



# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

July 2018 Vol. 45 No. 7

## KP Residents Voice Concerns at Town Hall with Derek Young

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Pierce County Councilman Derek Young (D-Gig Harbor) conducted two town hall meetings at the KP Community Council and Longbranch Improvement Club in June to describe his work on the county council and field questions from residents.

Young represents the 7th District, which includes the Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor, parts of north and west Tacoma, and Fox and McNeil islands. The most frequent questions from the approximately 50 audience members at the LIC meeting concerned efforts to improve road safety and combat property crime.

### TRAFFIC

Multiple residents described their dissatisfaction with increased traffic and inadequate conditions on the Key Peninsula Highway and State Route 302, including the Purdy Bridge intersection.

“The main problem with the Key Peninsula Highway, and 302 to a lesser extent, is that it’s pretty topographically restrained; that makes expanding it extremely difficult and extremely costly,” Young said. “We are improving shoulders in as many places as possible.”

Young said the county would also be improving pedestrian safety north and south of Key Center.

“This year we plan to finish the shoulder improvement down to Red Barn and we’re adding to our plan a pedestrian corridor from Key Center north all the way to 302,” he said. “That’s not the only area we’re going to be improving, but that’s a high priority.”

Young also pointed out that SR-302 and the Purdy Bridge are the state’s responsibility, not the county’s, but said he serves on a research committee to improve traffic flow on SR-16 and is pushing for approval and funding to upgrade the Purdy off-ramp, intersection and bridge configuration.

“The ultimate solution is not to try to change the (Purdy) bridge or knock it down and replace it; it’s actually to build a new one further north along the lagoon, probably at 144th,” he said. A new bridge and route across the Burley

Lagoon to Wauna would improve traffic flow and increase safety in all of those areas, including SR-16, he said.

Young also addressed concerns about increased traffic and population growth in the area.

“There is not going to be a lot of growth on the Key Peninsula and there never will be,” he said. “Outside rural activity zones, you’re limited to one unit per 10 acres. There are some lots that predate the Growth Management Act where you can still build on those small parcels, but you will not see the large-scale growth that you see in Gig Harbor.”

Because of that, he said, the county does not typically build new roads in rural areas, but may make an exception for the southern end of the Key Peninsula to provide an alternative to the KP Highway, which has been blocked by accidents on more than one occasion in the last year.

“There is a right of way there (between Jackson Lake Road NW and 186th NW) we can open up, but it will take some money and working with the property owners,” Young said. “I don’t know when we’re going to get it done, but once we get it on the (legislative priority) list this year, funding will be found,” he said. (See “County Update on Road Improvements,” KP News, June 2018.)

### CRIME

Many audience members told stories about increased property- and drug-related crimes and expressed their frustration with law enforcement response and what appears to be a “catch and release” policy when it comes to repeat offenders who return to the same neighborhoods soon after arrest.

“Pierce County has more felony charges than any other county in the entire state—more than even King County—but we’re doing it with half the judges, prosecutors and public defenders. That’s the reason we’re having difficulty,” Young said.

More than 75 percent of the county budget is spent on criminal justice and when the state requires counties to pay for other services, it is usually the criminal justice budget that is affected.

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Tyler Dowling and Layla Hawkins show off their gold-winning smiles. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

## Vaughn Elementary Ballroom Dancers Bring Home the Gold

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Vaughn Elementary School’s ballroom dance team foxtrotted their way to gold in the Colors of the Rainbow Grand Final Ballroom Dance Competition June 9 at Todd Beamer High School in Federal Way. The team of fifth-grade students competed against seven other Puget Sound area dance team finalists before claiming top honors.

“At first it was really uncomfortable to touch people in ballroom dancing. But the longer we kept doing it the more comfortable it felt,” said dancer Wyatt McKail. “We learned a lot of lessons like respect and manners.”

“Nobody was excited to start ballroom dancing, but as we continued we really started having fun with it,” student Naomi Miadaoski said. “It became an exciting thing. Everyone looked forward to it.”

“In the very beginning I thought it would be more serious and not as fun, but the way Teacher Adam taught it, it wasn’t too serious and it kind of made you feel happy while dancing,” Jackson Clark said.

“I was not the one you’d see dancing with the opposite gender,” student Emma Makha said. “We were very choppy when we started. We wouldn’t focus on each other. We weren’t really friends at the time.” But by the time the finals came, she and her partner felt smooth and were comfortable looking into each other’s eyes. “That’s when I realized, you know—we are really good dancing together. After we found out we won, I don’t think I stopped smiling until the next day.”

“Adam Lee, the dance instructor, was truly a motivating force; he helped the kids

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# Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN, EDITOR, KP NEWS

Summer solstice celebrations complete, the longest day of the year in 2018 is behind us. Enter July—a season ushered in by Dr. Roes and his old-time Down Home Marching Band followed by scores of merry followers in antique cars, on floats, bicycles, tricycles, wagons and rollerblades. The beloved unofficial “Home Colony Fourth of July Parade” begins Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. and by nightfall the skies over Key Peninsula will light up in a profusion of colorful fireworks as far as the eye can see.

While summer unofficially begins for most of our nation with Memorial Day weekend, a KP old-timer once told me, “It was always hard to count on her arrival until after the Fourth of July around here.”

All this sunshine comes along with lake-side swims, beach parties, barbecues, picnics and family reunions. Your summer guests wonder aloud, “What on Earth do you do for entertainment all the way out here?”

There are free opportunities to enjoy nature or plan your own outdoor adventures all over the KP, thanks in no small part to our own park district, but that's another visionary fairytale of a story that deserves a book all its own. Key Peninsula residents have hundreds and hundreds of acres to explore, from quaint wooded trails meandering toward saltwater's edge, to mountain bike courses and horseback riding trails.

Penrose and Joemma Beach State Parks require a Discovery Pass or daily fee, but both parks are Washington state jewels worth visiting year-round.

We haven't even touched on the topic of boating. Surrounded by the waters of Puget Sound, with multiple public boat

launches, guest moorage at both state parks, the Lakebay Marina and the Longbranch Marina, there are plenty of options to choose from. The kayaking is divine, provided you watch those tides.

July also marks the unofficial beginning of campaign season, filled with hopeful glad-handing newcomers and seasoned incumbents alike. The upcoming midterm elections in November promise to be every bit as contentious as ever. If you feel as if the campaigning never stopped, you are not alone. If you ever donated

money to a campaign online, you might regret it now. Inboxes are overflowing with calls to action, dire predictions, pollsters and rallying cries to support or defend.

The news today is wrapped around national identity politics and, with a radical shift in course at nearly

every level of government, it feels impossible to keep up with the national scene much less find time to digest it.

The KP News feels some pain too following an increase in our printing costs as the result of tariffs placed on newsprint from neighboring Canada, which previously supplied about 60 percent of the newsprint used by newspapers across the county.

Washington's state primary election is set for Aug. 7 and the Pierce County Auditor reports that local pamphlets will be mailed out July 12 with local ballots going out on or before July 20. In the 26th legislative district, we will choose two representatives for the House and

we will elect a new state senator as well. Another race of key importance to unincorporated Key Peninsula voters includes the election of District 7's representative to the Pierce County Council.

With divisive politics never far away, toning things down a notch seems like a great idea. We could take a lesson by following the lead of Vaughn Elementary's Ballroom Dance team. As a community, we have far more to learn from those dancers than dance steps. Those fifth-grade students, as horrified as they all were at

the thought of dancing with another gender and as awkward as they all felt at first, put aside their fear of “the other.” They each discovered that their dance partner is a person too, not exactly like themselves, but a human being with thoughts and feelings that deserve some

basic ground rules.

These students learned ballroom dancing beginning with the powers of etiquette and courtesy.

As they danced, they learned to value dedication, respect, leadership, inclusiveness and teamwork, and to always strive for excellence. They won their competition, but the real gold they brought home was first place in civility.

Maybe those are lessons we could all learn from. What better place to practice civility than right here at home on the Key Peninsula. And what a better time than during the beautiful warm and long days of summer.



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Back row left to right: Naomi Sniadoski, Luca Marchio, Kiera Mays, Jackson Clark, Emma Muhka, James McCourt. Front row left to right: Layla Hawkins, Tyler Dowling, Yulya Nichipor, Eben Small, Gaby Blunck and Wyatt McKail. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

**BALLROOM DANCERS FROM PAGE 1**

through encouragement and had boundless energy,” Vaughn fifth-grade teacher Heidi Heistand said.

“Vaughn would not be able to participate in this program without the support of the Gig Harbor Rotary clubs,” Heistand said. Rotarians provided the funding for the program last year and this year.

Principal Lillian Page agreed. “Kudos to (Rotarian) Betty Felker. She has been such a big proponent of ballroom dancing for students. Together with The Gig Harbor Rotary clubs they have done a fantastic thing by coordinating and funding this program.”

Lee works for Pacific Ballroom Dance, a nonprofit based in Auburn whose mission is to build character in youth by providing a positive ballroom dance experience. The core values it strives to instill in students are fitness, leadership, inclusiveness, respect, teamwork, excellence and dedication.

“Through the power of dance, students learned social and emotional skills to give them confidence to try things that might feel uncomfortable at first,” Lee said. “I am extremely proud of these students at Vaughn, not just for winning the award but by the change that I saw in those kids. They worked hard, practiced hard and achieved their goals.”

Students learned six core ballroom dances including merengue, foxtrot, rumba, tango, swing and waltz.

“While the schools that do well are invited to participate in the competitive dancing, only a few of the couples end up doing the dancing, but everyone learns etiquette, they care for each other, they understand that as a group they’ve learned all the steps and dances, Page said. “It’s a fantastic program and I’m glad it begins in the fall, as it has

an enormous effect on student behavior throughout the year.”

After the team won their semifinals in December, they qualified for the Colors of the Rainbow Grand Final. The finals wouldn’t take place until mid June.

“When they were calling names for the semifinals, I was really happy to hear my name,” Jackson Clark said. “When we won the semifinals it was really fun, but since we had our class in the fall, we had a huge gap between the semifinals and the finals.”

Heistand credits the students as the driving force behind the practices; they set their own schedule to practice two times a week beginning in January.

“When students worried they were not practicing correctly, staff members and parents stepped in to volunteer their time to work with the kids during planning periods or after school,” Heistand said.

“In that gap we practiced as groups, on recesses, in classrooms,” Clark said. “All that practicing really helped refine our skills and I think that’s pretty much the reason we won is because of that big gap.”

“We all practiced every Monday and Thursday,” said Yulya Nichipor. “When we won at semifinals we were all so happy, but when we won the finals, it was so grandly overwhelming we were all smiling and happy—we felt like we conquered the world.”

“It was amazing,” said Kiera Mays. “When I realized we really won, it was one of the best days of my life.”

“It’s awkward at first but dance is a natural thing. We practiced hard, we felt confident, and we won gold,” said Layla Hawkins. Her advice to next year’s fifth graders: “Good luck, have confidence, it really makes a big difference.”



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## TOWN HALL FROM PAGE 1

“We have adopted one single priority for the next (legislative) session and that is payment for criminal justice services,” Young said. “Washington is dead last in the entire Union for state support for criminal justice services. Four percent of it comes from the state, 96 from the local county government. In most states, it’s half. In Pierce County that would be about \$10 million back into our budget.”

The sheriff’s department added 25 new positions since 2015 including five after the last legislative session. “We had planned on 10 but unfunded mandates prevented that,” Young said. The department also created a property crimes unit that has already had an impact. “We’re focused on career criminals who do the most harm, because when we lock one of them up it dramatically decreases the amount of property crime in that area,” he said.

The opioid epidemic and inadequate behavioral health services are also part of the problem, Young said.

“We (Pierce County) have, objectively, one of the worst behavioral health systems in the country,” he said. “A common metric for determining the health of the system is beds per capita: nationally that average is 24 beds per 100,000 residents. Washington state starts out as one of the worst with 16 statewide per 100,000. In Pierce County currently we have two.

“We’re about to get a little better with a joint partnership between MultiCare and Franciscan, which we also helped contribute to as a county,” Young said. “There will be a 120-bed psychiatric hospital completed later this year at the Allenmore campus in Tacoma, but we still need a lot more outpatient services and all of that takes resources.”

Finally, Young encouraged audience members to continue to report any suspicious or criminal activity and to call him if they are not satisfied with a response.

“If there’s a situation where you don’t feel you’re getting the proper response from the sheriff’s department, I encourage you to call our office,” Young said. “The process is sometimes opaque and you don’t see everything that’s going on, but if there are cases where we need to get a direct supervisor’s eyeballs on something, we will. In some cases there’s a good explanation and sometimes it’s not satisfactory, but at the very least we can try to get a response for you.”

Young can be reached at 253-798-6654 or through the Pierce County Council website at [www.co.pierce.wa.us](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us) under Government. He also has office hours at the KP Community Council office in Key Center on Fridays. Call for an appointment.



Jersey cow enjoys Longbranch pasture. Photo: Richard Miller, KP News

## Pierce Conservation District Helps KP Farmers

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

Farmers on the Key Peninsula now have a person to turn to for assistance when needed. Paul Borne is the Pierce Conservation District watershed farm resource specialist for the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor as of March 2018.

PCD works to preserve natural resources. The organization assists landowners and public agencies with the goal of improving the local economy and quality of life. Technical assistance is provided as a free service. PCD’s annual budget of over 2 million dollars comes from multiple sources including local, state and federal grants. PCD is a special purpose organization, not a regulatory agency or part of county government.

“We’re here to help educate; our mission is not to regulate or enforce county codes,” Borne said. “If we see something that isn’t to code, we’ll point it to the landowner but we’re not on their land to mandate change.”

The organization has a long history of collaboration with Key Peninsula landowners. With the help of volunteers from the community, PCD plants trees on the Key Peninsula to improve soil and connect forested land parcels to provide continuous habitat. It conducts workshops to educate livestock owners on the importance of manure bins to manage waste; encourages

growth and donations of surplus garden produce to local food banks; and hosts boat tours aimed at educating waterfront property owners on erosion-preventing vegetation that can provide an alternative to bulkheads.

PCD also rents and loans expensive equipment, such as no-till seed drills and poultry processing equipment.

Borne is neither new to the area nor to the work. While residing in Pierce County, he worked as a resource specialist for King Conservation District in Renton for nearly two decades. Borne said he sees an overall increase of interest in hobby farming along with varying levels of farmer experience.

On the Key Peninsula, Borne will advise, assist and work with livestock owners. “My focus will be to provide them technical assistance and instruction to implement best management practices (BMPs) to improve manure management, decrease soil erosion and improve pasture production, which can all lead to cleaner water for the Key Peninsula. These BMPs can improve the natural resource conditions on their farms while also improving animal health, increasing chore efficiency and saving money,” he said.

Dawn Kinzel, who raises a few goats and chickens at Harmony Hill Farm in Vaughn, was one of the first Key Peninsula farmers to utilize Borne’s help. “He was kind enough to look at our water problem,”

she said. “We’re on the side of a hill and have sludge for nine months of the year and hardpan for the other three. He brought an engineer out to look at possible drainage.”

The Key Peninsula is located in one of nine sub-watershed areas in Pierce County and therefore qualifies for additional assistance. “The Priority Watershed Project was created by PCD to make noticeable natural resource conservation improvements in our county,” Borne said. “The Key Peninsula sub-watersheds—Case and Carr Inlets—were two of the nine chosen. This means that 80 percent of our farm technical assistance program will be directed to the Case and Carr Inlet sub-watersheds.”

When he is not promoting conservation at work, Borne enjoys enhancing his backyard wildlife habitat by “controlling invasive nonnative vegetation, planting native trees and shrubs for birds and pollinators, providing supplemental food and water for birds, and minimizing my use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers,” he said.

“I am passionate about protecting and improving the natural environment and believe we all have an important role to play in this task,” Borne said. “I am excited to work with farmers and landowners and assist them with natural resource management on their land.”

For more information contact Paul Borne at [PaulB@pierced.org](mailto:PaulB@pierced.org) or 253-845-9770.

**From the Archives**

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# Growing Up in Longbranch

BY AILEEN ALBERTA (FROEHLICH)  
MONTGOMERY (1924-2004)

Fishing a lazy creek, swimming all afternoon with friends, sleeping on the beach at night or in a barn full of fresh mown hay. Sunday afternoon spent watching baseball at the old ballpark, whooping and rooting for our team. Riding my Old World bike I had purchased from Budge Dadisman for a \$10 bill, feeling the wind in my face. Just laying there in a field of clover and watching the clouds roll by, dreaming dreams of all the great and wonderful things I would do in my life. Going to the movies in Gig Harbor or Port Orchard on a show card and 50 cents for a carload of family and friends. Playing pinochle, enjoying lunch and good conversation after the game was completed. Lying on the beach or out in the field counting the stars and trying to find the Big Dipper or some other one. Those were a few of the fun things we did and of course with fun came responsibilities.

Our chores consisted of feeding and caring for the farm animals, helping harvest crops and putting hay in the barn. My brother and I had to hoe the gardens. If we finished by a certain time, we were allowed to go swimming or to a friend's house for the rest of the privilege. I believe in many ways those rewards had so much more value than money because they were very special and always assured us of our parent's love.

I believe one of the best features of growing up in a small community like Longbranch was the deep love and friendship we had. I never had just one set of

parents; everyone in the neighborhood was concerned for my safety and welfare. I was welcome and safe to visit anywhere, which gave me a wonderful feeling of security.

I asked my cousin, Marge Rickert Radonich, what she liked best about growing up in Longbranch. Her reply was that there was always some way to make money. She and I were quite the entrepreneurs. She would get the ideas while cleaning eggs and since I had a big mouth, I would execute the plan. We did everything from picking peaches, raspberries and other crops to selling magazines or Cloverine Salve. Our bikes or our feet were our main modes of transportation.

Shirley Rickert Olson just laughed and replied her main interest in life was boys.


Helen Stolz Fravel and I were, and still are, special friends. She lived then, and still does, in the Taylor Bay area. She and I used to walk each other back and forth through the woods, talking of our dreams or our boyfriends. Ah, yes, those were the lazy, crazy days and I feel like a millionaire because I was so privileged to have grown up in Longbranch with my extended family.

*Editor's note: This was on page 4 of the December 1996 edition of Key Peninsula News. As of this publishing, only Shirley Rickert Olson survives and all have numerous descendants.*



Born in a log cabin in Longbranch, Aileen was daughter to Albert and Helen Rickert. She served her last 10 years as a fulltime minister in Lakebay.

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## Phyllis Henry

COAST TO COAST



### Equestrian Delight

Shining groomed horses, brushed manes flaring, tails streaming behind, rushing along the paths at Gateway Park, topped by smiling children reveling in the sense of flight fueled by the sturdy hoofs of their steeds. Watching them ride I try to imagine their young sensations of freedom and weightlessness. When I was a child I too rode a horse, but not one of lightness and speed like those I see at Gateway.

As the afternoon crept up to chores time on the farm my dad prepared to leave the corn field after a long day sitting on the iron seat of the plow while directing Bay and Lady back and forth across the black earth. The next year after my dad bought his first used Farmall tractor the horses would move to new homes, but on this day at the end of a furrow—and the end of a long day—my dad slid from the seat of the plow, patted a thank-you on each horse's forehead, and then unhooked the leather leads attached to the plow and tossed them over the buttocks of the horses ready to go to the barnyard.

By that time, after racing along the end row of the field, I had reached my tall dad and the even taller horses. Hanging tight to his hand, we talked about new kittens, the neighbor's unfriendly dog, and the new experiences I'd be having in a few weeks when I started the second grade in my one-room school down the road a mile or so.

When I stumbled over clods in the newly plowed field my dad said, "I think you could use some help."

Afraid that he would tell me not to come to meet him in the field again, I said, "I'm really big now." He smiled.

Dad said, "Whoa," and Bay and Lady stood still. "I don't think Lady would mind giving you a lift. Would you like that?"

Of course I would like that. Dad swung me onto Lady's broad back, so wide that my legs dangled almost straight out to the right and left. "Hang onto the harness or the collar so you don't fall off," he advised.

On Lady's back I was taller than my dad. I looked at the dusty top of his beat-up straw hat, at his sunburned neck, at the sweaty stains around his shirt collar and under his arms. The leather harness that shifted over Lady's brown body as she moved was damp with her sweat, and as she walked the leather fly fringe hanging around her lower body danced and swayed. I could see the chickens in the orchard; I could see the Martens' farmstead; I had

never before been so free, so wild, and still so safe on Lady with my dad holding her harness.

When we reached the barnyard my dad lifted me off Lady before she and Bay lumbered to the big metal water tank to drink their fill, ignoring the algae-eating goldfish in the tank. Inside the barn, Dad slid the harnesses off the horses and hung them on wooden pegs on the barn wall, carefully smoothing the leather strips to make certain there were no ripples that might irritate the skin of the horses the next day. I poured oats into their feed troughs and patted their velvet noses while they ate, and then they were turned out to pasture for the evening.

After Dad herded the five milk cows, Daisy, Jersey, Molly, Guernsey and the one that never got a name, into their stanchions and washed his hands in the water tank, he brought out the milk pails, and I found the bent-up old cake pan for him to fill with milk for the barn cats.

No galloping horse with a flaring mane, but another glorious day for a child.

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

## Meredith Browand

KEY ISSUES



### Our District's Future

The failure of the Peninsula School District's April bond was heartbreaking and confusing to many supporters, including me. For nearly two months I've wrestled with the fact that while the "yes" votes outnumbered the "no" votes by nearly 4,000 (out of 23,000), that it wasn't enough to reach the state's supermajority threshold. I'm frustrated that the supermajority rule allows a vocal minority to outweigh the majority's support of the bond. I'm angry that others in my community don't seemingly value the schools the way I do. And I'm wondering what's next and how we move forward as a school district in order to best meet the needs of all children.

Conversations with other parents have indicated they too are focused on what's next. Some are looking toward the next best move for their families and others are recommitting to the work of ensuring PSD remains a vibrant place for all kids to learn. Some are doing both. I was raised by public school teachers and public schools have my heart. I taught for nine years before my children were born, including three in this district. I understand the challenges that face public schools but I also honor and value their place in a thriving community.

Some PSD parents are choosing to send their children out of district next year and others have already enrolled in private schools. That is obviously their choice in deciding what is best for their families. What's best for my family is to stay and push forward. I look at my two sons and see all of their amazing potential and can vividly picture their big, bright futures. When I look at your children, I see the exact same thing. My boys don't go to Evergreen Elementary School or Key Peninsula Middle School, but I want those students to have the same opportunities as my children. I want to know that the same opportunities are afforded to all kids, whether they attend Vaughn, Henderson Bay, Kopachuck or any other PSD school.

For those of us who voted "yes" and are frustrated with trying to figure out what's next, I encourage you to press on. Let's continue to speak out, push back and stand up for all kids no matter where they go to school or what circumstances they come from. There are thousands of children on both peninsulas for whom changing districts or enrolling in private schools isn't an option. When the 2018-19 school year begins, each of our 18 schools will be filled with children eager to learn. We owe them our best.

And for those of you who voted "no" I challenge you to look closely at the schools in your area and find ways that you can support the work they are doing. The bond was roughly 240 votes short of passing and the anti campaign only garnered 41 percent of the total votes. I'd encourage everyone to consider that although it didn't pass, community support for the bond far outweighed opposition to it. A strong school system attracts new residents and businesses to our area, bolsters property values and is an essential part of a well-educated population. What's good for the schools is good for all of us, no matter how you chose to vote in April.

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

## Christie Fierro

OPEN AIR



### To Pay or Not to Pay

Summer has finally arrived. Our kids will be out of school and we dare to hope they will take a break, now and then, from screen time. They'll have more time to help out around the house.

Last summer my teen asked if I would be paying her an allowance for helping out more. That's a healthy debate topic. I don't

claim to have all the answers, but I am happy to share the plan we came up with that has successfully worked for the past year.

Item One: I explained I could spend more time playing or hanging out with her if she helps me with my "chores." I think that particular bargain is more attractive to a younger audience and not as enticing for the teens.

Item Two: She has to earn screen time with chores. To increase buy-in and reduce whining, I had her draft the "contract" to earn minutes of screen time for tasks completed. I let her pick chores she doesn't hate because anything she does helps reduce my load and I didn't want this to be perceived as punishment. The contract for screen time has been a huge success. In the afternoon, she jumps at the opportunity to walk the dog, sweep the kitchen/dining room and empty the dishwasher so she can have screen time while I cook dinner. It's cheaper for me than an allowance and she enjoys the "gamification" part—the challenge. The list can change by week. It lives in a Google doc so it is easily customized. She likes printing it and putting it on the fridge to see me check off the minutes she has earned. She can't earn more than two hours of screen time a day. Of course homework time on the computer during the school season doesn't count—it is more of a social media/Netflix diet now that she is a teen. She agreed that social media will be disconnected if any class grade drops to a C. And the Netflix password changes. She understands how quickly a B can drop if one isn't paying attention. I enjoyed seeing her email her teachers to meet during office hours to discuss strategies for bringing her two B grades to A grades.

Item Three: Now that she is older, she likes seeing that I will walk the walk so I agreed to take social media off my phone to reduce my usage (except Twitter because my Twitter is intentionally limited to work-related teaching interactions). I've agreed to stick to a stricter social media and Netflix diet also. Our home computers are side by side so we have some mutual accountability. This part is very important to her. Because I agree to similar standards, she views this as a good life choice instead of a parenting mandate that she'll throw out the window when she is grown.

Item Four: I highly agree that a chance to earn money is a good idea too, but I have one bucket of money and my allotment to spending on her fun is already at its max. Now that she is older, we brainstorm ways she can earn money from someone other than me, like through baby-sitting, blogging, etc.

There might be tidbits you can glean

from our plan, but it is very important that you plan with your child to customize what works for you that they will feel invested in. The plan loses all of its magic if the list of tasks is loathed. Here's hoping we all have a productive and fun summer break.

*Christie Fierro teaches Communication at TCC and lives in Gig Harbor.*

**Rob Vajko**  
KEY THOUGHTS



**Success is Counted Sweetest**

“Nothing is impossible if you want it hard enough and work hard enough!”

You, like me, have probably been told something similar at some point in your life. Maybe you heard it over and over growing up. You might even have told your children something to that effect.

I wonder, however, whether this sentiment is doing more harm than good.

A line in a movie I was watching recently got me thinking. A father in his 70s told his son: “A man’s dreams get smaller with time.”

That statement struck me as profound and significant, so I wrote it down. Do our dreams get smaller as we get older? If so, is it because we learn to settle for less or because we become more realistic? Do we, in fact, begin to understand that there are limitations that can keep us from achieving our dreams?

We’ve all seen those movies where the hero overcomes tremendous adversity to achieve what everyone told him or her was impossible. They are inspiring and we all love to watch them, but I wonder if the take-away isn’t misleading. For every story like this, how many others are there where the hero tried and failed? How many crushed spirits? We don’t make that type of movie.

I watch the TV series “The Voice” and contestant after contestant says something along the lines of, “There is no plan B! If this doesn’t work out, I’ve got nothing to fall back on.” I also watch as one by one, all those contestants with no plan B fail to make the cut. What now for them? The odds aren’t in their favor. Even many of the winners fail to build a career in music.

Don’t get me wrong, I’m not saying that we shouldn’t encourage people to pursue their dreams—we absolutely should. My concern is when that person can’t conceive of a life without the particular success he

or she is striving for.

What happens to all those who fail to cross the finish line at the Olympics after giving it their all? What happens to those who go bankrupt trying to get that startup off the ground? What happens when you don’t get the dream you have given everything to pursue?

The simple truth is that there are limitations; there are things that we simply cannot do. Many of us will never attain our dream but we do find out, as so many contestants on “The Voice” doubtlessly discovered, that things are OK if you can simply celebrate the life and the friendships that you have. Play the hand you’ve been dealt and you’ll find that it’s more than enough; those of us who have failed to achieve our dreams don’t have a “lesser” life.

Like the hero in the movie, I have realized that as we get older, our dreams get smaller, but not because we have to settle for something lesser. I believe they get smaller because we have, slowly along the way, discarded many of the false beliefs we had about what would make us happy or make us feel like a success. Now we find happiness in family, in friends, in a glass of wine or a beautiful sunset. We take pleasure in a good meal or a good book.

Emily Dickinson summed it up beautifully:

Success is counted sweetest;  
by those who ne’er succeed.

The following lines tell why:

To comprehend a nectar;  
requires sorest need.

I still have dreams and I hope you do as well. But if I don’t achieve those dreams, I still consider myself blessed and fortunate for being able to pursue them.

*Rob Vajko lives in Purdy.*



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# Peninsula School District Superintendent Resigns

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

The Peninsula School Board voted to accept Superintendent Robert Manahan's resignation May 31, releasing him from the remaining two years of his contract, after the news that Manahan accepted the job as superintendent for the Snoqualmie Valley School District.

"Leaving is bittersweet for me, I will miss this community and district tremendously," Manahan said.

School board president Marcia Harris said, "We live in times of change, but this change feels sudden—a surprise—but people need to take advantage when the opportunity arises. Snoqualmie Valley is a good fit for Rob with many advantages."

Manahan was invited to apply for the Snoqualmie position. Harris said that school boards become aware of innovations in other districts through the Washington State School Directors Association's communication network. When vacancies occur, it is not unusual for districts to seek out innovative leaders with demonstrated successes.

"Rob brought a lot of energy to our district," Harris said. "We needed different

relations in communication with the community and he has done a lot to improve that relationship. Our next step, as a board, is to decide how to proceed."

The board chose to open an interim position for superintendent for the 2018-19 school year after concluding the district would be better served by conducting a thorough and comprehensive search for a suitable permanent replacement. The district will open the permanent position early 2019.

Harris said PSD is attractive to potential candidates for a number of reasons. "It is a beautiful place to live. Student achievement levels are high. The teaching staff is strong. Community support for schools is generally positive. Although the bond issue did not pass, it did receive 58.9 percent yes vote."

Manahan said there are similarities between PSD and the Snoqualmie Valley School District. "Both school districts are experiencing considerable growth and changing demographics that impact schools. Both are composed of distinct areas with distinct needs; there are three communities in Snoqualmie with different needs like Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula,"



Photo courtesy Peninsula School District

he said. "Some programs introduced in the Peninsula district, like the trades pre-apprenticeship program at Peninsula and Gig Harbor's teacher academy, are being considered in Snoqualmie Valley."

Manahan said he was proud of the programs put in place or expanded during his tenure, especially in secondary career path

training—biomedical innovation and health careers; skilled trades pre-apprenticeships; teacher academy and a shift to project-based instruction at Henderson Bay High School. He also cited the advances in innovation and integration of technology beginning in second grade, a greater focus on early learning and support for students with behavioral challenges.

"My departure is like a sinker in a bucket of water—you pull out the sinker and there is little noticeable difference," Manahan said. "Peninsula School District has an amazing team that has developed a climate and culture of engagement and trust. Without a doubt, the work started will be sustained whether I am here or not. My departure will have little impact on the district because the administrative team, teaching staff and support staff are solid," he said.

"He has a big heart and is such a comfortable, straightforward person," said Bette McCord, Evergreen Elementary School office manager. "He knows what goes on at the local school level and knows how to support with empathy and compassion. He had an incredible vision for our district and will be missed."

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## OBITUARIES



### Mildred Niemann

Mildred (Milly) Summerfelt Niemann of Vaughn, died at home surrounded by family, April 3, 2018. She was born Nov. 1, 1924, in Grapeview. The family later moved to Longbranch and Milly graduated from Vaughn Union High School in 1942. She married Maxwell (Axel) Niemann in 1943 and moved to Vaughn.

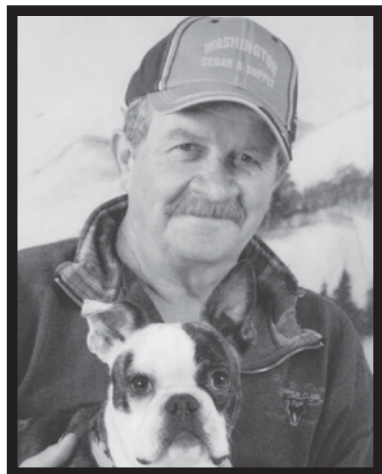
Preceding her in death was her husband, Axel, who died in 1970; her brothers, Don and Earl; and her sisters, Thelma, Janette and Dorothy.

Survivors include her three sons, Gary (Kathy), Don (Nadine) and Mike (Sally); six grandchildren and one great-grandson. Niemann has one surviving sibling, Linnea Lind (Don), and numerous nieces and nephews.

Niemann worked as an evergreen brush packer for many years. She joined the women's firefighter group in 1973. She loved to dance and was involved with the Twilight Dance Club. She also belonged to a card club with a group of ladies who loved to play pinochle.

She was a wonderful hostess of many family get-togethers, from holidays to clam tides, where the whole family would dig geoducks, cook them up and have a feast. Niemann was a great cook and always made everyone feel welcome at her home. She was forever ready for a game of pinochle or cribbage with anyone willing to play.

The family held a private celebration of her life, as Milly requested.



### Thomas Donald Rolfzen

Born April 1, 1947, Thomas Donald Rolfzen died peacefully May 30, 2018, at his home in Lakebay, with his sister Cheryl Rose Rolfzen by his side. Tom was an extraordinarily hardworking and honest craftsman. He moved to Lakebay in 1985 and started Lakebay Roofing Company.

Well-known and loved in the community, Rolfzen volunteered his time throughout the years including reroofing the Key Peninsula Civic Center. He sponsored baseball teams including the Little League with his grandson Joseph for many years.

Rolfzen is survived by his daughters, Chantel Rolfzen and Lisa Rolfzen; son Robert Rolfzen and grandchildren Vanessa Duran, Joseph Rolfzen, Olivia Johnson, Megan, Samuel and Corbin Rolfzen. Rolfzen is also survived by his siblings, Cheryl Rose Rolfzen, Lambert Peter Rolfzen and Paul Sylvester Rolfzen. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lorraine Elfrida Rolfzen and Lambert "Fatz" Rolfzen.

Within days of Rolfzen's death, his best friend Bill Hoyt died June 2 at Big Bear Lake, California. Both men died from cancer. The lives of these two inseparable friends will be honored, together in a celebration of life and friendship, Saturday, July 28 from 1 to 3:00 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

## Letters to the Editor

### Utility Workers Protected by New Law

Washington state's "Move Over Law" was expanded in June. Linemen and other utility workers now have the same protections for their safety as law enforcement, firefighters and other emergency responders working in emergency zones on our roadways.

The "emergency zone" definition now includes work zones for linemen maintaining or repairing power lines or equipment along roadways.

When you see the flashing emergency lights on a truck or a bright orange sign saying "Utility Work Ahead," move over or slow down. You will have to move out of the lane closest to a utility vehicle, including line trucks, if you can safely do so. If not, slow down 200 feet before and after a stopped vehicle that has its warning lights flashing.

PenLight's linemen and their crews often work on power lines and electrical distribution equipment along roadways. Sometimes their job takes them out at night, in bad weather or in emergency situations.

Motorists who don't pay attention when driving through a work zone add an extra layer of danger to this work. Linemen need to concentrate on their work, not be distracted by vehicles speeding or driving recklessly near them.

In many cases, PenLight has flaggers at each end of an area where utility work is taking place. Motorists must also pay attention to these workers. Flaggers are there to protect linemen and the public.

A driver who violates the law can be fined \$1,000, receive a jail sentence and lose driving privileges.

*Jim Bellamy  
Peninsula Light Co.*

### A Visionary Retires

I just heard the news that Edie Morgan retired from The Mustard Seed Project.

Edie had an idea about how to improve life on the peninsula for an important part of our population that needed some help but went overlooked. And look what she has done with that idea.

We now have the driver program that enables seniors to get to their medical appointments and do their shopping without having to hire someone. This program also provides a small bus for larger numbers who want to shop at, say, Walmart. A side benefit is the opportunity to socialize for people who may previ-

ously have been isolated.

We now have the volunteer program that brings people to a senior's home, whether to socialize or do a variety of tasks—cleaning, yard work, laundry, home maintenance, etc.—for people who can't do it all anymore. Imagine the differences in quality of life for people who were feeling overwhelmed.

We now have a place where seniors and caretakers can go for information, support or just fun. A number of classes are now available, ranging from yoga to art classes, which provide opportunities for continued learning and socialization.

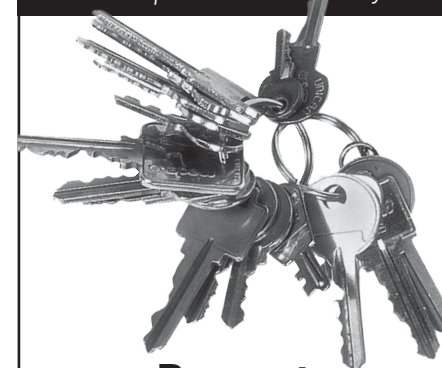
We need to remember a time when few of these things were available to those who in their earlier years helped create the Peninsula we love and enjoy.

One woman had a vision—and look what she did with it. Of course, she had lots of help, but without Edie Morgan, our community would be less cohesive and poorer by far.

How do we adequately thank her?

*M.D. Campbell, Lakebay*

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## George Robison and the KP Lions Club

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

George Robison and his wife Cindy moved to the Gig Harbor area about 16 years ago and quickly joined the Key Peninsula chapter of the Lions Club; they have been working to enhance the quality of life on the Key ever since. They originally joined in California and have been members of Lions Club International for over 30 years. They are dedicated to the club's mission of "empowering volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding."

Robison takes great pride in the contributions the local group has made to the community. He said the club was involved in site preparation and development of the popular Home Park. Many of the club's most visible efforts on the peninsula have been directed toward Key Pen Parks, especially Volunteer Park.

One such project was building the retaining wall along the driveway entrance to Volunteer Park in 2006. An Eagle Scout installed the first 500 concrete blocks; the remaining 3,000 were set in place by KP Lion volunteers. "That Eagle Scout was my grandson Nicholas," Robison said.

A larger project at Volunteer Park involved installing drainage and building five retaining walls to prevent bank erosion from the large ball field. The drainage helped dry out what is now the T-ball field.

A bronze plaque will be permanently installed at the entrance to that field to honor club member Rhys Wood. "The field will be renamed the Key Peninsula Lions Memorial Amphitheater," Robison said.

For over 20 years, the KP Lion's Club has sponsored an annual Volksmarch at one of the Key Pen Parks. Volksmarching is a noncompetitive form of fitness walking developed in Europe in the 1960s in which participants gather at organized walking events to exercise, sightsee and experience foot travel, sometimes for long distances.

As part of the Volksmarch program at the 360 Trails Park, Robison said the club installed concrete benches, tables and places for hikers to rest while traversing the trails.

One of Robison's special interests is the Lions Youth Exchange Program. He has chaired the exchange program for Lions Clubs in Washington, Northern Idaho and British Columbia for over a decade, although he said this is the last year for him. Robison arranges host families for young people who are visitors in this region

and is always on the lookout for families willing to host, he said.

"I try to place youth in homes on both sides of the mountains, because the cultures are so different. The people are different. The geography is different. The weather is different," Robison said.

The Youth Exchange Program involves neither employment nor academic study, but is designed to provide the participants the opportunity to be involved in a cultural "immersive learning experience" for four to six weeks to foster international understanding.

Like other Lions Clubs, the local chapter collects eyeglasses for reuse or recycling and helps pay for eye exams and eyeglasses for children and adults who need financial aid. They give dictionaries to local third-graders every year and provide a lesson about the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance.

For the past 34 years the KP Lions Club has sponsored the Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year Award, a celebratory dinner honoring volunteers nominated to receive the award while raising funds for the club's numerous programs. (See "Citizen of the Year Dee Dee Kerkes," KP News, May 2018.)

*The KP Lions Club holds public meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Key Center Fire Station at 6 p.m.*

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## Crabbing Season Closed in South Sound

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

In May the Washington state Department of Fish and Wildlife announced that south Puget Sound is closed this season for all crab harvesting, including Dungeness and red rock crabs.

“A combination of trends in crab population over the last five years and some recent scientific papers and presentations about crab survival led to this decision,” said Robert Sizemore, Puget Sound shellfish manager for the WDFW. “Harvest reports from south Puget Sound have been dismal.”

WDFW and tribal co-managers agreed to close crab harvesting, aside from limited ceremonial and subsistence harvest for tribes, in Puget Sound south of the northern tip of Vashon Island. The closure will likely last for several years.

The Dungeness crab population is tracked through harvest reports and test harvesting conducted by the WDFW and the tribes. According to data from the WDFW, the Dungeness crab harvest in Marine Area 13 (south Puget Sound) has declined from a peak of 289,505 pounds in 2012 to 9,457 pounds in 2017, a drop of nearly 97 percent.

WDFW test fishing in Marine Area 13 in 2018 showed that there were no Dungeness crabs in the size range of 3.5 to 5.7 inches, indicating that several year-classes of Dungeness crab are missing.

Marine Area 11, from the Narrows Bridge to the north end of Vashon Island, showed a harvest decline of 87 percent from its peak in 2015.

Washington state has 13 marine areas stretching from the Pacific Coast, around the Strait of Juan de Fuca and into Puget Sound and Hood Canal. In contrast to the falling population in Marine Area 13 and

southern Hood Canal, the number and size of crabs in other Washington marine areas, including the Strait of Juan de Fuca and San Juan Islands, have been relatively unchanged. The WDFW has not called for changes in crab harvests in those areas.

Sizemore said the cause of the decline is not well understood, but recent environmental shifts may provide a clue. He noted that south Puget Sound, with its many shallow embayments, is warmer than many other parts of Puget Sound. The number of tributaries and increased flow from snow melt lowers surface salinity and can cause stratification of marine waters. Low oxygen levels in south Hood Canal, particularly in 2013 and 2015, may have played a part there and in other locations.

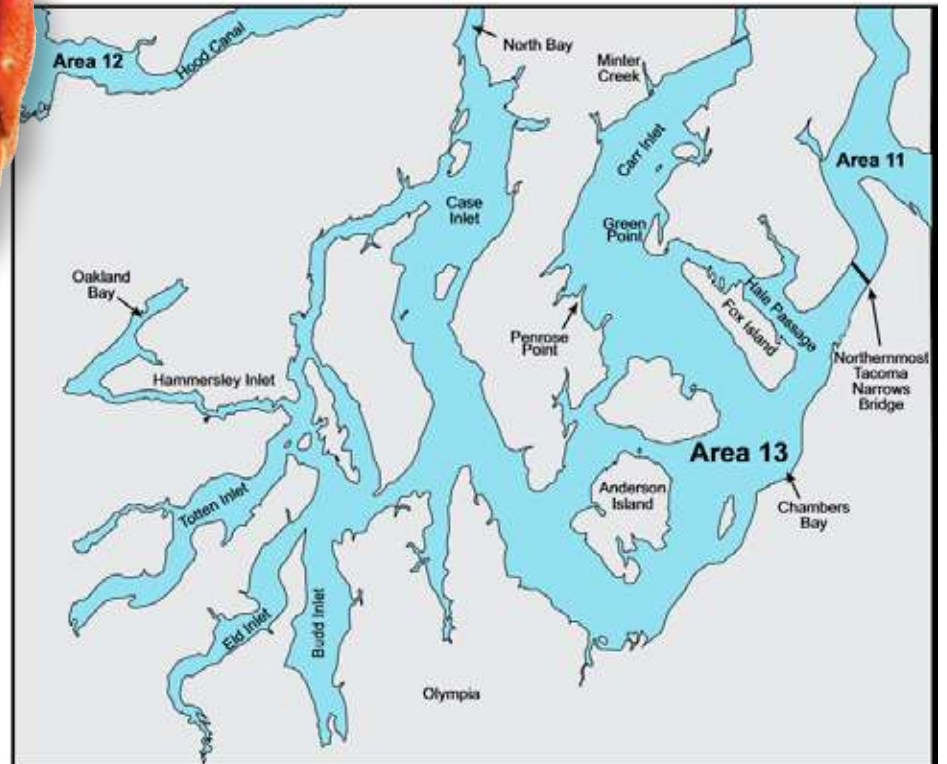
These environmental factors could affect survival of larvae and foraging behavior of juveniles, Sizemore said. Ocean acidification does not appear to be a significant factor affecting survival at this time. “Overharvesting of a relic adult population could also be a contributing factor to low local reproductive potential,” he said.

Although all the harvest data are for Dungeness crab, fishing for red rock crab will also be prohibited. “When harvesting red rock crab, the traps used will also catch Dungeness crab in the area,” Sizemore said. “The act of repeatedly trapping and releasing Dungeness crab causes unavoidable mortality. Any additional Dungeness crab mortality, when the existing population abundance is critically low, can be a significant impediment to recovery.”

WDFW is also concerned about sequential depletion: If the Dungeness population is depleted, red rock crabs could become the next target species. At this time there is too little information regarding red rock crab numbers or life cycle to inform the basis for making a decision with the tribes

on the appropriate fishery amounts in order to draft a harvest agreement. “When critical information is missing or incomplete, fishing presents a high risk, with a potential outcome of depleting red rock crab species in addition to causing harm to an extremely depressed Dungeness crab population,” Sizemore said.

Enforcement of the Dungeness crab fishing closure would be very difficult without full closure on red rock crab as well. “Having crab gear in the water (for a targeted red rock crab fishery) when Dungeness crab retention is not allowed creates an enormous burden in enforcing the closure,” Sizemore said.



Courtesy: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

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## Air Traffic Over the Key Peninsula—What's Up With That?

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

For those who moved to the Key Peninsula for the idyllic sounds of nature, the not-so-occasional sound of airplanes overhead is an unexpected jolt. Where are these planes coming from and why are they flying over the neighborhood?

Flights over cities and airports and military facilities are regulated with consideration of several factors: the safety of those on the ground, safety for incoming and outgoing flights, and national security. The Key Peninsula lies outside those highly regulated perimeters (such as Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia, the SeaTac airport, and JBLM), making it prime airspace for flight training and other overflight traffic.

According to Bonnie Malgarini, air traffic control at the Tacoma Narrows Airport, most planes in the KP airspace are private, though there are a few jets traveling between Bremerton and Olympia, typically flying at 3,000 feet. Approximately 190 aircraft are based at the airport, with nearly 79,000 takeoffs and landings each year. There are occasional medical emergency aircraft as well. Many planes fly from north to south and east to west over the Key Peninsula. She estimated that about a quarter of the air traffic is from flight schools.

The owner of a local flight school said that training includes visual flight training in the summer and instrument training, mostly in the winter. The winter instrument training, between 1,000 and 2,000 feet, is probably not visible from the ground. Students also do cross-country training, flying to airports 50 to 100 miles away to include landing and takeoff practice. He said that stall training is required, but it takes place only once in a yearlong flight training course. Flight schools from

Seattle, Bremerton, Gig Harbor, Shelton and Renton use the KP's airspace.

Planes practicing repeated stalls, dives and turns are pilots practicing aerobatics and not students on training flights, he said.

All pilots must follow Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) according to Jay Villalva, a commercial pilot who flies in the area.

FAR specifies minimum altitudes for flight. For any flight the altitude must allow an emergency landing without undue risk to people or property below if power fails. Over any congested area or where people are gathered, the altitude must be at least 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within a horizontal radius of 2,000 feet of the plane. Over other areas, the plane must be at least 500 feet above the surface, except over open water or sparsely populated areas. In those cases, the aircraft may not be operated closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle or structure.

Villalva estimated that a plane at 5,000 feet elevation would not be seen or heard. Airspace is divided into categories.

In the United States, those classes are A through D and G. Class A is defined by altitude—18,000 to 60,000 feet—and flights must be under air traffic control using instrument flight rules. Class B is around key air traffic areas (SeaTac Airport is one) and has the most stringent rules. Classes C and D apply to smaller airports.

Class G, according to Wikipedia, includes all airspace below 14,500 feet not otherwise classified as controlled. It is typically the airspace very near the ground (1,200 feet or less) and outside airport perimeters. Airspace over the Key Peninsula below 1,200 feet is Class G.

“Most of the general aviation traffic over the Key Peninsula is flying at 3,000 feet or less for flight training or for making approaches to the three surrounding airports (Bremerton, Tacoma and Olympia),” Villalva said. “Flying above 3,000 feet adds restrictions designed to reduce the potential for collisions, which tend to keep the local flights at or below 3,000 feet.”



Airway space — from SkyVector aeronautical charts <https://skyvector.com/>



Chris Bronstad with one of his portraits. Photo: Richard Miller, KP News

## Longtime KPMS Teacher Retires

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

After 29 years of teaching, June 19 was Chris Bronstad's last day of school.

Bronstad taught at Key Peninsula Middle School for 17 years. That followed 12 years in the Clover Park School District in Lakewood.

"I was hired at KPMS in 2001 for science as a 0.9 (part-time), teaching sixth-grade science, seventh-grade science, sixth-grade math and language arts," he said.

Bronstad's visual art classes, for which he is perhaps better known, only began after the last full-time art teacher retired from KPMS in 2006.

"Chris Bronstad is an amazing artist and KPMS was blessed with him sharing his talent with students," said Principal Jeri Goebel.

"My degrees are in Earth sciences and I've really thoroughly enjoyed teaching that," Bronstad said. But art started for him when he was 5 years old. "My grandmother was an artist and did oil painting," he said. "The first time I ever wielded a brush with oil was with her."

Bronstad graduated from high school in 1970 and earned a degree in biology from the University of North Texas at Arlington in 1975. In September 1976, he went on a backpacking trip to Europe that lasted until April 1978.

"I had an opportunity on occasion to teach

some English," he said, and he also studied art history on his own. "I spent most of a week in the Louvre; I visited museums in Munich; I managed to get down to Florence for almost three weeks to look at Renaissance artwork—it was mesmerizing."

Bronstad returned to Texas, where he met his future wife and fellow artist, Colleen Carrigan. They shared a love of nature as

well as art and science that led them back to school at UT Arlington.

"We both got our degree in the sciences in '84 and we both decided to go into education," he said. They also decided to move to Washington in 1987 after being impressed by its natural beauty on an earlier trip.

"We got a U-Haul and towed up a '74 Super Beetle, a dog and a pair of snakes; we shipped the cat," Bronstad said. "I got a job building pools and subbed off and on around Tacoma and Steilacoom, where we lived. Then I got a call about a half-time position teaching science at Clover Park, and I went from the bottom of a swimming pool one day to teaching science the next."

A year after his daughter Kathryn was

born, a colleague suggested Bronstad look at Vaughn Bay for a place to live. The family moved there in 1993 and remained until 2015, when they relocated further north on the KP.

Most of Bronstad's career was spent teaching science. He earned a National Board Certification for teachers in 2011 and was very involved in the NASA Explorer School program at KPMS. "That was so rewarding," he said. "I enjoyed working with students and colleagues, particularly (science teacher) Karen Borders who, with our administration and the Peninsula School District, made it happen."

The program sent Bronstad, colleagues and students to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, among other places, where they met astronomers and astronauts. "I got to meet Buzz Aldrin and I couldn't think of anything to ask—can you believe that?" he said.

But art has never been far from Bronstad's approach to education.

"I've always tried to infuse science with art," he said. "We do a lot of illustrations, sketching rocks, fossils; studying landforms and astronomy. Sometimes we'll sit down together and work pencil mark per pencil mark because students have a hard time seeing it. It's a skill: When you learn to draw, you're actually learning to see."

"I would've loved to have been a student in his classroom," said Patricia Rivers, who has taught math at KPMS for 16 years. "Besides his artistic ability, he's very dedicated to his students. He encourages them not to give up."

Bronstad spends many afternoons teaching after-school art classes with Two Waters Arts Alliance and other local groups, and since 2009 has submitted his students' artwork to the Western Washington junior-senior-high show at the state fair in Puyallup every fall. "The last two years, virtually every piece has got a ribbon," he said. "I strongly encourage it because I just want kids to experience that."

Bronstad is a veteran of many shows and contests himself. In 2011, a portrait of his daughter won a place in the Art Renewal Center's annual salon, a prestigious competition that included entries from 69 countries. That portrait, "The Dreamer," is now on display at the ARC museum in New Jersey.

"In retirement, I'm thoroughly looking forward to spending more time with my quite understanding wife, Colleen, as well as her dad, John, who at 91 has been willing to join us out on the peninsula after having lived most of his life in Texas," Bronstad said.

"I will also continue to do art, of course, and I definitely want to teach," he said. "I love working with kids. I would like to find a way to keep doing that. I guess that's my passion."

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**THOUGH JULY 4****KPCCA FIREWORKS STAND**

Show your pride in the Key Peninsula by blowing up a small part of it! Buy your fireworks from the KP Civic Center fireworks stand. All proceeds benefit the KP Civic Center Association. Hours vary but usually 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Food Market parking lot.

**JULY 2 & 16****VETERANS MEETING**

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

**JULY 7****DEPRESSION & BIPOLAR SUPPORT**

The Lakebay Depression and Bipolar Support Group will meet July 7 and Aug. 4 from 11:15 to 12:30. We will resume our regular schedule in September (first and third Saturdays) from 11:15 a.m. to noon. KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. Kimberly, 253-753-4270 or [dbsalakebay@gmail.com](mailto:dbsalakebay@gmail.com)

**JULY 10****OASIS OPEN HOUSE**

Oasis Youth Center has a satellite location at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Come celebrate our LGBTQ youth and learn about our program from 3 to 6 p.m. Open to parents of LGBTQ youth, educators, mental health providers, queer and questioning youth and allies. [www.oasisyouthcenter.org](http://www.oasisyouthcenter.org)

**JULY 10 & 24****CROCHET OR KNIT**

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

**JULY 18****KP LAND USE**

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

**U.S. COAST GUARD AT THE LIC**

Representatives from the Coast Guard will present a program at the Longbranch Improvement Club at 7 p.m. explaining the presence of the USCG buoy in Filucy Bay and the procedure to follow if you are stopped and boarded. The public is welcome to attend this 30 to 45 minute talk, followed by a regular membership meeting. [www.longbranchimprovementclub.org](http://www.longbranchimprovementclub.org)

**JULY 23****RELATIVES RAISING KIDS SUPPORT**

Grandparents and relatives raising children meet the fourth Monday each month at Children's Home Society at the KP Civic Center (for the summer months) from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Potluck dinner and child care provided. For more information, call Lori at Children's Home Society at 253-884-5433 or 253-391-0144.

**JULY 28****FAMILY FUN FEST**

Key Peninsula Church Family Fun Fest from 2 to 9 p.m. Western-themed party with games for the kids, a petting zoo, barbecue dinner and Wild West photos. The evening rounds out with songs around the campfire and s'mores at KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. [www.kplclutheran.org](http://www.kplclutheran.org)

**GUNS AND HOSES**

Police vs Firefighters vs "Can't Go Back" Softball Tournament 2018. All proceeds to benefit Hope Recovery Center July 28 at Sehmel Park 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**AUGUST 1****KEY PEN ART WALK**

Join the Two Waters Arts Alliance for its third annual Key Peninsula Art Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. Check out local artists, listen to live music and connect with your community. Artists will be displaying their work at multiple locations in Key Center. Eat dinner at El Sombrero the night of the Art Walk and 10 percent of proceeds will be donated to TWAA. [www.twowaters.org](http://www.twowaters.org)

**OFF THE KEY****MULTIPLE DATES****BRAIN BOOSTING SUMMER CAMP**

Avoid the summer brain drain and have fun both inside and outside the Washington State History Museum. July 9 to 13: Museum Mania—Go Behind the Scenes; July 16 to 20: Washington Explorers; July 23 to 27: Washington's History Mysteries. 911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma. 253-272-3500

**JULY 1****NATIVE ARTS AWARDS CEREMONY**

In The Spirit Contemporary Native Arts exhibition at the Washington State History Museum celebrates this year's artists and award winners from 3 to 5 p.m. Free for Washington State Historical Society members; included with museum admission for nonmembers: \$14 adult, \$11 student (ages 6 to 17), free for ages 5 and under. 911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma. 253-272-3500

**JULY 5****DEMOCRATS MEET**

26th Legislative District Democrats meet on the first Thursday of each month; 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting. Public invited. Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard. [26thdemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:26thdemocrats@gmail.com)

**JULY 11****PENINSULA EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COALITION**

PEP-C is the local volunteer group that helps residents of the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor communities prepare for major disasters such as Cascadia subduction zone earthquakes. PEP-C meets the second Wednesday of each month—except August—from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Gig Harbor Fire District Headquarters, 10222 Bujacich Road NW, Gig Harbor. [www.PEP-C.org](http://www.PEP-C.org)

**JULY 12****MAKE/DO PREVIEW PARTY**

Get the first look at the Washington State History Museum's newest exhibition featuring upcycled artwork and artifacts from throughout Washington's history. Meet featured artists and makers while snacking on light bites and sipping drinks from the no-host bar, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. 911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma. 253-272-3500

**JULY 14****OUTDOOR SCULPTURE SHOW**

Join the members of the Northwest Stone Sculptors Association for an afternoon exhibition of their work on the last day

of our annual stone-carving symposium. Over 100 carvings on view with the artists on site to discuss their art, techniques and, of course, the stones. Noon to 5 p.m. at Camp Pilgrim Firs, 3318 Southwest Lake Flora Road, Port Orchard. [www.nwssa.org](http://www.nwssa.org)

**JULY 21****ALLYN CHURCH PATIO SALE**

Household items, art, books, CDs, DVDs, linens, collectibles, cards, tools, yard items, baked goods and homemade ice cream plus lots more for sale at St. Hugh Episcopal Church in Allyn. Held on the same day as Allyn Days with free parking for the free shuttle down to the waterfront after buying treasures at the sale. Open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 280 East Wheelwright. [lniles@centurytel.net](mailto:lniles@centurytel.net)

**WEEKLY EVENTS****WEEKDAYS****SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES**

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

**MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS****FB4K SUMMER LUNCH AND GAMES**

Food Backpacks 4 Kids will serve free lunches from June 25 to Aug. 15 at 11:30 a.m. at KP Civic Center. Activities follow lunch. All children and parents are welcome. 253-857-7401

**TUESDAYS****TOPS**

Take Off Pounds Sensibly is an affordable wellness education organization. Visitors are welcome to attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge and without obligation. Weigh-in from 8:35 to 9:25 a.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. [marcgrubb1990@yahoo.com](mailto:marcgrubb1990@yahoo.com)

**SENIOR TAI CHI**

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

**STORYTIMES**

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

**OASIS YOUTH CENTER**

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

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**

**PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME**

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

**TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS**

**KP HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN**

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

**WEDNESDAYS**

**READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS**

The Children's Home Society of Washington sponsors this free cooperative preschool class for 3- and 4-year-olds at KP Civic Center. Parents or caretakers participate, playing learning games. Call for summer hours, 253-884-5433.

**LAKEBAY WRITERS**

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

**KP YOUTH COUNCIL**

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

**BLEND HOOKERS AND TINKERS**

Does your fiber diet include skeins of yarn? Join in from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Blend Wine Shop for a rollicking good time. Bring projects to work on, questions, show-and-tell or just hang out with a fabulous group of Key Penners. All skill levels and fiber interests welcome; however, must be 21+ due to location. hannah8ball@gmail.com

**WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS**

**SENIOR MEALS**

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

**THURSDAYS**

**TOASTMASTERS**

Have fun improving your public speaking ability and leadership skills at Wright-Bliss fire station from 8 to 9 a.m. 253-858-5761

**SENIORS LUNCH**

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

**NATURE AND NURTURE WALKS**

Join the Children's Home Society on guided walks through Gateway Park with fun activities for children to engage in outdoor learning. Thursdays through Aug. 23 from 11 a.m. to noon. 253-884-5433

**FRIDAYS**

**TRIPLE P PARENTING CLASSES**

Britney Williamson, Children's Home Society, partners with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to bring family support services and referrals to the KP community office, Suite D, KC Corral Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 253-432-4948 or 253-884-5433

**FB4K SUMMER LUNCHES TO GO**

Food Backpacks 4 Kids will distribute free lunches at Gateway Park and Home Park between 11:30 a.m. and noon on Fridays starting June 29 until Aug. 17. Children of all ages are welcome. 253-857-7401

**SATURDAYS**

**WRITERS GUILD**

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

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

**July 3, KP Historical Society** meets first Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in the museum at KP Civic Center. 253-888-3246

**July 9, KP Parks Commission** meets second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

**July 10 & 24, KP Fire Commission** meets second and fourth Tuesdays, 5 p.m., Key Center fire station. www.keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

**July 11, Bayshore Garden Club** meets second Wednesdays, 10 a.m., fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 253-332-4883

**July 11, KP Community Council** meets second Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-432-4948

**July 12, Ashes** support group for Fire District 16 meets second Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Key Center fire station. 253-884-3771

**July 12, Peninsula School District** board meets second Thursdays, 6 p.m., district office in Purdy. 253-530-1000

**July 12, KP Civic Center Assn.** board meets second Thursdays, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 253-884-3456

**July 16, KP Democrats** meets third Mondays, 7 p.m., Home fire station, johnpatrick@aol.com

**July 18, KP Lions Club** meets first and third Wednesdays at 7 p.m. (except July 4), Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

**July 21, KP Alzheimer's Association** caregiver support group, third Saturday of each month, 10:30 a.m., Crandall Center, 9016 154th Avenue Court NW, 253-820-2213

**July 23, KP Farm Council** planning meeting for 2018 Farm Tour meets fourth Mondays, KP Community Council office. 253-432-4948 or email keycouncil@gmail.com

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

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Restricted areas for gun use. *Courtesy Pierce County Firearms Advisory Commission*

## About Those Gunshots —What Are the Rules, Anyway?

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Gunshots occasionally ring out over the Key Peninsula. And when they do, some residents wonder whether the shooting is legal and if they should report it.

“I am aware of some of the issues surrounding many residents who chose the Key to locate in order to have some of that rural life and open space and be able to safely target shoot or train their kids how to shoot,” said Chad Williams, senior planner for Pierce County Planning and Public Works, and the nonvoting chair of the Pierce County Firearms Advisory Commission. “Meanwhile others believe there are areas and properties that are too small to safely shoot that those areas should be restricted automatically. There are currently areas on the Key Peninsula where the firing of guns is prohibited.”

The Pierce County Firearms Advisory Commission was established in 2005 to

serve the Pierce County Council and executive in an advisory capacity on prohibitions, restrictions and other recommendations relating to firearms. It reviews all existing and proposed areas within the county where the discharge of firearms is or would be prohibited or restricted. The commission is also charged with recommending whether such restrictions are reasonably necessary and in compliance with state law.

The commission has seven voting and two nonvoting members. Three are the presidents of three county shooting clubs. Four are unincorporated Pierce County registered voters who are appointed by the county executive and must provide verification of attendance at a firearm safety class or Washington hunter safety class. The two nonvoting members are representatives from the Pierce County Sheriff and from the director’s office of Planning and Land Services.



Back by popular demand, Westsound Wildlife Center Ambassador Oakley the Barred Owl and Opal the Opossum (above) delighted attendees on June 9 at The Mustard Seed Project’s Crandall Center, courtesy of the Pierce County Key Center Library. *Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News*

“The overall rural character of the Key does include very large parcels as well as some urban-sized parcels. The balance of that rural life is delicate between those who want to target shoot, ride dirt bikes and quads; those who are farming and in timber; and others who moved to the rural areas for the peace and quiet,” Williams said.

In areas where guns may be lawfully discharged, regulations limit the place and time. Firearms cannot be fired within 1,000 feet of any K-12 school or within 500 feet toward any building occupied by people or domestic animals, or used for storage of flammable or combustible materials.

Sound nuisance is also unlawful. “A Public Nuisance Noise,” according to Pierce County Code, is defined as “any noise that unreasonably annoys, injures, interferes with or endangers the comfort, repose, health or safety of three or more persons residing within separate residences in the same community or neighborhood, although the extent of the damage may be unequal.”

There are some exemptions from these laws, including firearms that are legally discharged in protection of life and property, for farm slaughter activities, in any area of the county if such discharge is authorized under the supervision and control of the Washington Department

of Fish and Wildlife in the course of special hunts authorized to protect property or to manage wildlife populations, and shooting at ranges of lawfully constituted shooting clubs.


Citizens can petition to restrict firearm discharge from an area although the county regulations state that no single proposal for an area may exceed 160 acres. Citizens must provide a legal description or map and a cover letter explaining the reasons, along with a history of violations in the area and contact information of the person who will act as a liaison. Signatures of at least 60 percent of registered voters owning property within the proposed area, verified by the county auditor or designee, are also required.

Citizens can petition to remove restrictions using the same process.

“If residents hear gunfire and feel it is illegal, they should call 911,” Williams said, adding that the deputy sheriff who is part of the commission brings call data to hearings. “Normally it’s tough to know where the shooting is coming from if illegal shooting is being reported. Nine times out of 10, it turns into a noise complaint. The deputy recommends recording gunfire with a phone to assist the deputy if he should arrive after the gunfire has expired.”



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- ☆ Aug. 10 **Guardians of the Galaxy** @Volunteer Park
- ☆ Aug. 17 **Moana** @Gateway Park
- ☆ Aug. 24 **Jumanji-Welcome to the Jungle** @Volunteer Park
- ☆ Aug. 31 **Labyrinth** @Gateway Park

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## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Find Support

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Grandparents on the Key Peninsula who find themselves caring for their grandchildren need not feel alone. A support group, organized by the Children's Home Society of Washington (CHS), is helping these unexpected "parents" cope.

Lori Mertens, a family advocate at CHS, started the group five months ago. A woman caring for her grandson had recently moved from King County and came into the office. "You should start a kinship," she said. Mertens got on her computer, found the Pierce County Kinship, and made some calls. The advice she got? "Just get started."

The group meets on the fourth Monday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Evergreen Elementary School during the school year and at the CHS offices at the Key Peninsula Civic Center during the summer. The structure is informal. Grandparents and grandchildren meet for a potluck. The children then go with child care providers for some planned activities while the grandparents meet to discuss a topic of interest, sometimes with an outside speaker. Topics have included wills, legal issues and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). "Mostly it's supporting each other, a time to get together and vent a little," Mertens said.

Jud Morris, CHS director, noted that these grandparents did not anticipate becoming caregivers, and that the impact on their lives is significant. They had not planned for the economics of raising another generation, and their own health and energy as they age can be a problem.

"We wanted to develop support for the grandparents and more enhanced services for the children as well," Morris said. "The children often have a higher need for learning support – perhaps from prenatal exposure to drugs, but also due to ACEs."

As reported in the June 2018 Atlantic, the number of grandparents caring for their grandchildren has doubled in the last fifty years. In the last five years that number has increased by seven percent,

in part due to the opioid epidemic. Morris endorsed the connection to drug use. He said, "We noticed that, because of the opioid epidemic, there were a lot of grandparents raising their grandchildren. It was not hard to notice – it was a flashing red light."


Mertens discussed the complexity of the issues facing these grandparents. While some families are disrupted by the opioid epidemic, others are affected by a parent's serious illness. The children's parents may be in and out of their lives or may be completely absent. A grandparent may be a single grandmother or may be part of a couple. Sometimes, if there are two grandparents in the home, they may not agree about the role they should play in their grandchildren's lives.

Legal custody is necessary both for financial assistance and for the ability to make medical or educational decisions. It can take months to go through the process of getting third party custody. Mertens pointed to a stack of paperwork an inch thick and said, "This is the paperwork we are doing for one family."

Mertens's role in establishing and leading the support group is a natural progression from both her career and her life. She worked at the Henderson Bay High School day care – set up for the school's teen parents – for 17 years before coming to CHS a year ago. "I always wanted to have a support group for grandparents for the Henderson Bay kids, but never had the time to form one," she said. Mertens has also helped parent her own grandson, now 18. Due to a financial crisis, his mother could no longer care for him and he moved in with Mertens five years ago. Because his mom is still very much a part of his life, the situation is not quite like that of most of the grandparents in the support group, but the fact that she has been in their shoes is helpful.

Mertens and Morris said that there is room for additional families. They can register by calling the CHS office at 253-884-5433. Funding for the support group has been provided by the Gig Harbor Rotary and the Key Peninsula Lions Club.

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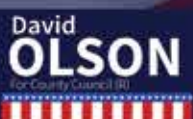
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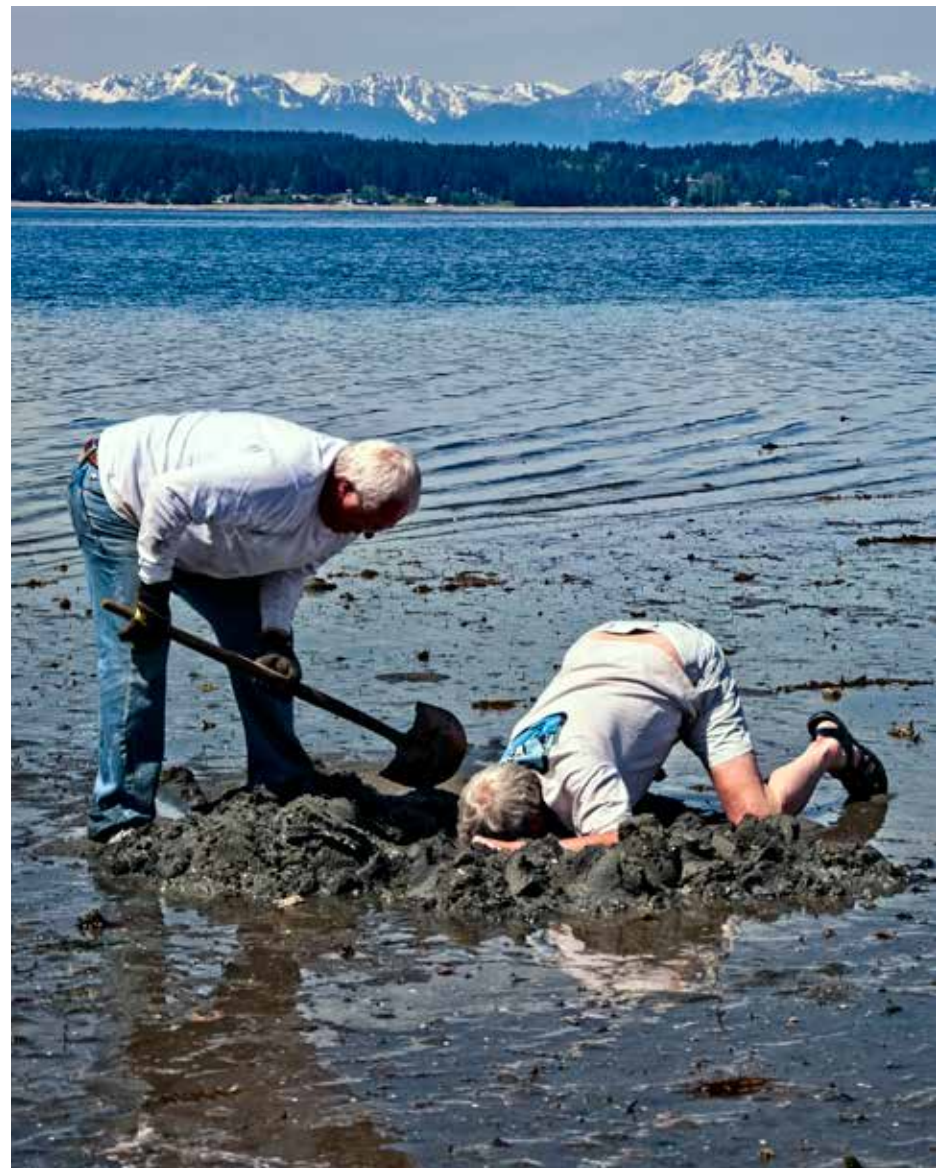
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Capturing the elusive geoduck clam near Vaughn. *Photo: Jim Bellamy*

## King Geoduck, Native Clam of Distinction

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

The minus tides of summer deliver a golden opportunity to practice the fine art of the dig and to experience the time-honored thrill of pulling up your very own geoduck.

Regardless of whether you're digging on your own beach or at an approved public beach, you'll need a recreational shellfish license from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to harvest geoduck. It's always advisable to call the shellfish hotline the day of your dig to double-check for last minute closings.

### How to Dig a 'Duck

First you'll need to cut the bottom out of a metal garbage can. You can make your own metal tube but it must have handles to pull it out of the sand.

After you locate the tip of the geoduck siphon—also called the neck—sticking out of the sand, start by digging a 12 to 18 inch circle around it. Dig down until the hole starts to collapse—about 2 to 4 feet. Next center the can over the geoduck. Work the can down in the sand until it is level with

the surface, encircling the geoduck.

Remove the sand from around the neck, being careful not to cut it. The neck has likely retracted so you'll want to use your hands to dig around it. When you reach the shell, dig by hand underneath to break the suction on the bottom.

Now you should be able to work the shell back and forth to pull it out. Don't try to pull it by the neck without breaking the suction below and freeing the shell, otherwise the neck will break off. Once the geoduck is removed from the hole, pull up the garbage can and fill the hole. Leaving holes on the beach is illegal.

### Preparation

If you love eating butter clams but came away unimpressed with the king clam, chances are it was overcooked. While all parts of a geoduck are edible, more people are familiar with the geoduck foot and the neck. This tender delicacy can be eaten raw in sushi or cooked very quickly to avoid becoming tough and chewy. Although many people discard it, the stomach, once cleaned, can be used in a mousse or paté.

To prepare the geoduck for use, run a sharp paring knife along the inside of the shell. With the sides free, cut the base of the neck away to remove the meat, leaving the stomach aside. Slice the siphon lengthwise along the middle to open and remove any remaining debris. Dunk the whole thing into a pot of boiling water for no longer than 10 seconds, and immediately plunge it into an ice water bath. Peel away the outer skin and you're ready to prepare your meal. Another simple way to prepare the neck or siphon can be slow smoking until the outside is charred and peels off easily. The inside then peels off like string cheese.

#### Geoduck Crudo with Shiso Oil

- ½ lb. geoduck siphon meat, well cleaned
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 T seasoned rice wine vinegar
- 6 fresh shiso leaves
- Freshly ground pink peppercorns
- Gray sea salt

Slice the geoduck paper-thin and keep cold while you prepare the garnishes. Combine olive oil and rice wine vinegar with shiso (available at Asian markets) in a blender and process until smooth and emulsified. Drizzle generously over artfully arranged slices on a chilled platter. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

—From *Good Fish* by Becky Selengut, published by Sasquatch Books, 2011

#### Sautéed Geoduck and Wild Mushrooms

- 3 to 4 cups Shiitake and Oyster Mushrooms, sliced with stems removed
- 3 geoduck feet, sliced thin
- 5 T unsalted butter, divided
- 2 T Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ cup plus 3 T chicken stock
- 1 T cornstarch or arrowroot
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt plus more to taste
- 1 T olive oil
- 2 T dry cooking sherry
- 2 T fresh parsley, chopped fine

Begin by preparing the mushrooms. In a fry pan over medium heat, melt 2 tablespoons butter and 1 tablespoon oil. Add mushrooms and stir to coat. Cook for three minutes until brown. Don't stir too much. Add salt and Worcestershire. Let cook two minutes. Deglaze with ¼ cup of chicken stock. When liquid is absorbed, add sherry to deglaze again. Make a slurry from the cornstarch and the three remaining tablespoons of chicken stock and stir into mushrooms to thicken.

Turn up the heat to medium high and add two tablespoons of butter. Add sliced geoduck and cook for two to three more minutes. Sprinkle with fresh parsley. Serve immediately with polenta, rice or pasta.

—From Ann-Marie Ugles, *Lakebay*



Courtesy: Jan Angel

## Jan Angel Announces Retirement from State Senate

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

Senator Jan Angel announced May 18 that she would not run for re-election and will retire at the end of her term in January 2019. Angel said, "I am extremely humbled to have gotten hundreds of texts and emails since my announcement. It is wonderful to know that people have appreciated my service over the last 18 years. It has been a wonderful journey."

Angel's public service began in 1999, with her election to the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners. In 2007, she was elected to represent the residents of the 26th Legislative District in the Washington House of Representatives. In the special election in 2013, she was elected to the Washington State Senate.

While in the House, Angel served on both the Health Care and Transportation committees. During her time in the Senate, Angel served in leadership positions on the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee, Senate Local Government Committee and the Senate Law and Justice Committee.

"I consider my best accomplishments, over 18 years of public service, as helping constituent problems and issues to good solutions and outcomes," Angel said. "That is a daily job and looking back, I am very pleased with how many people I have been able to help. Yes, I have passed many bills into state law, yet the joy still remains taking good care of my constituents and helping them through the red tape of government."

Three candidates are running for Angel's seat: Republican Marty McClendon, Democrat Emily Randall and Independent Bill Scheidler.



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with speaker Dennis Fuqua

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Hosted by  
WayPoint Church, Wellspring Fellowship, Lakebay Community Church,  
Longbranch Community Church, Key to Life Church and Grace EPC





## New flag and pole at Longbranch Cemetery

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

A new flag pole was erected at the Longbranch cemetery just before Memorial Day with a new flag donated by the Key Peninsula Veterans.

Jack Wooldridge, Jr., agreed to replace the pole which his grandfather and great uncle, James

Wooldridge and Eldon Floberg, both WWII veterans, put up in 1990.

Jack's dad gathered workers to raise the 38-foot pole, cut from a local Douglas fir. The crew was made up of the Wooldridge and McDonald brothers, Ray Flowers and David Sackett, all veterans.

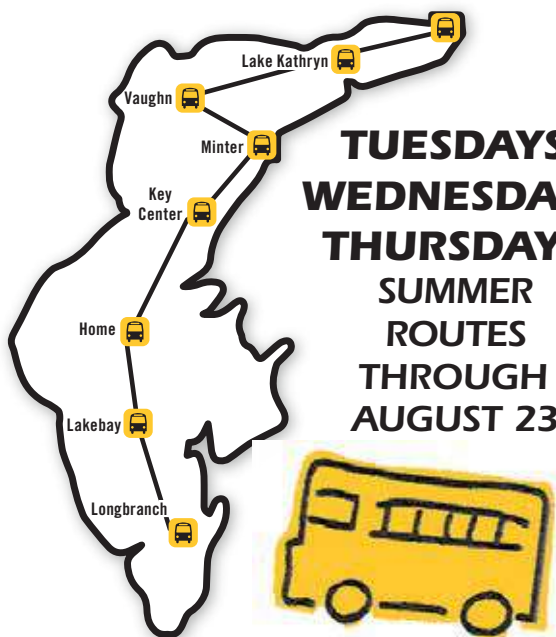
Left to right – Jimmy and Jack Wooldridge, Ray Flowers, Jack Wooldridge, Jr., Jim and Dave McDonald.

*Photo courtesy David Sackett*



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- 10:38 Longbranch Improvement Club
- 10:40 Rouse Road @174th Ave
- 10:42 Whiteman Road @ Whiteman Cove Road
- 10:47 Palmer Lake Public Access 24th St, sunny side
- 10:48 Palmer Lake 21st St & 193rd Ave, park shelter
- 10:53 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 10:53 Home Gas Station KP Hwy NW
- 10:58 Volunteer Park
- 11:00 Red Barn/Key Pen Hwy and 84th St NW
- 11:01 Food Market/Key Center
- 11:03 Wright Bliss and Olson Dr
- 11:06 4 Corners, Drive Thru Feed, 76 Station
- 11:09 SR302 & 150th Ave, Lake Holiday
- 11:11 SR302 & 140th, Lake of the Woods
- 11:16 Food Market/Key Center
- 11:17 Red Barn/Key Pen Hwy and 84th St NW
- 11:22 Charboneau's 11612 SR 302
- 11:25 Lake Kathryn Center @Costless
- 11:29 Purdy Park & Ride, connect with Pierce Transit Route 100 at 11:44
- 11:30 Peninsula High School

### AFTERNOON ROUTE

- 3:30 Peninsula High School
- 3:32 Purdy Park & Ride, connect with Pierce Transit Route 100
- 3:38 Lake Kathryn Center @ Costless
- 3:41 11615 SR302 @ Windermere Realty
- 3:46 Food Market/Key Center
- 3:47 Red Barn/Key Pen Hwy and 84th St NW
- 3:49 Volunteer Park
- 3:54 Home Gas Station KP Hwy NW
- 3:55 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 3:59 Palmer Lake Public Access 24th St, sunny side
- 4:01 Palmer Lake 21st St & 193rd Ave, park shelter
- 4:05 Whiteman Road @ Whiteman Cove Road
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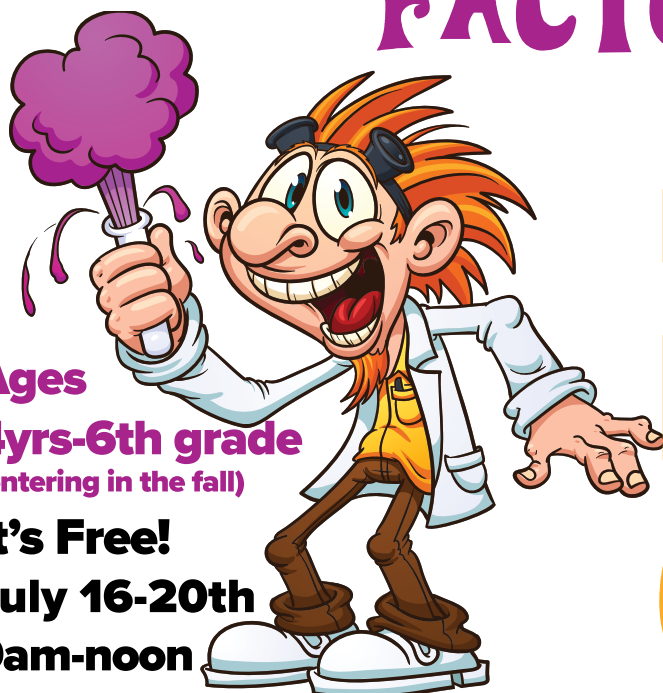


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'Tis a long long way to Tipperary. Jim Crook takes a moment to read Key Pen News on St. Patrick's day in Ireland. Happy Birthday Jim!

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**WAYPOINT CHURCH**



Photo: Richard Miller. KP News

## KP Pastors Plan All-Church Worship Service at Gateway Park

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

Worshippers living on the Key Peninsula may find empty parking lots and locked church doors Sunday morning July 15, as KP churches gather together for an open-air service at Gateway Park.

"The project came out of a discussion Key Peninsula pastors had over lunch last fall in response to a desire of some of our people to see a community-wide prayer and worship event," said pastor Dan Whitmarsh of Lakebay Community Church.

Several pastors reported congregation members independently suggesting a collaborative event. After the meeting, "the pastors all went back to our churches, to make sure there was support for the project. And in each case the response was enthusiastically positive," Whitmarsh said.

The event is a collaboration of six Key Peninsula churches: WayPoint, Grace Evangelical Presbyterian, Longbranch Community, Lakebay Community, Key to Life and Wellspring Fellowship. Pastors estimate that as many as 500 people could attend. The congregations often promote each others' events and a group of several KP pastors meet monthly for lunch, but multi-congregation events are rare.

The group of pastors decided that an outdoor space would be required to host such an event. Gateway and Volunteer park were considered and Gateway was ultimately chosen. The pastors met at Gateway in the spring and walked the park grounds, "dreaming and envisioning what the event will look like; that was probably the most important meeting with respect to finalizing a plan and figuring out the details that needed to be addressed," Whitmarsh said.

"We're trying to keep it simple," said pastor Tim Stobbe of WayPoint Church,

who noted that all the pastors involved are trying to share the workload of planning the event and to avoid disrupting their regular pastoral work. Planning has focused on taking care of the basics. "There's always stuff you can't anticipate, but as long as we (the pastors) are organized, we feel like the event as a whole will stay organized," said pastor Ed Longabaugh of Grace EPC.

The plan for the event is to bring in a small stage and some sound equipment and encourage attendees to bring their own seating. The service will consist of a few worship songs performed by a multi-church worship band, communion and a message from speaker Dennis Fuqua. Fuqua is the executive director of International Renewal Ministries and author of several prayer-focused books.

"I've spoken at several congregations on the Key Peninsula, so when they wanted to do this, they thought that I was a neutral choice, known somewhat by people in their congregations," Fuqua said. The primary theme of the event is going to be unity among the Christian community and between believers on the peninsula.

"My text is going to be from Psalm 133; that's the psalm that says, 'Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity,'" Fuqua said.

"We're not running this like a crusade, although there is an aspect of doing this out in public on purpose," Stobbe said. The service and message are mostly aimed at KP residents who are already part of a church community, though anyone is welcome to attend.

The service is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. July 15 at Gateway Park. The six participating churches will close their doors on that Sunday and encourage their congregations to attend and bring their own seating.

## Who pays for a free newspaper...

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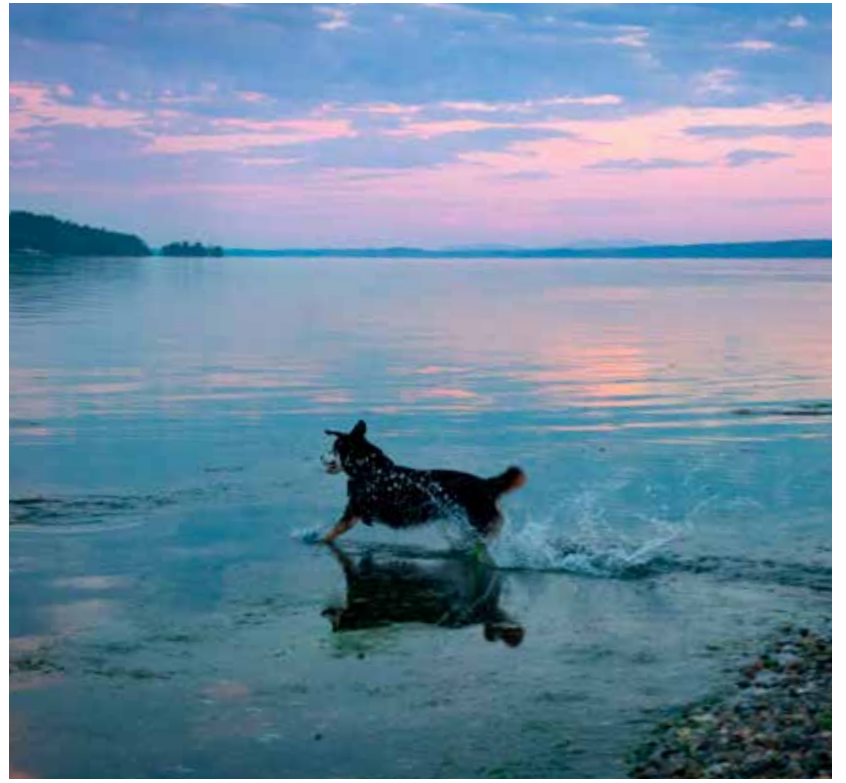
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**TOP LEFT:** Spectacular double rainbow over Rocky Bay. *Photo: Jeff Green* **TOP RIGHT:** Pandora splashes on the Purdy spit. *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News* **ABOVE:** Memorial day decorations at Haven of Rest in Gig Harbor. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **MIDDLE LEFT:** Bright rhododendrons. *Photo: Ron Cameron* **BOTTOM LEFT:** Joe and Renata from Tacoma have been visiting Penrose Park for more than fifty years *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News*