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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

October 2018 Vol. 45 No. 10

In Their Own Words: Candidates on Key Peninsula

STAFF REPORT

Campaign signs continue sprouting along the edges of State Route 302 and the Key Peninsula Highway as the Nov. 6 general election draws near. Pierce County Voters' Pamphlets are scheduled for mailing to registered voters Oct. 11 and local ballots follow Oct. 19. The Pierce County Auditor's Office estimates nearly 50 percent of ballots are cast before Election Day at official drop box locations or by mail.

Key Peninsula News invited candidates for Pierce County Council District 7 and the 26th Legislative District races to answer a single question: "What are your top priorities specifically for the Key Peninsula?"

Pierce County Council District 7

DAVID OLSON (R)

The citizens of the KP are paying high property taxes and they are not seeing anything in return, i.e., splash park or maintenance of the Purdy Bridge. I will ensure the property taxes are spent fairly across the county.

I will reach out to legislators in Olympia and strongly advocate for dedicated transportation funding to improve SR-302 and replace the Purdy Bridge.

I will work with the Sheriff's department to find additional funding to provide more law enforcement officers on the KP. This will help lower property crimes and deal with the homeless population and the garbage and waste they leave behind.

I will strongly lobby Pierce Transit to restore the bus line to the Key Peninsula. Pierce Transit has more than enough funding to restore the route without having to raise taxes. I will stand arm-in-arm with the citizens of the Key Peninsula and demand they restore the bus route.

DEREK YOUNG (D)

Since arriving to the council I've worked to improve public safety and justice services. We've added 45 positions to the Sheriff Department—17 in the Corrections Bureau and 28 in operations. We still need more for full staffing. As co-chair of the Washington

State Association of Counties Legislative Steering Committee, I'm leading an effort to improve Washington's worst in the nation level of criminal justice funding.

There are several transportation issues on the Key Peninsula but the major one is the Purdy Bridge replacement and intersection. They're state responsibilities but it's my job to advocate for those improvements—which is why we added it to the county's legislative agenda.

It's important that we maintain the rural character of the Key Peninsula and preserve both working lands and critical habitat. I also think taxpayers shouldn't have to subsidize new growth. That's why I've sponsored increases to school and park construction impact fees.

Washington State Senator 26th LD

MARTY MCCLENDON (R)

My top priorities for the Key Peninsula are road and highway safety, veterans, safety and crime prevention, and broadband.

I will work with the Gig Harbor mayor to get the funding to install a roundabout at the Purdy Spit, new crosswalks, stoplights and highway streetlights to improve driving conditions. I will also work to finally address and expand SR-302.

I will fight for our veterans and work to coordinate the disjointed agencies that provide benefits and services so no veterans fall in between the cracks.

I will provide leadership and collaborate with city and county officials to focus on crime prevention and provide the tools for successful early drug intervention so that our communities and families stay safe and together.

I will sponsor and encourage collaboration with public-private partnerships to bring broadband internet to the Key Peninsula so every family has equal access to a free and open internet.

EMILY RANDALL (D)

I grew up in a rural part of our district, not unlike the Key Peninsula. In our community, we're independent. We take

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Titus Colville, student at Minter Creek Elementary and Webelos II in Boy Scout Pack 222, selling popcorn in the annual Scout's fundraiser, now through Oct 13. Photo: Tim Heitzman, KP News

Haunted Forest is Back and Bigger than Ever

Alice Kinerk, KP News

There will soon be some spooky creatures hanging out in the Key Peninsula woods between the civic center and Camp Stand-by-Me.

The Haunted Forest at Grand Farms is the brainchild of Mark Dodson, who purchased the 27-acre property from the Easterseals Washington organization several years ago. The property includes a horse farm where his wife Anni gives riding lessons and is a venue available to rent for weddings or other events.

October marks the Haunted Forest's third year in operation. Crowds are expected to grow significantly in size this year with the closure of Belfair's Haunted Junkyard. "We should have a minimum of 4,000 this

year, possibly six with the Belfair scrap yard closed down," said Rob Joanis, operations and logistics manager for the Forest.

The Haunted Forest is ready to spook thousands of souls with new props, new scares and over 20 actors haunting the half-mile trail, nearly double the number hired for the inaugural season two years ago.

For Angela Sismondi of Puyallup, the Haunted Forest is a step toward her dream of becoming a full-time actress. After getting hired as the Queen of the Forest, Sismondi has been helping out with costumes and constructing the vortex tunnel, as well as setting up structures in the woods. While these odd jobs aren't directly linked to acting, Sismondi enjoys the camaraderie enough to make the long

CONTINUED PAGE 4

An empty green envelope is waiting for you at the center of this newspaper

Our readers keep us going, month after month, with compliments, suggestions, praise and gifts of time and money. And our volunteer staff provides stories, photos and timely distribution.

This month we ask you to give back, with your donation in the green envelope.

Even easier, go to our website and quickly, securely donate online. You can even split your annual contribution into twelve monthly payments.

How's that for easier!

We thank our readers and advertisers for your continued, loyal and appreciative support.

Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN, EDITOR, KP NEWS

This month we bring you stories of the past and questions about our future. This month we also ask for your support.

Button up a warm sweater, pour another cup of hot tea or coffee, and read on...

Not all that long ago the Key Peninsula was very different from today. The land was forested with old growth giants towering above an understory thick with big leaf maples, madrona, dogwood and vine maple. The forest floor was covered in native huckleberries, salal, mosses and ferns. Sparkling pristine waters were filled with salmon so thick a person could reach in the water and catch one by hand as little as 100 years ago. Shellfish covered unspoiled shorelines, geoduck reigned the world beneath the sand. Native peoples spoke their stories; early pioneers wrote letters and postcards. Newspapers were our primary source of information.

Times have changed, but it's been an especially rough time for newspapers.

Once-strong daily newspapers in big cities and small towns across our nation are closing. Today the money's online.

When advertising revenues plummeted, publishers had to pare down. When community papers presented competition for vital advertising dollars and readers, conglomerates bought them out, consolidated staff and pressed on.

Corporate cost-cutting methods and deep layoffs diminished the depth of local news coverage. Not surprisingly, operating with fewer reporters and leaner staffs quickly spins into a death spiral until one morning you wake up and learn your local newspaper doesn't live here anymore.

Things are different out here on the peninsula, thanks to you.

I'm happy to tell you that Key Peninsula News is alive and well. We regularly publish stories and histories of people that might otherwise be forgotten because we know that individual threads make up the whole cloth woven together; that's community. Sharing your stories brings us closer; from the strength of those bonds we are a stronger community.

We're fired by the deep belief that local journalism is essential to the functioning of our democracy. We believe in the power of civic engagement. Whether it's taking complicated issues and breaking them down into understandable pieces, celebrating achievement or trying to cope with tragedy. We love to tell others about the work you do, the things you build, the art you make, the way you play and the joy you share as a giver and as a receiver.

How do we do it?

The greatest portion of our earned income comes from advertising. We are extremely grateful for the businesses and organizations that help support the KP News with their advertising dollars. We take pride in providing a platform to get their message out to everyone who lives here, not just those who can afford it. But advertising dollars alone are not enough to meet the hard costs of publishing a monthly newspaper.

We could not survive without the dedicated talents and hundreds of donated hours from our volunteer staff writers,

photographers, columnists, copy editors, proofreaders, distribution team and our publishing board. Neither could we survive without skilled professionals who manage sales, digital social media and print production. We operate under the umbrella of the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, but maintain complete editorial and financial independence.

Our rewards come from the grocery checker who tells us she and her husband compete over who gets to read the latest edition first. It comes when you see us



around town and say, "Wow, I had no idea, until I read it in the KP News." It comes from the cards, letters and emails you send us in appreciation for what we do. Where else in the world do people travel with the latest copy of their hometown paper stashed in a suitcase for a photo

opportunity?

We believe you matter. And we know you believe the KP News matters too.

This month is our annual appeal, when we ask you to step up to ensure the continued success of the KP News.

Our goal is \$16,000 contributions from readers. You don't need to be wealthy, most contributions are under \$40, so please feel good giving whatever you can afford. No matter the amount, we ask you to help us power the newspaper that unites our community of diverse and spirited people who live in this extraordinary place.

Your voice does make a difference, and thank you for allowing us to continue to be The Voice of Key Peninsula.



253-884-4699 Fax 253-884-4053

editor@keypennews.com

17010 S. Vaughn Rd / P.O. Box 3,
Vaughn, WA 98394

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Lisa Bryan

CONTRIBUTORS: Alice Kinerk, Merry Kogut,
Ted Olinger, Joseph Pentheroudakis, Sara Thompson

COLUMNISTS: Meredith Browand, Phyllis Henry,
Lynn Larson, Rob Vajko

OPERATIONS/PRODUCTION DESIGN: Tim Heitzman

WEBMASTER/SOCIAL MEDIA: Joseph Pentheroudakis

AD SALES: Christina Welsh kpnads@keypennews.com

BOOKKEEPER: Heather Christman

DISTRIBUTION: Vic and Connie Renz, James Allyn, Phil Bauer, Bill Dietz, Bruce Macdonald, Frank Slater, Bob Wilkins

PUBLISHING BOARD: Sara Thompson, president, Bruce Macdonald,
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CANDIDATES FROM PAGE 1

care of ourselves, but in hard times we take care of each other.

As the Puget Sound region grows, communities like ours are facing new, tougher challenges. Costs are rising; wages are stagnant. It's harder and harder to get where we need to go, harder to afford housing and health care.

We have so much work to do. But there's energy and hope in our community. We know that if we work together, we can ensure everyone has health care that's affordable, high quality and comprehensive. We can create pathways to good-paying jobs close to home. We can fix our transportation problems so that getting around is easier. We can create a community that's more connected by expanding rural broadband. Together, let's build a future that's better for all of us.

Washington State
House of Representatives
26th Legislative District Position 1

CONNIE FITZPATRICK (D)

Our communities deserve thoughtful, independent leadership, not partisan politicians. A PTA mom, Navy veteran and small business owner, I am committed to service and never back away from a challenge. As your state representative I'll stand up for students, veterans and families—not special interests.

My priorities for the Key Peninsula include improving our transportation and education systems, and addressing public safety issues like those caused by the homelessness crisis and slow police response times.

As your neighbor, and as your representative, I will demand fairness for small business and middle class taxpayers by phasing out unfair corporate loopholes and lowering property taxes. I would be honored to earn your vote.

JESSE YOUNG (R)

My top priority is resolving traffic congestion. Now that I've kept my promise to stop the Tacoma Narrows Bridge toll increases, I'll begin work to expand the off-ramp and corridor to the Purdy Spit. Connecting State Route 16 with the upcoming Belfair bypass utilizing the Pine Road corridor is a longterm goal. This work will tie into 118th and be part of a regional development plan that will provide a number of options for local job growth and regional access.

Additionally, I will work to extend the turn lane and pedestrian access along SR-302 to the fire department and Gateway

Park to increase safety in that area.

Finally, I will continue to keep my promise to bring capital budget funds to the Key Peninsula. Supporting projects such as those at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, Penrose State Park, Longbranch Marina or the Minter Creek Hatchery have been just the start.

Washington State
House of Representatives
26th Legislative District Position 2

MICHELLE CALDIER (R)

Over the last four years, I have been honored to represent Key Peninsula in Olympia. During that time, I helped secure historic funding to projects on the Key Peninsula for the Longbranch Marina, Key Pen Civic Center, Gateway Park and The Mustard Seed Project's senior community. I also fought to stop the bridge tolls from increasing, fix how we fund education in our state and reform the foster care system. This next term, I will be focused on reducing property taxes, fixing how we fund school construction, filling gaps in mental health care and improving congestion around the Purdy Spit. If re-elected, I promise to continue to work across the aisle, have an open door policy, and advocate for Key Peninsula residents in the state Legislature. I humbly ask for your vote in November.

JOY STANFORD (D)

Divisive politics and partisan attacks generate headlines but ignore struggling local families, veterans, seniors and kids. I'm not interested in scoring political points. I am a mother, teacher, and health care professional and am running for one reason: to help the people of this region address shared priorities with common sense solutions. For Key Peninsula families I will fight for a reliable transportation system. This means bringing back Pierce Transit bus routes, ensuring more frequent service and exploring viable options for traffic revision and improvements. I will address the overcrowding in our schools and ensure every child in our community has access to a quality education by reducing the super majority currently required to pass a bond or levy. I look forward to the opportunity to serve you and respectfully ask for your vote.

The Key Peninsula News is a co-sponsor of the Meet the Candidates forum, a panel discussion and reception Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. where these candidates and more will appear at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Whitmore Room to answer your questions.

WE DEPEND ON OUR COMMUNITY. AND OUR COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON US.

Now, more than ever, your voice counts.

When local newspapers disappear, communities suffer. With no platform for discussion, forum for sharing or billboard for news, communication shrivels to hyper-driven social and sold-out corporate media.

Key Peninsula is different because readers support the Key Peninsula News. Local businesses and organizations, joined by generous donors, make it possible to publish our lively, informative and newsy monthly newspaper.

Your support is needed more than ever. Our budget depends on donations from loyal and appreciative readers. To balance our annual shortfall of \$16,000, we're asking you to help with a tax-deductible contribution.

Any amount helps keep the KP News going strong. Thank you!



Three-quarters of our donors give \$40 or less per year. If you can afford a little more, we offer these new categories:

- Supporter \$5/month or \$60/year
- Sponsor \$10/month or \$120/year
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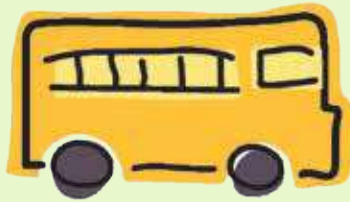
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253-884-BUSS or www.kp.council.org

Fall Schedule

Starts Tuesday, September 4

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

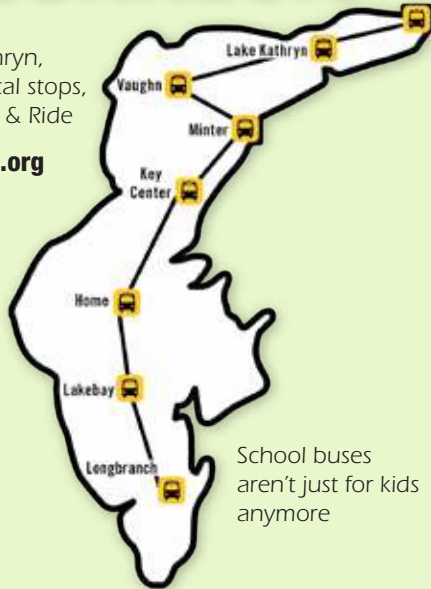
- 9:50 Evergreen Elementary School
- 9:54 Palmer Lake public access 24th St KPS
- 9:55 Palmer Lake 21st St KPS @ 193rd Ave
- 10:00 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 10:01 Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
- 10:05 67th Ave Ct KPN @ KP Hwy N
- 10:09 Food Market in Key Center
- 10:10 KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr KN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



School buses aren't just for kids anymore

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

PLEASE ALLOW ±10 MINUTES YOUTH UNDER 12 ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT NO BIKES

A partnership with the KP Community Council, Puget Sound Educational Service District and the Peninsula School District.

HAUNTED FOREST FROM PAGE 1

drive worth it. “Mark is so kind. Everyone here is like a family. I come in, I’m like one of the guys,” she said.

Anna Clark-Russo and her daughter Scarlet were at an espresso stand near Peninsula High School a year ago when they spotted an ad for the Forest. Scarlet, then 17, contacted the Dodsons to ask if he could use her skills as a makeup artist. She was hired. “Then we just stayed on and scared,” Clark-Russo said.

Both mother and daughter will be back in the Forest this year. Recounting her experience as the first actor on the Haunted Forest trail in 2017, Clark-Russo said, “I could hear them coming up: ‘Nothing here’s going to scare me.’ Then I make sure my leg hits the foliage and it makes noise. Then they’re looking around, and all of a sudden there’s this black figure standing there. I didn’t have to scream. I would reach out a hand, or I would walk up and look at them,” Clark-Russo said.

Lexie Priest has been taking riding lessons at Grand Farms for six years and was therefore a natural fit for the rider of the undead horse. “I kind of get roped into everything that happens here,” she said. Priest is also taking on much of the Forest’s social media responsibilities this season and drummed

up early community interest by posting on the Forest’s Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts beginning in September.

The trail is long enough to “give them that sense of being lost,” Dodson said. Dodson, who has worked extensively in construction, spent months building blinds with Joanis to ensure portions of the trail are as dark as possible. “The darker it is, innately, inside of us, our awareness is heightened,” Dodson said. “The darkness in the woods is different from the darkness in a building.”

Guests agree. “We went last year. We had fun. It’s scary enough to give you a jolt here and there. Wear comfortable shoes. There’s lots of walking involved, specifically if someone from your party keeps trying to find the exit backwards from a little fright,” said local fan Sami Jensen.

The Haunted Forest is open from 7 to 11 p.m. every Friday and Saturday night in October, rain or shine, as well as Halloween night. Tickets are \$17. Dodson encourages those seeking a lesser scare to come early in the month, as early in the evening as possible.

For more information, visit *The Haunted Forest* online at www.hauntedforestatgrandfarms.com or contact Grand Farms at 253-549-1940. The Haunted Forest is located at 17616 South Vaughn Road.

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Evergreen Elementary PTA.....	\$1,800
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The popular Farm Tour offers views of a rural lifestyle unique to the Key Peninsula. *Photo: David Montesino*

Twelve Years of Growing Success: Key Peninsula Farm Tour 2018

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula Farm Tour returns for its twelfth year Oct. 6, including favorite stops like Bea's Flowers and the Fiber Arts Show, and newcomers like Foxglove Farm in Longbranch and Sound View Camp near Devil's Head.

Other highlights include a pancake breakfast at the KP Fire Department headquarters in Key Center, tours of the Minterbrook Oyster Co. and a variety of marine rescue and environmental talks at the Longbranch Marina. (For all the details, refer to the pullout Farm Tour guide in this edition.)

The tour also encompasses a related art show at Blend Wine Shop and the Scarecrow Invasion through October, both in Key Center.

"That just thrilled me when all of these different parts of the community became a part of the farm tour," said Danna Webster, a driving force behind the tour since its inception in 2006 and a member of the farm council planning board, which operates under the auspices of the KP Community Council.

Leona Lisa of Bill Fold Family Farm near Horseshoe Lake is the farm council president this year. "I make a lot of soaps I sell at farmer's markets and holiday bazaars and other events, but oddly enough the first time I bought handcrafted goats' milk soap was on the farm tour," she said. "I credit the farm tour for the inspiration for a lot of what we do out here."

The farm tour invites visitors to see the operations of established farms and new ones as well. "Foxglove Farm is new on the tour this year; they will be talking about how they acquired the land, about working with

the local conservation district, about how they are building their dream," Lisa said.

"We have other types of things that people might not think of as a farm, like Minterbrook Oyster Co.," she said. "Getting to see their operation is something that you just can't do everyday."

The Fiber Arts Show at the LIC joined the tour in 2007. "I realized that fiber arts is part of the farm—fibers come from farms—especially with the weavers and all the llamas and alpacas and things we have out here; it was a wonderful thing to have them participate," Webster said.

Nancy Carr, one of the Fiber Arts Show organizers, said there will be antique tractors, furniture builders, a doll maker and traditional American basketry on display among the two dozen vendors and exhibitors inside the LIC and 10 or more outside.

"Some of our booths don't sell anything; they make and educate. And everything is free, which makes it very nice, and it's family oriented; the library has its duct tape wallet booth for the kids to make," she said.

"The LIC marina is also part of farm tour this year," Carr said. "Dave's Dive Service will be there doing demonstrations and talking about what he looks for. We've got the fire boat coming in and the Tacoma Power Squadron is coming to perform Coast Guard-type inspections for people who want their vessel inspected."

And there will be food for sale at the LIC. "Ann-Marie Ugles is doing farm-to-table food for the show," said Carolyn Wiley, another longtime organizer of both the Farm Tour and Fiber Arts Show. "I think we'll have apple turnovers, pierogies and a squash stew."

Food trucks will also be operating along the tour route.

Parking is not available at every site, but shuttles will be running between them. "Partnering with School Bus Connects was huge for us," Lisa said. "Being able to park and jump on a bus is going to facilitate people getting to the farms and keep the traffic under control."

Gateway Park is the terminal for the northern route, which has three stops, and the Longbranch Improvement Club is the southern route terminal with three additional stops.

There are seven locations on the tour this year, including the LIC, with over 1,500 visitors expected, according to Webster.

"This year we've shifted into a higher gear: Because of the number of visitors we've been getting, we need more county permits," she said. "The county has been very helpful in getting all the details straight and keeping the costs down. I was prepared for it to be almost \$3,000, but I think we'll be reimbursed by PALS (Pierce County Planning and Land Services), so permitting might not cost us anything."

Advertising and signage are also big expenses and there is the cost of providing portable toilets to some farm tour stops. "We've been befriended by Hemley's Septic," Webster said. "They deliver them and pick them up, and if a place has them already they will service them" all below market price, she said.

"Things came along in little steps," Webster said, describing the tour's origins.

"What has developed into the farm tour began as a program to promote economic growth on the Key Peninsula through agri-tourism," she said. "It started with Claude Gahard of Trillium Creek Winery in 2006."

Gahard served on the Pierce County

farm advisory commission representing the interests of farmers to the county council. "The county had a Harvest Fest the first Saturday of October and all the large farms in Puyallup and so on participated, but the Key Peninsula was never involved," he said.

Gahard saw an opportunity to promote KP agricultural businesses without being dominated by the larger farm interests in other parts of the county.

"We wanted local control," Gahard said. "That's where we got the farm tour—it had its own identity under the umbrella of the Key Peninsula Community Council." This allowed the KP farm council to plan events and raise funds without "marrying the county," according to Gahard.

It was an important move, said Carolyn Wiley.

"The first year farm tour was funded by the county; the next year they lost their money, but some of the people out here said we're going to keep doing it," she said. "Being a busybody I looked at it and thought I could help."

Wiley raised about \$8,000 from local businesses and individuals in 2007; the budget now has grown to about \$15,000 with grants from The Angel Guild, Pierce County and sponsors and donors.

Leona Lisa, the farm council president, wants to build on the tour's success.

"We're hoping to incorporate some other ideas next year," she said. "We're looking to maybe expand to a two-day event. That would help the farms get more visitors, and the parks, campgrounds, hotels, Airbnbs and restaurants in the area.

"That's one thing that comes up a lot," she said. "People don't have enough time to see everything they want in one day."

Meredith Browand

KEY ISSUES



Research Over Rhetoric

Just like the two previous general elections of 2014 and 2016, the Alliance for Gun Responsibility has placed a voter initiative on this year's general election ballot. This year's initiative, I-1639, is focused on four main areas of enhanced gun safety: raising the age to purchase semi-automatic rifles to 21; creating an enhanced background checks for purchasers of semi-automatic rifles; requiring completion of a firearm safety training course within five years; and creating statewide standards for dangerous firearm access prevention. This is an initiative that is specifically designed to keep our communities and state safe from gun violence.

But just like the previous two general elections, the opposition to I-1639 is spinning half-truths and spreading fear in hopes that voters will fail to pass the initiative.

In 2014 the opposition to I-594 (universal background checks) warned voters that new background check requirements would interfere with the rights of responsible gun owners and make private/online/gun show sales burdensome and difficult. Instead, in just the first 16 months of the law being in place, over 10,000 private sale background checks occurred. These background checks helped make our communities safer, thanks to voter-approved I-594.

In 2016 opposition to I-1491 (extreme-risk protection orders) warned that the law would be abused by individuals who disagree with the Second Amendment based on the belief that gun ownership makes you a danger to yourself or others. Since the initiative went into law these fear tactics have proved irrelevant.

King County courts have successfully processed applications for 30 extreme-risk protection orders since the law was enacted and Marysville police likely prevented a large-scale massacre at the Tulalip Casino similar to the Las Vegas mass shooting in October 2017. The extreme-risk protection orders have given law enforcement the ability to better serve and protect our communities.

This year, the opposition to gun safety measures attempts to paint a picture of I-1639 as only supported by "liberal Seattle voters." Not true: My friend Tim,

a gun-owning father of two from Thurston County, is one of the many voters from across the state who stand firmly in support of the initiative. "I'm a gun owner and this initiative will require things of me that I already do. None of the tyranny and abuse that was predicted during previous ballot initiatives has occurred. I'm in favor of I-1639 and continued gun safety efforts."

Before you cast your ballot this fall I encourage you to do your research and make an informed decision instead of simply accepting the rehashed and fear-based talking points of the opposition. Understanding what the initiative aims to do and the benefits it promises for our communities will allow you to cast your ballot with confidence, regardless of how you choose to vote.

Meredith Browand is a mother and an activist who lives in Purdy.

Rob Vajko

KEYTHOUGHTS



Mistaking the Symptoms for the Cause

Some topics are extremely difficult to broach without giving rise to a slew of emotions from both sides on issues like abortion, religion, the Trump presidency, etc. Americans today seem more divided than ever and feelings run high. There is likely no topic where that divide is more obvious than over the issue of gun control.

Initiative 1639 was in the news when a Thurston County judge blocked it after ruling in favor of gun-rights activists who had filed suit to prevent it from appearing on the November ballot because of its wording. That ruling was overturned by the state Supreme Court, putting it back on the ballot we will be voting on this coming midterm election.

Time and space won't allow me to detail all the proposed measures included in the initiative, but details are readily available online for those who aren't familiar with its proposals.

While I have no problem with any of the suggested proposals, I do take exception with those who think this initiative is going to solve anything.

I agree that semi-automatic assault rifles should not be readily available to the average citizen; I agree that there should be more stringent measures for enhanced background checks in order

to weed out those who might use these weapons to harm the innocent; I agree that the minimum age for purchasing a semi-automatic rifle should be 21 and I do agree that we should at least try to implement better safekeeping of firearms so they don't get into the hands of children or end up being sold on the black market.

What I do have an issue with, however, is that I believe we are simply treating the symptom rather than the cause of the problem.

Until we can learn to identify and get help for those who might turn violent, simply preventing them from legally purchasing firearms isn't really solving anything at all.

The truth is, as we have seen recently from the number of killings using trucks or cars, that if someone is angry and deranged enough, he or she will find a way to kill.

Please don't misunderstand me and think that I am suggesting we should feel sorry for and excuse murderers because they suffered abuse, felt disrespected or whatever it is that caused them to go over the edge and take the lives of the innocent. We are all responsible for the way we respond to the good as well as the adversity in our life. We simply don't get to hurt others, especially the innocent, just because we've been hurt.

Until we at least acknowledge and deal with the reality that these shooters are deeply disturbed and that many of them have been bullied, dismissed, intimidated and ostracized we aren't going to make their anger go away simply by removing their access to guns. Initiative 1639 seems a little like putting a child's bandage on a gaping wound. It might stop some of the bleeding but it isn't going to save a whole lot of lives.

Rob Vajko lives in Purdy.

Lynn Larson

STEPPING BACK



Time of Dog Salmon

October was the Time of Dog Salmon for the native people on Filucy Bay and throughout southern Puget Sound. Dog salmon is such an ignominious name for a fish that catapulted Northwest Coast indigenous groups into becoming the most sophisticated hunter-gatherer population in the world. Dogs were so predict-

able and suitable for preservation that winter villages arose on river confluences throughout the Northwest, people gathering at fish weirs and traps to catch and dry dog salmon for the winter. Fishermen were instructed to take only as many dog salmon as they could eat and not to laugh at them, or there would be dire consequences. On Filucy Bay, where dogs or chums, as they are also called, and coho/silver salmon run, the silvers beginning in September, probably few native people set traps on the short, small streams.

Instead, most of the native families arrived on Filucy Bay from their mainland winter homes or from their winter home on Minter Bay in June and July. They came for the clams, the butters and native littlenecks, but mostly for the delicious horse clams, the foot of the clams strung on cedar sticks and leaned against racks on rock pavements where they were dried for winter use and for trade with the Yakamas. Dried clams strung on cedar strings were so tasty that the Yakamas traded horses for them. They were a great travel food, the strings of clams draped over the neck, their smoky flavor released from chewing the clam like chewing gum. Children gathered the rocks, smooth and fine-grained so they would not explode when a fire was built on the pavement, while adults dug clams, keeping them in loosely woven baskets in shallow water until they had enough to dry.

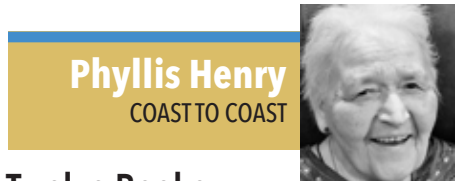
Summer on the bay was a heady time for the native people in their temporary mat homes scattered along the shoreline. The rules that governed behavior in the winter longhouses were loosened and though work was to be done there was more time for games, storytelling and gossiping. Upper-class families typically arranged for a son or daughter to marry someone from a village far away, which meant that summer was the time for family groups to reunite, to visit and share news, to arrange marriages for the next generation, to gamble and play games like tug of war, the women against the men, pulling on a cedar rope. Throughout most of the summer laughter reverberated across the bay, singing could be heard from the people arriving in canoes from their winter homes and the chants of one side or another playing slahal echoed around the bay much as the sounds of the boaters in the Longbranch Marina can be heard today.

A few families may have come back

to the bay in October for clams, but the loaded black huckleberries on the bushes in my yard make me think of those last families camping on Filucy Bay at this time of year. Using wooden combs mostly the women and children harvested the tiny saltwater huckleberries, the last of the fresh fruit of the season, while the men went hunting. These berries were precious, remaining fresh on the bushes well into November or first frost, when all other fresh fruit had rotted and fallen.

Filucy, or Longbranch Bay as it was once called, was the "Ancient Place," the place that refused to be changed when the Transformer turned animals into people and people into landforms. It is still the Ancient Place to me, and at night I can almost smell those drying clams and hear the people singing in their canoes.

Lynn Larson is an archaeologist and anthropologist. She lives on Filucy Bay.



Phyllis Henry
COASTTO COAST

Twelve Books All in a Row

Before I first entered the door to Lincoln No. 7, my one-room schoolhouse on a lot a mile from our farm, I'd asked enough about the school to irritate and then annoy my older brothers and sisters. "It's just like any other school," my sister, who knew nothing about any other school, explained.

The huge blackboard with chalk and the biggest heating stove ever, as well as the desks screwed to the floor, and the green powder the teacher used when she swept the floor, all this was useful information for my 5-year-old brain, but I was most excited because there would be books. On four shelves recessed into the back wall there were books.

At home I had three books. One was a book with four stories in it. One was "Hans Christian and the Silver Skates." I can't remember the other three tales.

Another book was yellow, and the stories were about being kind to others. I recall a picture of a little boy holding his sister up high so she could drink from something called a water fountain. My dad told me about water fountains and explained why the boy was lifting his sister.

The third book was a big book full of pictures and nursery rhymes. "Jack be nimble, Jack be quick; Jack jump over the candlestick." I lived on a 160-acre Iowa farm. How would I know what a candlestick was—and why Jack was into jumping over one?

"Mary had a little lamb; its fleece was white as snow." My dad told me that sheep are dumb as rocks and he wouldn't have one on his property. Why didn't Mary get a nice white dog?

"Four and 20 blackbirds baked in a pie." That's just stupid. I memorized all the baby rhymes, just to have something to do, but couldn't imagine reading that book because it was fun.

Once inside the schoolhouse I checked out the back wall, and the books were there. One section on the lowest shelf was marked "First Grade." I counted; there were 12 books. The teacher, Miss Holmes, noticed my interest in the books and, totally deflating my enthusiasm, explained that in the first grade I would only be allowed to read the first grade books. But she went on to explain that when I was in second grade I'd be able to read all the books designated for the first and second grades. By the time I was in eighth grade I would be permitted to read every book on the shelves.

Within the first two weeks at my school I'd read each of the 12 first grade books at least once. When I "accidentally" pulled a second grade book from the shelf, Miss Holmes immediately confiscated it and replaced it with a lecture about learning to follow the rules like everyone else.

Today we have the wonderful Key Center Library where the littlest children can own a library card. I watch a 5-year-old walking out of the library struggling to carry a canvas bag full of books, and I get teary-eyed.

I read at least two library books each week, many ordered from libraries in locations throughout the Pierce County Library system. This sounds silly, but each time I see a book on the "waiting to be picked up" shelves with my name on a slip of paper stuck between the book pages, it's as if the library has a special gift for me.

Using a little math brings startling results. If the average book costs \$25, each week I save \$50 because I use the library. The 52 weeks each year multiplied by \$50 per week equals \$2,600 per year in savings. In 10 years that's \$26,000 in savings, while reading 1,040 library books over those 10 years.

Where would I store those 1,040 books? How many new bookshelves would I need to purchase? Where would I put the bookshelves? Maybe I'd need to add a room to my house.

Maybe I need to write a generous thank-you check to the library. Maybe you need to write one too.

Phyllis Henry lives and writes from a hill overlooking Burley Lagoon.

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Henderson Bay Powerline Replacement on Schedule

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The Tacoma Power project to replace the Henderson Bay electric towers with steel poles—one in the water to replace four towers and four on land to replace the existing towers—is set for completion on schedule.

The towers, holding the lines that carry power to Tacoma from the Cushman Dam, had been in place since 1926. In-water construction began at the end of July. In August crews moved the power lines to the new temporary poles to allow room for construction of the permanent pole and removal of the towers. They then used vibration hammers to drive the pile for the new pole. Once that work was completed they used a hammer to drive the pile deeper into the soil.

The last piece of the new pole was placed Sept. 5. The following week, the line from the northern towers was removed and a new line was pulled to the new pole and energized. During this process power continued to flow through the lines from the south towers, so there was no disruption of service. The structure and foundation of the old towers were then removed.

By the time this article goes to press, the same process for the south towers should be underway. The project is scheduled to wrap up no later than the end of October.

Chris Gleason, Tacoma Power Utilities community and media services manager, said that the project has gone smoothly. Installing the new pole and removing the old towers required several large barges. There were concerns that traffic would be impacted affected as drivers slowed to watch the work. Pedestrian traffic and fishing near the bridge were limited during the time the new lines were energized due to safety concerns.



Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News

Gleason said that someone posting on the Key Peninsula Facebook page commented that the look of the tower was “butt-ugly.” However, Gleason said, “The new pole design is now standard in the power industry and balances the needs of construction, maintenance, safety and appearance.”

Don Swensen, who chairs the Key Peninsula Land Use Advisory Commission, said KPAC reviewed the request for tower replacement over a year ago and voted to recommend approval. “As for disruption, I have heard of none to speak of yet,” he said. “However, as they begin to dismantle the old towers, especially the ones adjacent to the bridge, I would expect delays due to safety issues, as well as visual distraction. So far, I think the project has run very smoothly and have heard no complaints from anyone.”

“We are amazed by the support we’ve received from the Key Peninsula community,” Gleason said. “People were patient and encouraging as we built this project, and as we wrap up we are awe-struck that there are so many people who live in this area and care so much about it.”

For updates on the project, go to www.MyTPU.org/hendersonbay.

Photo: Jim Bellamy





Quilter extraordinaire Carolyn Wiley. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

Fiber Arts Show Featured Artist: Carolyn Wiley

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

The Fiber Arts Show has named Carolyn Wiley featured artist for its 2018 exhibit at the Longbranch Improvement Club in conjunction with the Key Peninsula Farm Tour Oct. 6.

Wiley is a lifelong artist, a retired public school teacher and an award-winning quilter (and frequent contributor to the Key Peninsula News).

“The Fiber Arts organizing committee gets together very early in the year to select the featured artist,” said committee member Nancy Carr. “We have picked people like Carolyn for years, and we just looked at each other and said ‘Why are we going outside of our community when we have a perfect choice right here?’ Carolyn is a juried artist, she has won many ribbons, and her work is just fantastic.”

Barb Floyd, another committee member, said the role of featured artists is to show their wares and educate the public on what they do. “It’s the first thing that people see when they come in,” she said. “It’s somebody who does beautiful work and is accomplished in their field in fiber arts. I think Carolyn is just such an accomplished artist, whether it’s her quilting or her jewelry—what she does is just magnificent. And then when we asked her she was just thrilled.”

Describing her own reaction, Wiley said, “In the past, you were chosen because you’re extremely talented. In my case, it means I didn’t run fast enough or that I’ve been around so long it’s time to retire.”

Examples of Wiley’s work will be on

display with some for sale at the Fiber Arts Show. Her farm tour-inspired quilt will be the raffle prize at the show this year, with proceeds going to the Longbranch Foundation.

“All of us quilters have UFOs (Unfinished Objects); Carolyn has been working for the last two or three months to get all of her UFOs done, so she’s going to have all kinds of stuff to show,” Carr said.

“When I first moved out here, 20 years ago, I was going to devote myself entirely to jewelry design,” Wiley said. “I like to use natural stones and I was going to call my business ‘Naturally Stoned,’ but then I thought that name might attract a lot of disappointed people.”

A few months later, Wiley happened to be volunteering at the Key Center Library, cleaning books, and discovered a quilting group meeting there. “There were no dues, no minutes, you just show up, and so I hung out with them and that’s pretty much where I learned all of my quilting skills,” she said.

“I’m really not a quilter; I’m a fabric collector,” Wiley said. “My ‘Let’s see if you can do this’ quilts are usually based on what happens to be in the closet and on top of the fabric that I have collected.”

One of Wiley’s best-known works, a Japanese-design-inspired quilt, will be on display at the Fiber Arts Show. “I adapted a Japanese design in shashiko stitching,” she said, referring to a traditional straight running stitch that creates a line drawing in thread.

“We’d been using this quilt for guests and, after I stripped the bed the third

time, instead of remaking it, I thought, ‘Hmm, maybe I’ll just take this over and enter it into the Puyallup fair,’” she said. Her quilt won first prize in 2010.

Wiley was also instrumental in developing the Fiber Arts Show in 2007.

“The reason there is a fiber arts show is that Danna Webster was organizing the second farm tour and asked the LIC, ‘Can you open the building for the tour? We have no more money for portapotties and we need a place for people to stop and flush. And you could hang a few quilts.’ If you’re going to hang a few quilts in a room like that you might as well try to make money at it,” Wiley said.

She enlisted the help of librarian Barbara Coldene from the Key Center Library and Lois Henderson of the Allyn Knit Shop, both of who had experience organizing shows, and with donations from The Angel Guild and the LIC the first Fiber Arts Show joined the KP Farm Tour in 2007.

“Our goal is to show fiber in all of its applications, from utilitarian to artistic and from traditional techniques to modern adaptations,” Wiley said. “Even though it’s not a farm, fibers also come from farms and we want to show people what you can do with them. It’s something I feel rather passionate about.”



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Herron Island: A Logger Remembers

JOSEPH PENTHEROUDAKIS, KP NEWS

The early 1950s were an uncharacteristically busy time on Herron Island. Until then an out-of-the-way, rarely visited private island, for a few years starting in 1951 it was the site of a logging operation that would ultimately make possible its transformation into the residential community it has since become.

The history of those years might have remained untold and forgotten had it not been for a document that recently surfaced in the island archives. Dated Jan. 16, 1957, the document is a real estate agreement between William H. Schmel, island owner, and Thomas Morris from Purdy Realty to sell “all of Herron Island, including tidelands abutting thereon.” The property included a four-bedroom main house and a two-bedroom guesthouse, and offered “finest deer hunting, clams, gueoduck (sic), oysters, (and) finest beach anywhere.” Of the 286 acres on the island, 200 were described as partially cleared.

According to Pierce County records William (Bill) Schmel and his wife Gyda bought the island from George Murphy, a Seattle businessman, in April 1951. Bill Schmel died in 1976 at age 89; Gyda died in 1980. Their son Charlie Schmel, now in his 80s, still lives in the area. Bill Schmel was born in the family homestead in Rosedale in 1894, according to Charlie. “Dad was an amazing guy,” he said. “At the end of third grade he ran away from home and went up to Allyn to work in the oyster farms. Some of the last horse logging was going on in that area, so he thought he’d rather log than pick oysters. He went up to the logging camp and ended up wrangling a job carrying a 5-gallon bucket of grease and a paint brush on a stick; he’d go up into the woods and smear the skid logs. As he grew older, bigger and tougher he moved right up into the logging part of it. And so he logged all his life.”

Schmel eventually worked for himself as a contract logger using his bulldozer and pickup truck. It was sometime in the late 1940s, Charlie said he thinks Schmel started thinking about logging the heavily wooded Herron Island, which apparently had never been logged. He went off to Alaska for several months to learn more about island logging, an undertaking fraught with challenges that often ended in financial ruin.



Above: Herron Island at sunrise. *Photo: Joseph Pentheroudakis, KP News* Below: Studying historic documents online. Left to right, Joseph Pentheroudakis, Greg Spadoni, Sue Sehmel, Charlie Sehmel (seated), Merry Kogut. *Photo Lisa Bryan, KP News*

In 1951 Schmel was ready to put his plan into action. He secured his first-ever loan and bought the island for \$100,000 (almost \$1,000,000 in 2018 dollars). The purchase was an enormous risk, but Schmel was convinced he could turn a profit. Gyda was worried. “What’s your father going to do with an island?” she said the first time she visited the island with Charlie, then 19. “Just look at that tree,” Charlie marveled, pointing at a giant fir. “That’s \$5,000 you’re looking at. I know exactly what he’s going to do with it!”

Work started immediately. A raft had to be built to get two bulldozers and a logging arch across to the island from the mainland beach where the current island ferry landing is located, a distance under half a mile. Using heavy cable, the men linked together cedar logs and snags that Schmel had been saving, two or three deep in places. After a couple of harrowing tries a seaworthy raft was built, the machinery loaded and the rig successfully towed to the island using their two 5-horsepower boats. “These were people with very little education, but the things they could do, it’s unbelievable,” Charlie said.

Logging got underway. In later years Schmel introduced chainsaws (relatively new technology in the 1950s), but at first trees were felled the traditional way, using two-man crosscut saws and axes. Logs were dragged to the logging rafts at the beach, where boom workers carefully floated and arranged them into the raft, sorting them by length to ensure a tight fit. To prevent the rafts from floating away with tidal currents, Schmel drove pilings into the sand on the outside of the raft enclosure. The pilings were still shown on topographic maps and nautical charts as late as the mid-1990s.



Schmel concentrated on high-quality logs first. A few weeks into the operation their first raft was ready to tow. “We had the scaling bureau come out to measure the logs in the raft,” Charlie said. “We took the scale sheet to the mill and got paid; our first little raft brought in more than we expected by far, and we were on our way.”

Charlie operated the equipment but he was also assigned the manual job of clearing the brush that grew in trees with an ax. At first the island wasn’t where he wanted to be, he said, since it lacked the type of entertainment that a 19-year-old prefers. He almost welcomed his tour in the Korean War, but on his return the place grew on him. “I felt like Robinson Crusoe. What a wonderful thing for a kid,” he said. “Ducks, pigeons, and even a beached killer whale once. And the deer? We estimated there were 60 or 70 deer on the island when

we started, and there were 60 or 70 when we sold it.” He added. “And that doesn’t include the ones I shot!”

By 1956 most commercially valuable timber had run out. The island was becoming a liability. Bill Schmel considered several options, including raising sheep on the island, but in the end decided to sell it.

In January 1957 Schmel signed the sale and commission agreement with Purdy Realty. In May of that year the island was sold on contract to a group of Seattle-based developers. Surveying, subdivision and infrastructure work got underway, and as soon as the balance of the contract was paid off in October 1958 sale of lots began.

“Every lot has a water view” was how the properties were described.

Bill Schmel would have known how the views came about, and he would have smiled, Charlie said.

A Short History of Herron Island

JOSEPH PENTHEROUDAKIS, KP NEWS

A little over a mile long and a half mile wide, Herron Island lies across a narrow channel in Case Inlet about 3 miles west of Lakebay. Its history comes in fragments. The native Salish name, Tsxsa'dai, means "place where the tide goes out," a description that today's island residents can appreciate. As was the case with the rest of the Puget Sound, local tribes harvested island beaches and vegetation.

Lt. Peter Puget named the island Wednesday Island during the 1792 Vancouver expedition; the day was actually Tuesday locally, but the expedition was following British time. The island was resurveyed in 1841 during the U.S. Exploring Expedition under Lt. Charles Wilkes and was renamed after Lewis

Herron, the expedition's barrel maker.

Herron Island has had several private owners over the decades since Washington became a territory and then a state in 1889. The line of owners and residents over time tells the story of the country's immigrant past. The earliest land records show that parts of the island were granted to Swiss-born Anderson Island resident Charles E. Pack in 1873. Two decades later, in 1894, a patent for the unclaimed parts of the island was issued to Julius Sunde, a Norwegian immigrant who just a year earlier had been naturalized as a U.S. citizen.

In the early 1900s the island's owners were Soren Kielland, also born in Norway, and his American wife Anna. Soren, a civil engineer and for several years the vice consul of Norway, lived in Buffalo and

reportedly never set foot on the island. The Kiellands owned the entire island, so either they or Julius Sunde had bought the parcels owned by Charles Pack, who died in 1898. Even though the Kiellands never visited the island, Soren's Norwegian-born nephew William Absalon Beyer and his wife Marie lived there, perhaps until the mid-1930s. From 1921 to 1925 William served as postmaster for the mainland town of Herron. The only house on the island, where the Beyers lived, doubled as a post office. In true mail carrier dedication, the Beyers would pick up the mail from the mail ship, sort it and deliver it by rowboat along the coast. Charlie Sehmel (facing page), who later lived in the Beyers' house in the 1950s, remembers seeing mail-sorting pigeonholes in the basement.

Soren and Anna Kielland died within a year of each other in the 1930s, and the island came up for sale. H. J. and Dorothy Green bought it in 1935. The Beyers left the island probably around that time and spent the rest of their lives in Lakebay; they are buried in Lakebay Cemetery.

In 1944 Dorothy Green, who by that time owned the island as her separate estate, sold it to George Murphy, a businessman from Hawaii, and his wife Blanche. The Murphys hired area residents Charlie and Emilie Minchau as live-in caretakers and tried to raise horses on the island, with limited success. In keeping with the immigrant theme, Charlie and Emilie Minchau were both born in Russia and were naturalized American citizens.

In 1951 the island went up for sale again, perhaps because of the limited success the Murphys had with their attempt to raise horses. It was bought by Bill Sehmel, who harvested its plentiful timber. The Minchaus moved to Home; Emilie died in 1978 and Charlie in 1982. Several local residents still remember them.

The Sehmel logging operation eventually wound down and in 1957 the island was sold to four developers, Richard A. Clifford and his wife Edith M. Clifford; Paul O'Reilly; and J. E. Swanson Jr., who incorporated it as a membership association, platted it, added infrastructure and transformed it into the community of almost 400 homeowners it has become.

In October 1958, 60 years ago this month, the first lots came on the market.

Herron Island is still private, but over the years it has been home to hundreds if not thousands of residents and vacationers, and has welcomed an even larger number of guests.

Rare aerial photo of Herron Island dated August-September 1951 showing a logging raft almost a third full. The raft stretches about 800 feet along the east side of the island. *Photo: USGS acquired via HistoricAerials.com*



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OCTOBER 4**LAKEBAY FUCHSIA SOCIETY**

7-8:30 p.m. KP Civic Center, Whitmore Room. This month's program is on pruning and cuttings from fuchsias. Guest speaker is Tammy Brown. Please bring a fuchsia and your tools with you. Hands on demonstrations. 253-225-3027

KEY FREE CLINIC FUNDRAISER

5:30-7 p.m. at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center. Light food, no-host bar. Brief presentation and volunteer thank-you followed by chance to tour the clinic across the street and donate to the Free Clinic.

OCTOBER 9**CANDIDATES FORUM**

7 p.m. in the Whitmore room at Key Peninsula Civic Center. Panel discussion and reception for twelve local candidates. Live broadcast on KGHP, 89.3/105.7 FM

KGI WATERSHED COUNCIL

The KP-Gig Harbor-Islands (KGI) Watershed Council fosters watershed stewardship. The council provides educational programs, outreach and workshops, encouraging the collaboration and involvement of all watershed residents and businesses. Meets second Wednesday every other month from 3-5 p.m. Gig Harbor Fire HQ, 10222 Bujacich Rd NW, Gig Harbor. www.harborwildwatch.org, lindsey@harborwildwatch.org, 253-514-0187

OCTOBER 13**FLU SHOTS AND IMMUNIZATIONS**

The Key Medical Center offers flu shots to KP residents and childhood immunization for children up to 19 years of age (please bring children's shot records). 9 a.m.-12 p.m., 15610 89th St. Ct. NW in Key Center, 253-884-9221.

OCTOBER 13**FLAVORS OF FALL**

Biennial Gala at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Theme is Hollywood Nights. 5-9 p.m. www.kpciviccenter.org, kpciviccenter@centurytel.net, 253-884-3456

OCTOBER 15**FLU SHOTS**

Dr. Roes will give flu shots in the Herron Island Community Center at 4:30 p.m. 253-884-9221

OCTOBER 16**JAVA WITH JOY**

8-9 a.m. Join Joy Stanford, candidate for State House of Representatives, 26th District Position 2, for coffee at Blend Wine Shop, 8914 Key Peninsula Hwy NW in Key Center. Endorsed by the WA State Labor Council, Stanford is eager to discuss issues of importance to you.

OCTOBER 17**FLU SHOTS**

Dr. Roes will give flu shots in the Senior Center in Home during the lunch hour. 17015 9th St. Ct. SW, Lakebay. 253-884-9221.

OCTOBER 22**RELATIVES RAISING KIDS SUPPORT**

Grandparents and relatives raising children meet the fourth Monday each month at Evergreen Elementary from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Potluck dinner and child care provided. Call Lori at CHSW at 253-884-5433 or 253-391-0144.

OFF THE KEY**OCTOBER 13****RONNY COX CONCERT**

Cox performs a woven tapestry of songs and stories that tell something about the human condition. Olalla Community Club, 12970 Olalla Valley Road SE, Olalla. Potluck 6 p.m. Concert 7 p.m. www.olallacommunityclub.org

OCTOBER 25**THE ANCIENT FRUITCAKE**

6-7 p.m. This talk is about food that is so old, so unusual, or so meaningful that no one dares throw it away. Author/broadcaster Harriet Baskas explores how and why formerly fresh foods may have been forgotten, intentionally tucked away, or preserved due to unusual or peculiar circumstances. Harbor History Museum, 4121 Harborview Dr., Gig Harbor, www.harborhistorymuseum.org, 253-858-6722

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**

10-11:30 a.m. (except Oct. 19) Free program for children (ages 6 and under) and adults to play together! Individual play, fun group activities, songs, and a whole group circle time. Drop-in program: no registration required. Please join us. Michelle 253-530-1097 or harrisonm@psd401.net.

TUESDAYS**STORYTIMES**

Discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the Key Center Library at 11 a.m. For preschoolers. 253-548-3309

LOVING HEARTS

Join Loving Hearts to knit or crochet for charity. First Tuesday of the month: 11-1 p.m.; all other Tuesdays 1-3 p.m. WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Ave. NW. Yarn donations are needed and very much appreciated. Virginia at 253-884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com.

TOPS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly is an affordable wellness education organization; visitors 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 NW. marcgrubb1990@yahoo.com

OASIS YOUTH CENTER

Are you a queer or questioning youth between the ages of 14 and 24 in the Key Peninsula area? We are bringing Oasis Youth Center to you at our satellite program Tuesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. There will be games, new friends, activities, learning and snacks. www.oasisyouthcenter.org, oasis@oasisyouthcenter.org, 253-671-2838

KEY SINGERS REHEARSALS

Rehearsals for KP choral group through Dec. 11, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church. All singers welcome. Membership \$10 per year. Colleen Slater, cas4936@centurytel.net.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME**

Weekly except during school breaks. The Children's Home Society of Washington/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 stay with child. Drop-ins welcome; stay as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. 253-884-5433

SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior tai chi class meets 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. If you're not already in the class, you must sign up in advance for the next class. 253-884-4440

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS**KP HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN**

The Key Peninsula Historical Society museum at the civic center is open Tuesdays and Saturdays 1 to 4 p.m. The current exhibit is Tales of Logging the Key Peninsula. Free admission. 253-888-3246. www.keypeninsulamuseum.org

WEDNESDAYS**READY SET GO!**

Free Early Learning Program for 3- & 4-year-olds. Classes began Sept. 26. Limited to 16 children with their parent/caregiver. Focus on kindergarten readiness and lots of fun. KP Civic Center VFW room, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Lori Mertens 253-884-5433.

LAKEBAY WRITERS

A workshop for people who love stories. Share yours; hear others' from 1 to 4 p.m. at Key Center Library. Loren Aikins, 253-884-2785

KP YOUTH COUNCIL

Meets every Wednesday 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 from 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; however, must be 21+ due to location. hannah8ball@gmail.com, 817-929-3943

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. Key Pen Comm. Services, 17015 9th St. Ct. SW, Home, 253-884-4440

THURSDAYS

TOASTMASTERS

Have fun improving your public speaking ability and leadership skills at Wright-Bliss fire station from 8 to 9 a.m. Guests are welcome to come and observe with no obligation to speak. keypeninsulatoastmasters@gmail.com

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

FRIDAYS

GENTLE YOGA FOR OLDER ADULTS

8:30 a.m. at the Crandall Center. Ends Oct. 26. \$12/drop-in. Call to register. 253-884-9814

SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior tai chi drop-in class meets 8:45-9:45 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. 253-884-4440

TRIPLE P PARENTING CLASSES

Children's Home Society of Washington partners with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to sign up families for Triple P Parenting classes and provide assistance with basic food and health insurance applications. Representative available at Key Peninsula Community Office, Suite D, KC Corral Fridays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 253-432-4948 or 253-884-5433

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Oct. 1 & 15, KP Veterans group meets, 7 p.m., KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Rd NW. Veterans, military service members and families with children 16 and older are welcome. 253-225-5130

Oct. 2, KP Historical Society meets at 11 a.m. in the museum at KP Civic Center. 253-888-3246

Oct. 2, Key Peninsula Business Association at Blend at 6 p.m. Light snacks provided. www.kpba.org, www.kpba.org/about, 253-303-1980

Oct. 3 & 17, KP Lions Club meets at 6 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

Oct. 4, 26th Legislative District Democrats meet 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting. Public invited. Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard. 26thdemocrats@gmail.com

Oct. 6, Writers Guild meets 10 a.m., community council office, Suite D, at the Key Center Corral. 253-884-6455

Oct. 6 & 20, Lakebay Depression and Bipolar Support Group meets 11:15 a.m., KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. Kimberly, 253-753-4270 or dbsalakebay@gmail.com

Oct. 8, KP Parks Commission meets 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

Oct. 9 & 23, KP Fire Commission meets 5 p.m.-7 p.m., Key Center fire station. www.keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

Oct. 10, Bayshore Garden Club meets 10 a.m., Longbranch fire station. Wendy, 253-332-4883

Oct. 10, Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition meets 10 a.m., Gig Harbor Fire District Headquarters, 10222 Bujacich Road NW, Gig Harbor. www.PEP-C.org, curtesscott45@gmail.com, 2533807240

Oct. 10, KP Community Council meets at 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-432-4948

Oct. 11, Ashes support group for Fire District 16 meets at 10:30 a.m., Key Center fire station. 253-884-3771

Oct. 11, Peninsula School District Board meets at 6 p.m., district office in Purdy. 253-530-1000

Oct. 11, KP Civic Center Assn. board meets at 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. www.kpciviccenter.org, kpciviccenter@centurytel.net, 253-884-3456

Oct. 15, KP Democrats meets at 7 p.m., Home fire station, johnpatkelly@aol.com

Oct. 17, KP Advisory Commission meets at 6:30 p.m., KP Civic Center. Reviews applications for proposed developments and makes recommendations to Pierce County. www.kpcouncil.org, keypencouncil@gmail.com, 253-432-4948

Oct. 20, Key Peninsula Caregivers Support Group meets at 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at The Mustard Seed Project's Crandall Center, 9016 154th NW, Key Center (former Roadhouse Restaurant). Please call Debra Jamerson before attending. 360-621-1110

Oct. 22, KP Farm Council planning meeting for 2018 Farm Tour meets at 6 p.m., KP Community Council office. 253-432-4948 or email keycouncil@gmail.com; visit www.kpfarmtour.com

Nov. 15 (no Oct. meeting), Key Peninsula Emergency Preparation meets at 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 253-686-7904 or gablehouse@aol.com (Put E Prep in the subject line)

Multiple dates, KP Sportsmen's Club board meets first Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.; general meeting and potluck on second Thursdays at 6 p.m.; bingo \$1/card and potluck on fourth Fridays at 6 p.m.; Ladies Bunco last Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Bring snacks and \$5 to play. Sportsmen's Clubhouse, 5305 Jackson Lake Road NW, 253-884-6764

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



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Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road 253/884-3456 www.kpciviccenter.org
The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, fosters and promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community



Meet the Candidates

**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE Dist. 6
Douglas Dightman (R)
Derek Kilmer (D)**

**STATE SENATOR
Marty McClendon (R)
Emily Randall (D)**

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE Pos. 1
Connie FitzPatrick (D)
Jesse L. Young (R)**

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE Pos. 2
Michelle Caldier (R)
Joy Stanford (D)**

**COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
Mark Lindquist (D)
Mary Robnett (Non-partisan)**

**COUNTY COUNCIL District 7
David Olson (R)
Derek M. Young (D)**

**October 9
Tuesday at 7 p.m.
Whitmore Room at
Key Pen Civic Center**

A candidate
panel discussion
and reception

Sponsored by
Key Peninsula Business Association,
Key Peninsula Civic Center Association,
Key Peninsula Community Council
and Key Peninsula News

Broadcast live by KGHP 89.3/105.7 FM

OBITUARIES



Christopher Lauderbaugh

Christopher Ryan Lauderbaugh, 24, died unexpectedly Sept. 6, 2018. He grew up in Lakebay and was most recently the owner and operator of his big truck. He lived life fast, loved his family and all things outdoors.

Chris is survived by parents, William and Ginger Lauderbaugh; brother Justin (Natalie), niece Atleigh; sister Rochelle; grandmother Rella Barlow (Raymond); and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

All who knew him will miss his charismatic personality, quick wit, huge heart and easy, beautiful smile. We who loved him will now hold him close in our hearts forever. Rest peacefully our precious Christopher.



Sheila Weaver

Sheila Hazel (Elliott) Weaver died at home surrounded by family Sept. 15, 2018. She was born Oct. 16, 1950, to George and Alice Elliott of Vaughn. Sheila attended Vaughn Elementary and graduated from Peninsula High School in 1969. In 1969 she was Worthy Advisor of Waconda Assembly #122 in Gig Harbor, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

In October 1982 Sheila married Darrell Weaver. The two lived in the area, raising their daughters until retirement when

they moved to Salome, Arizona. The couple enjoyed their time in the desert by adventuring on their quads. Both were active with the local VFW.

Sheila is survived by her husband, three daughters, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, her older brother George and sister Linda.

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

Letter to the Editor

Walk the Walk

I am a property owner on the Key Peninsula, a close neighbor of the YMCA Camp Seymour. We have been neighbors since 1987 and in that time I have been proud to have such a well-respected camp in our vicinity. The values they teach to guide our next generation are vital to the future of our society. However, with the Y's decision to ignore the role they play in the community and their demonstrated lack of respect for the Key Peninsula, I am less enthusiastic.

The Key Peninsula is a community; community being defined by Webster's Dictionary as "a group of people living in the same vicinity having interests in common." The Key Peninsula has worked to build community and has dedicated volunteers striving to make the quality of life something we can all be proud of.

There is an existing process of review within our community in the KP Advisory Council, which recommended against the Y building a 60-foot tall water tower. The Y continues to expand its scope at Camp Seymour at a prodigious rate. They will need better water service. However, they refuse to exercise their own calling to social responsibility by listening to the community that the Y claims they are serving, by not following through with more acceptable options to the 60-foot tower.

The Y has chosen to turn their backs on our community volunteers and its neighbors in a most arrogant manner; very unbecoming of an organization which allegedly works to promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

The YMCA should not be preaching values they themselves fail to follow. Camp Seymour: You need to quit talking and actually walk the walk.

Ladeen Miller, Glen Cove

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Our new board room seats up to eight and is available as a courtesy for local community service organization meetings. Call Rob for your free reservation.



Photos: Ted Olinger, KP News

KP Fire District 16 Honors 9/11

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

On Sept. 11, 2018, Key Peninsula Fire District 16 commemorated the 9/11 attacks 17 years earlier with a formal ceremony lowering the headquarters' flag to half-mast.

District chaplain Doug Patterson addressed the assembled company, including Fire Chief Guy Allen, Assistant Chief Hal Wolverton, the on-duty personnel of C Shift under Acting Battalion Chief Brent Adams, and members of the Key Peninsula Veterans group.

Patterson quoted the words of comfort for times of trauma by Fred Rogers: "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping," saying that is where hope can be found.

Prevention and Public Information Officer Anne Nesbit also spoke, saying, "Today we remember the 6,000 injured and nearly 3,000 lives taken from us. We honor the courage of those who put themselves in harm's way to save people they never knew. We come together in gratitude for the strength that has fortified us across these 17 years. But in the end, the most enduring memorial to those we lost is ensuring in America that we continue to be—that we stay true to ourselves; that we stay true to what is best in us."



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Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018
6-8 p.m.

The Longbranch Improvement Club
4312 Key Peninsula Hwy S
Longbranch, WA 98351

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New Resources for Families and Parents at the KP Council Office

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Families who have challenges with parenting can now come to the KP Community Council office on Fridays to get more information. In addition, families or individuals who want to know more about applying for assistance with food, insurance and child care are welcome.

Britney Williamson, a family support worker at Children’s Home Society of Washington (CHSW), now has regular office hours on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. She can let people know if they qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps), Apple Health (the Washington State Medicaid program) or vouchers to help cover the cost of child care, and she can help with the application process.

Williamson also offers parenting classes, using a Triple P (positive parenting program) approach. The classes are designed for families with children between two and 12. Parents may be referred through agencies, physicians or schools, but she also welcomes self-referrals.

“Triple P teaches families about the possible causes of misbehavior, how to manage misbehavior and how to encourage desirable behavior,” Williams said. “This is a program available at no cost to any parent struggling with parenting or who wants to learn new skills or techniques to manage their household.”

The program includes a video, workbook, tip sheets and opportunities to practice new skills “Parents are learning a lot. The dynamics of the household really do change,” she said. “I prefer to do individual work.” If the caseload gets too high, CHSW will also offer classes for four to six families at a time, with child care provided.

According to the Triple P website, the program is based on 35 years of ongoing research and is used in 25 countries. It gives parents simple and practical strategies to help them build strong, healthy relationships, confidently manage their children’s behavior and prevent problems from developing. The program is designed for parents who are experiencing challenges with their child’s behavior and who want to improve their relationship with their child and to figure out different ways



Photo: Britney Williamson

for safely managing challenging parenting situations. It is for natural families, kinship care families, adoptive families and foster families.

Williamson, who lives on the Key Peninsula, started working at CHSW in Vaughn as a student intern while earning her bachelor’s degree in social work, with a concentration in children and families. She is currently working on her master’s in social work and is interested in juvenile justice.

“She was just so good I had to hire her,” said Jud Morris, community manager of the CHSW Key Peninsula Family Resource Center. Williamson joined the staff about a year ago. Her position is supported through a contract with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.

While her hours at the KP Council Office in Vaughn are usually Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and she is ready to see anyone on a drop-in basis, she encourages people to call the CHSW office to confirm her hours and set up and appointment at 253-884-5433.

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Hello Neighbors!

It's that time of year to announce the opportunity to become a Key Peninsula Community Services Board Member. (KPCS) provides essential services to our community and has provided those services since 1989. If your heart is into helping others please consider joining us! Applications are available at our office. Pickup one today and be a part of our team!

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KP Farm Tour 2018

Saturday Oct 6 10am to 4pm

Activities and booths at Gateway Park:

Key Peninsula Parks & Recreation Foundation; Farm Tour Information; Fresh Food Revolution Co-op; Key Peninsula Historical Society huckleberry machine display; Master Gardeners

Key Pen Parks 2019 Budget Hearings:

You're welcome to be part of the budget process for next year at 7:30pm on October 8 and November 13 at the Volunteer Park office of Key Pen Parks. *These public meetings are required per State of Washington RCW854.52.020

Key Pen Parks Board Meeting for November will be held Tuesday, Nov. 13 in observance of Veterans Day.

Key Pen Parks
Letters to Santa

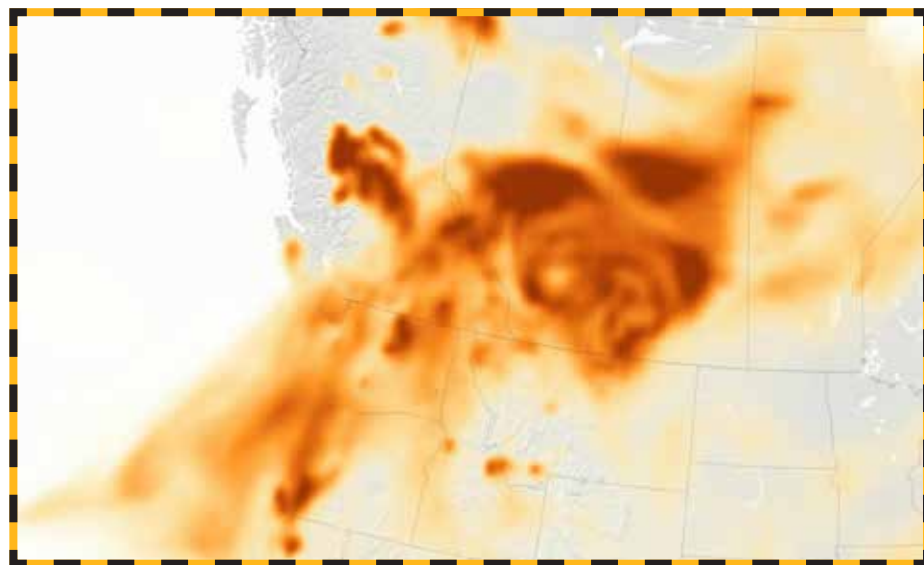
Santa

Sunday
December 2, 2018
at the
Key Peninsula Fire Department

more details to come soon!

FOR DEPT

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



The Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite on the Suomi NPP satellite acquired this image on August 15, 2018. Forest fire smoke is shown hovering over much of western North America and central Canada. Photo: NASA Earth Observatory

Forest Fires and the Key Peninsula

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

By the end of August wildfires had consumed nearly 7 million acres of trees in the United States, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Although there were no major fires on the Key Peninsula, the KP experienced the effects of poor air quality for the third year in a row with smoke from fires in Oregon and eastern Washington and then, as winds shifted, from British Columbia.

"We have not had true forest fires on the Key Peninsula, but we have had fires in the forest," KPFD Fire Chief Guy Allen said. Those fires have tended to be in the low brush, burning what he referred to as low-level fuels. He said that in big wildfires, flames at high temperatures reach tall treetops and can spread quickly. The water surrounding the KP provides relatively high humidity and winds tend to be quiet in the summer—factors offering protection to this area.

Allen said fires on the KP are generally less than an acre in size. Last summer a fire consumed about 10 acres—caused by a landowner who was burning trash illegally, thought the fire was out, and left it unattended. The fire was reported the following day when a Washington Department of Natural Resources helicopter saw it while en route to another fire. It took a few days to extinguish, Allen said.

According to the National Parks Service, people often unintentionally cause about 90 percent of forest fires. "Fire departments have a running joke. Question: What are the three most common causes of fires? Answer: Men, women and children," Allen said.

A DNR program called Firewise is geared to help homeowners living in the forest-

urban interface—areas where homes are built near or among lands prone to wildfire. According to the DNR website, as many as 80 percent of homes lost to wildfire might have been saved if brush around the homes had been cleared with defensible space created around structures. The KP Fire Dept. is not part of the Firewise program, but staff will evaluate homes on a case-by-case basis.

Wildfires have grown in size, intensity and number over the past 20 years. According to NOAA, fires consumed an average of 4.3 million acres a year between 1995 and 2003. Between 2000 and 2010 the average grew to 6.6 million acres. A record of 10.1 million acres burned in 2105, and this year by the end of August, 6.9 million acres were in flames.

The causes for the increase are complex, but most agree that they are a combination of forestry practices and climate change. Dr. Paul Hessburg, an ecologist at the Pacific Northwest Research Station's Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Wenatchee, said that historically in dry areas trees grew fairly far apart, fires were frequent and when they occurred, they weren't that severe. In moist cold forests, trees grew more densely and fires were less frequent, but were more severe when they occurred.

"These different forest types, the environments that they grew in and fire severity—they all worked together to shape a forest patchwork," Hessburg said. "The patchwork provided a natural mechanism to resist the spread of future fires across the landscape. Once a patch of forest burned, it helped to prevent the flow of fire across the landscape."

For 10,000 years, Native Americans intentionally burned during the wet seasons in

order to thin some forests to grow food and to increase grazing areas for deer and bison. When Europeans arrived in the late 1800s, grazing livestock “ate the grasses which had been the conveyor belt for the historical fires, and this prevented once-frequent fires from thinning out trees and burning up dead wood. Later came roads and railroads, and they acted as potent firebreaks, interrupting further the flow of fire across this landscape,” Hessburg said.

In 1910, a major fire, called the “Big Burn,” stretching from eastern Washington to western Montana, burned 3 million acres in a few days and killed 87 people. Fire prevention became job one for the nascent forest service, and over the years they did just that, containing 95 percent of all fires.

Timber harvesting, which got going in the west after World War II, removed the large and the old trees. These were survivors of centuries of wildfires. The forest filled with thin-barked, fire-sensitive small trees so close together they were touching each other. Hessburg refers to this as an “epidemic of trees.” He said, “And after a century without fire, dead branches and downed trees on the forest floor, they’re at powder-keg levels.”

Climate change, with wetter springs, drier summers and higher winds, has compounded the problem. The Wash-

ington Forest Protection Association reported that in 2017 they spent a record 40 days at the highest level of preparedness, almost three weeks more than during the severe 2015 fire season.

Hessburg and others, including the U.S. Forest Service, recommend a number of approaches to decrease wildfire risk. Prescribed burning can intentionally thin out trees and burn up dead fuels, and can be timed to minimize the risk of fires spreading. Mechanical thinning can decrease fuels and capture commercial value—using thinned trees for lumber or pulp. It is also possible to manage wildfires; rather than being extinguished, some can be put back to work, thinning forests and reducing dead fuels.

The Wildland Fires Act of 2017, sponsored by a bipartisan group of western senators, has been introduced in the U.S. Senate, and addresses some of these issues. At a more local level, the DNR recently awarded its first Good Neighbor Authority restoration timber harvest sale, a project using mechanical thinning to reduce timber overgrowth on 604 acres of forest in the Colville National Forest. The sale of that timber will generate about \$1.5 million, and revenue generated by the timber sale will be used to fund further restoration projects within the Colville National Forest.

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Connie FitzPatrick (D)
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE Pos. 2
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Compare Marty McClendon with Emily Randall and learn the differences between these two State Senate candidates.

Experience Matters



- ✓ Married with 3 children-21, 16 and 15
- ✓ McClendon has lived in the district for 18 years; he's run a business here, paid taxes here and has invested in our community
- ✓ Marty is an Eagle Scout who has dedicated his time to local civic organizations including the Boys & Girls Club, Make a Wish, and Habitat for Humanity
- ✓ McClendon believes we need to limit new taxes and he opposes the new income tax
- ✓ Marty will push for government accountability and fight to keep tolls from being increased
- ✓ McClendon wants to introduce vocational and career tech education into our middle schools so our students have more options
- ✓ Marty is opposed to a new Carbon Tax which would increase gas taxes by .20 cents a gallon
- ✓ Marty's heroes include Ronald Reagan and Abraham Lincoln

- ✗ Full time **political activist** who lives at home with her parents
- ✗ Moved **into the district one year ago** from San Francisco
- ✗ Former **fundraiser for Planned Parenthood** and supports late term abortions
Source: Podcast, March 20, 2018
- ✗ Emily **supports bigger government, socialist ideas and increased taxes** including an income tax
Source: Twitter December 13, 2017
- ✗ Randall supports **increasing property taxes**
Source: Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce debate; July 26th
- ✗ Emily has **proposed creating new taxes, such as a capital gains income tax**
Source: Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce debate; July 26th
- ✗ Randall believes our police officers are hostile occupiers in our communities, **and blue lives don't matter**
Source: Twitter July 9, 2017
- ✗ Emily believes **Bernie Sanders is too conservative**
Source: Facebook post April 25, 2017



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J. Matthew Phipps standing before the 15th century Castelul Corvinilor (Corvin Castle) in Hunedoara, Romania.



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Key Peninsula Civic Center

October Schedule

Oct 5 Skate Night + Dodgeball
Oct 12 No Skate Night
Oct 19 Skate Night + Dodgeball
Oct 26 Skate Night

Skate Night 6 to 9 pm Dodgeball 9-10:30 pm

Live DJ, Skating, Dancing, Games, Food, Prizes

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TOP LEFT: Faraway dahlias. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News* **TOP RIGHT:** Coast Guard cutter makes the rounds. *Photo: Rich Hildahl* **MID LEFT:** Minion scarecrows outside Key Center Library. *Photo: Corrine Weatherly* **BOTTOM LEFT:** Longbranch Foundation volunteer prepares new sign for installation. *Photo: Rich Hildahl* **MID-DLE:** Salmon fishing off the Purdy spit. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **UPPER RIGHT:** Driftwood Annie, part of the Farm Tour Scarecrow Invasion. *Photo: Bob Green* **MID RIGHT:** Larry and Peg Bingham celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News* **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A rare September garden visitor, the praying mantis. *Photo: Ron Cameron*