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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

March 2021 Vol. 48 No. 3

## More Students Return to PSD Classrooms

Elementary and middle schools are now open to all who want in-person teaching.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

In January, for the first time since schools closed last spring, Renee Harding's kids were back in the classroom. Her daughter was first, returning to four full days a week of second grade Jan. 19. Two weeks later her sons, fourth and fifth graders, were back for half days in the mornings.

"She is ecstatic and so happy to be back in school. It's different, but whatever her teacher is doing, she is doing a good job. She has a light back in her," Harding said of her daughter. "The boys are happy as clams."

Tricia Endsley, the Communities in Schools of Peninsula coordinator at Evergreen Elementary School, and a parent of a fourth grader, said "From a mom's perspective it's been amazing. My son couldn't sleep the night before he went back to school. You'd think we were going to Disneyland."

Middle school is scheduled to open using a hybrid model March 1 with sixth grade orientation Feb. 25 and 26. When high schools reopen will depend on when COVID-19 infections fall to a rate of

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Hudson Cedarland (3) goes after Seahawks running back Landon Sims, who scored three touchdowns. *Christine Mckail*

## Seahawks Notch Historic Win in (Empty) Fish Bowl 42

In another sign of hope for humanity, high school football has returned.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

The Peninsula High School Seahawks defeated their perennial rivals and friends, the Gig Harbor Tides, 36-12 in the opening game of a resurrected season Feb. 19.

It was the fifth consecutive Fish Bowl victory for the Seahawks, making the overall record 21 wins for each team since the first ad hoc tournament was played in 1979.

The usual autumn homecoming carnival that is Fish Bowl was made impossible by the pandemic in 2020, but new state Department of Health guidelines led to a launch of abbreviated seasons for high school sports, starting locally with a Fish Bowl played in an empty stadium at Roy Anderson Field.

Gone were the thousands of shivering half-dressed teenagers who would normally roam the venue, bodies painted in their school colors and adorned with yards of Mardi Gras beads. There were no fans, no bands, no food trucks, just a blanketing silence broken by the sound of the ball being kicked or caught, and the roar of the players when one of their own got a hand on it.

Peninsula came to the game with a more seasoned team than the talented up-and-comers of Gig Harbor. The Seahawks won the Class 3A South Sound Conference championship last year with a 7-0 record under QB Peyton Bice, who graduated, and conference MVP Sean Skladany (DE/FB), now a senior.

After receiving the first kick, the Tides incurred three penalties in three plays and punted.

The Seahawks were led by junior Jake Bice making his debut as starting varsity quarterback. Bice played in three games in the 2019-20 season, relieving his brother Peyton.

Bice made 9 yards on a QB keeper, setting up senior Landon Sims (RB/OLB) for their first touchdown and the extra point 4 minutes into the game. Running back Ethan Hogan set up the next TD after a 25-yard carry when he got tripped

up on the 2; Sims ran the ball in on the next play. The ball was fumbled going for the extra point, making the score 13-0 at the end of the first quarter.

The 6-foot, 3-inch, 215-pound Skladany spent most of the second quarter dragging defenders downfield as he moved the ball. He was stopped at the 1 after a 5-yard run, setting up Sims' third TD. With the extra point, the score was 20-0.

The second half started with a 99-yard kick return by Peninsula senior Bryce Cleave (WR/CB). The ball was fumbled again before the extra point, though the holder tried unsuccessfully to run it in. Score 26-0.

The Tides struggled to get past the Seahawk defense, but sophomore Tides QB/FS Payton Knowles began to heat

up in the second half. At nearly 6 feet and 145 pounds, he outran tackles to complete short passes and attempt a few dramatic long shots, reaching mid-field for the first time in the game. After two short runs he made it to the 14-yard line. His pass into the endzone was slapped away by Cleave, and the Seahawks took over on downs.

Bice launched a long pass that was tipped by a defender and wobbled like a wounded duck before being intercepted by

Hudson Cedarland (WR/SS), who ran it back to the 11-yard line. A call for holding pushed the Tides to the 21.

After losing more ground, Gig Harbor attempted to punt but Peninsula got to the ball before the kick and started back to their own endzone.

Bice made one first down after another with short passes and handoffs, gaining 5, 10, 15 yards at a time but got pushed back by flags; the Seahawks incurred 10 of 18 penalties by then. Senior Camron Watkins kicked a 26-yard field goal, making the score 29-0.

Knowles hit the gas in the fourth quarter with horizontal passes for little gain and some successful longer shots, but every receiver was immediately knocked down. Then he connected with a 10-yard pass to junior Cole Rushforth in the endzone (WR/OLB) for their first TD with 8:16

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THE USUAL AUTUMN HOMECOMING CARNIVAL THAT IS FISH BOWL WAS MADE IMPOSSIBLE BY THE PANDEMIC IN 2020.

# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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Lisa Bryan's Here's What I Think About That will return next month

## KP Bars and Restaurants Adapt to Survive the Pandemic

Places with indoor seating were hit hard. Those with takeout or delivery service maintained or grew their business.

SARA THOMPSON & LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

No one has escaped the impact of the pandemic — individuals, families, schools or businesses small and large. But some restaurants and bars have been hit especially hard, including longtime Key Peninsula haunts and hangouts that have supported the community, some with donations and fundraisers, for years.

Some of those businesses were willing to share their stories with the KP News.

### EASY THAI EASY GO

The small, busy restaurant next door to Bridgeway Market in Purdy has about a dozen tables and is popular for takeout. Owners Lucas and Orachorn Schultz opened in May 2019 and thrived beyond their expectations until COVID-19 hit.

With Peninsula High School essentially closed and many other people working from home, the once-brisk lunch trade all but disappeared.

Orachorn said business has been steady overall, and they received assistance from the Payroll Protection Program.

“Right now, we are doing OK, but we really want things to get back to normal. We were doing so good,” she said. Customers have been supportive and kind. “We’ve had new people try us out too, so that’s good.”

### JIMMY'S 94TH AVE PUB

Jimmy's was known for its nightly specials, and the bar and pool tables were busy. The owner, Jim Haskins, planned to turn the business over to his son Richard but that changed when the pandemic hit. He decided to stay until the business is safe.

“My son is awesome,” Haskins said. “He is a computer whiz and worked on the menu, put up signs and moved to takeout.” He credits loyal customers and an understanding landlord with survival, along with COVID-19 relief from the Payroll Protection Program and Pierce



A bacon Swiss cheeseburger with jalapeños never looked so good. *Rachel Velez*

County. He lost most of his bartenders but was able to keep his cooks. Haskins is happy to be open at 25% capacity, and plans to bring back one of the pool tables. “I am a fighter. I think we’ll come through it, unless they completely shut us down again,” he said.

### SEABECK PIZZA

Just down the road from Jimmy's, Sebeck Pizza is one of five locations in the region. “It’s been really, really busy since the pandemic hit,” employee Shannon Shopshire said. Sebeck has some indoor seating, but most of their business is takeout and Shopshire said that with the pandemic they have added delivery service.

### DOMINO'S PIZZA

Domino's at Lake Kathryn Village saw an increase in business as the pandemic hit, according to General Manager Jenna Smith. She thinks so many people staying at home led to the growth. They have had to make some adjustments, including contactless delivery, and have followed company guidelines about sanitary measures as well as masking and social distancing of employees to the extent possible.

### HOT BUNS AND SUBS

Laura Scheel and husband Russ opened Hot Buns and Subs inside Wauna Liquor in January. The Scheels own Purdy Liquor and bought the Wauna building two years ago, decided to incorporate the restaurant space at the south end of the building, and spent the next six months remodeling.

“We had a good customer base from the store and people complained that there weren't enough food choices in the area,” Scheel said. They offer takeout and will have outdoor seating available when the weather improves. Scheel said they were “slammed” the first week and since then business has settled into a steady flow. “I can't complain.”

### THE MADRONA CAFÉ

Owners Sarah and Bryant Anderson opened their doors in Key Center Jan. 4. They had planned to open in the spring of 2020, but were delayed by permitting issues. Sarah Anderson said opening mid-pandemic made things easier in some ways. “We knew the rules going in and could build in compliance with things like the plexiglass (counter barriers),” she said.

The café offers takeout for breakfast and lunch and has indoor seating for 15, but they don't plan to seat customers until they can open at capacity. “We could seat three people or we can have

space for people to wait for their orders inside,” Anderson said. They have had some quiet moments since opening, but business has been “beyond our wildest expectations,” she said.

### EL SOMBRERO

“We didn't know what to expect,” said Pablo de la Cruz. He and his wife, Cathy, and his two brothers and sister, own the restaurant.

With the pandemic restrictions on indoor

**“I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO BE DONE WITH THIS THING UNTIL THE END OF 2021.”**

dining, El Sombrero promoted takeout options, but the number of customers plummeted. Restaurants have a much larger margin of profit with alcohol sales than with food, and closing the El Sombrero bar meant more loss of income. The de la Cruzes received funding from the Payroll Protection Program, which allowed them to retain employees at first, but even when they were allowed to reopen at one-quarter capacity they were forced to let people go and cut restaurant hours.

The support of the community has meant much to the family. “We are overwhelmed by the generosity; we look forward to the time when we will once again be able to give back,” Cathy said. But the challenges continue. Overhead costs continue and it is even difficult to find takeout containers. Staff remain on standby, hoping their jobs return.

#### GNOSH

“We’ve done better than we ever have,” said Stephanie Brooks, the owner-operator of Gnosh, the blue takeout food truck that operates outside Capitol Lumber in Key Center. “The first three months were crazy. I couldn’t begin to tell you how many new customers we got.”

While her business model is working well, Brooks said it kills her at night to drive past dark restaurants. The restaurant business has notoriously low margins, “so when something goes wrong, and that percentage slips into the negative, there’s nothing you can do,” she said.

“I know there are some others doing well too. There are enough customers out here for all of us to get business, it’s good that it’s being spread around.”

#### FIGARO’S PIZZA

Owner Greg Hessler received assistance through the Payroll Protection Program in the early months of the pandemic when everything shut down. Navigating the program was initially confusing for everyone, including the banks, but he said the money helped keep his doors open and staff employed.

“Thankfully we had the model set up and we didn’t have to reinvent the wheel,” Hessler said. While the extra PPE increased expenses, his goal was to eliminate fear and ensure customers felt safe with staff modeling best practices.

“It took a while before people began to recognize that they could go out while remaining safe,” he said.

Hessler said the value of being open for customers goes far beyond pizza. Friendly service and the normalcy of conversation are as nourishing in these times as food. “Our customers send cards and letters, thanking us for being here on the front lines.”

#### BLEND WINE SHOP

Don Swensen, owner of Blend in Key Center, said his business is down about 40% since mandated restrictions went into effect.

“First and foremost, our customers have been incredibly loyal and supportive,” he said.

Restaurants with liquor licenses operate under different rules than bars. “Blend is considered as just a bar. We always seem to be the redheaded stepchild, we’re the last one they think about trying to fix,” Swensen said.

Because a good portion of his business is selling bottles to go, that part has been steady and even increased a bit. The other thing that helps is having minimal staff, just Swensen and his daughter. “I pay her to be there, but don’t pay myself and that’s allowed us to be able to pay the bills and keep the doors open.”

Swensen said Blend has not taken any money through the Payroll Protection Program. “The free stuff we weren’t qualified for anyway.” And while eligible for the payroll lending program, he decided they weren’t in a position to take a loan.

“I don’t think we’re going to be done with this thing until the end of 2021. I’m looking for a business model that provides the wants of our customers and to keep us moving forward.”

Swensen said they’ll be looking at doing outside music again as soon as it’s allowed. Friends have offered to help repair the tent over the outdoor seating area and build some gas-powered fire pits for heat.

#### THE SNACK SHACK

Off the beaten track, a sandwich board sign at the entrance of Volunteer Park continues to draw a solid lunch crowd, but staying open for the dinner hours during COVID-19 doesn’t pencil out.

“It was too hard at only 25% to 50% (indoor) capacity and have to tell people to wear a mask, take their phone number and record what time they were here, that was ridiculous,” said co-owner Blaine Kester. In the end, he and co-owner Rachel Velez decided the best option was to operate takeout only.

Velez credited Key Pen Parks for being a wonderful landlord. With nothing going on at the park, Snack Shack business has shrunk. Gone is the thousand-strong Clean and Sober Group that brought them their biggest day ever. Gone is the three-day annual Russian campout event.

It’s the loyalty of their customers that help keep them going. “It’s a good feeling to know people really care about us,” Velez said. “We can’t wait to get back to normal so people can sit down inside and listen to that ’50s music, read the paper, and enjoy a good meal.”

#### TWO MARGARITAS

It’s a good thing Ricardo Sahagun has a sense of humor.

“Lulu’s closed in February and COVID hit in March,” said Sahagun, who, along with his cousin Edgar Anaya, purchased Lulu’s Homeport Restaurant and Lounge in Home in early 2020. The original plan called for a complete remodel and reopening as Two Margaritas within six months.

Shortly after they filed for business and liquor licenses, the state stopped processing applications.

In the downtime, remodeling progressed at a slower pace than planned, but things are getting done.

“The building was in really rough shape,” Sahagun said. “We took everything down to studs in the kitchen and installed new wiring — another hit that we weren’t expecting — it just kept on getting better and better,” Sahagun said, laughing.

The state is processing licensing applications again, but a backlog remains. Meanwhile, all the new furniture ordered from Mexico to outfit the remodeled building can’t get into the U.S. because the border is closed. “Just another problem we’ve had to contend with,” he said.

But Sahagun looks on the bright side: “Lulu (Smith) and the community have

been so supportive. We’ve been blessed with positive feedback and that makes us feel good.” ■

#### FISHBOWL FROM PAGE 1

left in the game. They went for 2 but the pass was incomplete. Score 29-6.

The Seahawks were forced to punt with 5 minutes remaining but then recovered a Tides fumble on the next play at the 20-yard line. Bice handed off to Skladany to run it down to the 10, and then to Sims who got it to the 3, and then to Skladany again for their fourth TD. The extra point was good, making the score 36-6 with 3:54 remaining.

Knowles blasted a short pass to sophomore Colin Montgomery, who proceeded to set a new land speed record for 87 yards and a second Tides TD. The kick was blocked, making the score 36-12, which became the final.

After a successful on-side kick by the Tides and a fumble a few plays later, the Seahawks recovered the ball and took a knee to end the game. The opposing teams shook hands, embraced, and began to howl, not at each other but into the surrounding silence.

Peninsula won a definitive victory, even while the community lost a Fish Bowl. But Gig Harbor will be back next year as a stronger contender, and so will we. ■



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**STUDENTS BACK FROM PAGE 1**

200 per 100,000 over 14 days. The rate in Pierce County was 217 at press time.

Planning for the return has been complicated. Infection control mitigation measures meant that class sizes had to be smaller, making it impossible to bring all students back full-time and leading to a hybrid model that combines in-person with asynchronous and online learning. Logistics for transportation, meals, recess and passing from one class to another had to be taken into account.

Advisory teams of teachers, counselors, principals and district administrators led the planning. The goal, said Assistant Superintendent Dan Gregory, was to bring service, connection and quality instruction to all students whether families chose in-person or remote options.

The district also accommodated teachers who needed to teach remotely due to health concerns. Specific classroom schedules and assignments and daily logistical decisions were made at the school level.

Second graders returned to school four days a week Jan. 19 using the same schedule the kindergarten and first grade classes

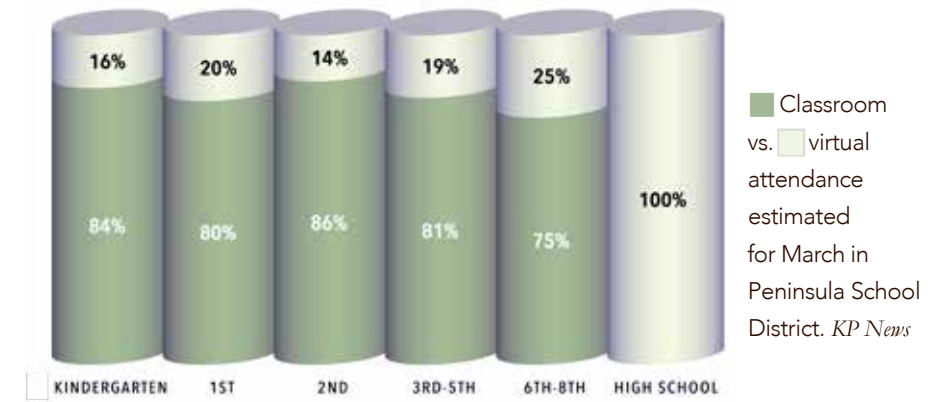
have followed since late September. Two weeks later they were joined by the older primary students, with those taking the bus attending in the afternoon and the others coming in the morning.

The half days are two and a half hours long. Instruction focuses on language arts and math, and students have assignments to complete at home. Students have short breaks in the classroom but there is no time for recess. A backpack-style lunch and breakfast to be eaten at home is provided each day to all students. Wednesdays are remote and include a Zoom classroom meeting with the teacher.

“Evergreen is a small school and community is such a critical piece,” Evergreen Elementary School Principal Hugh Maxwell said. “It is uplifting to be back together.”

He described the school tradition of waving to all the kids in buses as they go home in the afternoon. “It feels so good to have four buses with lots of kids on each bus,” he said.

“It is great to be back in the classroom. It is great to see the kids each day and to make some of those connections that are often difficult to make via Zoom meetings,” said Morgan Johnson, third grade teacher



at Minter Creek Elementary School. “I had kids who struggled to get on the meetings and who never turned in a single assignment and now I am getting to see them in person and getting completed work. I will take that as a huge win.”

Getting students back into the classroom has had its challenges. As classrooms went from fully remote to a combination of hybrid and remote, some students were assigned to different teachers and some teachers were assigned different classrooms.

“It’s like shifting sands,” Maxwell said. “There have been changes as some families decided they wanted to return to school and others had health issues that meant they wanted to go back to remote learning.”

Vaughn Elementary School Principal Abbie Barabe said that because Vaughn has more students who take the bus, their afternoon classes are full now, which makes it harder to meet the requests of families.

Barabe is proud of what her teachers have done, learning how to teach remotely and then moving to a hybrid model. Noting that until physical distancing is no longer required, schools will not be able to return to full in-person teaching, she said she is nervous about the fall and the unpredictability of what is to come. Teachers have had to reinvent how to teach twice in the last 12 months, going from in-person to remote and now to hybrid models. “I don’t know that teachers could learn yet another job,” she said.

Endsley said that by the second week of students returning, Evergreen felt like a well-oiled machine. “There haven’t been any major issues with behavior problems. The kids are so happy to be back.”

But she too has concerns for next year. “I definitely think there will be a whole cohort of children who will be behind. Zoom teaching is just not the same. In terms of state testing, these kids are just not there.” ■

**A BIT OF SCHOOL BACKGROUND**

Recommendations about when it is safe to reopen schools to students and what safety measures must be in place have evolved over the past year as more has been learned about COVID-19 transmission in schools, like how well measures like hand-washing, masks and physical distancing work, and the hardships students face missing school.

In February, according to the New York Times, one third of schools in the nation were still fully remote, and about half of all students were not in classrooms.

The Washington State Department of Health revised its guidance for reopening schools in December. Low COVID-19

activity was defined as less than 50 cases per 100,000 averaged over 14 days, while moderate was raised from 50-200 to 50-350, making high activity anything greater than 350.

They suggested full in-person teaching when rates were low, and hybrid or transitional programs when rates were moderate, but recommended that high schools remain fully remote until case rates fell below 200.

The case rate was less than 200 in early November, rose to more than 550 in mid-December, and has been falling since. As of press time the rate was 217.

Unknown at this time is the impact of vaccination and the emergence of variants that may be more infectious and may be more resistant to the current vaccines.

A COVID-19 testing pilot performed in conjunction with TPCPD in December found that, with mitigation measures in place, there is little risk of transmission in schools. Funding was not available to continue the pilot, but testing is now offered weekly to staff and athletes, and to some of the younger and special needs students on a limited basis.

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Lisa Bryan, KP News

## Gateway Park: A Refuge in Pandemic

CHRIS RURIK, KP NEWS

Herb Clippert remembers coming to the Renaissance Faire on the property that is now Gateway Park on State Route 302 in Wauna. When he saw earth-moving equipment in 2017, he “didn’t know what it would turn out to be.”

The 72-acre park has been transformed since its incremental acquisition by Key Pen Parks in 2013 and 2016. Major grants won through community organizing paid for the construction of a picnic shelter, restrooms, multiple playgrounds, off-leash dog areas, parking and access to 360 Trails Park. On a sunny day, even in winter, it is common for the parking lots to be full.

“It’s awesome what they did,” Clippert said. He visits three times a week from Rosedale to walk his puppies. “It’s so big. You can do everything here.”

The park feels full of life yet uncrowded. Amber Malcolm, who visited recently from Olalla with her 11-month-old daughter, said she is drawn to the park because there is a little kid area for her daughter, a bigger kid area for her older son and trails for her husband to mountain bike. “He’ll go off and ride while the kids are on the playground.”

She said that for months, early in the

pandemic, she and her husband were too cautious to visit parks. “We got to a breaking point,” she said. “Being outside makes you feel better.”

Ray Gilmore of Lakebay said he and his wife and two kids come several times a month. Some visits they set out to hike the trails, but they usually end up on the playground. He said one doesn’t expect parks on the Key Peninsula to be so nice. “It reminds me of a park in San Diego or something, where you have nature trails, a dog park and everything,” he said.

Gateway Park, with its close connection to 360 Trails Park, has made the Key Peninsula something of a destination, especially in the mountain biking community. Mark Poupard, a beginning mountain biker who recently made the trek from his home in Olympia, said it’s a good park for riders looking to build their skillset. It has “a good track for all skill levels,” he said, “beginner to expert.”

Erica Sprague, an expert young horseback rider from Gig Harbor, said she comes at least once a week because of the variety and quality of the trails. “I like the jump lines. You get a lot of air on them, and they’re really free-flowing,” she said. “It’s cool to see everyone use it.”

Elsewhere, it is not uncommon for tensions to mount between hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders, yet at Gateway

Park and 360 Trails there seems to be space for all types of users. Janey and Roger Aiken, who regularly come from Purdy to walk the trails, said that everyone has been “pretty darn friendly.”

“It’s a beautiful place,” Janey said. “You can still find that piece of heaven, you know?”

They like the park for the woods, the quiet and the fresh air. Each time they find themselves exploring different side trails, discovering things like a small tree decorated at Christmastime or cement toadstools. Recently they found themselves sitting on a concrete bench with an unexpected view of Horseshoe Lake Golf Course. “The sun was coming right at us,” Janey said. “To get that in February. We both sat there for a few minutes and just breathed deep.”

Tracey Perkosky, director of Key Pen Parks, said that one of her favorite things to watch at Gateway is the large multipurpose field at its heart. “I see people playing tee-ball, radio-controlled aircrafts, agility training with their dogs, teaching their kids how to ride bikes,” she said. “People take a little space of it and make it their own.”

Fifteen years ago, Volunteer Park was the only locally managed park on the peninsula. Today Key Pen Parks owns or leases nine properties, all of them open to the public, accommodating uses from nature exploration at Rocky Creek Conservation Area to kayak camping at Maple Hollow. How does Perkosky think Gateway Park fits into the park system?

“I see this as the primary destination spot,” she said, a place where families can bring their dogs, picnic, play, hike, bike, and invent their

own uses. “I think that these are amazing assets for the community. Twenty years from now, this is still going to be here. Forty years from now, this is still going to look pretty similar.

“The ability to preserve this kind of space is priceless,” she said.

Key Pen Parks staff is currently planning socially distanced events at Gateway Park, like an Easter egg hunt. The splash pad, now fully permitted, will also open this summer, though it will likely require health precautions such as timed entries.

Later this year, Key Pen Parks plans to launch a master planning process for Gateway’s next phase of development. While it will build on previous master plans, Perkosky said, everything will be on the table for how several undeveloped sections of the park are ultimately used. The process will focus on outreach to community members so that amenities are designed according to the things park goers want today and for the future.

“We definitely need more parking,” Perkosky said. “That is a clear challenge at Gateway Park — that everyone loves it.”

Parking might be at a premium on a beautiful day, but space inside the park is not. Throughout the pandemic the park has blossomed as a place to stretch legs, have fun and relax. Families are everywhere.

As former Key Pen Parks director, the late Scott Gallacher, told KP News when Gateway opened in 2017: “Huge spaces bring community together. (Gateway Park) is a gateway to the Key Peninsula and a gateway to community.” ■



Key Pen Parks

## Phyllis Henry

COAST TO COAST



### Another Time

When I google “alone” I find a bunch of synonyms: single, friendless, solitary, lone, lonesome and more. I’m alone a lot these COVID-19 days. Today I spoke six words. Each time a meal was delivered to my door I yelled, “Thank you.” Since last March I have ridden in a vehicle five times, each event for a medical purpose such as vaccinations, blood sampling and testing. To get my mail each night I venture down to the lobby after 8 p.m. when I won’t see any other residents. Today living each day like this is by choice, but when I was much younger and living in Iowa being alone was a treat I needed to steal.

Back then at the corner where the gravel road fronting my acreage intersected with the gravel road that went by my cousin Lyle’s place stood a bullet-pocked stop sign. Leaning against that sign, drowsy from the scent of newly-mown grass, I watched the tall corn tassels moving in the breeze to the east and the slightly browning soybeans for a mile to the west. Neighboring farms basked peacefully on this warm summer day, and, with no other person in sight, the magic of feeling I might be the only human alive made me smile.

The sun warmed my face, and Baron, my golden lab, lay beside me, panting, not demanding attention, but content to be with me. He rolled onto his back with his four legs outspread just in case I wanted to rub his hairy belly.

Walking to that corner and back was our special together time. If I woke up early and needed time to calmly plan my day, we started out as early as six in the morning. On busy days we didn’t walk until late in the morning or even in the afternoon. Baron didn’t need a schedule, and neither did I.

On this day, we’d walked together to the end of the driveway shortly after breakfast. There I turned right and walked along the edge of the road. Even though traffic past our house was light, Baron wasn’t allowed to walk on the road because of the possible danger, so he dashed into the low ditch and raced through the Queen Anne’s lace and Shasta daisies and other blossoms and weeds, excited by the exercise and by the joy he exhibited whenever we were together.

As we passed the orchard, I checked the

apple trees where branches drooped with heavy fruit and reminded myself to prune some back before they broke. I was pleased to see the geese gobbling the downed, rotting fruit because that would prevent disease from festering on the ground.

At the far end of the orchard, Baron slipped through the wire fence into the first green and gold field and for a while kept pace with my lazy walking, then yelped once before he raced ahead, disappearing into the soybeans, with only an occasional flash of his champagne-colored tail bobbing above the maturing grain.

As I crossed the old wooden bridge at the bottom of the hill, Baron scoped out the culvert under the road. Then he explored all the way through to the other side before rushing between the corn rows until he reached the intersection, where he sat patiently on the berm of the road, waiting for my permission for him to join me. After I dropped to the grassy sanctuary around the stop sign, and called, “Baron, come,” he swiftly crossed the road and lowered his golden body beside me.

Stretching out under the warm sun, I half-dozed and watched the red-winged blackbirds fiercely guard their nest from an attack by the red-tailed hawk that lived in the trees across from my acreage. Baron snoozed beside me, legs running while he slept, probably chasing the rabbits that got away when he was awake. I listened to the rumble of a tractor on a distant road pulling a load of corn to the elevator in town.

Back home, letters remained unwritten, weeds continued to grow in the vegetable garden, llamas needed to be brushed and the soup for lunch should have been warming.

Jack, our neighbor, driving on his way to his own lunch, stopped his pickup when he saw the two of us relaxing on the grass. With his elbow sticking out the window, he called, “Are you OK? Do you want a ride home?”

“No, thanks. We’re just out for a walk,” I said, and, standing up, brushed the tiny twigs and grass cuttings off my jeans.

“Baron, come,” I said. Baron crossed from the grassy area to the edge of the road with me, jumped into the ditch and raced home. He was standing at the end of the driveway, happy to greet me, when I arrived. After I checked the mailbox, we strolled back to the house where I started lunch, while on the porch Baron cuddled with his favorite cat while he took a nap.

Alone, yes. Lonely, never.

*Award-winning columnist Phyllis Henry lives in Gig Harbor.*

## Anna Brones

FRESH TAKE



### Cycles

This winter has been difficult, perhaps more so than I had anticipated, the result of a combination of winter blues, too much political news and the “endless endlessness” of an ongoing pandemic.

I’ve heard from many friends and acquaintances who have felt slower, more tired, sad, less creative during these past winter months. Part of that is the nature of winter, a time when our bodies crave hibernation. But there has been something deeper at play too, the weight of the last 12 months, this feeling of endlessness.

As an antidote to that, I have been working at reminding myself of the cyclical nature of our lives.

We are surrounded by cycles. A calendar marks a cycle. We track our movements from one month to the next, all of them adding up into a full year before we start over again. The seasons are a cycle. We’re slowly watching winter change into spring and the days growing longer. A day is a cycle, a chance for renewal every time we wake up in the morning.

These cycles are the most constant thing in the natural world, taking place above us, beneath us, around us. It’s easy to forget they take place within us too. It’s even more difficult to recognize a cycle when things feel static, which is exactly the feeling the last 12 months have left us with.

But if we can acknowledge the cycle then we can remember that this too will change.

On a chart, a cycle is a succession of waves. Up and down, up and down, one after another. The upper parts of a wave in this cycle, the “crest,” are often the easier ones. These are the times when we feel inspired, fueled, passionate, committed. It’s the low parts, the “trough,” that can be a bit tougher to get through.

How do we carry ourselves through these low moments? We need everyday investments in our wellbeing. We need rituals that keep us grounded, give our lives structure. We need to create pockets of joy.

As a writer and an artist, over the last year I have found that the best thing I can do for myself creatively is to commit to small, daily acts to stay active and present, even in the lowest moments.

Whether creativity is your outlet or not, we can all focus on identifying our own cycle. If it’s helpful, start to jot down notes every day on how you feel. If you pay attention long enough, you will start to notice

the cycles. This will help to give you more awareness next time you’re in a lull, an ability to say to yourself, with a little more confidence: “this too will change.”

Because while those low moments can at times feel intolerable, it is thanks to the cycle that we grow, shaped by the ups and downs of the waves that we encounter along the way. As Katherine May writes in the book “Wintering,” “We have seasons when we flourish and seasons when the leaves fall from us, revealing our bare bones. Given time, they grow again.”

I have swum in the saltwater every single day since Dec. 1, another regular routine that has become essential for maintaining balance. Every day the water is different, the sky is different, the temperature is different. Change is constant.

On Monday morning last month, the tide was higher than I had ever seen it. After I had come out of the water, showered, dressed in several layers of wool, and started to warm back up again, I checked a tide chart. There it was, clearly marked: one of the highest tides of the month.

There is something reassuring looking at a tide chart, the ups and downs clearly marked, constant, yet still shifting. There they are, the crests and troughs of a daily cycle that is part of a monthly cycle, that is part of a yearly cycle, that is part of a cycle on a timescale bigger than we can comprehend.

It is a visual reminder that even an endless endlessness will eventually have an end, evolving into the next chapter. The best that we can do for ourselves is to embrace this cyclical nature, work with it instead of against it.

Because the thing about a cycle is that it doesn’t stop; it keeps going. And so do we.

*Anna Brones is a writer and artist who lives in Vaughn.*

## Carolyn Wiley

DEVIL’S HEAD DIARY



### Combating Pandemic Boredom

Social distancing opened up blocks of unscheduled time and put the lie to my standard excuse: “I don’t have time to \_\_\_\_.” In the initial phase of isolation, I felt the need to establish goals so the newfound time would not be wasted. I took inventory of my surroundings and started a to-do list that turned into a cumbersome tome.

Annoying “oughtas” cried out for attention but I could rationalize putting off most of them. For instance, if I actually removed the even coating of dust on horizontal surfaces, David would waste time

hunting for pen and paper each time he was stricken with the urge to write I LUV U!

Faced with a ballooning to-do list, I resorted to the Procrastinator's Planning Guide. First, I categorized the tasks into three sections: Things I Will Do Later, Things I Can Get David to Do, and Things I Have No Intention of Ever Doing. This exercise eliminated many items, improved my outlook, and a starting point was identified. However, before getting to work there was an obligation to fulfill. I had to meet my friend and tai chi partner, Judy. Since the shut-down, Judy has been my only FNFH (Frequent-Non-Family-Human) contact.

Before the YMCA closed, I was teaching a tai chi sword form class there and I didn't want those skills to atrophy, so I offered to continue instruction in the great distancing outdoors. During the first few months several people were along for the ride, but Judy is the only one who stayed the course in spite of soggy days, bone chilling cold and gale force winds. We meet two to three times a week; when the sun is out we are in the parking lot, when it isn't we meet at a local dock. Each place offers a perfect setting to focus on what is important — relaxation and stress elimination.

In standing meditation, we draw energy from the Earth or the tides — depending upon our location — inhale energy from the air, engage our senses to feel the heat of sun, chill of breeze, drink in the sights and sounds and focus on being present in the moment. Settled and centered, we move on to the onerous task of eliminating the enemies of serenity.

Tai chi poses have charming names: Waiting in the Attitude of the Fish, Parting the Grass, Catch Falling Blossoms, Birds Return to the Forest, Scooping the Moon from the Bottom of the Sea. But these names do not necessarily convey a description of the action. To assure that students understand the defensive or aggressive goals of all 37 poses requires translation.

Since mortal combat is to ensue, one needs a foe. The preparation phase requires focused calmness, and once you have quieted the myriad of distractions, it is easy to single out a worthy opponent.

Suppose the opponent of choice involves a blackberry bush army that is intent on invading the homestead. One must be ready to take on the grabbing, stabbing brambles; therefore, a targeted and vicious response is required.

Three Rings Around the Moon — my very favorite sequence — is better understood once the Immoral Points the Way and the threat is identified. The first pose of the series is Major Literary Star — a nice touch for this wannabe-writer. It is a

targeting move which signals intent, as in "I am coming for you!" and "Here's a knee to the groin." Then, advance: Slash from hip to shoulder. Advance. Backhand slash from hip to shoulder. Advance. Slash up the middle. Flip the sword. Wipe off the gore and run 'em through. The blackberry attacker has been dispatched.

Look out! Watch your flank! Spin to catch the next thief of time intent on grabbing an ankle. Stab him in the foot, raise the sword and deliver a meaningful downward whack. Follow up with a long sweeping stroke traditionally known as Phoenix Spreads Its Wings, which is designed to unseat an enemy on horseback or decapitate a giant.

This is just a small sampling of the graceful flowing tai chi moves that produce an aura of calm.

Having entered a phase of chilled sogginess after the immediate threat of boredom and the blackberry invaders have been banished, Judy and I say farewell and head home. But as I snuggle down in a blanket with a hot cup of coffee, I know that the sneaky blackberry army will resume its rightful place at the top of my Procrastinator list.

To quote Scarlet O'Hara: "I will think about that tomorrow."

Because when it comes to "crastination," I am definitely "pro."

*Award-winning columnist Carolyn Wiley lives in Longbranch, where she defends the serenity of existence.*



**Matthew Dean**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

## The Price of Safety

I have had a great deal of time to think over the past year. These days, there's not much to do on a Friday night once the dishes are done and the laundry is folded. So if I've got nothing better I'll make some tea, turn on some relaxing music, and think about death.

It's an ugly thing, but an inescapable one. News networks keep a running death count like it's the score of the latest Seahawks game. Casual conversations spin around comorbidities and fatality rates. Every positive test from a friend or family member makes us think: "Will this be the one?" The comfortable distance we place between ourselves and our own mortality has suddenly shrunk.

The weight of death is most clearly shown in the drastic steps we've voluntarily taken to ensure our safety. Staying home, separated from loved ones, discon-

nected from our communities, locked out of hobbies and holidays; these aren't measures anyone was excited about. But confronted with a new and terrifying disease that can — and does — strike wherever it pleases, we've retreated willingly.

Or rather, some of us have. Since day one of the "two weeks to flatten the curve" I've had family and friends defying the restrictions. Hosting parties, shaking hands, hugging loved ones. These rebels include seniors, health professionals and the medically high-risk. These are not cruel sociopaths or ignorant hicks; they are kind, compassionate, intelligent people.

When I've asked why they choose to act as they do, a common theme emerges. They're not ignorant of their chances; they move ahead, eyes open, always aware of the casualty figures that hover on every news site and Facebook banner. Like the rest of us, these are people who live with a daily awareness of death. Those who oppose COVID-19 restrictions have decided that the danger — to themselves and to others — is an acceptable price to pay for a human connection, a hug, an unmasked smile.

It's not up to me to decide whether or not this is right. The boundaries of our personal freedoms have been debated for two and a half centuries, and you won't find the final answer here.

However, I think it's important to recognize that any measure of freedom is, by necessity, a risk. Living in a nation of free people means being affected by the choices made with that liberty. We watch people make foolish choices every day, only granting government the authority to step in when their actions directly put someone else at risk.

Driving while impaired is punishable by law, yet we allow people to take actions that lead them to impairment. Why do we allow this? Because we see the level of control necessary to remove these risks as unacceptable. We've chosen a point at which we value our ability to act independently, even if the public good could be achieved through its sacrifice.

In my experience, those who oppose restrictions in the time of COVID aren't composed primarily of science-denying conspiracy theorists or people with reckless disregard for public health. They're people who see the level of control required to eliminate that risk as crossing a boundary. A leap from the prevention of harm to the prevention of the potential to do harm.

It's easy to suggest a philosophical difference and much more difficult to apply it to the complexities of the real world. We've accepted support for the public good in

the form of taxes, speed limits and building codes. We also reject control for the sake of freedom in every right we uphold and every new tax we vote down. My hope is simply that we can assess the pandemic as a question like the rest. If we can manage that, perhaps we can make some progress toward a responsible compromise.

Above all, I don't want to add to our year-long national shouting match. I've seen disturbing thinking on both the pro-restriction and anti-restriction sides of the aisle. I'm not a virologist or a politician, and I'm neither equipped nor entrusted to make any kind of public health decision. This isn't even about disease — it's about dialogue. Starting a productive conversation means acknowledging that we have meaningful differences that go deeper than statistics. Compromise may mean we have to live with the consequences of someone else's convictions, even while upholding our own.

*Matthew Dean lives near Vaughn.*

**Richard Gelinas**  
EMPIRICALLY YOURS



## Renewable Energy is Real and Profitable

On his first day in office, President Joe Biden brought the U.S. back into the Paris Climate Accord, revoked permits for the Keystone XL Pipeline and imposed a temporary moratorium on oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Some hailed his actions as bold and long overdue while others decried them for destroying jobs and condemning the country to penury.

In all fairness, cancelling Keystone did kill jobs, almost all Canadian, and will stop tar sand oil from being exported from U.S. soil (you didn't think it was for us, did you? The U.S. is already a net oil exporter). A total of 1,000 people are now out of a job and there won't be another 10,000 hires for construction. However, Biden plans to create 10 million jobs in the renewable energy industry, on top of the 3 million we've already got.

How's that going to work?

Energy underpins all industry and business around the world, and business is always looking ahead. Renewable energy may seem like science fiction to most of us, but energy intensive businesses have already recognized that renewables are everywhere and that they can build as much as they need, thus controlling this key resource.

For example, in 2019 a new steel mill

CONTINUED PAGE 8

**RENEWABLE ENERGY FROM PAGE 7**

built its own wind farm.

What? A new steel mill in America? Didn't someone say that industry is dying?

NUCOR built the first steel mill in the U.S. run entirely on renewable energy using a wind farm they built next door in Missouri, that infamous liberal bastion. Using electric arc furnaces to melt scrap metal, the factory makes rebar for the construction industry. No fossil fuels, no coal, coke or natural gas. This mill created over 250 full-time jobs for the folks that live in or near Sedalia, the site of the factory.

Sure, we sacrifice half a million birds a year to our wind farms in the U.S. But if we sacrificed our house cats, or just kept them inside, we'd save about 2.5 billion. That's "billion" with a "b."

NUCOR did most of the financing itself, enabled in part by the lower cost of wind power compared to coal or gas. NUCOR is one of the top 12 steel makers worldwide, but it's the largest steel company based in the U.S. One of its competitors, U.S. Steel, is adopting renewable energy for one of its mills right now. Renewable energy could help clean up the steel industry, which globally is responsible for 6% of total greenhouse gas emissions.

But how about cement, since new infrastructure needs both steel and cement?

Cement is the most widely used manufactured material in existence. It is usually made by heating limestone (calcium carbonate) to about 1,500 degrees centigrade to cook away carbon dioxide and leave calcium oxide, the basic ingredient for all types of cement, mortar or concrete. The industry creates about 7% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions because of the high fuel requirements and release of CO<sub>2</sub> into the air.

The industry knows it has to clean up how cement is made or it will be difficult to achieve the CO<sub>2</sub> reductions described in the Paris Climate Accord. Options being discussed include a greater use of renewable energy, direct capture of CO<sub>2</sub> released during the baking and new recipes for cement itself.

Researchers at UCLA have developed a nearly carbon-neutral product called CO<sub>2</sub>NCRETE, a cement-like substance made by directly capturing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from industrial activities. Cement naturally absorbs CO<sub>2</sub> from the air, a slow process. New recipes for cement may speed this up so that a bridge or road or building made with this product will remove significant amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere for years. Since cement is second only to

water as the most consumed product on Earth, this is important.

Many other industrial processes rely on very high temperatures, over 1,000 degrees centigrade. An emerging company, Heliogen, has shown that an array of mirrors can precisely focus sunlight onto a reaction vessel reaching this temperature or higher. Imagine, concentrated sunlight could eventually replace fossil fuels in most industrial processes, including making cement, steel from iron ore or scrap metal, glass, electricity and synthetic fuels — even hydrogen by splitting water. And we could do away with solar panels and the problem of safely disposing of their troublesome toxic ingredients altogether.

Heliogen now has support from a Department of Energy grant to build a medium-sized power plant of 300 kilowatts, about one third the size of a typical nuclear power plant of the last century.

Simple commercial logic drives these decisions, not to save the planet, but to save money.

Some people call it "capitalism."

*Richard Gelinis, Ph.D., whose early work earned a Nobel prize, is a senior research scientist at the Institute for Systems Biology. He lives in Lakebay.*

**Letters to the Editor****ANOTHER "LOST VALENTINE" FOUND**

I just couldn't resist writing to tell you that Ted Olinger's column "Lost Valentine" (Feb. 2021) reminded me of a similar situation I had at Stadium High School in the 1950s.

There was a young lady who was the heartthrob of most of the boys in school. I too had a crush on her, but she had a boyfriend so I just watched her from afar.

Along comes our 50th class reunion in 2007 and I was working the registration desk at the event. The elevator opened and she appeared. Word had it her husband had died and she was having trouble dealing with her loss even after a couple of years.

I rose to greet her. She said something along the lines of, "You remember me?" I nearly blurted out, "How could anyone forget you?" I told her it was really nice to see her and that back at Stadium I would have liked to call her up for a date. She replied, "Why didn't you? I didn't think you even knew who I was." I came around the table to give her a hug, and she kissed me.

She has since passed away, but that column brought her memory back to life.

Thank you.

*Bert Magnuson, Longbranch*

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## OBITUARIES

### A PLEASANT OUTCOME

After what felt like a truly hellish struggle mired in circular technology for hours a day over several weeks, trying to find a vaccination appointment somewhere, I happened upon a Facebook post about appointments at St. Anthony Hospital.

It felt too good to be true, so we steeled ourselves to accept an unexpected vaccine shortage, computer error or freak snowstorm. Instead, we experienced the smoothest, most orderly and cordial process you could imagine.

So far, the only side effect I've experienced is a tendency to weep with relief and gratitude for getting this far in our journey through the pandemic. For nearly a year my focus has been to protect my dear 80-year-old husband through this unbelievable time so we can someday enjoy the much-anticipated milestone birthday party and combined family reunion we had to cancel last March.

I've been acutely aware of the hundreds of thousands of Americans whose painful COVID-19 deaths ended their dreams forever, and of the millions of family members and friends plunged into grief. I also acknowledge the privilege it was to have received a scarce vaccination today, while others wait. And wait.

*Edie Morgan, Longbranch*

### CONGRATULATIONS

Thank you for your wonderful reporting. I've lived here just shy of 17 years — you've come a long way since 2004. It's been fun to see the constant improvements. Congratulations on all your awards. You certainly deserve them.

*Robin Winslow, Gig Harbor*

### INSPIRED

A belated thank you to Lisa, Ted and the staff for all your talents creating such an incredible newspaper. Living on the fringe of Key Pen on Social Security, hanging on to my cottage on an acre of land, I've been receiving your newspaper in the mail for years. I've been a widow for 14 years now and just received the much-footballed \$600 from our fractured government, inspiring me to finally send you a check. Your newspaper is so important to me.

*Norma Meyer, Gig Harbor*

Letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. Letters are used on a space-available basis and will be edited for length and clarity. Mail to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to editor@keypennews.org.



**Harry Grant Faas**

Harry was born at Madigan General Hospital Center on Fort Lewis May 2, 1934. He died peacefully of natural causes at St Anthony in Gig Harbor Jan. 7, 2021 at the wonderful age of 86, earning his angel wings to join Mary Ruth Hughes, his lifelong partner who preceded him in death Sept. 9, 2019.

Harry always had stories to share. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a young man and served until 1959 when he was honorably discharged. Harry then became an entrepreneur in various business ventures.

Harry and M.R. (Mary Ruth) were longtime members of the Totem Yacht club where they volunteered for many tasks, such as ferrying scout troops to Blake Island for camp excursions, an accomplishment that he was very proud to be a part of. Harry and M.R. took a vast number of cruises on their boat "The Marineer" until they sold it in 2016.

Harry was always there to jump in and offer his help and advice when needed. He took care of the security gate maintenance in his community for a good 20 years. He was a very likable guy and a book of knowledge. He had many friends and missed socializing with others due to the coronavirus.

Harry is survived by his sister Karen Wheeler of Vashon Island; his brother Stan Faas; daughters Jan of Yelm, Sheila of North Carolina, and Robin; and stepdaughters Ginger and Dina. He will be remembered and loved and missed by many.

Obituaries are printed as a service to community members. Limit to 300 words and provide high-resolution photographs. Submissions will be edited. Send to editor@keypennews.org.



**Mark J. Nelson**

Mark John Nelson of Gig Harbor died peacefully Oct. 28 surrounded by his loving family in the comfort of his home. He was 57 years old.

Filled with joy at the news he would soon be a grandfather, he was very proud to live long enough to become one.

He loved his family and worked extremely hard throughout his career to provide a good life for his wife and children. He loved his life and took pride in his work.

Mark is survived by his wife Susan; son Tyler and daughter-in-law Amber; son Timothy and daughter-in-law Madison; grandson Mark Benjamin; father John; brother Matthew and sister Margie.

The date for Mark's celebration of life is yet to be determined but will be announced when scheduled.

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### Buffy named winner of Quilt Raffle in January.

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## Our supporters have (out)done it again!

In all honesty, 2020 was pretty short on good news.

What stood out, with remarkable brilliance, was the record-breaking generosity of our community. Donors large and small stood up to support the continued success of the KP News.

One group in particular outdid themselves: Publishers Circle members provided over 40% of NewsMatch donations. Please join us in thanking our very generous and community-spirited friends.

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*While we're applauding, we'd like to acknowledge donations received after deadline for the January edition:*

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## COVID-19 Cases Fall, But County Remains at 'High Risk'

The trends are encouraging but there's a long way to go.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

COVID-19 cases in Pierce County began to fall in January from their historic highs but remain at "high risk" levels, according to the state Department of Health. County COVID-related hospitalizations and deaths have also fallen.

But the test positivity rate in the county remains high, suggesting that cases may be undercounted due to reduced testing.

The 14-day case rate per 100,000 was 217 in mid-February; at the beginning of January it was 400. There have been 34,548 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 429 deaths in the county since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020.

DOH announced Feb. 15 that more than 1.2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine had been administered across the state since distribution began Dec. 15. Approximately 26,000 people are getting a shot each day, approaching the state goal of vaccinating 45,000 per day.

To "resolve confusion about getting a second vaccine dose," DOH said it has asked providers to "prioritize vaccine series completion," using first doses to provide second doses. Two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine should be given three weeks apart; two doses of Moderna should be given one month apart. The second dose of either vaccine can be administered up to six weeks after the first.

Nationally, average cases fell below 100,000 in February for the first time in three months, down from 250,000 in January. "It's encouraging to see these trends coming down, but they're coming down from an extraordinarily high place," said Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in an interview on CBS Feb. 14. "We still have somewhere between 1,500 and 3,500 deaths per day, and yet we see some communities relaxing some of their mitigation strategies. We are nowhere out of the woods."

The U.S. was administering 1.66 million vaccine doses a day by mid-February, according to the CDC. About 35.8 million people have received at least one dose and about 12.1 million of those have also received the second dose.

"I don't think the vaccine is having much of an impact at all on case rates," said Tom Frieden, a former CDC director in an interview with CNN. "It's what we're doing right: staying apart, wearing masks, not traveling, not mixing with others indoors."

The Institute for Health Metrics and

Evaluation at the University of Washington published a model Feb. 12 predicting that 500,000 Americans will have died of the coronavirus by the end of March. It also predicted that vaccines will have saved 25,000 lives by then, and that more mask usage in the next month could save up to 56,000.

"If we (vaccinate) efficiently in April, May, June, July, August, we should have that degree of protection that could get us back to some form of normality," said Dr. Anthony Fauci in an interview with the Harvard Business Review in January. Fauci is director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and chief medical adviser on the pandemic for the Biden administration.

"If we get that, we would develop an umbrella of immunity," he said. "That would be able to protect even the vulnerables who have not been vaccinated, or those in which the vaccine has not been effective."

That umbrella would be made possible by herd immunity, which various experts have said could require 60% to 85% of the U.S. population to be vaccinated or have natural antibodies after recovering from COVID-19. Out of a population of approximately 328 million, that's about 492 million doses for herd immunity, or 656 million doses for everyone in the U.S.

At an average national vaccination rate of 1.5 million shots a day, herd immunity in the U.S. could be reached by the end of 2021.

Pfizer has said it will deliver 200 million doses of its vaccine by the end of July, and Moderna said it will provide another 200 million by the end of June. There are also three other COVID-19 vaccines expected to become available in the U.S. in the coming months from AstraZeneca, Novavax, and Johnson & Johnson.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is likely to receive emergency approval in March. It is a single dose vaccine, which could increase the overall vaccination rate by simplifying storage and scheduling requirements, if enough is rapidly delivered.

But even if the U.S. reaches herd immunity, the pandemic will be far from over.

The World Health Organization's chief scientist, Soumya Swaminathan, said in January that global herd immunity should not be expected this year, and that COVID-19 could remain in circulation for years as it mutates and adapts to vaccines, like other coronaviruses.

For information on vaccine availability and who is eligible to receive it, go to [www.piercecountywa.gov](http://www.piercecountywa.gov). ■



Chris Rurik, KP News

## From the Naturalist's Notebook

CHRIS RURIK, KP NEWS

### BALD EAGLE VS. COMMON GOLDENEYE

The goldeneye duck, separated from its compadres, came to the surface to suck in some oxygen. The eagle swooped. The duck frantically dove. The eagle climbed to 10 feet, laboring hard, and waited for the duck to reappear. This drama repeated again and again as I watched. Each time the duck barely escaped.

Eagles aren't built for hovering. Nor are they skilled hunters of duck, like peregrine falcons. But they're big, and they can be persistent.

Now — before I tell you the end of the story, put yourself in my naturalist's shoes (they're Chuck Taylors, for what it's worth) and try to guess what I have found most fascinating about this encounter, in hindsight.

It's a trick question because it actually hasn't been anything about the birds at all. It's been about the people I've told afterward. Whenever I have shared this story I have paused at this point, with the eagle hovering and the duck needing to surface to breathe. And the reaction has always been the same.

"Did the duck get away?"

Never has it been, "Did the eagle get to eat?"

Peoples' reactions to nature can be as strange and thought-provoking as nature itself. Who do we root for in nature? Why?

I mean this is the bald eagle, an icon on par with orcas in these parts. Many folks here remember the days when you couldn't hope to see one anywhere in Washington, when they were fighting extinction. I have family members whose eyes tear up to this day when they see one glide overhead.

Why, then, when an eagle turns to hunting, does our concern shift so suddenly to the duck? That's an open question. Is it like my friend has opined, that our lifestyles today have tuned us to expect unjust death and destruction in nature but no longer tune us to the basic idea of hunger, or the idea that death and life must go hand in hand? Or is it something else? Send me your theory if you have one.

Oh, and don't worry — the duck got away.

### ASK THE KP NATURE GUIDE: SCREAMS IN THE NIGHT

Q: We were awakened by an unidentified screeching sound in the middle of

the night. Our neighbors said it may have been a fox. Could that be the case, and what might cause foxes to make such a loud noise? — *Tom and Verna Herron, Rocky Bay*

A: In college we had a tradition. Every night during finals week, at the stroke of midnight, everyone who was cramming for a test would open their window or go outside and scream at the top of their lungs. The primal scream, it was called. It felt good.

Wild animals have far better reasons for screaming in the night — and quite a few of them do. Even with a recording it might be hard to say what you heard, but let me give you a list of options. Foxes do indeed have a scream that is bloodcurdling. Often it's a vixen looking for love, though it can also be a more mundane matter: locating another fox, setting a boundary.

Bobcats emit all sorts of wails, growls and aggressive howls. Though rarely heard, mountain lions have a thunderous roar. Lately I've heard raccoons making sharp grunts and staccato screemettes around my place. And of course barn owls, with their snakelike necks, are the most unearthly sounding bird, giving off one-second noise-walls of pure screaming static.

Sound travels well at night. Many of these animals roam widely. By turning up the decibels in a register we might call screaming, they are able to communicate and keep tabs on what's going on in the dark

### AN ATMOSPHERIC RIVER

What river flows overhead?

No, it's not some crazy Buddhist koan; it's a newly described phenomenon called an atmospheric river. Thanks to satellites, we have an ability to measure the amount of water vapor in the atmosphere and how fast it's moving, which has revealed that in certain conditions, often in winter, water evaporated from tropical oceans can be channeled like the water in a firehose, between zones of atmospheric pressure, all the way from Hawaii or the Philippines to douse the West Coast.

Atmospheric rivers often carry more water than the Amazon. If the water vapor hits our coast and hills, it falls in rainstorms that are concentrated and continuous. I installed a rain gauge on my porch Jan. 9. Three days later an atmospheric river hit — you probably remember it — and in 36 hours I had measured an impressive 5.06" of rain. It was landslide city. I was digging emergency drainage channels through our yard.

In 2019 meteorologists created a scale to categorize atmospheric river storms, much like hurricanes are categorized, from a mild beneficial river (Category 1) to a

### Mission for Kids:

#### Early Flowers Get the — What?

Hey kids, spring is pretty much here. Can you believe it? The plants sure can. I'm already seeing new shoots popping up around the forest.

Here's your mission this month: See if you can discover the very first wildflower to appear in your yard. Study it. Draw it. And don't stop there. Remember how plants need their flowers to be pollinated by an insect in order to reproduce? How do these early flowers, which bloom long before most bees are flying, get pollinated?

It's up to you to find out. Choose a dry day and watch the flower to see what insects visit. Study them. Draw them. And let me know what you find. I'll be curious to hear at [nature@keypennews.org](mailto:nature@keypennews.org)!

Into the  
**WILD**  
EXPLORING WITH THE  
KP NATURE GUIDE

prolonged and hazardous river (Category 5). On average, we get a Category 4 river every two years. Oregon gets a Category 4 every year and the Bay Area one every three years. In fact, atmospheric rivers give California a third of its average rainfall and snowpack. They are beneficial and necessary — but they can also cause great damage, especially in landslide-prone places like logged or burned areas. As warming over tropical oceans puts more water vapor into the air, atmospheric rivers are likely to increase in intensity.

The January 12-13 storm qualified as a Category 5. Wow! And it packed an extra punch. After it had supersaturated the ground for 36 hours, making the solid footing of trees a lot less solid, a sharp divot of low pressure passed just north of us, stirring up a brief gale with winds topping 50 mph. Trees were thrashed. Power lines snapped like rubber bands. Most of us were plunged into darkness, forcing us to sit by candles where, for a while, we contemplated our lives. Aha — maybe it was a Buddhist phenomenon after all. ■



Firefighters Ami Shipp and Tim Davis douse flames late in the exercise. *Anne Nesbit, KPFD* (top) Chief Dustin Morrow encourages his crew. *Lisa Bryan, KP News* Volunteer firefighter April Lawson listens. *Lisa Bryan, KP News* (facing page) Firefighter-EMT Mike Kelly clears the lines. *Anne Nesbit, KPFD*

## KPFD Live-Fire Training Provides Real Life Experience

For the first time in well over a decade, Key Peninsula Fire District 16 conducted a live-fire training exercise called an Acquired Structure Burn.

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

It was an event a whole year in the making. Participating Key Peninsula Fire Department personnel, both career and volunteer firefighters, gathered Jan. 31 at Station 47 in Home to review the plan for a live-fire training exercise before proceeding to the site of a two-bedroom mobile home they would burn to the ground before day's end.

Roughly 40 people were on site, including several invited spectators kept at a safe distance, on what turned out to be a cold, rainy day.

KPFD Public Information Officer Anne Nesbit said the owner of the property, located on Wright-Bliss Road north of SR-302, contacted the department a little over a year ago saying he had a structure he wanted to donate for a burn. There are

certain parameters to make that acceptable and this one met those benchmarks.

"We've had access to this house, which has been a wonderful search prop and training prop to run scenarios and try out new theories, but today we're going to add that live fire component and put together all those pieces that we've been practicing over the last year," Nesbit said.

Every aspect of the training mission was planned and choreographed to make the most of the acquired structure for training. It maximized the opportunity for firefighters to experience entering a house filled with smoke so thick they couldn't see while performing searches to locate and rescue potential occupants, and locate and extinguish the fire.

"Chief Morrow has introduced some new methodology, with 'inside' and 'outside'

teams," said Captain Dale Heidal of the Wauna station. "It's totally new to us so we're really trying to dial that in. Having a live fire with all these teams participating — it's going to be great."

At the scene, following a quick walk through of the structure and a final safety briefing, the plan to complete four separate training evolutions, or stages, went into action.

Lt. Nate Jean led the first evolution. Jean recently trained six new hires — most of whom came up through the KPFD volunteer program — in the department's first in-house academy.

"These guys have been trained on 'the' way to do things," Nesbit said. "Today they

are going to show people everything that they learned. Nate has been really key in this; he went out, got the education and has the knowledge, but more importantly he bought it back and shared it.

"These are his new disciples and they will go forth and raise the bar," she said. "This

is cutting-edge stuff."

Each evolution consisted of a three-member fire attack team; an inside team and an outside team. After each evolution

the team made sure

everyone who went in came out safely, debriefed and reset for the next run.

To simulate the techniques used to pry open and break down locked doors, the department brought a metal door prop

**"IT'S TOTALLY NEW TO US SO WE'RE REALLY TRYING TO DIAL THAT IN. HAVING A LIVE FIRE WITH ALL THESE TEAMS PARTICIPATING — IT'S GOING TO BE GREAT."**



used in regular drills so that each team could have the full experience. To create smoke-filled conditions, a burn barrel located outside the building was used to pump smoke inside. There was a “victim prop” weighing 180 pounds for the team to find and rescue. Fires were ignited inside the various rooms to be found and extinguished in each team evolution.

Outside, the eyes of firefighters were focused on the nature of and behavior of the smoke, using volume and color to help indicate what was happening inside

the building and where.

“The science of firefighting and the equipment has improved considerably over the years. We’re learning a more aggressive form of firefighting, pushing the envelope and doing more while doing it safely,” Nesbit said.

“I’ve been on house fires but never an acquired structure training burn. It’s such a great opportunity and I hope we can do more,” firefighter Evan Aas said. “Chief Morrow has made a night and day difference here; he gets things done.” ■

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Kamryn Minch, KP News

## Margo Macdonald: Artist, Teacher, Mentor

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

A passion for art, a love of water and a capacity for nurturing that comes with being the eldest of five children — these are a few of the things that have shaped the arc of Vaughn resident Margo Macdonald's life.

The daughter of an oil man, she was born in west Texas, and moved to Calgary and the plains of central Canada when she was 9. "Everywhere you looked it was flat with blue sky, endless," she said. By the time she was ready to leave home for college, "I wanted mountains. I wanted gray. I wanted water."

Margo looked at schools in the Pacific Northwest. The University of Washington was too big for her taste. Whitman, in Walla Walla, didn't have water. The University of Puget Sound in Tacoma was just right.

A summer program at the Banff School of Fine Arts led her to sign up for every painting and drawing class she could manage at UPS. Her instructor suggested that she enroll in art school, and by the next summer she was at the Rhode Island School of Design. The classes — printmaking, painting and drawing — were very focused, structured and intense, and in some ways isolating.

"I knew I was not going to be an East

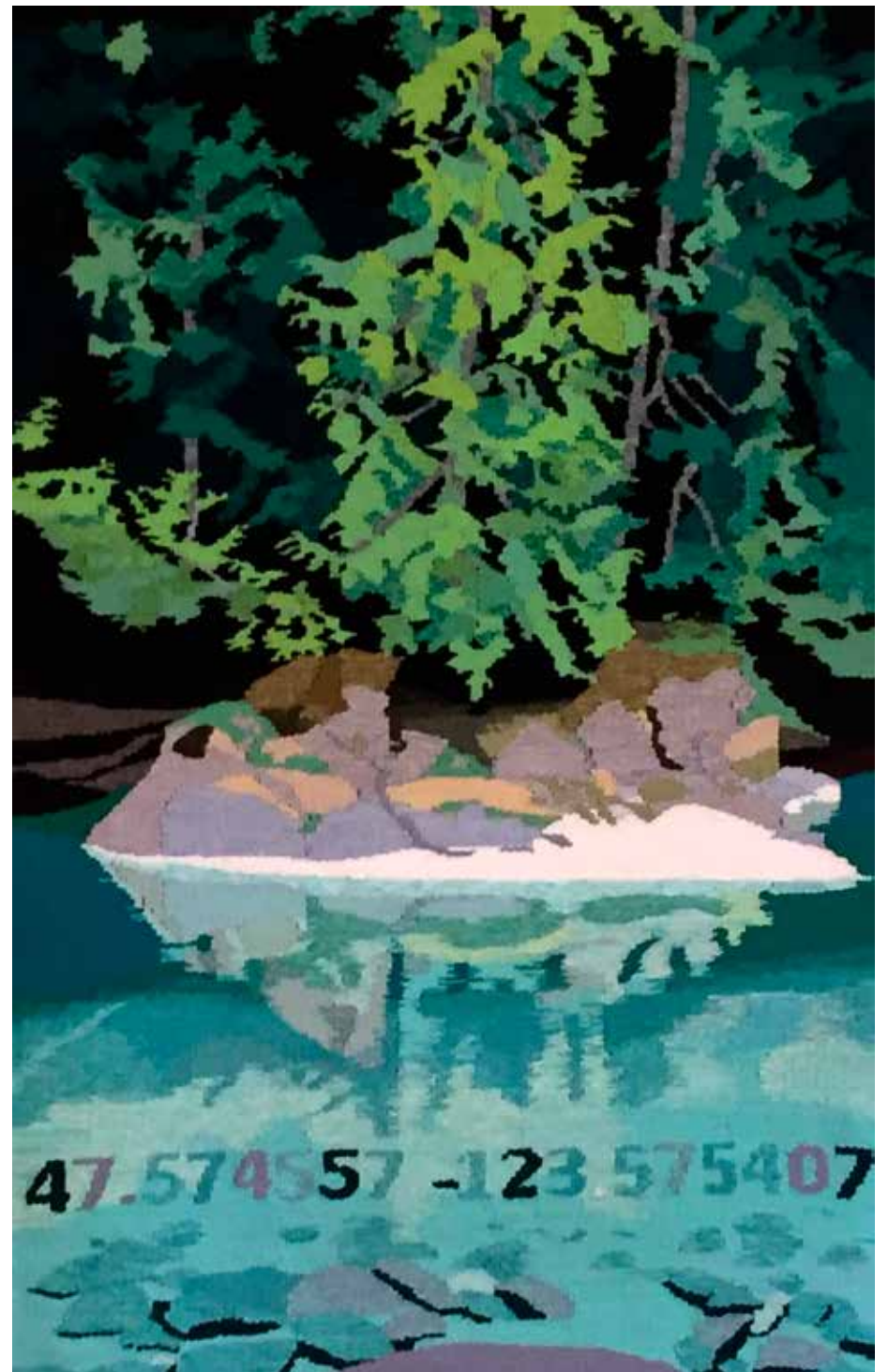
Coast person," she said. "And I had a boyfriend I was missing." After a year in Providence, she headed back to UPS where she completed a degree in art education. The boyfriend, Bruce Macdonald, was glad to see her return. "I admired how independent and contained she was," Bruce said. "She was perfectly happy painting and drawing in her room while the rest of us

were out looking for the next party. I was sort of jealous. And what she produced

was always so incredible."

Bruce and Margo married and moved to Whidbey Island where Bruce and his sister were mussel farmers, but they returned to the South Sound when his father asked him to help run the family business. "Bruce was willing to drive only so far for work, and he drew a big circle. The property we bought, on Crescent Beach Road, was just inside the perimeter," Margo said.

Painting took a back seat and was replaced by looms and wool when her daughters were young. "I put away anything messy," she said. "Tapestry and weaving I could drop in a second." Margo's mother had



**"SHE WAS PERFECTLY HAPPY PAINTING AND DRAWING IN HER ROOM WHILE THE REST OF US WERE OUT LOOKING FOR THE NEXT PARTY."**

given her a book on backstrap weaving for Christmas one year and she was intrigued by the process. She bought a frame loom, then a table loom and finally a floor loom. She joined the Tacoma Weaver's Guild. "Tapestry is another way to process a visual

image. With painting you can tweak here and there. With a tapestry you start at the bottom and go to the top and then it is finished."

Margo started a pilot program to bring art into the classroom with third graders at Vaughn Elementary School and also worked to connect Key Peninsula artists. Kathy Bauer, a friend and photographer, recalled that time: "Dennis Taylor was working to find mentors for high-risk students. He

asked Margo to identify artists who could work with kids whose interest was art," she said. "That planted a seed and inspired her to create a community of artists and to offer classes and experiences for all ages."

The two founded Two Waters Arts Alliance in 2001, modeled on Vashon Allied Arts (now Vashon Center for the Arts). "I had the tenacity, but Margo had the background in art and had board experience," Bauer said. "I learned everything I know about boards from Margo. She is a natural organizer and leader."

In 2003 Margo was offered a job teaching sixth grade art at Charles Wright Academy in Tacoma. She jumped at the chance and taught there for seven years.

More recently Margo established the annual curated art show at the Key Center Library and the Art Walk, both

now managed by TWAA. She remains active in the Blend Art Group, a group of artists who met monthly prior to the pandemic. Of the more than two dozen members, about half would gather to work on a project together or to listen to a presentation. She continues to keep them in communication with each other until they can meet in person again. “She may hide her light underneath a basket, but she has been an organizing force. I can’t say enough about what she has done for the

**“I LEARNED EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT BOARDS FROM MARGO. SHE IS A NATURAL ORGANIZER AND LEADER.”**

arts community,” said Delia McGinnis, the current TWAA president.

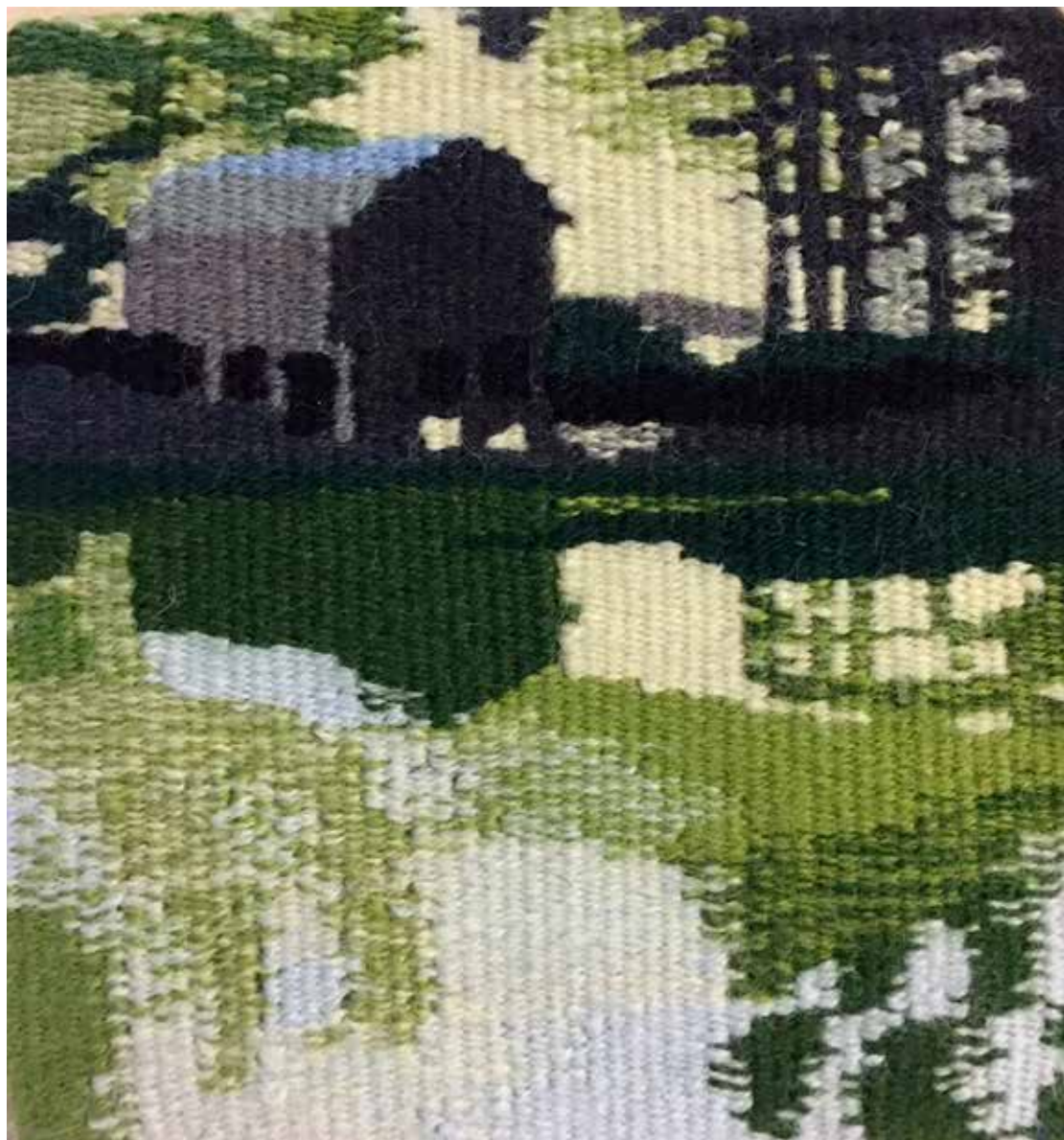
Margo describes herself as a summertime painter and a wintertime weaver.

In the summer she can throw open the studio windows that overlook Case Inlet. Her work has been shown in a number of juried exhibitions and is in several collections.

For the last decade Margo has worked on a series of tapestries of Washington State rivers, completing one or two a year. A ritual goes into creating each tapestry — an expedition, usually with Bruce or her mother. (Her parents moved to Gig Harbor about 20 years ago; her father died in 2012). Margo selects a destination, takes pictures from a number of locations along the river, and selects the image she wants to use. The completed tapestry includes longitude and latitude, and she writes about each river, including where it starts and ends, and how long it is.

Some of her work is commissioned and some is sold by word of mouth. “There are years when I don’t sell anything,” Margo said. “Selling is nice because it means the piece is going someplace. But for me it is about the process, the problem-solving, I want to capture something that says, ‘Here is my experience of this place.’” ■

(left page) “Upper Quinault,” a tapestry from the Washington Rivers Series. The numbers represent latitude and longitude on the Quinault River by Graves Creek campground. (right) “Home Shed” is a small tapestry now in the collection of the shed owner. (below) “View from Cemetery Hill,” a recently commissioned painting for Ebey’s Landing National Reserve. *photos Margo Macdonald*







the Key Peninsula. To that end, Taylor said the county's broadband strategic plan, which is currently being drafted, is expected to be presented to the Pierce County Council by mid-March.

Cockerill and Taylor are working together to explore options to improve broadband on the KP. Cockerill said partnerships like this are the best thing so far to come from the broadband survey. "We're starting to get a lot of eyes on this broadband issue and that's finding us new partners," Cockerill said. "The more people we have working on this, the better."

Recently Cockerill connected with KP Fire Chief Dustin Morrow, whose excitement for the broadband project is matched only by Cockerill's. Morrow believes the fire department is in an ideal position to assist.

A couple of years ago Morrow led a project to provide fiber optic lines to KP fire stations. He regrets not having had a wider scope then and called it a missed opportunity to do more for the community.

"Our lines have more capacity than we'll likely need, so I think there's ways we could've extended that to help the community," he said. "We're still looking into our options there, I only wish I'd seen the bigger picture at the time."

The fire department represents an investment in the community by the community. Morrow said it's only natural in this position to leverage the department's existing infrastructure to provide solutions to this issue. The fire department may also provide an added avenue to secure state and federal funding for broadband improvements.

"I lived and worked in Portland most my life. You get used to thinking about the way things are done in a city," Morrow said. "But the Key Peninsula is in a different reality. It has different needs and challenges. We have to innovate solutions that will work for this community."

There are a multitude of challenges that face broadband development on the KP, and for that reason there will need to be several different approaches and collaboration with many stakeholders. Questions persist about funding, feasibility of certain technologies and geographic restrictions.

And while Pierce County is not interested in managing a public internet utility, it is not yet clear which stakeholder will take on that role. Cockerill said these are the key questions to be answered in the next phases of the broadband project.

"We've still got plenty of work to do," Cockerill said. "But this problem isn't the nebulous blob it used to be. And we've got a lot more people on it than when we started." ■

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A WEED IS A PLANT THAT IS NOT ONLY IN THE WRONG PLACE BUT INTENDS TO STAY

# A Few Thoughts On Weeds

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS



In these times of polarization, when it comes to weeds, Key Peninsula gardeners exhibit a refreshingly cheerful agree-to-disagree attitude.

Weeds are the bane of many a gardener's existence. But query members of the Key Pen Gardeners Facebook Group about their "favorite" weeds and the first responses extoll their benefits: The joyfulness of their typically yellow blossoms, their nutritional or medicinal value for humans and other living beings.

Dandelions have the biggest fanbase. Many cited their edible qualities (See KP Cooks in this edition).

Marcie Hershman taught her boys when they were little that dandelions were droplets of sunshine that rained down from the sky reminding us to smile, even in the rain. "I have so many pictures of their sweet faces handing me those golden, little flowers saying, 'Smiles,'" she said.

Sharron Gratton noted dandelions are one of the first foods available for bees.

Rachel Easton, the education director at Harbor WildWatch, uses dandelions as a teaching tool. She tells her students that the etymological root is dent-de-lion or lion's tooth and also has them examine the different kinds of flowers to demonstrate that not all yellow flowers are dandelions.

Other weeds inspired praise: chickweed, plantain, lambs quarters and mullein, for their edible or medicinal value.

"My husband has been chastised for mowing my plantain," Susan Arends said.

Tasty berries give the ever-maligned blackberry at least one redeeming quality. Horsetails, as Brook Hurst Stephens wrote, are "Edible and as natural scrub brushes to clean out livestock troughs. My geese go wild for them, too." But eradicating them once they invade a garden is a Herculean task. Scotch broom and English ivy have few fans, if any.

Jerry McCourt said that if he were to choose a weed to invade his vegetable garden, he'd select the buttercup. "They grow so well they crowd out everything else," he said. "Then you can dig them up, and the 'pop' of the roots coming out is really satisfying."

But inquire a little further and even those who praise the finer qualities of weeds will admit that they have their limits.

"Plan your garden. Any plant in the wrong place is a weed. You can either dig it up or gently transplant it," Gratton said, offering the words of advice from a master gardener friend. "I just go in the woods if I need a weed. A lot of this stuff is called 'weeds' because it will take over your garden," Scott Hawthorn wrote.

Pierce County Master Gardener Dale Skrivanich had some basic advice. Prevention and suppression are the most important methods to control weeds.

"Weeds were put on this earth to cover bare soil," she said. Novice gardeners might be tempted to till the garden, making for a beautiful vista of fresh turned soil. "If you till," she said, "you just expose weed seeds, they sprout, and away you go." Her family grows wheat in eastern Washington. "We don't till anymore when we plant," she said. "We drill."

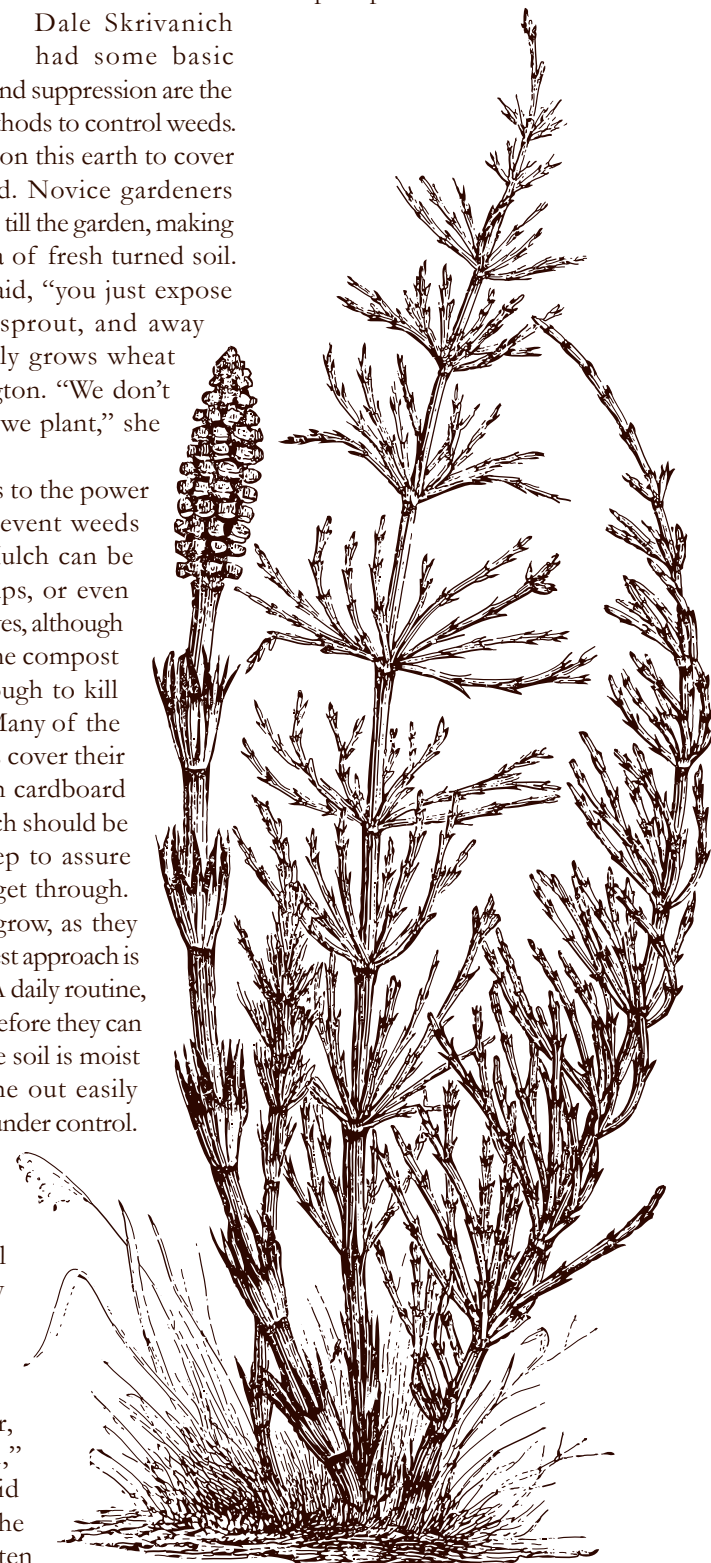
Skrivanich attests to the power of mulching to prevent weeds from sprouting. Mulch can be compost, woodchips, or even grass cuttings or leaves, although she warns that home compost rarely gets hot enough to kill most weed seeds. Many of the Key Pen Gardeners cover their vegetable beds with cardboard for the winter. Mulch should be about 2 inches deep to assure that sunlight can't get through.

Once weeds do grow, as they inevitably will, the best approach is constant vigilance. A daily routine, pulling weeds well before they can go to seed when the soil is moist and the roots come out easily should keep things under control.

Skrivanich said horsetails present a particular challenge: Trying to dig or pull them up simply activates the roots and makes them multiply.

"They love poor, moist, acidic soil," she said. To get rid of them improve the drainage and sweeten

the soil with dolomite lime, following directions on the package. It may take a few years to kill them off. And beware the fruiting bodies seen in the early spring — they have shorter stems and produce countless spores, yet another way for the plant to multiply. If you see them, cut them at the base and bag them and put them in the garbage, safely away from a compost pile. ■



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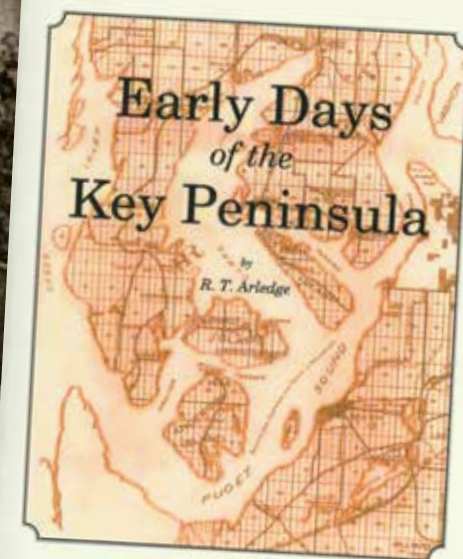
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## How We Got Here: 'Early Days of the Key Peninsula'

JOSEPH PENTHEROUAKIS, KP NEWS

The Home Band circa 1907. *Key Peninsula Historical Society archives*

When George Vancouver explored Washington's inland waterways in May of 1792, he quickly came under the spell of "the serenity of the climate, the innumerable pleasing landscapes, and the abundant fertility that unassisted nature puts forth." He visualized a future time when "villages, mansions, cottages, and other buildings (would) render it the most lovely country that can be imagined, whilst the labour of the inhabitants would be amply rewarded."

By the time he made it down into the South Sound, however, past Vashon Island, the Narrows and then up into Case Inlet trying to rendezvous with Peter Puget, Vancouver would temper his enthusiasm. While the part of the sound he would later name after Lt. Puget was, he thought, similar in fertility and abundance to the country to the north, he lamented its "almost impenetrable wilderness of lofty trees, rendered nearly impassable by the underwood, which uniformly incumbers the surface."

But the wilderness was tamed, and no better account of that has been written than "Early Days of the Key Peninsula" (1998) by Longbranch native Raymond T. Arledge — Father Thaddaeus Raymond Arledge, O.S.B., to those who knew him.

"Over the past two centuries the Key Peninsula has served mankind in many ways — a source of livelihood, a portage point, a homeland, a summer playground," Arledge wrote. "The Indian and the pioneer, the wealthy and the laborer, the resident and the returning visitor have all expressed admiration for its natural offerings, its remoteness and its inherent beauty."

Arledge's work is based on three decades of interviews with descendants of pioneer families, including his own, and archival material from libraries, museums and private collections spanning almost 150 years. Later research has led to a revision of some of his claims, but that is inevitable as new sources become available. Early histories lay crumbs on the trail to more discoveries, leading to a better understanding of the past. The book's 17 chapters and copious end notes can be read independently, as separate stories. The enormous bibliography is worth the price of admission and will quicken the pulse of local history buffs.

It's the story of adapting to an ever-changing physical, historical and social landscape, starting with indigenous people floating in canoes hollowed out of cedar logs, fishing and harvesting shellfish, foraging in the abundance of the forests, and leaving portage trails across the peninsula that would become wagon roads and, later, paved county roads. It was a way of life that was to come to an end as the land was expropriated by the treaty of Medicine Creek imposed on Puget Sound tribes in 1854 and the subsequent two years of fighting known as the Indian Wars.

It took several years after the Indian Wars for settlers to begin arriving in large numbers. The peninsula was seen as remote, inhospitable and not particularly suited to farming; government surveyors consistently described the soil as second to third rate — gravel, sand and clay. That was of no interest to immigrants coming on wagon

trains from the east; the fertile valleys to the south of the Sound were much more appealing.

The first white settlers on the peninsula are said to have arrived in 1852. Virginian William D. Vaughn staked a claim on the bay that bears his name, a claim that he didn't file until the 1870s and that was never approved. Vaughn, who lived most of his life in Steilacoom, blamed animus against him as a southerner by a northerner government official. Charlie Taylor, a British sailor who jumped ship in Everett and eventually made his way to the southwest side of the peninsula, settled between what is now Taylor Bay and Devil's Head, where he cleared some land that he farmed, having no interest in timber.

By the late 1850s logging arrived to the quiet and remote peninsula, and the pace of change quickened.

The virgin forests near the shoreline were the first to fall to the axe and crosscut saw; logs were dragged to the water by teams of oxen or dropped directly onto the beach, then boomed into rafts and towed to one of the many sawmills on the Sound. The earliest logging operations were by Joe Shettlerow (sometimes spelled Shettleroe) in Filucy Bay, starting around 1859; and, in the early 1870s, Harry Winchester and his partner Nicholas Petersen in Glen Cove, called Balch Cove at the time. Settlers on logged land would have to contend with "ugly stumps, giant saplings and deformed trees, (which left) the landscape with a battle-scarred appearance," Arledge wrote. "Constant labor was exerted to clear the

Raymond Thomas Arledge (1927-2015) had long ties to the Key Peninsula on both sides of his family. His great-grandparents, the Pohl and Krause families, settled in Longbranch in the late 1880s and early 1890s. Arledge studied at Mount Angel Seminary, St. Benedict, Oregon; Saint Martin's College (now University) in Lacey; and the Monterey Institute of Foreign Studies in California. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1956 as Father Thaddaeus Raymond Arledge and taught for many years at Saint Martin's.

Always interested in the story of his family, in the 1960s Arledge broadened the scope of his research to include the entire Key Peninsula. "Early Days" was published in 1998, sponsored by the Key Peninsula Historical Society, of which he was a member, and with support from several members of the community. His notes for the book are in the museum's collection and the book is for sale there.

ground of brush debris and massive roots." The land was ultimately found to be best suited for pasture and orchards; the peninsula would later become known for its fruit production.

And yet settlers came, aboard the steamers of the Mosquito Fleet, the captains sometimes unloading them and their belongings right on the beach if there was no wharf, strangers in a land they were hoping to call home. Names that are part of the peninsula's pioneer past start to appear in the 1880s. William Creviston, said to have been the first settler south of Lake Bay (still two words until 1894), followed by Carl and Louise Lorenz and their four children. Lorenz, a carpenter, built the first sawmill

CONTINUED PAGE 22



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**EARLY DAYS** FROM PAGE 21

on the peninsula in Lake Bay and would later build a small fleet of tugs and steamboats offering freight, mail and passenger service across the Sound; and in Vaughn and Glencove, there were the Van Slyke, Coblenz, Harriman, and Davidson families, among others. Communities sprouted along the peninsula's shoreline, defined by a church, a schoolhouse, a store, a post office and sometimes a library hall often used for entertainment.

And of course, there was Home Colony, the utopian community established in Von Geldern Cove, also known as Joe's Bay, which thrived for almost 25 years until it was dissolved in 1919. Home is the only surviving platted town on the peninsula, with descendants of some of the original families still in the area.

Inevitably, vacationers and the well-to-do discovered the peninsula. Hotels in Glen Cove, Home, Delano Bay and Longbranch, some initially established to accommodate short-term guests and travelers, began to cater to leisure visitors from cities across the Sound as well as points across the state and beyond. In 1889 Edward Yeazell, a successful entrepreneur and developer, purchased most of the waterfront acreage in Fil Lucy Bay south of the present-day

marina, planning to build a summer home and develop the rest as a summer resort. The home was built but the resort did not succeed, and around 1908 Frank McDermott and his wife Josephine, the wealthy owners of Seattle's Bon Marché, bought most of the land that Yeazell had platted and built Faraway, a historic estate, parts of which are still in existence and being restored.

And a little to the north, Dr. Stephen Penrose, president of Whitman College from 1894 to 1926, who had been to Delano Resort with his family in the 1890s, bought the northeast point of what is now Penrose Point State Park as the family's vacation destination.

The arrival of wealthy outsiders did not go unnoticed; Arledge, whose own grandparents rowed across the cove to Faraway every day where they worked as caretakers, remembers locals referring to city slickers as the "la-di-da." He is quick to point out their kindness and generosity, however. Still, a photo of his uncle Henry Pohl, Jr. as a young man pulling a rickshaw carrying Frank McDermott, who by then was in failing health, is fraught with poignant symbolism.

"Early Days" is the story of a place and its people, born of love for both. It is also a roadmap to the past, if you're up for a visit. ■

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# Cooking Dandelions

SARA THOMPSON

In 1978 Cora Chase of Vaughn published "The Weed Eater's Cookbook."

Born in 1898 at Kamilche, home to the Squaxin Indian Tribe, her grandparents taught her about living off the land. She later wrote about her experiences in "The Oyster Was Our World" (1976). She married in 1916, raised three sons, and followed her eldest to the University of Washington where she graduated in 1938.

"Sometimes I think I lived my life backwards, having a career (she worked in social services) and raising a family first, then going to school," she said in an interview.

She got divorced and in 1946 married Corwin Chase, a self-educated mountaineer and artist best known for his woodblock prints, who had spent four years living in a teepee with his brother on Mount Rainier.

The couple moved to Vaughn after retirement and spent time kayaking, hiking and gardening.

Cora died in 1983. Her granddaughter, Waneen Cormier Post-Marks, now lives in the family home. The recipes and excerpts from the cookbook, no longer in print, are published here with her permission.

In her preface, Cora wrote:

People who eat weeds and live to tell about it may be dubbed "weedy characters," as were my husband and I when I was featured in our local paper. The connotations of weedy are not flattering, so this work is an effort to demonstrate that one can be elegant though weedy. We have dined on weeds by candlelight from our best dishes and our most colorful mats, feeling the inner glow of true aristocrats.

We still have a garden because this is the best source of weeds, as any gardener can tell you. We allow a reasonable number of the best to grow among the vegetables and harvest chickweed, sorrel, dandelions and lamb's quarters when young and tender.

Weeds do not come pan-ready. A few precautions help, such as taking a basket with divisions – just paper bags cut down, so that the clean weeds are not mixed with those with roots and soil attached. It is of utmost importance to know your weeds. Never guess.

Weed eating is at its best in April. By taking a basket and scissors on a weed walk, one can gather enough of these plants in a short time

for a salad as well as a cooked meal. Weeds wilt quickly. They must be kept cool and moist and used as soon as possible.

## Dandelion Salad

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice or vinegar
- 1 quart dandelion leaves (young and tender)
- 1 cup dandelion blossoms, cut with scissors

Heat oil in saucepan and sauté onion.

Add vinegar. Mix well and pour over greens. Add herbs (chervil or basil). Add blossoms, toss and cover with paprika.

## Dandelion Spaghetti

- 1 quart dandelion leaves
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup water
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon basil
- 2 cups cooked spaghetti

Cook leaves in salted water until tender. Drain. Add

1 cup cold water and place in blender until smooth. Add cooked pasta and heat in saucepan. Add herbs, butter, lemon, and serve.

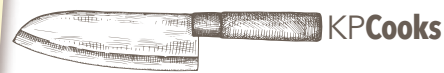
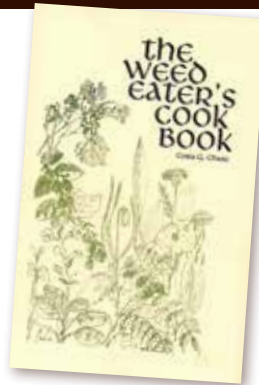
## Dandelion Roots for Coffee

Dig roots, wash well but do not peel. Slice thin and roast in oven at 325 until brown and crisp. Store in paper bags until ready to use. Grind fine and use one tablespoon per cup of cold water. Bring to boil and simmer for a few moments. Strain and serve.

## Sautéed Dandelion Flowers

- 3 cups dandelion flowers
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg beaten
- ½ cup milk

Stir salt and baking powder into flour. Mix egg and milk. Add to flour mixture. Stir in flowers carefully. Sauté by spoonful in hot oil until brown, turning as needed.



## Dandelion Pancakes

- 1½ quarts dandelion leaves
- 2 cups water
- 1 ½ cups flour
- 2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon salt

Cook leaves until tender. Drain. Place in blender with 1 cup cold water, flour, baking powder, salt and egg. Blend until smooth. Heat iron skillet with oil. Pour mixture onto pan in small cakes, cook well and turn to brown on both sides. Serve with jam or syrup for breakfast, or use to supplement a lunch or supper.

## Creamed Dandelions

- 1 quart chopped dandelion leaves
- 1 clove garlic
- 2 tablespoons flour
- ¾ cup milk
- ½ cup yogurt or sour cream

Cook leaves in water until

tender. Drain. Sauté minced garlic in margarine, stir in

flour, then milk and cook until thickened.

Stir in egg and yogurt or sour cream, pour over greens and serve.

## Dandelions au Gratin

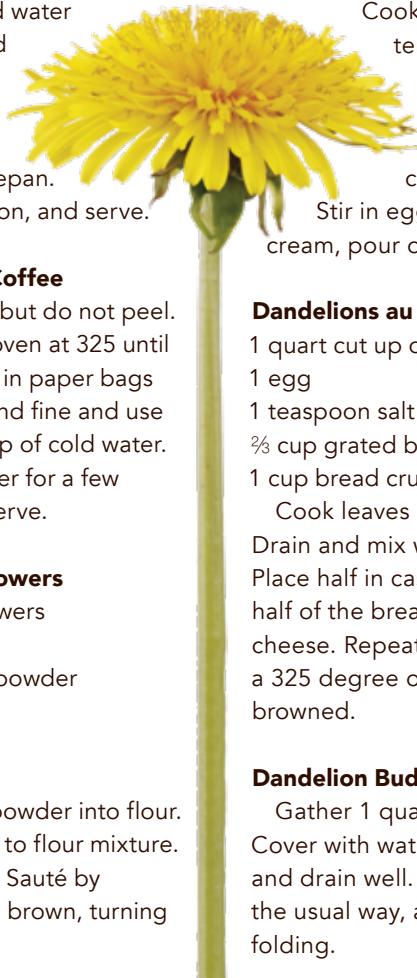
- 1 quart cut up dandelion leaves
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup grated brick cheese
- 1 cup bread crumbs

Cook leaves in 1 cup of water.

Drain and mix with beaten egg. Place half in casserole, sprinkle with half of the bread crumbs, salt and cheese. Repeat. Bake 15 minutes in a 325 degree oven or until cheese is browned.

## Dandelion Buds Omelet

Gather 1 quart dandelion buds. Cover with water, boil until tender and drain well. Make omelet in the usual way, adding buds before folding.



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New owners Allison and Drew Zimmerman. *Kamryn Minch, KP News*

## New Generation Brings New Life to Local Pharmacy

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

In November 2020, Purdy Cost Less Pharmacy, owned and operated by Don Zimmerman for over 40 years, changed ownership. Zimmerman's son and daughter-in-law, Drew and Allison Zimmerman, bought the business in the Lake Kathryn Shopping Center, keeping it in the family.

"Don was adamant that he refused to sell to chains. He's been hounded by Walgreens and Rite Aid," Allison said. "He just didn't want to sell to a chain because he really wants the local pharmacy out on the Key to know their customers."

Drew Zimmerman grew up working in his dad's pharmacy while living in Lakebay.

"I think my first job was when my dad dropped me off in sixth grade to sweep the parking lot," he said. "The only time I left is when I went over to Washington State University and then came back. So I've been in here and I've known a lot of these customers for a long time, so that's what we want to continue, making sure everybody out on the peninsula is taken care of. My dad's done such a great job out here in taking care of the community and that's why we want to continue that legacy."

Although Drew and Allison are not pharmacists, they have decades of expe-

rience in the industry. For 24 years, Drew has run Cost Less Senior Services, a separate closed-door pharmacy started by Don Zimmerman with the goal of providing low-cost prescriptions to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, prisons and other institutions.

"Don saw his customers going into assisted living and nursing home facilities and when you go into a facility like that, they encourage you, almost force you, to use their pharmacy provider. Then they'd charge them like \$30 for Tylenol and Don was just enraged this was happening. So he opened up Cost Less Senior Services," Allison said. "For the first three years, it was really a struggling business. Then Drew graduated from college and was selling hunting and fishing gear and not making any money and so he was like, 'Let me try, Dad.'"

"We're now the preferred provider for Washington State and Drew has continued to run a very successful business with his partner, Jeff Hendrickson," she said. "There have been Christmas Eves where Drew has driven out prescriptions to someone's family."

Drew and Allison were both raised by pharmacists. Don Zimmerman met Allison's dad, Al Linggi, while attending

pharmacy school at the University of Washington. Linggi went on to become a hospital pharmacist at St. Joseph Medical Center and Zimmerman opened Cost Less.

"They were friends long before we got together," Allison said.

Although Drew and Allison knew each other growing up, they didn't often cross paths because he was four years older and her family lived in Fircrest. Then, in 2001, Allison reconnected with Drew at his brother's

wedding reception and less than a year later, they were married. They now live five minutes away from Cost Less with their four children, Kate (15), Grace (14), Henry (12), Drew (5) and their dog, Oscar.

"We are so grateful to the community we live in. We have some of the nicest, most genuine people," Allison said. "And we still have that super-loyal customer base and for that we are just really thankful."

The store's new, open layout, aimed at improving the customer experience, has taken some people by surprise. Shelves have been lowered so more products are at eye level and easier to reach. The store's interior has been repainted and

LED lighting installed. There are new vendors, including an expanded yarn selection with high-end options. And there is still fishing and hunting gear, as well as vitamins and supplements, toys, gifts and all sorts of other odds and ends.

Allison has been working on the improvements with newly hired merchandise buyer, Rena Blalock, who worked for

Nordstrom for 25 years while raising her three kids on the KP.

"Her customer service is

amazing," Allison said. "In order to differentiate ourselves from the big chains, we really need to go back to being the Nordstrom of pharmacy. You're going to get that here. You're going to get the mom who is going to make sure you get what you need. We want to do that."

"Our plan is to still remain that last stop before you leave the peninsula, and you don't want to go to Target or you don't want to go to Albertson's. We're going to have that item for you. We have greeting cards. We have screws. There are arts and crafts, puzzles. There are so many things inside our store. And we save you a trip to town." ■

**"MY DAD'S DONE SUCH A GREAT JOB OUT HERE IN TAKING CARE OF THE COMMUNITY AND THAT'S WHY WE WANT TO CONTINUE THAT LEGACY."**





Scenes from the store include vaccinations in the pharmacy and selection of new merchandise.

*Kamryn Minch, KP News*

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- 9:00 Vaughn Elementary School
- 9:02 Wright Bliss Rd NW @ Olson Dr NW
- 9:03 Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct NW
- 9:05 4 Corners gas station @ SR 302
- 9:08 SR 302 @150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 9:19 SR 302 @ 140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 9:11 SR 302 @ Charboneau Construction
- 9:14 Cost Less Pharmacy/Lake Kathryn Village
- 9:21 Purdy Park & Ride

**EVERGREEN NORTH TUE/THUR MORNING**

- 9:00 Evergreen Elementary School
- 9:04 Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
- 9:05 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @ 193rd Ave
- 9:10 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 9:11 Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
- 9:10 167th Ave Ct NW @ KP Hwy N
- 9:15 Volunteer Park
- 9:18 Food Market in Key Center
- 9:19 KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr NW
- 9:26 Lake Kathryn Village/Cost Less Pharmacy
- 9:32 Purdy Park & Ride



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- 4:42 Purdy Park & Ride
- 4:49 Lake Kathryn Village/Cost Less Pharmacy
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- 4:54 SR 302 @ 140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 4:56 SR 302 @150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 4:58 4 Corners gas station @ SR 302
- 5:00 Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct NW
- 5:01 Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr NW
- 5:03 Food Market in Key Center
- 5:06 Volunteer Park
- 5:07 167th Ave Ct NW @ KP Hwy N
- 5:10 Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
- 5:11 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 5:16 Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
- 5:17 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @ 193rd Ave
- 5:21 Evergreen Elementary School

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**TOP LEFT** Glowing snow sculpture by Jean Krumbein. *Britta Brones* **TOP RIGHT** Soaring over Vaughn Bay. *Sam Yost* **MID LEFT** A varied thrush wings in for a bite. *Ed Johnson, KP News* **CENTER** Action-packed frozen family fun on Herron Island. *Brandon McNerney* **MID RIGHT** A snow creature reads KP News by flashlight. *Gayle Shriner* **BOTTOM LEFT** Snowy scene overlooking Case Inlet. *Steve West* **BOTTOM RIGHT** Giant snowman created by Aaron Baldwin, flanked by Roman Baldwin (left) and Josiah Baldwin (right). *Cinda Baldwin*

