



KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

February 2018 Vol. 45 No. 2

State Capital Budget Delivers \$7.75 Million Boost to Key Peninsula

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The Washington Legislature approved the state capital budget Jan. 18, an action that will release more than \$7.75 million for projects on the Key Peninsula. The budget will provide \$6.5 million to Minter Creek Hatchery for intakes, \$515,000 for The Mustard Seed Project's senior housing project in Key Center, \$428,000 for sewer improvements at Penrose State Park, \$248,000 to help upgrade and repair the Longbranch Marina, and \$60,000 for an emergency generator at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

includes funding for such things as state office buildings, colleges and universities, prisons and juvenile rehabilitation facilities, parks and recreational facilities, K-12 schools, affordable housing for low-income persons and people with special needs, water quality, water supply, flood risk-reduction infrastructure, and other facilities and programs.

To be included in the capital budget, an organization applies to both the state Senate and House, with the local representative or senator serving as a sponsor. If the request is included in recommendations, it is likely to be funded. Both Caldier and Angel helped sponsor the funding requests from the Key Peninsula.

The House approved the capital budget last summer. Senate Republicans, concerned about water rights for landowners in rural counties after the state Supreme Court's Hirst decision, refused to approve the budget until a legislative solution addressed the impact of the court's ruling.

Projects depending on capital budget funding were in limbo until the budget passed. When the Legislature reconvened in January, organizations waiting for funding were not sure that the budget would pass. When Democrat Manka Dhingra won the special election in the 45th Legislative District to fill the seat of Republican Andy Hill, who had died of cancer, the Senate became majority Democrat. This provided the 51 votes necessary to approve the capital budget. But to provide the funding to pay for the capital budget required Republican support to meet the necessary 60 votes. A legislative solution was still necessary.

Senate Bill 6091, which passed 35-14 in the Senate and 66-30 in the House, provided that solution, allowing landowners in rural areas to tap household wells—known as permit-exempt wells—while local committees work to develop plans for future water use. Those plans must outline how to offset potential impacts to rivers and streams from those wells. Once SB 6091 passed, the capital budget was approved. Gov. Jay Inslee signed both the following day.



Clark Van Bogart (above), president of the Longbranch Improvement Club, said, "We are ecstatic about the funding. It will jumpstart the environmental and public-safety upgrades that the LIC and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources agreed need to be done in the next several years. This money will accelerate these improvements by at least eight years."

Eddie Morgan, executive director of The Mustard Seed Project, said, "We're thrilled beyond belief. This gives our capital campaign a huge boost forward. And we are very grateful to Rep. Caldier (R-Port Orchard) and Sen. Angel (R-Gig Harbor) for shepherding our request through the process."

The state has two budgets that require approval every two years. The operating budget assures that the government has money to provide services and education. That \$44 billion budget passed last summer.

The capital budget, about \$4 billion,



Even after 62 years of marriage, Virgil and Norma Iverson of Longbranch still celebrate their romance whenever they can. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

School Bond Goes to Voters in April

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS
WITH LISA BRYAN AND TED OLINGER

At its Jan. 4 meeting, the Peninsula School District board of directors unanimously agreed to seek voter approval of a \$220 million capital facilities bond in the April 24 special election.

PSD Superintendent Rob Manahan said during the meeting that he regarded this bond issue as the first step in a 30-year plan designed to meet the current and future educational needs of the community.

The board approved the conceptual distribution of funds at its Jan. 11 meeting. The broad framework indicated that approximately 80 percent of the bond funds would be used to renovate and improve existing facilities, including student safety and access, fire protection, building and site security, and access for physically impaired people.

Board President Marcia Harris, who represents the Key Peninsula, said, "The board believes modernizations and upgrades will result in long-term savings by reducing the expense of crisis repairs and allow the district to be more proactive in maintaining and extending the life of district facilities."

Approximately 20 percent of the total bond is earmarked for reduction of over-

crowding at the elementary level by building a new school in Gig Harbor.

Manahan said, "It is not just about growth and about bringing our facilities up to 21st century standards. The purpose of education is to prepare kids for the future. A rich learning environment for both students and professional educators is essential. This bond will improve the immediate welfare, safety and comfort of students and staff and extend beyond the present, long into the future."

In January 2017, PSD invited interested community members to participate in a facilities planning committee that met regularly for six months. Guiding principles for the citizen committee were to identify the requirements to maximize safety in all buildings and provide high-quality learning environments. The committee also explored costs associated with new construction versus modernization of existing facilities and noncapital options such as year-round school and double shift scheduling.

The committee examined the current condition and age of existing facilities, projected population growth in the district and the potential impact on local taxes. "Additional community input was solicited

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SCHOOL BOND FROM PAGE 1

through a series of mini community forums and online surveys," Manahan said.

Committee recommendations were presented to the board Oct. 12, 2017. Recognizing that the committee had identified an extensive list of needs, the board prioritized a "wish list" by urgency, cost effectiveness, financial impact on local taxes and potential community support for a bond issue. Through several work sessions, the framework for a 30-year plan emerged that includes current and future needs.

Peninsula High School, Key Peninsula Middle School and Artondale Elementary are scheduled for major modernization and upgrades. Minter Creek Elementary, Discovery Elementary, Kopachuck Middle School and Gig Harbor High will reconfigure library spaces, science labs and theaters.

Manahan said he welcomes public comment and is interested in speaking to organizations in the community. He will be at Blend Wine Shop Mar. 1, address the KP Community Council Mar. 14, and visit the Longbranch Improvement Club Mar. 21 (see Community Calendar).

For more information, go to www.psd401.net/bond or contact Manahan directly at rob.manahan@psd401.net or 253-530-1002.

School bonds and levies differ in funding method and purpose. Municipal bonds are debt securities issued to bondholders. In other words, the bondholders are making a loan that is repaid over 10 or 20 years or more with interest. Bonds can only be used for construction, renovation and land purchases; they cannot be used to fund basic education. Levies pay for programs, materials, transportation and minor building improvements (such as carpets and paint), making up the difference between government funding and the true cost of operating a school district. Levies are typically collected over a two- to four-year period and must be renewed.



"Even though it seems like a very long driveway, every time I drive across the spit I feel the muscles in my shoulders relax." Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News

Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN, EDITOR, KP NEWS

An old-hand local librarian, Dory Myers, once told me she hadn't crossed the Purdy bridge in years. "You must be joking," I said. Dory answered, "What for? Everything I love is here." The longer I live on the KP, the more I understand her wisdom.

Generations of families born and raised here understand Dory's view. While many have left for school, work or travel, when it comes time to settle down, they return to their KP roots and come home.

What makes the Key Peninsula unique? Perhaps it's that, for the most part, we've been left alone. From our relatively isolated geography, we've grown a fiercely independent and vibrant community. Not a virtual community where we play at being stars of a digital show, but a functioning, living, caring and breathing community where we know our neighbors, identify problems and come together to seek solutions.

The peninsula appealed to pioneering settlers for many of the same reasons it does today. We consciously choose to live off the beaten path, enjoy scenic beauty, appreciate winding country roads, delight at our shorelines, forests and fields teeming

with wildlife. Life here feels far more like living on an island (without the cost and hassle of a ferry).

We're a place where people dress up in wild costumes to play croquet for a good cause or pick up trash from the highway. Potlucks and pig roasts, salmon bakes and crab feeds add to the celebration. We throw Spring Flings, barn dances, even our dogs have their own parties. Surrounded by water, we swim, kayak, clam and line up for lighted boat parades and fireworks. We gather together to build parks, sew quilts, sell cookies and attend countless charity auctions.

As we've perhaps become more politically polarized, especially over the last 12 months, we are still united in our "peninsula-ness" that is built on common courtesy, sharing and a sense of taking care of everyone at the end of the road with us. From Facebook groups to churches, PTAs to foundations, everyone here seems ready to help, to change or at least to talk to each other.

When a clear need for improvement is seen, we band together and find ways to fill the need, solve the problem and make life better for all of us on the KP. The cover story this month is the state budget alloca-

tion of nearly \$8 million for projects right here on the Key; that is evidence of our ability to work together. Every month, we share more success stories of people and groups who work to improve where and how we live.

A local reader ordered a KP News subscription as a gift for her son who works in the military on the East Coast. He enjoys keeping in touch with what's happening in his old home town. When he finishes reading the paper, he takes it to work and leaves it in the staffroom for lunchtime reading. He's happy to tell his co-workers about living on the KP when they ask, "Does this place really exist? Where is it?"

It sure does exist. And we are happy to be a part of it. We're happy to participate, to contribute, to volunteer. We overlook political differences, we accommodate other points of view, and we join together to make what we love better.

As your editor, it's my goal to keep the Key Peninsula News at the center of all this. This newspaper can, and should, be your guide to what makes the Key Peninsula the place we all love.

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Schools, businesses, people working remotely—anyone using the internet is affected by the FCC's vote to repeal net neutrality. Photo: Adobe Stock

What is Net Neutrality and What Does it Mean for the Key Peninsula?

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

In late 2017, the Federal Communications Commission voted to repeal the commission's net neutrality rules.

Net neutrality requires internet service providers to treat all internet traffic the same: ISPs cannot charge different rates for access to specific websites, slow down or speed up certain traffic or block access to certain parts of the internet. The regulation was put in place in 2015, when the FCC reclassified internet access as a public utility (a "common carrier telecommunications service"), bringing it under its jurisdiction. Until then, internet access was considered an information service, falling outside the FCC's regulatory powers.

In late December, the FCC restored that classification, repealing the regulation.

The repeal could cause changes to internet service on the Key Peninsula. A best-case scenario would be increased competition and investment in the area from a variety of ISPs, which would theoretically keep prices in check. A less favorable outcome is increased prices, lower speeds and no access to some websites and services.

Several states, including Washington, are making efforts to put in place net neutrality regulations through their state legislatures. The FCC's repeal order is intended to prevent states from doing this, but it is unclear whether or not that order can be enforced. According to Pierce County Councilmember Derek Young (D-Gig

Harbor), if the Legislature passes a net neutrality bill, ISPs will likely sue the state. The resulting court battle would determine the legality of state net neutrality policies.

Proponents of net neutrality argue that the FCC's repeal of regulations will allow ISPs to charge more or slow down access to popular websites or services. They claim that the repeal will allow ISPs to sell website access in package deals, similar to cable TV channels, and prevent users from accessing any sites or services that were not paid for.

Net neutrality advocates also warn that a repeal of the rules could allow ISPs to push customers toward using certain services by providing full-speed access to their own services and slowing down access to others. For example, companies like Comcast that operate their own streaming video services could slow access to third-party streaming services like Netflix, Hulu and Amazon Prime. Comcast customers could be forced to pay an extra fee to get full-speed access to those services, while Comcast services would be provided at no additional charge.

More importantly, advocates of net neutrality also see the policy as a means of preserving free speech in an open and active internet community.

"The reality is that market forces will prevent too much misbehavior in major urban areas, but the threat is real in more suburban and rural areas," Young said,

adding that areas with only one major ISP option will be at increased risk of limited content and higher pricing.

Opponents of net neutrality say the policy prevents innovation and competition, and stifles the free market forces that have developed the internet in its current state. They argue that the price of complying with increased regulatory burden is prohibitive for many companies, leading to decreased investment into new ISPs or infrastructure development in rural areas.

A number of ISPs operate on the Key Peninsula, but generally only one or perhaps two are available in a given area.

Net neutrality opponents believe that the regulation stifles the ability of large corporations to implement fees on content providers who take up a large amount of bandwidth. Young explained the argument in terms of a water system. "If somebody's using a ton of water in your water system, you should be able to charge them more, and that will help pay for the buildout of the rest of the system," he said.

Young said that argument is "a legit criticism," but maintains his pro-net neutrality stance.

Net neutrality opponents see the 2015 regulations as an unnecessary expansion of government authority. They also claim that none of the issues raised by net neutrality advocates existed in any major form before the regulations were put in place three

years ago, suggesting that there was little justification for the rules in the first place.

The issue has been hotly contested, roughly along party lines; the three Republican members of the FCC voted to repeal net neutrality, outvoting the two Democrat commissioners. Locally, U.S. Rep. Kilmer (D-Gig Harbor) has also voiced his opposition to the changes. Tech companies and services such as Amazon, Facebook, Netflix and Microsoft have come out against the repeal, while most major ISPs support it.

It is impossible to predict the fate of the repeal at this time. Members of the Washington state delegation have introduced net neutrality-related bills in Congress, and the FCC ruling has been challenged in the courts and in state legislatures.

On Jan. 16, Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson, along with a coalition of 21 other states and the District of Columbia, filed a petition to appeal the FCC decision to rescind net neutrality to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The move is the first step by the states in an attempt to block the FCC's decision.

"Allowing powerful special interests to act as the internet's gatekeepers harms consumers, innovation and small business," Ferguson stated. "We believe the FCC acted unlawfully when it gutted net neutrality, and I look forward to holding the FCC accountable to the rule of law."

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County Assessor Talks Taxes with KP Community Council

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer Mike Lonergan addressed the Key Peninsula Community Council Dec. 13 to explain the calculation of property taxes and make that explanation locally relevant.

"I didn't realize when I started that we collect over \$1 billion a year," Lonergan, in his sixth year in office, said afterward. Property tax, along with sales tax, is a cornerstone for county income. Revenue from property taxes is less volatile than that from sales tax and accounts for about 40 percent of county income, he said.

Determining each property tax bill is a two-part process. First, the property value must be assessed. Then, after using 157 calculations that are specifically applied depending on the location of each property, the actual tax is calculated.

To be sure that property assessments are accurate, Lonergan has a staff of 30 who physically inspect and evaluate each residential and commercial property on a six-year cycle. They carry out the inspections between September and May. From June through August, they focus on new construction. In addition, each year, the department applies market adjustments based on sales of equivalent property.

Property owners receive a postcard every June with an updated value assessment. Lonergan said that the assessed value is usually a year behind the actual value because of delays in reporting.

Once the properties are assessed, the levy specialist goes to work.

First, the actual tax base is determined. It must not exceed the limit set by the state constitution. The levy specialist looks at all the resolutions and legislation determining the taxes to be raised in each district. Since 2002, by law, a taxing district cannot collect more than 101 percent of the highest amount levied in the past—unless voters

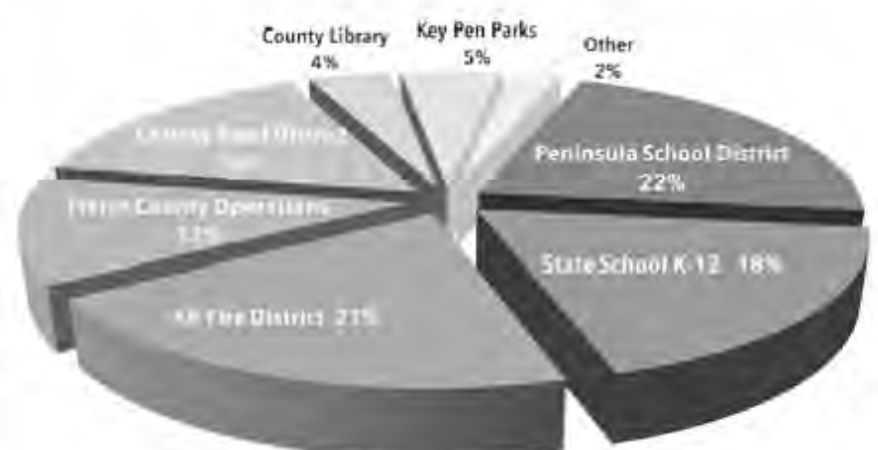
approve a levy lid lift. Because this limit does not increase as quickly as actual property values, even though the amount a property owner pays each year may increase, over time the taxes will be lower in terms of the percentage of the property value.

Once the amount to be collected is determined, the levy specialist takes into account those properties receiving exemptions, such as for low-income seniors and disabled homeowners. Some calculations, such as one for public schools, apply to everyone in the state. Some, such as that for Sound Transit, may be regional (Key Peninsula is excluded). Others are countywide, and still others are more local, such as the school district, fire district, library and roads.

"This year, as a result of the Washington Supreme Court decision in McCleary, et al. v. State of Washington concerning inadequate state funding for public schools, the average homeowner in Pierce County will see an increase of about \$250 in property taxes," Lonergan said.

Washington property taxes are less than most in the United States, ranking 35th out of 50 states. By far, the largest percentage of property taxes pay for schools: Over 18 percent goes for state funding of K-12 and nearly 22 percent goes to the local district (see chart below). Lonergan said that the Peninsula School District is more frugal than most and the local rate for schools is lower than most districts in the county or state. About 21 percent goes to the fire protection district; almost 12 percent to the county for operations; 15.7 percent to roads and smaller amounts to parks and library.

The average residential property value on the Key Peninsula, according to Lonergan's data, is about \$216,000, compared to \$402,000 in Gig Harbor and \$469,000 in unincorporated Gig Harbor Peninsula (which includes Fox Island). The average tax rate is \$11.30 per \$1,000 assessed value.



February 2018
www.keypenparks.com
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2018 EVENTS

March 24 **Pet Easter Treat Hunt**

April 28 **Parks Appreciation Day**

May 6 **360 Trails Poker Pedal**

May 12 **Mom and Me Tea**

July 4 **Community Hot Dog Social**

Fridays in August **Cinema Under the Stars**

August 26 **36 @ 360**

October 20 **All Hallows Eve Celebration**

COMING MARCH 24

Pet Easter Treat Hunt

Saturday, 9 to 11 am
at Volunteer Park



CINEMA UNDER THE STARS SURVEY

What would you like to see featured at our popular outdoor movie event every Friday night in August?

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Popsicles in the Park Woodland Fairy Camp

DETAILS ON THESE AND MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

SEASONAL PARK LABOR JOB OPENINGS: Deadline to apply Feb 9, 2018. Perform routine maintenance of park buildings, facilities and grounds during a 40-hour work week for six months. Position description and job application on our website, or pick up an application at the park office during regular business hours.

For the latest news see www.keypenparks.com or Facebook page



"Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence," said author David George Gordon. Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News

Bigfoot Writer Visits Key Center: Makes Case for Finding Sasquatch

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

A standing-room-only crowd spilled out of the Brones Room and into the lobby of the Key Center Library Jan. 20 for a presentation on Sasquatch, aka Bigfoot, given by author David George Gordon.

Gordon is the author of "Sasquatch Seeker's Field Manual: Using Citizen Science to Uncover North America's Most Elusive Creature," as well as nearly two dozen more books about the outdoors and its denizens.

The word "Sasquatch" comes from the Salishan, a native language of the Pacific Northwest, and first appeared in print in a Canadian magazine in 1929, Gordon said. The article described Native American stories from the Fraser River Valley of a race of huge, hairy man-monsters who inhabited remote forests at high altitude.

"There are lots of different ideas about what the Sasquatch looks like," Gordon said. "It also turns out it's not just Northwest tribes; you get stories from the Seminole Indians in Florida about these kinds of creatures. And, it's not just North America. There are similar stories from indigenous cultures in Africa, Australia and Asia."

"But the actual amount of evidence gathered has not been that impressive," Gordon said. "What I'm really here to talk about is citizen science. It means getting people like you trained to collect accurate information about nature and the environment. With more eyes and ears out there to gather clues, we'd probably be getting somewhere."

Gordon described the technology brought to bear on finding Sasquatch in recent

decades and its shortcomings. "They've used everything from infrared scopes, aerial surveillance, satellite imagery, game cameras hidden in trees. They've captured amazing images, but so far we're not getting much information on Sasquatch," he said.

But all that technology isn't necessary, Gordon said. The average smartphone has a camera and can record audio and provide GPS coordinates.

One audience member then played an audio recording he had made near Randle, Washington. "It was the middle of the night, 1 or 2 in the morning, so we went out of our tents and I just got my phone and pressed record," he said. The recording included voices of the campers and the sound of them moving through brush, interrupted by unusual, somewhat distant animal-like screams spaced a few seconds apart and coming from different directions.

"I reported it to BFRO and they said there'd been another sighting near Yellow-jacket Creek," he said. The Bigfoot Field Research Organization collects and analyzes data on possible Sasquatch encounters across North America.

Evidence can also be as simple as photographs of footprints.

"It's not necessary to make plaster casts of footprints anymore," Gordon said. "If you take photographs from lots of different directions, you can make a composite and, if you have enough data, you can print them on a 3-D printer." Just as important, he said, is to record the series of steps, "so we can tell how fast it was moving, how large it might have been."



There's also the importance of collecting physical evidence and maintaining a chain of custody to protect its integrity.

"A lot of times I talk to people who say they've found Sasquatch hair," Gordon said. "And then they say they sent it to a lab and that they never heard from the lab and they've squandered their entire sample."

Members of the audience countered that there is a large financial incentive to not allowing such evidence to be made public. "Follow the money," said one man. "Billions of dollars could be lost if this thing is real. It would lock up all kinds of land." Gordon said he had heard similar sentiments before. "I talked to loggers in Clarkson in Idaho who said on lots of occasions, they'd encounter Sasquatch beings but they didn't say anything because they didn't want to get work halted," he said.

Other audience members described their own experiences, from calls and "wood knocks" in the night, to one man's recent experience tracking three Sasquatch near Lake Cushman. "People say they're dangerous; they're not," he said.

"People ask me all the time, 'Do you believe in the Sasquatch?' and I have to say I'm kind of a fence-sitter," Gordon said. "Part of the reason I wrote my book was for people to get a sense of whether this was a real thing, but mostly it's about how to gather evidence. If you go out with the right focus and training and equipment, you're going to get more out of your trip to the great outdoors and maybe shed some light on this centuries-old mystery."

About That Bigfoot Film We've All Seen...

This iconic image of Bigfoot is from the Patterson-Gimlin film shot at Bluff Creek, a tributary of the Klamath River in Humboldt County, California, in 1967. The 55 seconds of bumpy black-and-white footage was shot with a rented camera from the back of a panicky horse.

"This footage has been seen by scientists, anthropologists, physiologists, primatologists, and no one can really say whether it's the real thing or a fake," said author and Sasquatch-seeker David George Gordon. "But there are a lot of things that are unfortunately missing in telling this story."

1. The speed of the film is in doubt.

Gordon said, "If you watch the film at one speed, it looks like something lumbering along; at another speed it looks like an old Charlie Chaplin movie."

2. No one knows who developed the film. "Supposedly it was taken on a Saturday, developed on Sunday and screened on Monday," Gordon said. "Even the people who first showed the film don't really recall where it was developed."

3. There is no other footage. "If you were going to film your expedition, wouldn't you have stuff like, 'Here we are getting on our horses, waving to the camera,' and all that?"

4. The gender of the animal is open to interpretation. "It's reportedly a female; you can actually see breasts, but it also has a sagittal crest on its head, which is a male characteristic," Gordon said. "So it's really hard with this limited data; that's why when people ask me if I believe in Sasquatch, I say 'I don't know; what do you think?'"

Lisa Bryan
THE EDITOR'S DESK



A Few Extra Muscles

Now that I'm firmly seated in the editor's chair, a few more of the intricacies and intrigues of publishing a successful monthly paper are becoming more evident.

Don't get me wrong, I love this newspaper and everyone who works on it. I especially love the people in our community who give their time (and money) to keep this newspaper alive and filled with a variety of well-researched, well-written and attractively laid out stories.

There's so much important that's happening in our special part of the world that will never make the daily news, internet or not. That's where individuals can make such a big difference and how the KP News can function at its best.

If you've ever worked with a group on a fundraiser, political action or church activity, you'll recognize this rule of thumb: No matter the group, the cause or the locale, it's always a few who do the most. Every group has its doers, people who tirelessly take on the smallest details that contribute to the difference that leads to success. Let's call them the muscles.

Just like every nonprofit, the Key Peninsula News can use a few more muscles to help pull the weight.

We're always looking for people who can write a good story (within the usual rules of journalism). In coming months, we'll be adding new peninsula lifestyle features: living on the Key; cooking; raising a family; enjoying a clambake or sailing without wind.

As our ad reads on page 15, "It's not hard to be a staff writer for the News. Editors are kind, deadlines come just once a month and stories are assigned to match your interests, skills and time."

You might be surprised how valuable your time and talents can be to our wonderful community asset, not to mention its new editor.

Lisa Bryan is waiting for your response at editor@keypennews.com

The opinions expressed by columnists and letter writers are not necessarily those of the KP News. We neither endorse nor oppose issues or proposals discussed on these pages and present these views for public information. Letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published. Letters are used on a space-available basis and will be edited for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to editor@keypennews.com.

Frank Slater
A VIEW FROM HERE



The Clearwater Spruce

In 1945 or '46, the Quinault school district extended its high school bus route to Kalaloch in Jefferson County to pick up teenage students from Queets, Clearwater and Kalaloch. Mrs. Aschenbrenner was our bus driver.

On our trip home after the first day of school, the kids were excited and a bit unruly. Mrs. Aschenbrenner quietly asked us to settle down. In a few minutes, the noise level was back up to where it had been. She stopped the bus and said, "I have been hired to transport you safely to school and back home. I can't drive safely and keep order on the bus at the same time. The bus is going to stay where it is until it is quiet enough to drive safely. If it becomes an inconvenience for your parents to pick you up, they can take it up with you." She never again had a disorderly bus.

My share of the ride lasted a little over a half an hour. My seatmate was Gardner Genteman. He was an amazing fellow. One time when he was hunting with friends on the Humptulips, the three of them were walking on a logging road. He held out his hands for silence and whispered, "Elk." "Where?" they whispered. Gardner pointed ahead and whispered, "I smell 'em." The elk were just over a rise and upwind of them. If I remember the story correctly, they got an elk. He had 20/10 vision. He lived near Bill Hamilton on the Clearwater. They were fishing buddies. If there were fish, Gardner and Bill could get them.

I think I have a reasonably good imagination, but his was better. With an hour and a quarter or more of time together every school day, we began making up the Clearwater Spruce story. It was generally on the order of the stories about Paul Bunyan, who logged trees so tall he had to send his boom men up the trees with pike poles to help push the clouds past.

The Clearwater spruce grew only in the drainage of the Clearwater River. It had needles so big you could use them as broadswords. It grew straight and tall with very little taper. Mature ones might get as big as 30 feet in diameter at the stump.

To harvest them, the cutting crew put in two horizontal cuts about 30 feet apart. Then with a dragline about the size used to dig the main irrigation canals for the Columbia Basin Project, they would rap the log smartly with a specially designed

weight and pop it right out of the tree. The tree would drop right back onto the stump and keep growing, allowing a sustained yield forest. Harvest was scheduled for spring to allow the graft to strengthen before the wind storms of the following winter. How the log would be moved to a mill or processed when it got there was the mill people's problem, not ours.

To impress a cute little eighth-grade girl, Gardner told our tale about the Clearwater spruce. Years later, when she got to college, one of her assignments in English 101 was to write a composition on nature. She wrote about the Clearwater spruce. She said her instructor spent half a day in the college library trying to find information on the Clearwater spruce before giving her an F on the paper. She said he hadn't specified that it be nonfiction. We thought that wasn't very sporting of him.

Frank Slater, retired math teacher and Korean War veteran, lives in Vaughn.

Rachel V. Berry
KP DAY TRIPPER



Hoodsport Entices Foodies and Outdoor Enthusiasts

Even though it's not quite spring, most of us have had enough of winter and are ready for an adventure. Good news: There's an area not far from the Key Peninsula that offers just about any indulgence you want, whether it's a short outdoor trek, wine tasting or the best in local food.

Hoodsport doesn't get enough credit for its many merits. Most people think of it as a way station to Lake Cushman or Olympic National Park. This is the perfect time of year to pause and take a look around to discover Hoodsport's hidden gems.



Start your adventure by traveling to Lilliwaup and the Hama Hama Oyster Co., the furthest point on your journey. Here, time slows down to follow the rhythm of the tide; if you visit during the week, you'll see shucking and other activities

in tandem with the sea's clock. Pick up a brochure and take the self-guided tour of the facility. At the Oyster Saloon, taste the freshest, and arguably the best, oysters in raw or grilled form. In the company store, you can purchase local seafood to take home (the crab cakes are extremely tasty). There are also plenty of locally brewed beverages to accompany your purchases.



When you're ready to leave Lilliwaup, head back to Hoodsport and discover some nice sipping at the town's Hardware Distillery. It offers finely crafted products such as aquavit (based on pear vodka), the unique Bee's Knees (distilled and aged mead from honey) and Crabby Ginny (cranberries, pears and grain). The distillery is open Thursday to Sunday in the winter, so check its schedule for current hours.

After imbibing, don't hit the road yet—stroll up the street to the Hoodsport Coffee Co. Try its signature coffee or some of the best ice cream in the area. You'll pass a few eclectic gift shops along the way, also worth exploring.

Now it's time to work off those calories. There are plenty of good hiking trails in the area. The most popular, known as the Staircase area at Olympic National Park, is closed and not expected to reopen until late spring 2018, so you might try the easy-to-moderate Big Creek Trail, a 4-mile loop with the trailhead at the Big Creek Campground (SR 119 from Hoodsport to Forest Road 24). A National Forest Service trail pass is required.



Whether or not you take the hike, you'll eventually head south on U.S. Highway 101. Just past Hoodsport's commercial

district you'll find the Hoodsport Winery, open daily to offer travelers tastes of its cordials and varietal wines. If you've never tried rhubarb or blueberry wine, now's the time! It's also a beautiful place to enjoy the scenery.

Continuing south on Highway 101, don't miss the picturesque Cushman Dam No. 2 facility near Potlatch. Built in 1930 to form Kokanee Lake, the structure is on the National Register of Historic Places. Still in operation today by Tacoma Public Utilities, it's another great place to take a picture or two.

End your day with a stop at the Lucky Dog Casino in Skokomish. The casino's smaller size appeals to those who just want to drop a coin or two in a machine. Who knows? You might win enough to pay for your road trip.

Rachel V. Berry lives in Port Orchard.

Vicki Husted Biggs
A SHIFT IN PERSPECTIVE



A Purpose for Your Sadness

The Oxford English dictionary uses words like brokenhearted, morose, sorrow, unhappy, regret, melancholy, downcast, dejected, low, blue, gloomy and miserable to describe sadness. And yet it's possible to think of sadness as a useful, even positive, emotion.

In "The Book of Joy," coauthored with the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu wrote, "We don't really get close to others if our relationship is made up of unending hunky-doryness. It is the hard times, the painful times, the sadness and the grief that knit us together more closely."

Recent studies found that people in a sad mood had better judgment and memory; they were more motivated, more sensitive to social norms and more generous than a happier group. Sadness may cause us to reach out to others in support and solidarity. A funeral, for example, is an event that weaves community and family together. Tears signal to others that we need comfort and kindness and that we are vulnerable and need help.

I have been doing some thinking about sadness. Sadness follows loss, whether it's the loss of a loved one, a pet, a job, a home, a good friend moving across country or our children leaving home to start their own lives. Loss may be related to departures and the realization that circumstances have changed and won't

ever be the same. A feeling of sadness may also be triggered by memories: We catch a whiff of Old Spice wafting across our path or a hint of brownies baking and we think of home. Reflection on lost opportunities, loss of dreams or life's deep disappointments may leave us feeling sad.

We all have experienced sadness. We have felt the pangs of grief and the yearning for a different end to the story. We understand the sadness of being the ones left behind, when others go where we cannot follow.

Even though we cannot possibly know the true feelings of another, we do know what sadness is because of our own experience. We cannot say to others, "I know exactly how you feel," because we don't. We can empathize, however, because we access our own memories and feelings of loss. True, we filter this information through the lens of our own experience. The brain absorbs the information that people share with us and tries to find a similar experience in our stored memories that can provide context to the information. We try to make sense of what we see and hear. We access similar experiences and apply that knowledge to what is happening now. Ideally, we respond in a compassionate and selfless way to the person sharing, validating their experience because we understand something of their emotion.

Remember, too, that without love, there is no grief. Sadness and grief are reminders of the beauty of that love, now lost. To quote the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu again, "In the blinking and buzzing world of our lives, it is so easy to delete the past and move on to the next moment. To linger in the longing, the loss, the yearning is a way of feeling the rich and embroidered texture of life, the torn cloth of our world that is endlessly being ripped and rewoven."

Those of us who volunteer for hospice care learn to not be afraid of sadness. It helps us to know the experiences that bring us sadness also have a purpose beyond what we first believe. A useful byproduct of sadness may be the ability to give comfort, and a comforting presence is perhaps the most important gift that a volunteer brings to that service.

Sadness can show us the way to a more connected life. Lean into it and be assured that life will be your best teacher.

Vicki Husted Biggs leads volunteers in hospice work and lives in Home.



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Big shout out to Zoltan Dornay with Axia Tree Service, LLC (206.409.9528) who helped us clean our gutters in January

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Rob Vajko
KEYTHOUGHTS



Flirting, Harassment and Hollywood

There is an inherent danger in not jumping on the bandwagon of current thinking, especially when the current thinking has to do with sexual harassment. The inherent danger is that people will immediately jump to the conclusion that you are speaking up in defense of sexual harassment when you are, in fact, just trying to bring a little balance to a pendulum swing that has moved the whole world away from tolerating sexual harassment as part of the norm, especially in Hollywood.

So, let me be clear from the very start that I am in no way condoning sexual assault or harassment in any way, shape or form. What Harvey Weinstein, Bill Cosby, Matt Lauer and Louis C. K. did was wrong. It is unacceptable and should never be tolerated.

My problem right now is that I believe that we are reacting instead of acting.

Reacting means that we have an emotional response that dictates what we say or do. Acting, on the other hand, leads us to think more dispassionately about an issue. Reacting is the easier course; we simply let our emotions run the show. Acting, on the other hand, requires us to tamp down our outrage and disgust, to step back long enough to examine the whole picture. It's a lot of hard work to seek understanding of why this problem exists and what we can do about it.

Webster's New World College Dictionary defines "sexual harassment" as "inappropriate, unwelcome and typically persistent behavior, as by an employer or co-worker, that is sexual in nature, specifically when actionable under federal or state statutes."

With that definition in mind, watch any of the first six episodes of "Star Wars." Hans Solo flirts with Princess Leia so aggressively, she tells him he's making her uncomfortable and is not interested in his advances. But he continues and, as we all know, she eventually falls in love with him. In the prequels, it's Anakin Skywalker's turn as he pursues Padmé Amidala. Again, she tells him his overtures make her uncomfortable. He continues to make inappropriate advances and comments and she eventually, apparently, changes her mind and likes what formerly was creepy.

How about James Bond? You'll be hard pressed to find a single Bond movie where the hero doesn't almost force himself on the "Bond girl," ignoring her protests. They all, of course, give in—probably not the best idea as almost every one of them ends up dead afterward. There are numerous other examples: "Ted 2," "Grease," "Tootsie" and especially old classics like "Some Like It Hot," just to name a few. Add to this "Fifty Shades of Grey," and you end up with a pretty confusing issue.

These are simple examples and we can have a debate about whether media is promoting sexual harassment instead of exposing it, but whatever the case, it's on our screens just as surely as it's in our board rooms, classrooms and politics.

My point is this: Instead of the current witch-hunt that is ruining good men's reputations for what they consider harmless flirting or for making advances that, if the woman was interested, would be welcome advances, we need to stop and regain a little balance. We need to differentiate between simple flirting and real sexual harassment. We also need to understand that we as a society are at least partly responsible. We've communicated clearly to men that women like to be pursued (and most women, I believe, would still say that this is the message we're sending men). Men are therefore acting accordingly. It isn't right to suddenly change all the rules and persecute men for acting the way they were taught to act. Can we please regain a little balance?

Rob Vajko lives in Purdy.

Letter to the Editor

KP Crime—Do More Than Complain

There was a lot of great information about crime on the KP in the January edition of the Key Peninsula News, but only six residents showed up to the community crime-prevention meeting, held by Safe Streets and the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, last fall. I was very disappointed in the turnout, as were the organizers, who wondered whether it's worthwhile having another one.

We as a community need to have these meetings and have people show up to help combat criminal activity on the Key Peninsula. We all see posts on Facebook complaining about local crime, yet no one shows up for meetings or calls in suspicious activity—they just post on social media to complain.

We need to get involved to find a solution.

RoxAnne Simon of Safe Streets has been instrumental in showing community members the best ways to protect their property and curb criminal activity.

We need to be the eyes and ears for law enforcement. There are many different watch groups for different neighborhoods. Write down days, times, plate numbers and descriptions of vehicles or people. Call in anything that looks suspicious, whether it turns out to be or not. The more calls to 911, whether an emergency or not (just say "non emergency"), the more sheriffs will be assigned out here. Make criminals aware they are being watched, but don't take it to the point of becoming a vigilante: That's not wanted or needed.

Show law enforcement that we are here to help them.

Tawnya Pregler, Minterwood

For more information, contact: RoxAnne Simon of Safe Streets at 253-272-6824 or Rsimon@safest.org; Property Crimes Unit at 253-798-4722; Nuisance Property Ordinance at 253-798-4636; Pierce County Sheriff non emergency number 253-798-4721.

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Plan for a year of fun in 2018 at Key Peninsula Civic Center

February 10 Crab Feed
May 5 Livable Community Fair
May 26 Garage Sale
June July 4th Fireworks
October 13 Flavor of Fall
November 10 Winter Warm-Up



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OBITUARIES



Marge Adams

Marge Adams died peacefully, surrounded by family, Dec. 15, 2017, after a long battle with cancer. Born April 4, 1936, to Johanna Jansen and Glenn Lambertson, Adams grew up in Tacoma. She moved to Ottawa, Illinois, in 1954 where she married William Adams and together they had two children, Peggy and Edward. She worked at a glass factory in Illinois until her retirement.

The couple retired in 1984 to Lakebay where Adams quickly became active on the Key Peninsula. A friend convinced her to become manager of the Key Peninsula Community Services, which Adams managed for 15 years. She continued as a board member, volunteering countless hours to raise funds for the organization.

Adams volunteered for numerous local groups including the Cootiettes, the local fire department support group Ashes and the Veteran Institute Aisle of Honor. She received the Lions Club Citizen of the Year Award in 2001. She helped raise several grandchildren and nephews. She had a passion for Mickey Mouse memorabilia and in her spare time loved to crochet.

Adams is survived by her daughter, Peggy Ensor and son-in-law Warren; sister, Hellen Saxer; daughter-in-law, Darlene; grandchildren Dion, Shaila, Tara, Theresa, and Tiffany; and 19 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill, her son, Eddie, and her beloved dog, Muffin.

A celebration of her life will take place at Grace Evangelical Church Saturday, Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made, in honor of Marge Adams, to Key Peninsula Community Services to support their senior center and food bank.



James Theodore Madden

James Theodore (Ted) Madden died Dec. 28, 2017, surrounded by loved ones at St. Anthony hospital in Gig Harbor, following his second battle with cancer. A fun-loving man with an enormous heart, Madden was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, friend and Santa Claus who will be missed as dearly as he was loved.

Among family whom Madden held dear was the love of his life and wife of over 49 years, Patricia (Sauget). The two wed Aug. 2, 1968. Their love grew as they welcomed daughters Melinda in 1969, Welinda in 1970 and Kristine in 1972. He lovingly referred to Patty as "Mom" most times; she and his daughters were the apple of his eye.

Madden would later be blessed with six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Others close to Madden include his sister, Myra Jo Lawler, and husband Harold; brother, Myron Eugene Madden; sons-in-law, Rick Milbourn and Robert Atkinson; close friends, John Moore, Elmer Lighty and Sonny White; as well as many nieces, nephews and extended family.

Madden was a sheet metal worker at the Bremerton Naval Shipyard, retiring in 1999 after 34 years of service. His friends and colleagues knew him by his nickname "Maddog" as well for as his infamous shenanigans.

An early retirement meant focusing more on his family. The in-ground pool in the backyard at Pat and Ted's was an oasis where he would play for hours with his grandkids. He attended nearly every event that the kids participated in, and loved to share their accomplishments with anyone who would listen. Camping trips and vacations were plentiful, including trips to Silverwood theme park, where

he braved many a roller coaster and water slide. Flying off the back of an inner tube on the lake or sliding down an icy sledding hill weren't out of the ordinary for the man whose grandchildren considered the ultimate grandpa.

Madden was an avid bow hunter with a love for the outdoors. He regularly sported camouflage attire, never missed a scouting opportunity and cherished his annual elk trips with son-in-law Rick. There's never been a shortage of comical stories from hunting camp.

Madden found immense joy in playing Santa for many years. With his wife by his side as Mrs. Claus, he donned his Santa suit and volunteered for countless events in the community, nursing homes and private parties. Many times on Christmas Eve, he came through the door at the family Christmas celebration as "Papa Santa." The laughter and photos will keep these memories alive for generations to come.

Madden was a one-of-a-kind human being, known to bring laughter to even the darkest of times. He opened his home and his heart to many who will never forget his kindness or his sense of humor. He will be missed tremendously though he will live on in their hearts and memories forever.

A celebration of Madden's life will take place Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Key Peninsula Civic Center from 2 to 4 pm. Attire is casual, camouflage encouraged.



Beatrice Louise Ragains

Born May 9, 1920, as Beatrice Louise McKean, Ragains died peacefully in her sleep at Mercy Care Adult Family Home in Gig Harbor Dec. 27, 2017. As a young schoolgirl, she was teased with cries of "Bea Bea Bumble Bee" and thus preferred the name Louise. She graduated from

Vaughn Union High School, class of 1938.

Ragains spent the last 30 years of her life living in the home she designed and built in Longbranch. She was an active member of the community and a longtime member of the Longbranch Improvement Club, where she served on its board of directors. A fiercely self-reliant woman, Louise demonstrated her strength of character by living independently well into her 90s until she grew too frail to remain at home. With her charming sense of humor and warm smile, she, along with her favorite cat, Felix, continued to make true friends along the way. Toward the end, "Bea Bea Bumble Bee" was a name that made her laugh, smile and reply "Yes, yes, it is me." She will not be forgotten.

Ragains is survived by her son, Robert, and daughter-in-law, Ann Yeager, of Arizona; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.



Kathy Ann Snider

Born to Frank and Elma Snider, Sept. 3, 1959, Kathy Ann Snider died unexpectedly Dec. 24, 2017. She was a resident of the Key Peninsula for over 20 years but grew up in Clark Fork, Idaho, where her father worked as the chief officer of the Cabinet Gorge Dam on the Clearwater River. She often said, "I was a dam child!" Following high school, Snider's musical interests lead her to the University of Idaho, where she studied and mastered the piano. With her degree in music, she taught piano to countless numbers of children. After moving to the Key Peninsula, it did not take long for her to win hearts and make many friends. She was a beautiful, funny and bright light who will continue to shine. Snider is survived by her brother, Lee.



Robert Ernest Sprague

Robert Ernest Sprague died Jan. 7, 2018. Sprague was born in 1920 in Wenatchee, Washington, to John W. and Blanche Sprague. He was educated in Tacoma schools, graduating from Lincoln High in 1938. During World War II, he served as a mechanic in the U.S. Army Air Force. After leaving the service, he worked for American Plumbing, then for Tacoma City Light for 30 years before retiring in 1983. He was a member of Destiny Masonic Lodge for 65 years, serving twice as master and once as secretary.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Nilma; daughter, Peggy Ellingson; grandson, Evan Sprague; two sisters and two nieces.

Survived by children Robert (Voski); Donald (Madeline); and Suzanne Sprague; grandsons Boshon (Beth) Sprague; Corey (Leslie) Sprague and five great-grandchildren. His interests included golf, archeology, genealogy, fishing, cats and pinochle.

Except for his final days, he lived out his life independently at home in Home Colony.

A memorial will be scheduled at a later date.



Virginia Marie Volz

Born the first baby of the New Year Jan. 1, 1959, in Reno, Nevada, Virginia Marie Volz was the second child of Raymond and Maria Volz. She died unexpectedly Nov. 27, 2017, from a massive cardiac arrest while working as manager at Buzz Liquor Store located on the Key Peninsula.

Volz grew up in Germany, where her father was stationed for nearly 15 years. She was well-traveled throughout Europe. The family relocated to Seattle in 1973. Volz studied at the University of Washington and earned her bachelor of science in horticulture from the University of Texas.

Before relocating to the Key Peninsula in May 2015, Volz was employed as a hotel manager in Leavenworth, Washington.

An avid animal lover, Volz worked at Bayside Animal Lodge for a year. Her dog, Schnulli, was the love of her life. She adored the Key Peninsula, found beauty all around it and made many friends who will miss her.

Volz was preceded in death by her parents and is survived by her sister, Sylvia Knopp; her dog, Schnulli; and two estranged sons.

A celebration of her life took place Jan. 27, at WayPoint Church. In lieu of flowers, her sister requests that donations be made in her name to the animal shelter in Pierce or Kitsap counties.

In Memory Obituaries are printed free of charge by the Key Peninsula News as a service to community members. Please limit submissions to 300 words and provide high-resolution photographs when possible. All submissions will be edited. Send to editor@keypennews.com.



KEYPENNEW.COM ONLINE CALENDAR

The online calendar is one of the most popular features at keypennews.com. It's easy to display events in month, week, day or list format; search for specific events; and filter events by venue, organizer and more. You can also export events to the calendar app on your computer.

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Enter your event or regular meeting schedule on our website calendar at keypennews.com. Click on "Submit an Event" and fill out the form, including venue and contact information for verification. Everything posted by the 15th of the month will be printed in the following month's edition. Need help? Email editor@keypennews.com or call 253-884-4699.

FEB. 2 & 16

SKATE NIGHT

Skate night at the Key Peninsula Civic Center from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5. 253-884-3456 or kpciviccenter.org/skate.

FEB. 3 & 17

DEPRESSION & BI-POLAR SUPPORT

The Lakebay Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group meets 11:15 a.m. to noon at KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN. Kimberly, 253-753-4270 or DBSALakebay@gmail.com

FEB. 5 & 19

VETERANS MEETING

The KP Veterans group meets behind the KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. All veterans, military service members and families with children 16 and older are welcome. 253-225-5130

FEB. 6 & 20

SENIOR SHOPPING

Seniors grocery shop at various stores and enjoy a "Dutch" lunch on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Transportation provided. KP Community Services, 253-884-4440

FEB. 10

MEHNDI MADNESS AT THE LIBRARY

Discover the art of Mehndi-Henna body painting with local artists who will create a small henna tattoo for participants. From 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 253-548-3511

ANNUAL CRAB FEED

Key Peninsula Civic Center's annual crab feed features freshly caught Pacific Coast Dungeness crab, spaghetti, Caesar salad and more. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children ages 6 to 12 years; children 5 and younger are free. From 4 to 7 p.m. 253-884-3456

FEB. 13 & 27

CROCHET OR KNIT

Join Loving Hearts on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue KPN, to knit or crochet for charity. Yarn donations are needed and very much appreciated. Virginia, 253-884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com

FEB. 14

ADDRESS CHANGES ADDRESSED

Street addresses are changing soon on the Key Peninsula. The KP Community Council February meeting will feature Senior Pierce County Planner Tiffany O'Dell, who will explain the 911 address change project going into effect in April. 7 p.m. at the KC Fire Station. 253-432-4948

FEB. 15

EMERGENCY PREP

Meetings on emergency prep topics are the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. Peggy, 253-686-7904 or gablehousep@aol.com (put E Prep in the subject line)

FEB. 17

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

The KP Alzheimer's Association caregiver support group meets the third Saturday of each month. All unpaid family caregivers, their family and friends are welcome. Come exchange practical information on caregiving problems and possible solutions; share feelings, needs

and concerns; and learn about resources available in the community. From 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Crandall Center, 9016 154th Avenue Court KPN. 253-820-2213

LONGBRANCH AT BLEND

An informal open house to mingle with friends, enjoy snacks and a beverage, and discuss how to improve education, historic preservation, marine ecology, recreation and like-minded organizations on the KP. Hosted by The Longbranch Foundation in the interest of building community. From 4 to 6 p.m. 253-884-9688

FEB. 21

KP LAND USE

The Key Peninsula Advisory Commission meets the third Wednesday of every month (case dependent) at 6:30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. KPAC reviews applications for proposed developments in the community that require a public hearing and makes recommendations to the Pierce County executive, county council, hearing examiner, planning commission and the Planning and Land Services Department. 253-432-4948

FEB. 22

BOOK DISCUSSION

Friends of the Library book group will discuss "When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. All are welcome. Ask for a copy at the help desk. 253-548-3309

FEB. 24

STEM SATURDAY

Explore the human body and meet Cal the library skeleton at the Key Center Library from 11 a.m. to noon. Ages 5 to 8. Register at piercecountylibrary.org/calendar or call 253-548-3309.

MAR. 1

SCHOOL BOND AT BLEND

Peninsula School District Superintendent Rob Manahan will be at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center to discuss the upcoming school capital bond on the April ballot from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

OFF THE KEY

FEB. 6, 13, 20 & 27

TOBACCO-FREE SUPPORT

The Freedom from Tobacco Support Group meets Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital. 253-223-7538

FEB. 7

DEMOCRATS MEET

26th Legislative District Democrats meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard.

FEB. 10

OLALLA CLUB CONCERT

The Ian McFeron Band will play at Olalla Community Club, 12970 Olalla Valley Road SE, Olalla. Suggested donation is \$20. Potluck starts at 6 p.m.; concert starts at 7 p.m. www.olallahouse.org

FEB. 22

GAME NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Enjoy Toytopia, as games take over the entire museum. Live out your dreams as Tom Hanks in the movie "Big" by asking Zoltar your fortune and playing "Chopsticks" on a giant floor piano, not to mention board and video games galore. Grab a pint from Three Magnets Brewing Co. \$20 preregister, \$25 at the door. Exhibit runs through June 10. Washington State Historical Society, 253-272-9747

WEEKLY EVENTS

WEEKDAYS

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES

The S.A.I.L. senior exercise class meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Register with Marilyn Perks at 253-884-4440.

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

PLAY TO LEARN

Play to Learn 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Provided by Children's Museum of Tacoma. This is a free drop-in program for preschoolers age 5 and under and their adult caregivers. 253-884-3456

TUESDAYS

KEY SINGERS REHEARSE

The Key Singers begin rehearsals for their spring program on Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. 4213 Lackey Rd. 253-884-5615

TOPS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly members learn about nutrition, portion, food planning, exercise, motivation and more. Visitors are welcome to attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge and without obligation. Weigh-in from 8:35 to 9:25 a.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN.

SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior tai chi meets 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. 253-884-4440

STORYTIMES

Discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the Key Center Library. Music and motion story time (0-2 years old with an adult) at 10 a.m. and preschool story time at 11 a.m. 253-548-3309

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME

The Children's Home Society/KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. Caregivers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. Tami, 253-884-5433

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

NEW EXHIBIT AT KPHS MUSEUM

The KPHS Museum reopens Feb. 6 with a new exhibit on local logging history. Open 1 to 4 p.m. Free admission, donations welcome. Key Peninsula Civic Center, 253-888-3426

WEDNESDAYS

READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS

The Children's Home Society of Washington sponsors this free cooperative preschool class for 3- and 4-year-olds at KP Civic Center. Parents or caretakers participate with the children, playing learning games, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. 253-884-5433

LAKEBAY WRITERS

Lakebay Writers is a workshop for people who love stories. Share yours, hear others. From 1 to 4 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Loren, 253-884-2785

KP YOUTH COUNCIL

Meets every week from 2:30 to 5 p.m. at the Key Center fire station. Keypercouncil@gmail.com

BLEND HOOKERS AND TINKERS

Does your fiber diet include skeins of yarn? Join in every Wednesday 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Blend Wine Shop for a rollicking good time. Bring projects to work on, questions, show-and-tell, or just hang out with a fabulous group of Key Penners. All skill levels and fiber interests welcome, but must be 21+ due to location. hannah-8ball@gmail.com

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

SENIOR MEALS

Nutritious meals for ages 60+ are served at noon at KP Community Services; \$2 donation is requested. Guests (ages 50-59) of senior attendees are requested to donate \$2.50. 253-884-4440

THURSDAYS

TOASTMASTERS

Have fun improving your public speaking ability and leadership skills at the Key Center Library 8 to 9 a.m. 253-858-5761 or 253-548-3511

SENIORS LUNCH

The KP Senior Society meets at 11 a.m. for a potluck, games and fellowship in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. All are welcome. 253-884-4981

SATURDAYS

WRITERS GUILD

The Writers Guild meets the first and third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon in the community council office, Suite D at the Key Center Corral. 253-884-6455

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Feb. 7, KP Parks, 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

Feb. 7 & 21, KP Lions, 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

Feb. 8, Ashes support group for Fire District 16, 10:30 a.m., Key Center fire station. 253-884-3771

Feb. 8, KP Civic Center Assn. board, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 253-884-3456

Feb. 9, Peninsula School District board, 6 p.m.; call for location. 253-530-1000

Feb. 13 & 27, KP Fire Commissioners, 5 p.m., Key Center fire station. keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

Feb. 14, Bayshore Garden Club, 11 a.m., fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 253-332-4883

Feb. 14, KP Community Council, 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. Senior Pierce County Planner Tiffany O'Dell will explain the 911 address change project going into effect in April. 253-432-4948

Feb. 19, KP Democrats, 7 p.m., Home fire station. johnpatkelly@aol.com

The Community Calendar is brought to you as a public service by the Angels.



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Mary Johnson and Hannah Jones at Panama City Beach in Florida back in 2016.

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The day I called—August 24, 2016—I was at my wit’s end. I had endured two hard days and was treated horribly. I took a chance and called your number on my way home from work. You answered and listened to my story, and when I hung up *I actually had hope that this nightmare might end.* I am so glad you were

able to understand and sympathize and see this “strange illness” for what it was. It was scary to have no income for a year—but in the end it worked out and I am grateful!

Please continue to run your ad — it saved my life and my hope is that it will help others who may be suffering in silence.

With all my thanks,
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November 16, 2017

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Email: KPCSdirector@centurytel.net

Dear Community Members,

Board Elections will be held February 7th 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. All Community Members 18 and older are encouraged to vote! You can fill out the ballot on the bottom and mail it to:

KPCS PO Box 392 Lakebay, WA 98349. Or you can drop your ballot off at our building. What a great time to take a tour of our facility and see all the programs we have to offer the community.

Brent Shown	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hellen Saxer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Candidates are not running against each other. You may vote for both.

www.keypeninsulacommunityservices.org and www.facebook.com/KeyPenCS



Ever-smiling Rosina Vertz has been a vital part of our community. Photo: Anna Brones, KP News

Key Center Library’s Rosina Vertz Retires

ANNA BRONES, KP NEWS

If it weren’t for a day of nice weather, the Key Peninsula may never have met one of its notable community members, Rosina Vertz, community branch supervisor of the Key Center Library, will retire at the end of February after almost three decades working in the Pierce County Library System.

It was 1990, and Vertz, originally from a small town in Southern Germany, had burned out as a local preschool teacher. When the new school year started in the fall, she decided to take a break. While visiting the Gig Harbor Library one December afternoon, she spotted a job listing and took an application form.

The completed application had to be submitted at the main library office in Tacoma. Vertz, who didn’t enjoy driving

over the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, told herself, “If it doesn’t rain, I will take it in.” Fortunately, it didn’t rain that day, and when she was selected to come in for an interview, it didn’t rain that day either.

Vertz was hired, and began working at the Gig Harbor Library as a page, checking in books and stacking shelves. In 1991, a position opened up at the Key Center Library, and she began to split her time between the two. After a short break to go back to school for general studies at Tacoma Community College, she came back to the library, soon settling full time at the Key Center branch in 2005.

Her work within the Pierce County Library System, spanning almost three decades, has been about far more than books. “In our system, librarians do more than traditional reference librarians,” says Vertz. Library staff “don’t just sit

and answer questions; that went out the window a long time ago—along with the ‘ssh,’ she said. Library staff are just as likely to help someone find a book as they are assisting a computer user with a Microsoft Word document or community event planning. Vertz hailed this major shift in the library system for its significant impact on the library as a community hub.

“One of the real turning points was the focus on customer service,” Vertz said. “There was this perception of the library being special, that you have to behave a certain way, that might have intimidated people.”

In the early 2000s, the library system shifted to provide better customer service, training staff to focus on the needs of the community. As a library supervisor, Vertz understood the importance of being “really engaged with the people in the community,” she said. For example, Vertz has been a longtime member of the Key Peninsula Business Association.

In a rural community like the Key Peninsula, the library is more than a place to borrow books. It is a free and accessible place, open to anyone. “The Key Peninsula community values the library,” Vertz said. She proudly points out that it’s a system-wide policy “to be accessible... as a person and as an institution.”

Libraries come with a rich history—starting right after humans created the first books. History’s most notable library was perhaps the one in Alexandria, constructed in the 3rd century B.C. In the United States, libraries date back to the mid 1700s, among them Benjamin Franklin’s membership library, the Library Company of Philadelphia. Public libraries soon followed. The Peterborough Town Library, established in 1833, is the oldest tax-supported library. The nation’s first large public library, the Boston Public Library, opened in 1848.

Today, public libraries are an essential part of a civilized, literate and educated society. They are a place that community members can go to, no matter who they are or what their background is, and have free access to a world of ideas. The Key Center branch is no different. “Our credo is free access to information,” Vertz said. “That’s a democratic principle.”

Local community members depend on the library as an open forum for information. For instance, it offers its walls as a gallery space for artists to display their work, and Vertz has worked with local organizations like Two Waters Arts Alliance to host juried shows. There are early learning programs for children, called “block parties,” a nod to the simple

yet enriching childhood toy. The collection of diverse events and programs that Vertz and her team have cultivated “are enriching to the cultural life of the community,” says Vertz.

While the Key Center Library will continue to serve as a lively community asset, as its mainstay representative and advocate, Vertz will certainly be missed. She looks forward to more time in her garden and more time to read. She will look back at her time at the Key Peninsula Library fondly, not just for her work achievements, but for the people involved.

“I always enjoyed working here. It was a good place to work, a good community to work in and with,” she said.



Anne Nesbit flanked by Truett Dupuis, age 10, and sister Kacey, age 12 displaying their CPR cards. *Photo courtesy: Robyn Denson*

CPR Training: Stayin’ Alive

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

On a drizzly Saturday in January, the 18 participants of the CPR training at the Key Center fire station left class humming the chorus of the Bee Gees’ “Stayin’ Alive.” According to Anne Nesbit, CPR instructor and volunteer battalion chief for the Key Peninsula Fire Department, that chorus is the perfect tempo for CPR compressions. “But don’t start compressions until after the 911 call has been made,” she said.

Participants from the KP and Gig Harbor areas learned and practiced CPR technique for three hours. One person, who was updating her training, said it was the best instructional session she had ever attended.

Modifications in technique have evolved over the years, so retraining could prove valuable, Nesbit said.

The Heartsaver CPR class takes about three hours and costs \$35. Class size determines the number of instructors required to maintain a 6-1 ratio of students to instructors, but Nesbit said she would teach individuals and smaller groups requesting it.

For more information or to arrange a class, contact Anne Nesbit at anesbit@keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222.



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The Key Peninsula News is made possible by volunteer talent and commitment. Every month, each word is crafted by people who share their love of this community with a willingness to give an hour here, an afternoon there, to write.

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Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News

New Face Behind the Mask at Key Center Dental

DON TJOSSEM, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula now has twice as many dentists to serve the needs of its residents. Dr. John Olsson, who has had his dental practice in the Key Center Corral for over 30 years, has sold it to Dr. Matthew J. Cozby. Olsson and Cozby will co-manage the affairs of the office and plan few changes, other than those that will benefit the patients, community or clinic employees. Cozby will take over full time, while Dr. Olsson will treat patients eight to 10 days a month. "I am not retiring and presently have no plans to do so," Olsson said.

Cozby grew up in Anaconda, Montana, a small rural town, and is familiar with the ways of life in a community like the Key Peninsula. He earned his bachelors in health science at Corban University in Salem, Oregon, before attending Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry in Nashville, Tennessee, for his doctorate degree. He entered the U.S. Army as a dentist in 2008. After a residency in general dentistry at Fort Carson, Colorado, he trained in advanced clinical practice at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Soon enough, he found himself living under occasional enemy fire in a combat housing unit in Iraq.

After serving in Iraq, Cozby practiced at Joint Base Lewis-McChord for five years, completing the Academy of General Dentistry Fellowship exam in the spring of 2017, shortly before his honorable discharge in June 2017. After meeting Olsson in a bible study program in Tacoma and learning about the local practice, Cozby began a regular schedule at the Key Center clinic. "I'm excited about providing dental care to our patients here in Key Center on a continuing basis," Cozby said. "Most of the time in the Army, I'd only see a patient once before they were shipped off to another location."

Cozby lives in Fircrest with his wife, Rachel, and daughters ages 7, 5 and 1. He enjoys the climate and natural environment of the Pacific Northwest, he said, and his outdoor activities include running, bicycling, clamming and the occasional triathlon.

Expanded services at Key Center Family Dentistry now include implants, periodontal surgery and extractions. A new topical treatment to treat and prevent cavities, silver diamine fluoride, is just one of the procedures that may be offered to patients, Cozby said. For more information, go to www.keycenterdental.com.

SKATE & DODGEBALL FUN!

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Key Peninsula Civic Center

Friday Nights

6 to 9 pm at the Civic Center

Skate Feb. 2 & 16

Skate + Dodgeball Feb. 9 & 23

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www.licweb.org 4312 Key Peninsula Hwy S. 253 884-6022



Well Water—What Happens When Tests Find a Problem

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Editor’s note: Following the January KP News article on wells and water systems, some readers asked about the consequences of testing their wells and finding a problem. KP News pursued the matter with Brad Harp, program manager for water resources and hazardous waste at the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

There are three classes of water systems on the Key Peninsula, each with different testing requirements, Harp said. Group A systems (for 15 or more homes) must be managed by a certified operator, with testing requirements depending on the size of the system and previous test results, all of which are monitored by the Washington State Department of Health.

The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department follows Group B systems (with two to 14 homes), with testing for coliform bacteria required annually and for nitrates every three years. Although no testing is required for existing private wells, the health department encourages owners to test their wells on the same schedule as the Group B systems.

If routine testing shows either nitrate or coliforms, the health department will contact the Group B owner or manager. If the well is private, no action is required, though for safety reasons, the health department recommends the same corrective actions required of Group B systems.

The first step is to repeat the test, Harp said. Water is often sampled incorrectly—

perhaps from a hose or a spout that was not cleaned adequately. If there is still a problem after repeat sampling, the health department will work via a phone call to identify possible sources of contamination that can be corrected. Are there rodents near the wellhead? Is fertilizer being used nearby? Is livestock within close range?

If no clear cause can be identified and corrected, then treating water with chlorine will combat coliforms. A special filter can remove nitrates. Once a test shows clear results, the frequency of testing returns to the usual recommended intervals.

According to the Washington State Department of Health website, the presence of coliforms (a type of bacteria) is an indicator for water quality. Coliforms are commonly found in soil and vegetation and most are harmless, but some are found in feces (fecal coliforms) and of those, some can cause serious gastrointestinal illness.

Nitrate is found in most fertilizers, manure and liquid waste discharged from septic tanks. Natural bacteria can also change nitrogen to nitrate. Rain or irrigation water can carry nitrate down through the soil into groundwater, and drinking water may contain nitrate if a well draws from this groundwater. Nitrate reduces the ability of red blood cells to carry oxygen and can cause blue baby syndrome in infants.

For further information, go to tpchd.org/healthy-homes.

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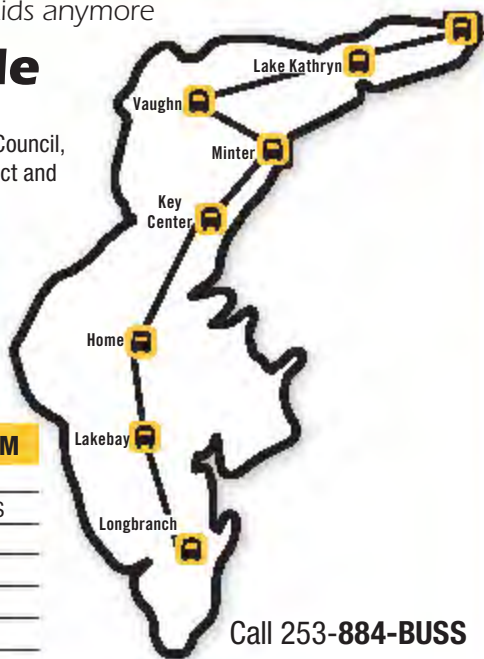
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2018 Schedule

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Call 253-884-BUSS
or www.kp.council.org

EVERGREEN TUES & THURS AM

8:50	Evergreen Elementary School
8:59	Palmer Lake public access 24th St KPS
9:00	Palmer Lake 21st St KPS @ 193rd Ave
9:05	KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
9:06	Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
9:10	67th Ave Ct KPN @ KP Hwy N
9:14	Food Market in Key Center
9:15	KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr KN
9:21	Lake Kathryn Village SR 302 & 92nd Ave NW
9:26	Purdy Park & Ride

EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY AM

9:50	Evergreen Elementary School
9:54	Palmer Lake public access 24th St KPS
9:55	Palmer Lake 21st St KPS @ 193rd Ave
10:00	KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
10:01	Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
10:05	67th Ave Ct KPN @ KP Hwy N
10:09	Food Market in Key Center
10:10	KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr KN
10:16	Lake Kathryn Village SR 302 & 92nd Ave NW
10:21	Purdy Park & Ride

VAUGHN TUES & THURS AM

8:50	Vaughn Elementary School
8:59	Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr KPN
9:00	Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct KPN
9:05	Wright Bliss Road @ SR 302/4-Corners
9:06	SR 302 @ 150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
9:10	SR302 @ 140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
9:14	SR 302 @ Charbonneau Construction
9:15	SR 302 @ 92nd Ave NW/Lake Kathryn Village
9:21	Purdy Park & Ride

VAUGHN WEDNESDAY AM

9:50	Vaughn Elementary School
9:51	Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr KPN
9:52	Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct KPN
9:54	Wright Bliss Road @ SR 302/4-Corners
9:57	SR 302 @ 150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
9:59	SR302 @ 140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
10:01	SR 302 @ Charbonneau Construction
10:04	SR 302 @ 92nd Ave NW/Lake Kathryn Village
10:09	Purdy Park & Ride

TUESDAY & THURSDAY MIDDAY

10:33	Peninsula High School
10:35	Purdy Park & Ride
10:38	Cost Less Pharmacy @ Lake Kathryn Village
10:48	SR 302 @ Windermere Realty, near 118th Ave
10:50	SR 302 @ 140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
10:51	SR 302 @ 150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
10:54	Wright Bliss Road @ SR 302/4-Corners
10:56	Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct KPN
10:58	Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr KPN
11:00	Food Market @ Key Center
11:06	KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct KPN
11:09	Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
11:12	KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
11:18	Palmer Lake public access 24th St KPS
11:19	Palmer Lake 21st St KPS @ 193rd Ave (park)
11:25	Evergreen Elementary School

TUES, WED & THURS PM

4:43	Peninsula High School
4:45	Purdy Park & Ride
4:51	Cost Less Pharmacy @ Lake Kathryn Village
4:54	SR 302 @ Windermere Realty, near 118th Ave
4:58	SR 302 @ 150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
5:00	Wright Bliss Road @ SR 302/4-Corners
5:02	Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct KPN
5:03	Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr KPN
5:06	Food Market in Key Center
5:06	KP Hwy N @ 84th St KPN/Red Barn
5:10	KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct KPN
5:14	Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
5:14	KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
5:19	Palmer Lake public access 24th St KPS
5:20	Palmer Lake 21st St KPS @ 193rd Ave
5:24	KP Hwy N @ 17th St Ct KPS
5:36	KP Hwy N @ 84th St KPN/Red Barn

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Collapsed net pens at Cypress Island. Photo courtesy: Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Fate of Commercial Salmon Farming in Puget Sound Uncertain

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Following a massive net pen collapse at Cypress Island and escape of 160,000 farmed Atlantic salmon in August 2016, public attention turned to the safety of salmon farming and its possible impact on native species. According to the Department of Natural Resources, the future of commercial Atlantic salmon farming in Puget Sound is now in doubt.

Cooke Aquaculture, a Canadian company that purchased its operations from Iccle Seafoods in 2016, operates all eight net pens in four locations in Puget Sound.

“My duty to the people of Washington is to protect our state lands and waters, while also generating revenue for schools, essential services and restoration of natural areas like Puget Sound,” stated Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz. “After the collapse of Cooke’s Cypress Island net pen in August, which released 160,000 nonnative salmon into our waters, I directed my staff to inspect every net pen site in the state to ensure that Cooke was meeting its contractual obligations and that our waters are safe.”

Review of the Port Angeles operation revealed multiple violations, and the lease was terminated in December.

A news release from the DNR stated “Given Cooke’s failure to comply with the terms of the lease, DNR has clear authority to terminate the agreement. DNR will work with Cooke to wind up its operations at the site.” “Given the size of the Port Angeles operation and the amount of biological material, the priority is that this be done properly and safely,” stated Carlo Davis, communications director for DNR.

Cooke filed a lawsuit in Clallam County Superior Court against the DNR Jan. 5.

According to a report in Seafood News, the company said that the attempt to terminate its lease is “not supported by the facts and will unnecessarily result in the loss of scarce rural jobs.”

The investigation of the salmon spill on Cypress Island is ongoing, but Davis said that some escaped Atlantic salmon had survived longer than expected. When asked how likely it was that new permits would be awarded, Davis said, “Commissioner Franz is skeptical of the future of this industry in our waters.”

Two bills concerning commercial salmon farming have been introduced in the state Legislature. SB 6086 would gradually phase out industry permits as they expire; the state would no longer authorize new leases or allow any agency to issue permits for any activity involving invasive species of marine finfish aquaculture. HB 2418 would delay construction of new nonnative finfish aquaculture facilities until thorough study, including structural analysis of existing facilities, is completed.

The most recent recommendations from the state regarding commercial salmon farms date back more than 20 years. In the spring of 2016, the Department of Ecology took the lead in a project to update those recommendations in Puget Sound, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor. Staff members of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission are advising the effort. A final report is due in the fall of 2019.

Curt Hart, communications manager for Ecology, said impetus for the project came from local governments that issue permits for aquaculture and need updated information for shoreline management programs. Pierce County prohibits net pens south and west of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.



"A little bit of kindness can go such a long way," said Natalie Pierson, a senior at Peninsula High School who formed the Kindness Matters Club. "When I started the club, I was like, 'Hey, I want all of us to be friends here' and have a welcoming environment within the club... If you have a lot of people smiling in the halls it can change the whole school's atmosphere." The group plans activities such as going to Purdy Elementary to talk about spreading happiness. *Photo: Nikki Schobert, Peninsula Outlook*



The Peninsula Seahawks girls' varsity team defeated the North Thurston Rams Jan. 10 54-52 in a hard-fought win for PHS. In a back-and-forth game, the Seahawks stretched their lead, at times by 10 to 15 points, only for the Rams to rally. In the closing seconds, North Thurston closed the gap to 2 points. After inbounding the ball headed for the basket with two seconds remaining, Seahawk guard Esther Pappuleas stole the ball at half court, allowing the Seahawks to push their record to 11-1. In a pregame ceremony, PHS coach Michael Schick honored the team's guard Belle Frazier (shown above on right), for scoring 1,000 points in the course of her high school career, a record she extended against the Rams. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

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Whiteman or Whitman?

COLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

One particular road on the Key Peninsula raises questions among newcomers, as it is spelled differently on various maps: Whiteman Cove Road or Whitman Road.

Laurie Peltier, a Lakebay resident, heard the stories of their area around Whiteman's Cove from oldtimer Chick Rembert, who owned a lot of property in the area. Rembert claimed a local Native American tribe built lodges on what is now Camp Coleman land. Their buildings were sited high enough on the hill to see to the shores of the fingers of land north of Olympia, and to view the spectacular Olympic Mountains to the north. The whole cove was visible, said Rembert, before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredged it and built a dike for a state fisheries project.

Rembert said the Natives gathered each summer at the Joemma Beach area for trade, tribal games, contests or to find a spouse. A wide trail led from the beach to a burial ground on the north side of the cove. He told of "ghost" canoes gliding silently on the full moons of August, bearing wrapped

dead to bury there.

At times, large fires were built on the beach as a marker for travelers.

According to Rembert, the government feared large gatherings of tribes who might be plotting war on the white settlers, so claimed and sold the land around the cove.

Whiteman Cove and the road leading to it supposedly honors a Mr. Reed, the first white man to marry into the native tribe that frequented the area. Why not Reed Road? According to Rembert, Reed was at least partly responsible for the U.S. government taking control of the tribal land, and thus was later held in contempt by the tribe. Rembert referred to them as Indians, and Peltier is uncertain which tribe they were from. It's possible they were Squaxins, as they were known to frequent the west coast of the peninsula.

When local area road names were defined for government purposes, the Peltiers and neighbors were told Whiteman Cove Road was too long, so it was shortened to Whitman Road. Local residents complained, but to no avail, which is why the name is not consistent on various maps and signs.

FROM THE KP NEWS ARCHIVES

NEW ORCA COVER



The community's own "Namu", a life-sized carved, wooden, killer whale, now has a better roof over his head. This has been an attraction in the Civic Center front yard for several years.

Concerned about more protection for the paint and wood carving, the Civic Center Board recently ordered a new roof and protective framework.


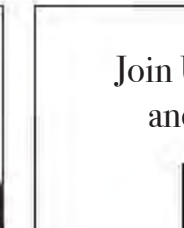
The carved orca or killer whale was prepared and placed in commemorative action by Centennial and Library Associations in April 1976. Ned Richards is listed on the commemorative signboard as the wood carving artist.

Seen in the picture above at work on the project are Steve Burch and Kit Ernesti.


The Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum reopens Feb. 6. *From the archives, Key Peninsula News, March 1987*

A Historical Tale: A Whale of a Wedding

Minnie Hall began her 1897 marriage to Chester Van Slyke with a ride behind a gray whale harpooned in Vaughn Bay. Two young men had looped a rowboat line over the harpoon. The whale towed a string of connected rowboats out to Case Inlet before it freed itself. The somewhat shaken wedding party continued to Allyn. *Courtesy KPHS, from a letter one of the boys sent to his dear teacher many years later.*

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Dale Valley and Maalin Brennen became husband and wife Sept. 4, 1953, at the Gig Harbor Methodist Church



Key Pen Couples Share Online Dating Secrets

Editor's note: For this February Valentine edition, longtime staff writer Colleen Slater reached out to several KP News readers who anonymously shared their experiences seeking companionship online.

Valley Valentines

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

Dale and Maalin (Molly) Valley met as students at Peninsula High School, after Molly transferred from Puyallup in her sophomore year. Dale was a senior who grew up near the Kitsap County line.

Dale learned drywall finishing and painting from his dad, and made it his future work. He passed the knowledge down to his sons, who made careers in that same business and as auto mechanics.

The Valleys had seven children in eight years. Their family includes 21 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren and some step-great grandchildren. "All of our kids went to Peninsula. Some of our grandkids, and now two great-granddaughters attend there," Molly said.

Dale and Molly have lived on the Key Peninsula for 29 years. "This was forest when we came," she said gesturing at the large gardens they've added over the years. They planted fruit trees, flowering plants and grew most of their own fruit and vegetables.

Molly is famous among friends and family for her homemade bread. When she started her first Facebook page, she signed in as Maalin, but since everyone, including her offspring, know her best as Molly. She added a photo of her freshly baked buns just to make sure they knew it was her.



Next September, Dale and Molly Valley will celebrate 65 years of marriage. Photo: Colleen Slater, KP News

Worth the Trouble

I had been divorced a year when I decided to look for a friend and companion. Where and how was the big questions, plus figuring out who I was and what I wanted in another person. A couple set me up with a friend who was a great person but had been single for years and was comfortable in her singleness. So much for friends' matchmaking.

I'm not a church or bar person, so it seemed my best hope for meeting the right person was online dating.

My first site was a free one. Yes, there were lots of choices and I met a few women but soon realized free brought everyone out of the woodwork, which seemed to mean that quality people were not there.

Next came a free trial with eHarmony, which delivered candidates from all over Washington—Long Beach to Bellingham. I was trying to stay within an hour of home. The response to my complaint was, "You can't put a distance on love."

Then I tried OurTime, paying about \$75 for six months. I met 10 women over breakfast, lunch or coffee.

I wanted someone without a lot of baggage—pets or young children—who was financially secure and cleanly divorced, legally and emotionally. I was looking for compatible insanity, a term I made up to describe how we're all a little nuts in our own way.

There seemed to be a lot of variation and vagueness in what women were looking for. My profile stated I liked being home, was not religious, did not want to spend my time dressing up and going out. I preferred boating and cooking at home. If they were religious, they expected me to be too. Some wanted marriage and others just wanted to move in.

Then I came across a fantastic woman who understood compatible insanity, was financially secure and didn't want to marry or live together. We have been seeing each other about four years now. Once we retire, we may build a house and actually live together.

I went through a lot of searching to find her, but couldn't be happier with the results.

Homeport First Date

David and I both chose to use online dating because neither of us enjoy the bar scene. It was easy to use and convenient. My sister frequently asked if I had met anyone and I said no. She replied, "Well, it's not like you are really trying." Believe me, online dating takes trying.

David and I met online in late January 2014 and married in June 2016. We used two different sites, Match.com and OurTime. To show interest in someone, you send a "flirt" note via email and see if they respond. David did not answer my first flirt but when he showed up again as a potential match (members are recycled), I sent another, partly because he lived on Key Peninsula. He thinks I would have kept trying but he's wrong; my ego can only stand so much rejection.

Initially, we communicated only on the site, then moved to phone calls and finally met for coffee at Lulu's Homeport in Home. Neither of us realized it then, but it was our Valentine's Day together.

When you start online dating, you're cautioned to meet in a public place, always use current pictures and be honest with your portrayal of yourself. Neither of us had any major negative experiences. David met with some dishonesty and I was disappointed when someone I "flirted" with didn't respond, even though I thought we would have been a great match. A few men were too persistent and needed to be told more than once not to call again.

Don't be discouraged; keep trying and be kind to yourself about the ones who don't work out. When you finally find the right one, celebrate and enjoy what you get from "really trying."

Nice Guy Loves Fireworks

I met Anthony on MySpace in 2005. I was a single mom trying to make it in the real world raising my son, working a full time job and going to school at Olympic College. We lived in Poulsbo.

A girl from school told me about meeting some guys using MySpace. She helped me create a profile and I met a few guys who just didn't work out. Then I met Anthony. He was cute and polite, one of the only guys whose first question wasn't, "Hey, you want to hook up?"

His first message: "Hey, did you think the fireworks and parades were all for you when you were growing up?" My birthday is on the Fourth of July. I responded, "You mean they're not?" Seemed like an odd way to start a conversation until I checked his profile and found he was also a July 4 baby.

Anthony lived in Eatonville and worked in Tacoma. I had one picture of him, but I had a webcam so he knew what I looked like. About a month after we started chatting, I knew I wanted to go on a date with him, even though I thought originally it was crazy because we lived so far from each other.

Our first date was at the Olive Garden in Silverdale. I went to work on Monday and told my friend he was weird—he didn't try to kiss me, he gave me a hug! She told me that's what nice guys do and I definitely needed to pursue him.

He is a great nice guy. In October, we celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary. I used to make fun of people who meet online, using computers. But we're proof that it works.

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TOP: Herron Island on a partly sunny winter afternoon. *Photo: Joseph Pentberoudakis, KP News* **LEFT:** Herron Island ferry with Olympic Mountains peeking through. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **RIGHT:** "This is my raft, buster. Get lost." seen at Von Geldern Cove. *Photo: Hugh McMillan*