amount of time, work and planning will not be lost. Our 30-year plan will not be left on a shelf to gather dust. We will collectively move forward in the near future with a capital funding initiative.

Peninsula Views

EDITORIAL

Choose to live and act sustainably this Earth Day

Spring has arrived and the trees and flowers are emerging.

The beauty of the Key Peninsula is breathtaking, but not everyone seems to appreciate it. Trash litters the ditches and roadways, obviously thrown out by motorists. The Key Peninsula Business Association picks up trash along a stretch of KP Highway, but what is difficult to understand is why anyone would think it's OK to throw trash out a car window.

This April 22 consider doing one thing to make the Key Peninsula a better place to live and visit. Stop throwing trash on the roadside.

Earth Day was born during a tumultuous time in 1970. Jimi Hendrix died that year, the last Beatles album was released, and the war in Vietnam was raging.

That first Earth Day led to many changes in the way the environment is viewed. Recycling is now a normal part of trash pickup, and climate change are two words that are commonly used.

Earth Day 2011 is focused on pledges to live and act sustainably.

By doing one thing, we can all make a big difference. Whether you choose to plant a tree, use something you would normally throw away in a new way, or just get out by the roadside and pick up that trash, we have the power to transform our community and keep it beautiful for the next generation.

Some other ideas include helping out at a local park, supporting local farmers, recycling plastic bags and other plastic items, use less paper towels, turn off your electronic equipment when it is not in use, or learn about water shortages and how to conserve energy.

Of course we should all do something every day of the year, but Earth Day is a great day to begin.

Key Pen Parks will celebrate a bit early on April 16 with Parks Appreciation Day. This is a great way to get involved in the community, make an impact on the parks we enjoy on the Key Peninsula and meet new friends.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Community supports Citizens of the Year

The Key Peninsula Lions Club thanks and lauds the community for supporting the 27th annual Citizens of the Year Banquet, attended by about 150 persons and supported by numerous individuals and businesses that provided raffle gifts.

Volunteers staffed every function at the banquet and most paid their own way into

the banquet while filling all jobs essential to the banquet, whether cooks, servers, setup or cleanup. Each Lion who attended had to buy their own ticket, just like those coming to support specific nominees.

All profit from the banquet will support local, Key Peninsula, needs for eye-glasses and hearing aids. No charitable income is used for any Lions administrative cost.

Members of the public are welcome at all our meetings. Dinner meetings are the 1st and third Wednesday monthly and business meetings the fourth Wednesday. Call me at 253-853-2721 for further information.

George Robison, President KP Lions

GUEST EDITORIAL OPINION

Future dog park possible on Key Peninsula

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Will the next dog park in Pierce County be on the Key Peninsula?

It is a worthy question, considering there are no sidewalks to walk a dog, no wide shoulders on roads to permit safe jogging for human or dog, yet the population of both people and pets keeps growing. Dog parks provide more than exercise; visits become anticipated outings. They provide dogs and their owners a place to freely socialize, attend canine events and classes.

Not everyone favors dog parks. Sue Henley of the Gig Harbor Kennel Club cited safety issues for both dog and human, liability concerns, and overall responsibility for injury, upkeep, damage, etc. She said her group would not support a park or participate in forming one. They use Volunteer Park annually in August for their two-day agility trials. Members of that organization, she said, favor walking, rollerskating or bicycling with their dogs individually for exercise – most of these activities cannot be safely engaged in on the Key Peninsula.

Over 25 dog parks are open and operating in areas from metro Seattle/South King County to metro Tacoma/Pierce County and South Kitsap County. The dog parks range from a tiny fenced plot of 1.5 acres in Rogers Park, Tacoma, to an 80-acre primarily unfenced, dog-friendly city park in Port Orchard, with the majority in the 20-30 acre range. Most have a website and/or have had reviews posted on generic

dog park sites by visitors. At least one has on-site “docents” to provide visitor information and encouragement to use the park responsibly.

Positive visitor feedback ranges from double lock entry gates, ensuring dogs do not escape into unfenced areas that would endanger them or others, to a mix of open and wooded areas and trails of varied elevations for enjoyment and exercise of dogs and their human companion hikers.

In no particular order, the challenges most often voiced by park visitors were 1) people (dog owners) who neglect to pick up after their dogs and/or abide by park rules; 2) inadequate fencing 3) absence of restrooms, dog drinking fountains and seating.

At the February Key Peninsula Metro Parks Board meeting, I presented preliminary dog park information. We decided a good first step would be to involve potential users in a survey to help gauge true public interest.

If you share your life with a dog, or have an interest in having a dog park on the KP, please visit the tent at Volunteer Park on April 2 during the Pet Easter Treat Hunt and (and Play Day for Gig Harbor Kennel Club) from 10 a.m. to noon. Take a few minutes to answer a short survey, look at some of the information I've gathered about dog parks, and share your thoughts. Can't make the event yet want to be part of the dog park effort? Email cfitzgerald@centurytel.net.

Letters Policy

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Being green is more than a slogan or a state of mind

At PenLight, we believe that being green is taking action and responsibility for improving our environment, our community and our lives. It also means conservation.

• WATER, WIND & SUN

We're tapping into the natural elements so that we can provide members with the cleanest forms of energy available. 81% of our electricity comes from hydro power, supplied by the Bonneville Power Administration. In 2010, our Harvest Wind project will provide up to 23,000 homes with electricity.

• SAVING MONEY, TIME & RESOURCES

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- o Our **Co-op Store** has many energy efficient products.
- o **Paperless Billing** is available to reduce paper usage.

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(From **Truck**, Page 1)

the board is looking for ways to get another one that is refrigerated. Food Lifeline of Seattle requires that the vehicle have refrigeration, she said.

Damages to the truck included stripped wires, broken door mechanisms, missing ignition and steering column, and the truck was driven through the woods, Gill said. The insurance company deemed it a total loss.

"Unfortunately the value of it is only \$3,500," Gazabat said. "It was a 1994 and had quite a few miles on it, more than

200,000."

KPCS is accepting donations toward the purchase of a new van.

"We know we need to raise money," she said. "The insurance paperwork came and we're working our way up the ladder. We're doing research on how much it would cost for a new one that is refrigerated."

More surveillance cameras and construction of another compound to house the vehicle are part of board discussions, she said.

To donate, call KPCS at 884-4440.

Traffic signal project gets green light

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Project plans for the traffic signal in Key Center are moving forward. The project has gone out for bids, and in the coming months construction will begin. A traffic light should be hanging, and road improvements finished by fall.

In February the Key Peninsula Council sent a resolution to county councilmember Stan Flemming and the county, requesting the project be halted until the county fully considered multiple options for the design of the intersection at Olson Drive, Cramer Road and KP Highway.

Brian Stacy, county engineer with Pierce County Public Works along with deputy county executive Kevin Phelps and Brian Ziegler, the director of Public Works walked the intersection with Flemming and KP Council members in February.

"It was a very good meeting," said KP Council president Mike Baum. "Stan was really good in his role. He knew ahead of time the funding could be compromised and yet he went ahead with the guy who made the presentation about roundabouts so we got to hear both sides. I'm totally im-

pressed with Stan and appreciative."

Flemming said the meeting helped reestablish the lines of communication between the community and the county.

"In the future when we have a significant decision to be made either about highway or public safety or other projects we will involve the community and seek their input before we start developing a plan for whatever we develop," Flemming said.

One option was a roundabout, and there were two types explored during the meeting, Flemming said. The roundabouts were not conducive to that intersection, he said. The options were standard roundabout and oblong, and were too expensive due to the need to acquire more property from businesses, he said.

The estimated \$2.25 million traffic signal project has been funded with grant money from a County Road Administration Board grant in 2004, traffic impact fees and the county road fund, Stacy said.

If the project had been stopped the county would be required to pay back the CRAB grant money, and \$315,000 of that money was spent on design and right of way acquisitions.

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Easter is April 24th

Ferry neighbors unhappy with engine noise

Kevin Reed, KP News

A group of full-time Lakebay residents across from Herron Island have been issuing complaints since September about the noise levels of the Herron Island ferry. About 10 houses on the east bank of Case Inlet that are directly affected have gathered together to voice their objection.

“We never heard it before this,” said Helen Dodge, one of the Lakebay residents. “It was a charming little ferry you could see from your deck.” But now, she says, “it’s changed the flavor of our neighborhood here.”

The increased noise levels were noticed after the engines were rebuilt in September as part of regular maintenance that occurs every three years.

“We took our ferry in,” said Herron Island Manager Claudia Ellsworth, “we had the engines rebuilt and replaced the silencers. After two weeks of silence on the water, the ferry comes back, and we had some complaints or observations that it seemed to be louder.”

So the ferry was sent out for better silencers, Ellsworth said.

“Now we have the best that are available. It seems to me to have mitigated the noise back to the previous level, and there isn’t anything else we can do mechanically.” Residents did say that the noise was better after the ferry went back in the second time, but claim the levels were still



Ed Johnson, KP News

Residents who live near the Herron Island ferry dock are upset by the noise of the ferry engine.

significantly higher than before the engines were rebuilt in September.

During the winter the ferry runs eight or nine times daily, starting at 6:15 a.m. and ending around 7 p.m. on weekdays. Weekend runs start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 8 or 9 p.m. The early morning and evening runs are the most irritating to residents.

The engine drone is noticeable. There is no other noise in the area. Sound levels vary based on wind direction and throttle

speeds. It sounds like a lawnmower or a piece of heavy equipment, and remains constant for about 15 minutes as the boat moves from one location to the other. While some days are better than others, residents say the drone is always there.

“It can be so loud that you’re yelling on the mainland,” said Dodge. She says complaints have been made to the Herron Island Board; the Pierce County sheriff’s office; the Noise Control officer at the

Tacoma Department of Health; and to the offices of Representatives Angel and Seaquist.

“We’re just trying to get this problem fixed,” Dodge said.

Further engine repairs are unlikely. “We have done everything we can to mitigate the ferry noise,” said Ellsworth. “We do our best to be good neighbors, but we can’t always find the solution that makes everyone happy.”

Key Peninsula Community gardeners gear up to plant

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The Key Peninsula Community Garden behind Sunnycrest Nursery is being prepared for its second season of gardeners.

Barbara Carr, Community Garden Coordinator for both KP and Gig Harbor hopes all of the plots will be in use this year. The KP garden still has four available. Each plot is a raised bed 4 x 24 feet. A plot for our KP food bank will be in service this year, tended by volunteers as well as some of the families caring for their own gardens.

Tools, compost, water, and some seed donations are all available at the garden. Panel cloches can be used to extend the growing season and repel some pests.

The soil was too poor for growing healthy crops, so the raised beds are used as well as additions of topsoil and composted manure. A work party was planned for March 26 to spread the manure.

Gardeners pay a \$30 donation for the season, with a sliding scale for families who cannot afford that amount. They may also plant some flowers in their gardens, but the focus is on growing organic produce.

Carr, a retired teacher, holds monthly classes to teach what to plant and how, care of the plants, and how to use what is grown.

This year, some basic cooking classes will be held at the Gig Harbor YMCA. Preservation—canning, drying and freezing will

also be covered. Carr hopes to set up such classes on the Key Peninsula, too.

The YMCA sponsors Y Friends and Servants—members mentoring teens involved in community service, with some teens volunteering at the local gardens.

Gardeners may participate in summer potluck socials at the garden.

“Table” gardens – beds raised to table level -- are planned for Key Center.

Carr hopes to set up tours of the KP garden for schools or interested community groups.

The idea for the community gardens originated with doctors in the Pierce County Medical Society concerned about obesity in our area. The physical activity in garden-

ing, plus access to healthy foods coupled with education could lead to reducing or eliminating obesity in many families.

Healthy Communities of Pierce County are helping to shape healthier communities, with many supporters and partners working with them. Key Pen Parks provided a generous grant to set up the KP garden. Franciscan and Multi-Care, Purdy Topsoil, Cenex, Stroh’s, Sunnycrest Nursery, Pen Met Parks, Route 16 Running/Walking Store, and the women’s prison gardeners have all donated money, products and/or time to the two local gardens.

Contact Carr to sign up for a garden or for more information—253-228-0538 or GHCommunityGardens@gmail.com.

Key Pen fire district ready to move forward

Two appointed commissioners have filled vacant seats on the FD 16 board, and the district is encouraged with a new direction.

By Danna Webster, KP News

When the Key Peninsula fire district's Division Chief of Operations, Guy Allen, comes to work these days, he feels there is a more positive mental state throughout the department. He gives much of the credit to the new composition of the Board of Commissioners.

Two new KP fire commissioners took their seats at the Tuesday, March 8 board meeting. Keith Davies was appointed to fill the vacancy of the late Rick Stout and Ray Lamoureux was appointed to the position vacated by Al Yanity. These same seats will be two of the three positions open for election in November.

Allen describes the new board as a group of people with common goals in mind: moving the department forward and building the public confidence in the Key Peninsula fire district. "They may not always agree but they will work together as professionals," Allen says. "This is the first time

since I've been in the department to have a Board of Commissioners who are not here for their own agenda," he said.

The two new commissioners were selected from the slate of nine candidates who applied for the first vacancy. All of the candidates had fire department background according to board chair, Sheila Hunt. She praised the attributes of the new commissioners who bring their experiences from the neighboring South Kitsap and Gig Harbor districts and she considers it an advantage that neither of the new commissioners was involved with past history of the board. "It's important to have fresh eyes. We need to make critical decisions on how we are going to move forward with responsibility to the budget," she said.

Commissioner Ray Lamoureux lives near the Wright-Bliss Fire Station and became a career fire fighter for the South Kitsap Fire District in 2000. He began his experience as a volunteer in 1993.

"I've been looking to get involved and the union frowns on us volunteering in our own department," he says.

He is busy learning the issues and flow of Fire District 16.

(See **Commissioners**, Page 3)

Vocational administrators choose Rep. Angel legislator of the year

Rep. Jan Angel was honored this week as the Northwest Region Legislator of the Year at a recognition reception by the Washington Association of Vocational Administrators. The organization awarded Angel for "promoting and supporting the efforts and value of career and technical education within the legislative processes and venues throughout the state."

The 26th District legislator said she was honored to receive the award. Angel also had the opportunity to tour the New Market Skills Center in Tumwater to see firsthand how students are learning in a focused, hands-on environment.

"The importance of career and tech-

nical education cannot be understated," said Angel, R-Port Orchard. "Providing students with real-world skills and experience gives them what they need to succeed in life. A four-year university is not right for everyone, and these programs give students a vision and a path for the rest of their lives."

Angel has previously served on Higher Education and Early Learning committees and currently serves on the House Education Committee. She said she remains dedicated to providing more opportunities for students to succeed beyond school.

Source: *Washington House Republicans*

The Cross is Empty Come Celebrate!

Easter Services on the Peninsula

Thursday, April 21st

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church
7:00pm - Last Supper Drama

Lakebay Community Church
6:30pm - Maundy Thursday Gathering
(based on the traditional Seder)

The Church That Meets on the Farm
7:00pm - A commemoration of the
Lord's Supper and Bible Study
"The Necessity of the Death of Jesus"

Friday, April 22nd

WavPoint Church
7:00pm - Good Friday Service

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church
7:00pm - Good Friday Service

Easter Morning Services - Sunday, April 24th

The Church that Meets on the Farm
10615 Wright Bliss Rd KPN, Gig Harbor,
225-9030

10:00am - A Celebration of the
Resurrection of Jesus Christ
"The Reality of the Resurrection of
Jesus"

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church
4213 Lackey Rd KPN, Lakebay, 884-3312
10:30am - Resurrection of our Lord
Service

Lakebay Community Church
11 Cornwall Rd KPS, Lakebay, 884-3899
7:00am - Sunrise Service
at Penrose Point State Park
9:30am - Resurrection Celebration

WavPoint Church
12719 134th Ave KPN, 853-7878
9:30am & 11:00am - Resurrection
Celebration Service

Historic Vaughn Bay Church
Key Peninsula Civic Center, 884-9303
(VFW Room)
7:00am - Sunrise Service at Vaughn Bay
Cemetery
(Civic Center in case of rain)
9:00am - Worship Service

(From **Commissioners**, Page 10)

"It looks like the existing Board and Chief have done a good job financially—keeping them in the black," he says. He is hopeful that road blocks, whether personnel or commissioner, have moved out of the way. "I'm interested in keeping the momentum moving forward and getting a positive thrust back into the department," he says.

Getting up to speed and educating himself on policies is keeping Commissioner Keith Davies busy. Davies lives near the Wauna area, started as a volunteer fire fighter in 1979 and was hired as a career fire fighter in 1986. He serves at the Gig Harbor Station 56 located near Peninsula High School. He has observed the Key Peninsula District for years but felt there was no way to make a difference when the board consisted of only three members. When the citizens voted to expand the board to five commissioners, he felt the citizens made it clear they were tired with what was going on. With two new commissioners, he thinks the board is ready to make some positive changes. "We now have five people on the board that don't have personal

"When I pinned on my badge I believed that I accepted that I need to behave to a higher standard. My behavior is always looked at. I am affiliated with the organization 27/7."

**Keith Davies
Fire District 16 Commissioner**

agendas and have the best interest of the fire district in mind," he says. "I have had the honor and the pleasure to work for an organization for 25 years that is respected and supported by the public. It is unfortunate that (the three-member board) held the fire department hostage trying to settle their issues." As a result of those battles, Davies says there was a common public opinion that the Key Pen fire fighters were all overweight drug and alcohol abusers. "I feel that came

from commissioners battling in the public eye," he says. As a result, his number one objective is to rebuild public trust. "It's the hardest one to gain and the easiest to lose. When I pinned on my badge I believed that I accepted that I need to behave to a higher standard. My behavior is always looked at. I am affiliated with the organization 24/7." Part of the job for Davies is to meet the citizens of the Key Peninsula and win their approval. "I do want to approach community organizations and let them learn about me and ask questions so I can build their support by the time of the election process," he says. He believes he can contribute and benefit the fire district organization. "I'm there to provide a service, if I can."

Commissioner Hunt looks forward to working with the new Board. "Both of these guys are extremely motivated," she says. Hunt appreciates that the new commissioners are part of the working population, bring knowledge of neighboring fire departments, and are technologically savvy. On March 23 the board met in a workshop to set goals for how they want the fire department to move forward. They expect to hold a public open house sometime before the end of June.

Taylor Bay ready for improvement ideas

Staff Report

Key Pen Parks will host a meeting April 12 at the Longbranch Improvement Club to gather public input for plans at Taylor Bay. It is the second meeting designed to involve the residents of the Key Peninsula in the planning.

Taylor Bay is in Longbranch and was acquired in 2008 with a Pierce County Conservation futures grant.

Staff have removed invasive species such as Japanese Knot Weed, reed canary grass and ivy, and also installed a park sign and a fence along a neighboring property.

Some suggested improvements include a well, ADA viewing area, picnic shelter, non-motorized launch site and primitive campsites for use by those arriving by water.

Another grant could be awarded by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. If that grant comes through, Key Pen Parks will have to move quickly with planned improvements.



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COMMUNITY WORKS

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

Now Swimming available

Easter Seals Camp Stand by Me offers open swimming, in the heated pool, from 8-9 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$4.25/person/session-paid monthly; call Donna, 884-2722.

Family swim times are offered Wednesday evenings from 5-6 p.m. Cost is \$4.25/person, \$15 maximum for family, under-two free; call Ellen, 884-2722.

Now Mentors needed

Communities In Schools of Peninsula (CISP) needs reading mentors for Minter Creek Elementary on Wednesdays from 3:45-4:45 p.m. Math mentors for Key Peninsula Middle School on Tuesdays from 2:45-4:30 p.m. and for Peninsula High School for freshman Algebra during regular classroom times are also needed. All programs follow the school calendar. Help mentor local students to success; it is rewarding to both students and mentors. To learn more or to volunteer, call 884-5733 or visit www.peninsula.ciswv.org.

Now Adult education

Key Peninsula residents are able to 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 on Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. are available at the TCC Gig Harbor Campus. For information, registration and orientation call Tracy Clark, 253-460-2356.

April 1 to 30 READS

Pierce County READS, the largest reading event in the county, runs all month. Public voting selected the best-seller "The Big Burn" by Pulitzer Prize winner Timothy Egan. This book chronicles the epic story of the largest-ever forest fire in America during Theodore Roosevelt's presidency. READS features free events

during the month. Stop by the KC Library and pick up a copy of the book. 884-2242.

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Friday skate nights

Skate night is held from 6-9 p.m. for elementary and middle school-aged students at the KP Civic Center. Admission is \$5, which includes skates and all the games in the Whitmore Room; there's a special \$2.50 admission on April 29. Refreshments are available for purchase. www.kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456.

April 2 Pet treat hunt

The 3rd Annual Pet Easter Treat Hunt will be held from 10 a.m.-until supplies run out (or noon) at Volunteer Park. Prizes are awarded for best holiday, funniest and most unique costumes. Have pictures taken with the Easter Bunny. Bring a collection bag for treats; dogs must be on a leash. Concession building will be open at 9 a.m. chad@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

April 2 to 30 Kids' tennis

Tennis clinics will be held on Saturdays from 10-10:50 a.m. for ages 5 & 6 and from 11-11:50 a.m. for ages 7-12. Cost is \$43/participant/5 weeks and each class will be 6 to 12 kids. Kids must be registered by 3/29. Clinics are held at the KP Civic Center tennis courts. chad@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

April 4, 11, 18, 25 Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile will be at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. It will be at Peninsula High School from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on April 21.

April 5, 12, 19, 26 Story times

Pre-walker/toddler story time with simple books, action rhymes, knee bounces and songs is for pre-walkers and toddlers, accompanied by an adult, from 10:30-11 a.m.

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.

Story play time for ages 3-6 is from 11 a.m.-noon. Art activities, stories, rhymes and singing are followed by play time for caregivers and children. Story times are at the Key Center Library. 884-2242.

April 6 Coed soccer

Register by April 6 to participate in the Key Pen Parks' adult coed recreational soccer league with games on Sundays, between 1-6 p.m., from April 17-June 19 at Volunteer Park and Sehmel Homestead Park. Teams of 20 must include at least 5 females. Each team plays 8 games of two 40-minute halves. Cost is \$450/team; 4-8 teams are needed. Individuals may add their name to the free agent list. Contact chad@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

April 6, 13, 20, 27 Family story time

Family story time for families with preschoolers is held at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Enjoy simple books, action rhymes, sing songs and movement games. 884-2242.

April 6, 13, 20, 27 Friends' night

Lakebay Community Church hosts children from grades K-6 to Friends' Night from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Kids experience games, projects, snacks, music, and activities based on a weekly Bible story. 884-3899

April 7 Fuchsia club

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society will meet at 7 p.m. This month the meeting is at the Key Center Fire Station. Look for the annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 7, in

conjunction with the Livable Community Fair at the Civic Center. Ginnie, 884-9744.

April 7 Book discussion

Bring your ideas, questions and insights about "The Big Burn" (the Pierce County READS selection) for a discussion led by the library staff at 7 p.m. at the KC Library.

April 9 Second Saturday

Second Saturday at the Library features a master gardener who will teach families how to reap a bountiful and successful harvest starting with seeds. This free program is sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library at 2 p.m. Donations to the food bank are appreciated. 884-2242.

April 9 All ages fun

Friday Night Skate student volunteer, Stephanie Stevens, is hosting an all ages/family-friendly Skate Night at the Civic Center from 6-10 p.m. Skating is from 6-9 p.m. and dancing 9-11 p.m. Entrance is \$5; activities include carnival games, concessions, and prizes. 884-3456

April 11 Friends meet

The Friends of the Key Center Library meet from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-2242.

April 12 & 28 Knit or crochet

Loving Hearts voluntarily knit and crochet chemo hats, baby items and blankets for non-profits in the community. They meet from 1-3 p.m. at the WayPoint Church, 12719 - 134th Ave KPN. They also meet on Thursday, April 28 from 7-9 p.m. Yarn donations are always welcome. lovingheartsonkp@aol.com or Virginia, 884-9619.

(See Community, Page 13)

(From **Community**, Page 12)

April 14 Job workshop

A free "Let's Get to Work!" workshop will be held for 20 adult participants from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Susanne Boone will help participants devise strategies for making their skills needed by employers and help them learn to create employment opportunities. Ms. Boone has extensive experience as a job developer for WorkForce Central and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, as an analyst with Employment Security Department, and a career counselor for Clover Park Technical College. Participants MUST pre-register with the library by April 11; 884-2242.

April 14 Adult softball

Spring softball for adult coeds begins with Thursday games at 6:30 p.m. The season is 8 games plus playoffs. \$530 includes fees for umpires, registration and softballs. chad@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

April 14 Opera preview

The Friends of the Key Center Library present a free preview of Mozart's opera "The Magic Flute" by Norm Hollingshead at 7 p.m. at the KC Library. This presentation is a prelude to attending a performance of "The Magic Flute" at the Seattle Opera House on Sunday, May 8, (Mother's Day.) A group will take free transportation to and from Seattle leaving from the KC Library

at 11 a.m. and returning to the library about 6 p.m. Call 884-1214 or 253-370-0694 for information and reservations for the opera.

April 16 Appreciate a park

Parks Appreciation Day, sponsored by REI, is held from 9 a.m.-noon at any park. Drop by and plant, prune or play. 884-9240.

April 16 Lyme group

The Lyme Support group meets from 1-3 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Patients and families dealing with any chronic illness are encouraged to join in to share not only information and positive emotional reinforcement but also ideas to face the daily

challenges together.

April 16 Meet a princess

Meet Daffodil Princesses at the Key Center Library at 2 p.m.

April 19 Veterans' assistance

The Pierce County Veterans' Bureau will provide emergency relief assistance to qualified Key Peninsula veterans from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the KP Family Resource Center. For further information, to see if you qualify for services, or to set up an appointment, call the Pierce County Veterans' Bureau at 253-798-7449.

(See **Community**, Page 14)

OFF THE KEY

April 6, 13, 20 Yard care workshops

Natural Yard Care Workshops will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Civic Center to teach a variety of landscape techniques. Each Saturday features a different speaker and topic. Contact Geoff Rinehart at 253-798-4587 or grinehart@tpchd.org for more information.

April 6 Luncheon

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club hosts a monthly luncheon at beginning at 11:30 a.m. This month features a soup and chili cook-off at Gig Harbor United Methodist Church. If you choose not to cook, bring a dessert. There is a \$5 donation. www.gigharborwelcomeclub.com.

April 9-May 1 Kayak course

The Tacoma Mountaineers Basic Sea Kayak Course is scheduled for Saturdays. The course is loaded with practical information, hands-on education, introduction to kayak gear and an emphasis on paddling safety. Learn the basic paddling strokes, how to get back in your boat if you go over, basic trip planning and navigation, and how to recognize and avoid dangerous situations. No prior kayaking

knowledge or experience is required to participate in this course. The course consists of one classroom session, one pool session, two open-water sessions and two kayak paddles. Cost is \$199 for Mountaineers members and \$249 for non-members. Rental kayaks and gear are available for an additional fee. Contact Beth Owen, 253-514-1865 or drbethowen@yahoo.com.

April 11/12 or 18/19 Craft class

Learn to needle felt Easter eggs on Monday and a duck or rabbit on Tuesday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Purdy Art Center, 14307-67th Ave NW, Gig Harbor. Both items make beautiful editions to baskets, table displays, or gifts. Class fee is \$37.50; kit fee is \$32.50. Call Carlie, 206-351-7739, by April 5 to reserve a space.

April 13, 20, 27 Rug hooking

Rug hooking is held on Wednesday evenings from 6-9 p.m. at the Purdy Art Center, 14307-67th Ave NW, Gig Harbor. Bring your rug hooking or start a new one; utility fee is \$5. Reserve a space with Carlie, 206-351-7739, by April 5.

April 16 Arbor day

The 11th Annual Arbor Day Celebration will take place from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Civic Center in downtown Gig Harbor.

Saturday, April 16 Genealogy

Steve Morrison of the Washington State Genealogy Society will present the program "Detours around Irish Road-blocks and Stonewalls" from 1 to 3 p.m. This event, hosted by the Belfair Chapter of the Puget Sound Genealogy Society, will be held at the North Bay Lutheran Church on Lakeland Drive in Allyn. Call Linnie Griffin at 360-275-3770.

April 22 Paste paper cards

Paint your own paste paper and make it into cards with windows that peep through to other colors and pages for Easter, Mother's Day, or for any occasion. Class is held from 12:30-4:30 p.m. at Purdy Art Center, 14307-67th Ave NW, Gig Harbor. Fee, including supplies, is \$35. Call Kathleen, 253-651-7447, by April 11 to reserve a space.

April 25, 27, 29 Muse tableau

Honor your feminine self for Mother's day or any day by creating a wood tableau

with iron on transfer technique, gel transparencies and colored pencils from 12:30-4:30 p.m. at Purdy Art Center, 14307-67th Ave NW, Gig Harbor. Class fee is \$80; supply kit (wood, images, and embellishments) is \$35. Call Kathleen, 253-651-7447, to reserve space by April 11.

April 27-May 1 Women's workshop

Gig Harbor's non-profit Soltura Foundation offers three 1/2 day workshops in Lakebay which will physically and emotionally help build one's foundation for personal healing and growth. Women's Part 1: Caught in a Twister (based on "The Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum.) www.Soltura.net or call 857-3444.

April 30 Author speaks

Pierce County Library and The News Tribune present Timothy Egan, author of The Big Burn, The Worst Hard Time, and The Good Rain, as guest speaker at the Pierce County Library READS event at the Sharon McGavic Conference Center at Clover Park Technical College at 7 p.m. This free event and book signing is sponsored by KeyBank Foundation.

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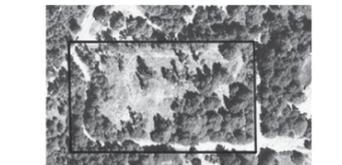
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Mike Edmonson
253-857-3304 #187328

(From **Community**, Page 12)

April 23 Easter egg hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Boy Scout Troop #220 and the Key Peninsula Civic Center will begin promptly at noon. Children ages 12 and under are invited to search for Easter eggs filled with candy and prizes and visit with the Easter Bunny. The Troop is also seeking donations for candy; contact Glen Pszczola at glenp@me.com.

April 26 Teen program

Teen Time for kids 12-18 is held from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Join friends for gaming, crafting, and snacks. This free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. 884-2242.

April 26 Robots at library

"Robot Garage" for children in grades 2

through 9 will be held at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. The program is 60 minutes long and teams will explore basic engineering skills required to build a robot. Participants MUST pre-register at the library by April 22; 884-2242.

April 30 Disc golf

A Disc Golf Clinic is held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Volunteer Park. Pro disc golfer and course designer Paul Wright will teach how to drive and putt to a par game. Cost is \$5/participant. Key Pen Parks, 884-9240.

April 30 Scrapbooking

A full day (noon-10 p.m.) of scrapbooking fun is held at the KP Civic Center. Bring a snack; we'll provide dinner. Registration is \$35 before 4/20 and \$40 at the door. Contact carla.swainston@hotmail.com or to register online go to www.kpciv-center.org.

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.

Thursdays Toastmasters

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

Thursdays 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.

Thursdays Lakebay writers

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

Saturdays Writers' guild

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

APRIL PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Community Fair Association

April 5, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room; www.keyfair.org.

Fire District 16

April 12 & 26, 6 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station.

Key Peninsula Community Council

April 13, 7 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station.

Peninsula School District Board

April 14, 6 p.m. regular meeting at district office.

KP Civic Center Board

April 14, 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room, KPCC.

KP Metro Parks

April 11, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex.

LIC

Regular potluck meeting, April 23, 6:30 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club.



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Gig Harbor 253-857-3304 windermerekeypen.com

Ideas for disaster preparedness

The earthquake and tsunamis in Japan last month were a grim reminder of our own rich history of natural hazards and disasters and, looking forward, the ones we are likely to see again in Puget Sound. It's always good to take a minute to see if you've got some things in order in case something happens that derails civilization for a while. I keep saying I'll make an emergency preparedness kit, and then, I keep saying it, year after year, and then I say it some more. I'll accumulate a bottle of water and a flashlight and then forget about it.

This year, I'm dedicated to getting it done, and have been reading a few different sites about preparation. Some things are common sense, and others not so much. For example, I'd started saving water in the squarish Costco milk jugs, but recently was surprised to learn that we shouldn't use milk jugs for water storage.

The reason is that the plastic easily absorbs proteins and fats from the milk, and these provide easy food for microbes, which then grow and contaminate your water. So you should use thoroughly rinsed soda bottles instead, and try to save 1 gal-

lon of water, per person, per day for at least a week (change every six months). If you can, get a backcountry water filtration device.

Store non-perishable food, a can opener, and some pet food if you have a pet. It's also good to gather a first-aid kit; any medical supplies you need; camping gear; sturdy shoes/boots and warm, dry clothing; flashlights; waterproof matches; a portable radio (crank-type or store extra batteries); and some common tools like a pocketknife, crowbar, work gloves, rope, duct tape, hammer, etc.

Get a first-aid handbook and a Boy Scout Handbook for basic instructions on things you may not normally do. An ABC fire extinguisher is good to have too. Store the stuff in plastic boxes that are water and pest-proof, and leave them someplace you can get them out quickly – like in a garage or bedroom, as opposed to a basement. Go through the kits once a year and replace things as needed.

And then there are some things I never

Kevin Reed Here's Something



thought of for earthquakes, like you should bolt your house to its foundation. That seems like a pretty good idea, eh? Everyone should know how to turn off main water and gas lines. You should also strap your hot water heater into place against the wall. You can most likely drink water from the hot water heater as well, but only with extreme caution. Let the water cool first, then shut off the water and power/gas supplies to the tank. Open the drain valve at the bottom and drain until the water becomes clear of any sediment. You can use the clear water.

Some things are so "common sense" that it's easy to never do them. Like making a list of emergency phone numbers, developing a family emergency plan, practicing home evacuation drills, or picking an emergency meeting location. If you work

over the bridge or at some distance from your home, what will you do if something happens while you're at work?

Make a plan with your family on where to meet and how to communicate if cell service fails. It's good to know some neighbors and exchange contact information. Something I'd never heard of is putting "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) phone numbers into your cell phone. This way, emergency workers will know whom to call if you're seriously injured. You would enter it like "ICE wife Sarah" and the phone number.

Another good idea is to take a first aid class and learn CPR. Take refreshers periodically so you don't forget stuff. Take notes and keep them with your first-aid book. If first responders are overloaded or can't get to your location, you could be the only thing standing between life and death for someone. And, your preparedness kit, information, and general readiness could be a lifesaver for you and your loved ones should we get hammered by an earthquake, tsunami, volcano, or some other enjoyable catastrophe.

KEY PEN PARKS



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

Parks Appreciation Day April 16th 9:00- 12:00 pm

Join Key Pen Parks, PenMet Parks, & the City of Gig Harbor as we host the 10th Annual Parks Appreciation Day! Come & support your local parks by helping to clean up trash, brush trimming & light construction. No registration required. Bring your enthusiasm, smiles & appreciation for your parks. Burn a few calories & have some fun! A hotdog lunch will be provided to all volunteers in the LDS Key Center church. Parks Appreciation Day is sponsored by REI.

3rd Annual Touch-A-Truck Saturday May 7th 10:00-3:00 pm

Do you or child have a love for trucks and large vehicles? Then Check out Key Pen Parks 3rd Annual Touch-A-Truck at the 10th Annual Livable Community Fair! Kids of all ages will love to climb, run around, sit in & honk horns of the trucks & vehicles present. Come explore a fire engine, bucket truck, military & so much more. Talk with our drivers to win a random drawing for a prize! Drawing is at 2:15 over by trucks. Youth t-shirts will be for sale. Don't miss your chance to buy one on Saturday! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Public Notice

Key Pen Parks is seeking comments regarding future improvements to Taylor Bay Park, located at 17916 76th St KPS, Longbranch 98351. A public meeting will be held on April 12th, 2011 from 6:30-7:30 PM at Longbranch Improvement Club—4312 Key Pen. Hwy., S, Longbranch 98351. For more information contact Key Pen Parks at 253-884-9240 or www.keypenparks.com

Key Pen Parks

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EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 23, 2011 • Noon

1000's of stuffed Easter eggs and a
visit from the Easter Bunny!



Life Lesson — Be Prepared ... with Patience

Island life is a new adventure for us. My husband and I recently moved to Herron Island from landlocked Sacramento. We spent a long afternoon last summer waiting for the private ferry, not realizing that cancellations were the norm during low tide. Now, we live by the tide chart, as do all the residents of this small paradise. Even when the ferry is on schedule, we arrive early to ensure that we get on without having to shuttle. There is room for only 12 cars and often the line is long. We all have learned to use this waiting time by reading, walking on the beach or visiting with fellow travelers. It is a lesson in patience. Life slows way down here, might as well relax and enjoy it. And, it is worth the wait—the 10 minute ferry ride is spectacular—a time to let go of stress, enjoy the water and the view of the Cascades. We are in good hands with an expert ferry crew.

During good weather, we only go to town once a week. During a storm, we

Gayle Herman Sound Living



just hunker down. We are learning to be prepared. With no stores on the Island, we have to bring in everything. It is like camping, but with style. That's O.K., we just have to be ready for any emergency, whether an illness, a week without electricity, or a missing ingredient for a recipe.

Last fall I became ill just as the first snowstorm hit. My thermometer was still packed away amongst the many boxes remaining from our move. If we had lived on the mainland, I would have asked my husband to run to the store for a new one. As it was, I laid in bed for 4 days before he carted me off to the ER when there was a break in the storm. Had I known I had a fever near 103 degrees, I might have ventured out sooner. After being chastised by the doctor and staying

in the hospital for two nights, we stopped at the drug store on the way home and bought a new thermometer.

When we heard about the big storm of 2006, where the Island residents had no electricity for 11 days, we decided to get a generator for our home. We have already made use of it many times. Maybe I am naïve about Washington winters, maybe it is a quirk of Island living, but, this is not something that I ever thought about needing when I lived in my California suburb.

Other Island quirks include the internet working sporadically after 4pm. When it goes down completely, the repairman will only come over on Fridays to take care of any problems. UPS won't deliver packages to our home, nor will the post office deliver mail. So...patience, again, we're learning to deal with living in the Wild Beyond, even though we live a stone's throw from the rest of the world.

Gayle Herman is a Marriage and Family Therapist who lives and works on Herron Island. Her website is: www.vitalconnections.net.

Brass Quintet to play in Gig Harbor

The Signature Brass Quintet will present a concert 7 p.m. April 9 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Gig Harbor, 7701 Skansie Avenue. They are the featured performers on the spring concert of a series sponsored by the Gig Harbor Peninsula Symphony Orchestra. Admission is free, with a donation suggested.

The Signature Brass Quintet is a recently formed ensemble with the intention of performing around the Puget Sound area. They are based in Gig Harbor where several of the musicians live.

Music on the April 9 concert will span from the culmination of the Renaissance in the early 1600s, through the continuing refinement of the Baroque period of the 1700s, the exploration of the Romantic era in the 1800s, to popular music from the 1900s.

For information on the Signature Brass Quintet visit signaturebrassquintet.org.

For information on the Gig Harbor Peninsula Symphony Orchestra visit gigharbororchestra.org.

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The Mustard Seed Project of Key Peninsula



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tmnp@centurytel.net



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Citizen of the Year celebration

Frank Cuthbertson, a superior court judge in Tacoma, was the keynote speaker during the 27th Annual Citizens of the Year Banquet at the KP Civic Center.

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PSD Kindergarten intact for 2011-12 year

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Despite a failed bond in the Special Election and the potential for drastic cuts from the state, Peninsula School District is moving forward with the current plan for kindergarten.

Kindergarten is currently a four-day a week full day program, and Superintendent Terry Bouck said it will stay that way

for the 2011-12 school year.

"I met with individual board members, principals, administrators from central office and visited a lot of kindergarten rooms and spoke to kindergarten teachers and first grade teachers," Bouck said. "Of course the feedback was really wonderful from everybody and I think one of the things we're really proud of is that we provide a quality kindergarten program."

Based on the feedback and looking at the results, Bouck said it was clear to him the program has served the students.

"It's a great investment in early learning and has shown real promise as far as academic and social growth in kindergarten and it is a bridge between that first grade transition," he said.

The options were to reduce the program to half days, have a mix of full day and half day with tuition.

"We were not prepared to make that decision based on a copule of factors, one being fair and equitable for all families

"... I think one of the things we're really proud of is that we provide a quality kindergarten program."

**Terry Bouck
Peninsula School District
superintendent**

and also making sure our teachers, other staff members and parents have some lead time if we make that change," he said.

Bouck said he is forming a committee that will be the 2012-2013 Kindergarten Committee with two principals as co-chairs. Patty McClelland will serve as the Gig Harbor area rep on the committee, and Susan O'Leary will serve for the Key Peninsula.

Those two will report to Sarah Drinkwater, the director of student services.

"We will have some kindergarten teach-

ers as well as some other teachers and parents on the committee," Bouck said.

The committee will look at programs across the state and nationally that have some successful kindergarten programs.

"Because of what the legislature and governor have done over the last five years we need to look at other ways of funding kindergarten," Bouck said. "We need to look at a wide variety of ways to support a quality program for our kids. We'll look at what tuition type models look like when you look at the free and reduced lunch, and do you do scholarships or sliding scale. Will you have some full day, some half day and what will that look like? This committee will have quite a bit to do."

The committee will be formed no later than the first week of May, and Bouck said he wants to see a recommendation by the end of summer, "so we can let parents of prospective 2012-14 kindergarten students know what we will offer for that year."

The Voice of the Key Peninsula

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Hope in the darkness

Last month, Christians around the world noted the beginning of the season of Lent, the 40 days of reflection leading up to Holy Week and Easter. It was only a few days later that an earthquake and tsunami ravaged the country of Japan, an epic disaster reminding us all too forcefully that this world is uncertain, that life is filled with brokenness and sorrow. Like most of you, I've been unable to keep my eyes off the images of muddy ground where once lay peaceful villages, of frantic attempts to stem nuclear disaster, of families lost in mourning, confusion, and sorrow.

It is a disaster of unimaginable scale; the work of restoring this land will take years, if not decades. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be lifted up, seeking comfort and healing and strength for the Japanese people and those who join them in their recovery efforts. Two thoughts come to mind as I ponder this season and its message in this catastrophe.

First, the life, death, and resurrection of Je-

Dan Whitmarsh
Writing by Faith



sus confirm that God is with us even in the midst of suffering. Our God is not a distant, capricious God too detached to understand our suffering. He promises to his children that he is with them when they pass through fire and water; in Jesus, he proved it to be true. "A man of sorrows, acquainted with our grief" is how he is described. It can be hard to see at times, and difficult to understand, but we can take comfort that God is with us, God is near to those who mourn.

Second, as this season looks toward Easter we are reminded of our great hope, that there is more to life than all we see. The promise of the resurrection is that beyond suffering there is joy; beyond even death is a life greater than we can imagine. I don't make light of the very real horrors facing the people of Japan (or, for that matter, New Zealand, Libya,

or Haiti); we dare not speak glibly of healing and joy even as they face the monumental task of rebuilding their lives and mourning all that was lost. At the same time, in the midst of suffering, there can be this hope: In his suffering, Jesus broke the curse of death. In his resurrection, he proved that brokenness and pain do not have the final say.

Christians take comfort in God's promises to replace mourning with joy, to return years of favor for all the days of suffering, to 'wipe away the tears from all faces.' We stand in solidarity with Japan; we must be generous in our support of relief and recovery efforts. We choose to mourn with those who mourn. While doing so, however, let us not lose sight of Paul's reminder that death has lost its sting, that the grave has been defeated, that on the other side of the grave is an empty tomb and a Savior who offers comfort for all who mourn.

And in the meantime, for the people of Japan and all who struggle around the world, we pray once again: Lord, Have Mercy.

Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church (www.lakebaycovenant.net)

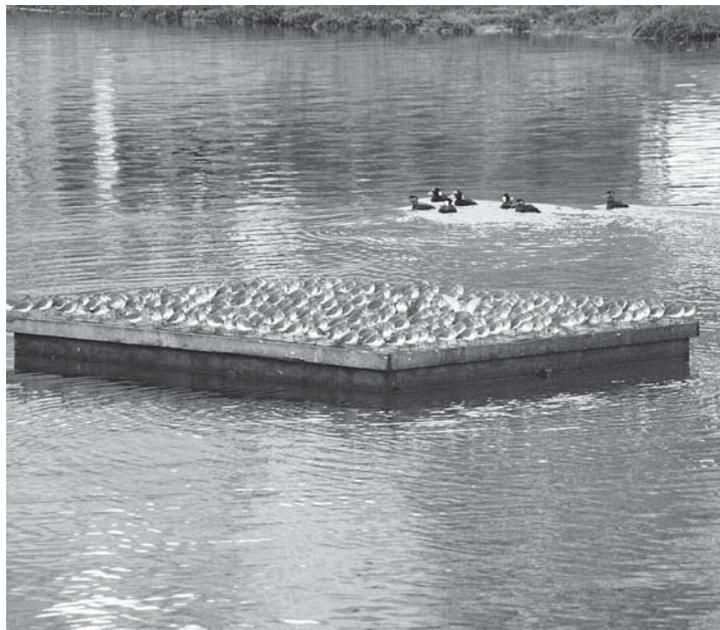


Photo courtesy of Ron Cameron

Birds of a feather

Sandpipers fill a wood float on Von Geldern Cove as sea ducks swim by.

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The Mystery Church Member

1 Cor. 9:18

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Luke 23:39-43

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Question:

Was this thief the last man saved in The Old Testament or the 1st man saved in The New Testament (answer next month in the KPNews)

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New KP burger shop serves gourmet Angus and fries

By Danna Webster, KP News

It only took eight months for the Gourmet Burger Shop to get all the licenses and permits necessary to open. The first day owner Travis Hightower quietly opened for business, he sold out of product. And the shop, located on SR 302 across from Charboneau's, has been thriving ever since.

Bayside Animal Lodge owner, Robert McCrossin, claims quality is the reason. He says the quality has remained high from the day he was a sole customer to the present when the place is swamped. His favorite burger is the bacon cheddar. This burger features smoked bacon, aged white cheddar, topped with a thick tomato slice or two, lots of fresh lettuce, onions, and a Russian dressing.

But according to McCrossin, "The highlight are the fries—garlic and rosemary shoestring po-

tato fries," he says and adds that gourmet is a fitting name for the shop. "When you call yourself a gourmet burger shop, you better be able to stand alone and live up to the name," he says, assured that it does.

Hightower doesn't take short cuts when it comes to building his quality reputation. For example, he opted for take-out boxes that are biodegradable even though they are "kind of spendy".

But the key to quality is a top grade product. His burgers are certified Angus ground beef. His aioli sauces are homemade. His produce is fresh (the shop doesn't have a freezer). And the custom made brioche style buns are baked exclusively for him at 3 Clouds Bakery across the highway. While he is experimenting with homemade potato chips, Hightower's beet chips are becoming very popular. "I wanted an option that wasn't starch," he

says.

Hightower decided the building would be a good location as he drove from his Lakebay home to work at a private golf club in Tacoma. He has been an executive chef in private clubs for more than a dozen years and was ready to go to work for himself. The take-out design of the shop meets the county restrictions for the septic and water requirements. "I want people to know its take-out style," he says. Inside the seating can accommodate about 10 people. Additional seating is available under the gazebo outside. "It's open any time the sun is out," Hightower says.

The shop hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Hightower closes on Monday to spend time with his 5-year-old son. He may extend the evening hours during the summer. It is easy to find. It is the shop with all the cars parked out front.



Photo by Danna Webster

Travis Hightower shows off a gourmet burger that is about to snuggle in a basket of homemade beet fries. At 3 p.m. on this Tuesday afternoon he and his staff are racing to fill orders at their Gourmet Burger Shop, which is filled with customers.

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National
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extravaganza...
Saturday
April 30, 2011
noon - 10pm

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Hugh McMillan, KP News

Play Ball!

Key Peninsula Little League AA Angel Guild team members cheer on a teammate practicing base running at Vaughn elementary on March 21, five days before the opening of the 2011 season.



*Salmon Bake
July 23rd*

Longbranch Community Church

www.longbranchchurch.net
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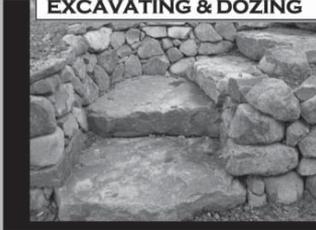
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KEY PENINSULA NEWS



Art Olson

I realize this thank you is later than it should be, however it is not less genuine or sincere. All of you that came to Art Olson's Celebration of Life Feb. 5 made it a tribute to him and his deeds in the community.

The kids and I appreciate all of the heart-felt contributions.

Thank you and God bless.

Phyllis Olson

Brenda L. Bates



Brenda Bates passed away peacefully March 10 after a short but graceful fight with breast cancer. She is survived by her two sons, Matthew and Paul, her sister, Nora Gelineau, daughter-in-law Shelly, and grandchildren Henry, Phillip, and Clara. She is preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, Richard, who passed in December, and her older sister Lisa.

Born in Astoria, Ore. in 1939 Brenda spent much of her formative years traveling the Northwest and the world depending on where her father was stationed. After high school Brenda attended the UW Nursing School and graduated as an R.N. Her training as a nurse and the call of service led to a tour with the Peace Corps in India, where she made many friends and acquired a love and appreciation for other cultures and people. Brenda returned to Seattle and with Richard settled in to raise a family. Upon retirement Brenda and Dick relocated to their second

home in Vaughn and engaged themselves in the community while still finding time to enjoy the dancing, reading, arts, family, gardening, and travel that so enriched their lives. A celebration of her life will be planned in the near future. Gifts in her remembrance can be made either to Planned Parenthood or the Friends of the Key Center Library, Lakebay, 98349.



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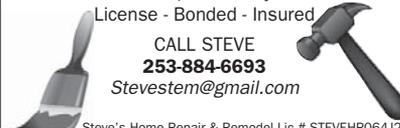
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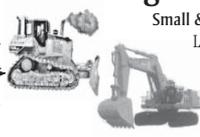
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Ed Johnson, KP News

The sun sets near the Herron Island ferry dock.



Hugh McMillan, KP News

John Biggs was chosen as Citizen of the Year at the banquet on March 19 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. George Robison presented the award.

KP News 'Where in the World'



Photo courtesy of Ann White

Ann White who lives in Wauna stopped in Paris, Ark. on a trip across country to see relatives last year.

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Photo courtesy of Ron Cameron

A sure sign of spring is the blossoms bursting forth.