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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

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Henderson Bay Tower Replacement to Impact KP Traffic

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Tacoma Power is replacing the electric towers that now stand in Henderson Bay at the Purdy Spit with a single steel pole. The towers, holding the lines that carry power to Tacoma from the Cushman Dam, have been in place since 1926. In addition, steel poles will replace the four towers on land.

In-water construction setup began at the end of July, and the project is scheduled for completion in late September. Much of the work will be accomplished from several large barges in the water, with cranes for placing the new poles and removing the old towers. Crews will also install two temporary poles to hold the power lines away from the construction area.

Tacoma Power has been planning the replacement since 2015. The utility worked with a number of agencies to identify the fish and wildlife that could be impacted by construction and set the time lines and approach to minimize the impact.

“Working in a marine environment around a heavily traveled highway makes this a highly complex project,” said Tacoma Power Project Manager James Blessing. Opportunities to work will be largely influenced by tides. With construction work taking place next to the bridge, traffic slowdowns and possible lane closures on State Route 302 and Goodrich Drive are anticipated. Permitted working hours are from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

“Our goal is to complete the work as quickly and safely as possible while minimizing impacts to the people who live, work and drive in this area,” Blessing said. “The biggest impact we anticipate is slow-moving traffic on SR-302 near the bridge. People driving may try to get a good look at what’s happening. We encourage drivers to keep their eyes on the road and be safe.”

Peninsula Light Co. relies on the lines to serve its customers. Tacoma Power does not anticipate the project will impact electric service.

“This is not a Peninsula Light project, but it will affect you,” said Jim Bellamy, energy services coordinator for PenLight and frequent contributor to KP News, at the July 20 Key Peninsula Business Association meeting in Key Center.

“If you live near the Burley Lagoon, you may want some earplugs; the pile-driving portion of the work will be noisy,” Bellamy said. “But for most KP drivers, the biggest problem will come from gawkers.”

Magnum Power, from Castle Rock, Washington, will serve as the primary contractor for this high-voltage transmission line replacement project. A subcontractor that specializes in marine work, Advanced American Construction from Portland, Oregon, will install the large-pipe pile foundation for the new in-water transmission pole.

For more information about the project or to sign up to get updates by email can go to www.MyTPU.org/hendersonbay.



Iliana Rivera poses next to John Jewell’s sculpture in front of Key Center library. *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News*

Pierce County Library Seeks Levy Restoration

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

It’s official. The Board of Trustees of the Pierce County Library System passed a resolution July 11 asking Pierce County voters to restore its full levy funding on the Nov. 6, 2018 ballot. The last time the library board of trustees requested a lid lift levy was in 2006, a measure approved by Pierce County voters.

“The library offers so much more today than it did when we were growing up” said Corrine Weatherly, Supervising Branch Librarian at the Key Center Library. There are 1.5 million books, e-books, movies and other materials; staff to support growth and learning with thousands of classes and events; computers, Wi-Fi and technology offerings; in addition to community services such as public meeting rooms, community events and forums.

The costs to operate and maintain library services are increasing at a faster and higher rate than revenues, according to Pierce County Library System (PCLS). Since 2006 the population in the library’s service area has grown by 16 percent; at the same time the number of people with PCLS library cards grew by 63 percent.

The nationally acclaimed PCLS serves 602,000 people throughout Pierce County with 20 libraries and online service. The

system is the fourth largest in the state and is funded primarily through property taxes. It also provides services and programs directly to people in adult care facilities or who are homebound in addition to children in childcare centers and schools.

Following extensive public outreach the PCLS Community Advisory Committee, analyzed the systems funding and recommended that the board ask voters to restore the PCLS funding to its 50 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Since Washington state limits property tax increases to 1 percent annually, in order for the PCLS system to achieve its 50 cents per 1,000, it must ask voters to approve exceeding the 1 percent cap by “lifting the lid” above and beyond that ceiling.

“Property values fluctuate widely in unincorporated Pierce County, but the average home value is estimated to be \$320,000. The estimated 10 cent increase over current levy funding rates for the average home owner would result in an additional \$32.00 per year,” said Mary Getchell, marketing and communications director for PCLS.

Usage analysis of PCLS demonstrates the Key Center Branch Library has the highest circulation rate per capita, which puts it in line with rates expected in medium-sized urban libraries.



The first barge brings construction equipment to the site. *Photo: Jim Bellamy*

Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN, EDITOR, KP NEWS

It's time to kick back in the hammock or slide into a comfortable Adirondack chair to relax and take it all in. August—the reliably delicious month we wish could linger a while longer has arrived. All the preparations—the planning, the pruning, preparing the soil, the planting, the watering and tending with care—produce delightful flowers, herbs and vegetables. Rows of trellised grapes on manicured vines and old orchards planted decades ago are still happily producing fruit.

The flavorful strawberries of June have come and gone; old-fashioned raspberries have already peaked. The plums, apple and pear trees we planted ourselves are now laden with fruit, maturing and slowly ripening under a bright August sky.

The fuchsia baskets from Mother's Day are overflowing in cascades of bright blossoms hanging from the eaves atop pressure-washed and sealed decks. With much of these seasonal chores complete, we prepare to enjoy time with our families and friends to dine on the fruits of our labor.

These glorious gardens tucked here and there that are found up and down our peninsula didn't happen magically.

At Key Peninsula News we spend a fair amount of time talking up locals, researching stories, looking at maps and connecting the dots. Each and every month we approach our job as journalists seriously. Following leads, we talk with people and verify information from reliable sources in our goal to separate fact from fiction and reality versus rhetoric, all to deliver a newspaper worthy of reading.

Our process of discovery can be slow, but rarely fails to reveal deeper connections, common threads linking people and places in time with familiar country

roads and generations of families who made and continue to make their mark on our community. We discover how our paths crossed in the past, in the present, and launch into a future as yet unknown.

Each trip to the Key Peninsula Historical Museum yields an astonishing wealth of documents, photographs and artifacts available for reference. Every dog-eared page of local history compiled and written by volunteers who weren't concerned about making a fortune but rather believed in the importance and value of preserving a historical record to provide context and meaning for future generations.

Historical records, letters and newspaper clippings all sorted, catalogued and in many cases digitized—it all exists because somebody did more than think of it as a good idea. These collections undoubtedly came from families wondering whether anyone might be interested in the first yearbook from the original graduating class of Vaughn Union High School or Uncle Axel's well-worn wooden tool box filled with old world 19th century hand tools still out in the barn.

The places we enjoy today were built upon the foundation of labors past. The generous kindly nature of Dr. Penrose, whose family spent summers vacationing on what became the state park that now bears his name, demonstrated his conviction in the wonders of nature to nourish and inspire our children.

The Key Peninsula Civic Center and

the Longbranch Improvement clubhouse were each constructed to serve as gymnasiums adjacent to schoolhouses long gone. Where would we be without those places to gather? Who would we be as a community without them? It's in these public spaces where people gather that connections are made and the power of collaboration is born.

Part of what makes the Key so special is the irrepressible wealth of optimism from visionaries who see a clear path toward achievable opportunities. When good ideas combine with that classic KP roll-up-your-sleeves can-do attitude of volunteers who want to help, our community is strengthened in ways we may not have considered.

Our Key Peninsula community was built, nurtured and continues to grow strong on the power of volunteerism. We may be strangers when we begin, but by the time we've labored together, we form relationships. We learn about each other as we chitchat while setting up chairs and making coffee for the next meeting, decorating those big old buildings for dances or fundraisers we become acquaintances, learning people's names we become friends through the dynamic powers of collaboration.

Later when we see each other at the grocery store, at the pharmacy, or a restaurant, we smile and say hello. From there, anything is possible. It's the Key Peninsula.



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Dogs literally fly over the water in dock diving competition. Photo: Richard Miller, KP News

Dogs Jump into the Record Books on the KP

RICHARD MILLER, KP NEWS

For Kristi Baird it all started 16 years ago when her very active Labrador retriever named Henna was driving her crazy with her boundless energy. Baird drove Henna all the way to Puyallup hoping that she might enjoy a new sport where dogs chase toys off a dock and land in a pool of water. Without hesitation, both Henna and Baird jumped in – all the way.

Today Baird owns a 27,000-gallon swimming pool with an attached 40-foot dock dedicated entirely to her newfound passion – dock diving for dogs.

“I spent over 20 years in the health care field but realized that I was most happy when I was working with dogs,” Baird said. “So, I quit my job and opened my dog business with \$150 and a willingness to work over 80-hours a week to make it successful.”

Her hard work and dedication to making dogs happy has paid off. The once humble dog business is now known as Brown Dog University, a boarding, training and world class dock diving facility located on five acres just north of Key Center. To help dogs gain maximum traction on her dock, Baird covered it with AstroTurf from the 10-yard line of the Pontiac Silverdome in Detroit.

Brown Dog University recently hosted the Mid Summer Splash - an official dock diving event sanctioned by North America Diving Dogs, a fast growing organization with over 10,000 registered dogs who all love running and jumping off docks at 55 facilities scattered across the United States and Canada. The organization hosts an annual championship in Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with the American Kennel Club (AKC) to crown the annual

winners. Dock Diving offers two separate events, the long distance jump and the air retrieve. Dogs compete on who can jump the farthest while retrieving a rubber target suspended on ropes above the pool.

Baird encourages everyone with an active dog to give dock diving a try. “We welcome dogs of all sizes and breeds. This is a sport where everyone cheers each other on and we all have a great time.” Baird offers dock diving training and has trained some of the top dogs in the sport. She recently worked extensively with Spitfire, a 5-year-old whippet who currently holds five world records including a 30-foot distance jump and a 28-foot air retrieve. Spitfire is truly a world-class athlete and is constantly improving under the loving direction of her precocious 13-year-old handler, Sydney Mackey of Olympia.

Becky Johnson’s 2-year-old border collie/whippet mix named Heathen recently started dock diving and jumped a personal best of over 29-feet at Brown Dog University. Johnson gave credit for her success to Baird. “Kristi is amazing! She is passionate about dogs and brings out the best in everyone,” Johnson said.

Baird shrugs off the praise and said, “At the end of the day it’s just a bunch of dogs having a great time jumping into a pool.”

Baird and her dogs Henna and Buddy were honored with induction into the Dock Dogs Hall of Fame in 2011 for their dedication and success in the sport.

“Please make your dog happy and give dock diving a try,” says Baird. “Take the plunge! Your dog will love it and maybe you’ll end up quitting your day job like I did...”

Learn more about Brown Dog University at www.browndoguniversity.com

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Key Peninsula residents shouldn't have to subsidize future growth. That's why Derek is the only candidate in the race that supports higher construction impact fees, having sponsored bills for schools and parks.

Derek has worked across the aisle to:

- ✓ Increase behavioral health funding
- ✓ Fix the budget
- ✓ Improve public safety

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Re-elect **Derek Young**
County Council (D)



Joseph Pentheroudakis
ON THE WING



A Marvel of Crows

Crows. You've watched them mob large raptors like eagles and hawks, chasing them with angry caws; you've heard their complex, high-decibel chorus at dawn or dusk. If you're lucky, you've looked up and marveled at the sight of hundreds of them at sunset, all heading in the same direction to their nightly roost sites.

If you live near the water, you've probably seen them digging for clams or other shellfish at low tide, black silhouettes outlined against the sand. And I bet you've seen them picking at fresh road kill; you may have also despaired at the mess they make when they go through your garbage looking for scraps.

And perhaps you've become friends with a few of them, especially if you figure out what they like to eat (hint: just about everything—crows are confirmed omnivores). A friend near Joemma Beach reports that the first time she put out cheese in addition to peanuts for the crows in her yard, the regulars must have spread the word to the rest of the flock; the next time the cheese came out, the number of birds had doubled. She often puts out food in grids to prevent fights when large flocks show up for lunch.

I have developed a bond with a pair of crows at the Herron Island mainland ferry dock. They love the pistachios I share while I wait for the ferry; they'll swoop over and land next to my car, which they recognize by now, and look up at me, cawing expectantly, heads bobbing with every caw, until I toss them a handful or two of nuts. They get every single one and often hide the stash into temporary caches in the sand or feed them to their young if it's breeding season.

Crows belong to the corvid family (*Corvidae*), a large group of social, inquisitive and very intelligent birds comprising approximately 120 species found all over the world except the southernmost parts of South America and the polar regions. In addition to crows, the other species that occur in the Northwest are common ravens, the largest birds in the family; Steller's jays, Canada jays (formerly gray jays) and California scrub-jays (one of the three species that Western scrub-jays have been split into); Clark's nutcrackers and, east of the Cascades, black-billed magpies. Like other corvids, these species have thick, comparatively hefty bills and similar harsh, raspy calls.

Field guides and birding websites also mention the Northwestern crow. Smaller than the American crow and found in tidal

areas of the Olympic Peninsula, Puget Sound, and the coast up into Canada and Alaska, Northwestern crows hybridize readily with American crows.

There has been considerable controversy for decades regarding the status of the two species in Washington. If you're a birder, you may have been justifiably confused, since the two and their hybrids look very similar. The Advanced Birding Club of Tahoma Audubon recently shared exciting DNA-based work by Dave Slager at the University of Washington, which determined that 'pure' Northwestern crows only occur in Alaska and maybe northern British Columbia. In Washington, 'pure' American crows exist only east of the Cascades; Western Washington is home to hybrids of the two.

Crows prefer a mix of fields and, in our region, intertidal or riparian areas for feeding, with woods nearby for nesting and roosting. Most crows don't migrate, but many, especially crows from Canada, will often fly south of the border in search of food. Crows and other corvids are protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act ("On The Wing," Key Peninsula News, May 2018); hunting or killing them is illegal.

Corvids are classified as songbirds, which may come as a surprise given their harsh calls. Listen carefully in the spring, however, and you may hear soft coos, rattles and other sounds they make during courtship. And when they gather in early evening, ready to fly to their roost site, listen closely and notice the types of sounds they make, alternating between solo and ensemble parts.

A species that is smart, interesting and unafraid to interact with people: If you want to study birds, you can do worse than starting with crows.

Joseph Pentheroudakis is an artist and avid birdwatcher. He lives on Herron Island.

Anne Nesbitt
SIREN'S SONG



Self-Care for Your Life

You're overwhelmed at work. Projects are piling up at home and your calendar is crammed with overdue tasks. To make room for all that you skip lunch, stop going to the gym and forget about your social life entirely. When we're stressed, self-care is usually the first thing to go. And that only makes things worse.

It's easy to take the old adage "hard work pays off" too far, to the point that it becomes counterproductive. Your abilities are worn, skills aren't as sharp. You lose focus. You might think you're working

hard, and maybe you are in some ways, but you're not working efficiently.

We function more efficiently by taking the time to care for ourselves. Self-care is really just a few basic habits that are crucial to your overall functioning.

Your social support system plays a key role in a healthy mental outlook. Do you have good resources, techniques you use that help you cope with stressful situations?

It can be as simple as having someone that you can talk to and share your feelings with. Can you think of someone or something that you do that fills this need?

To be your best for work, friends and family start by making time for yourself. Without practicing self-care, it is difficult to care for another and make yourself available physically and emotionally to others.

Divorce, care for aging parents, the loss of a loved one and raising children can all be stressful. If you have a self-care strategy in place it will help you navigate times when you feel overwhelmed.

It is so easy to put self-care on the back burner, especially when life is busy. Learning to self-soothe takes practice. The more often you do it, the easier it is to calm yourself.

Stop over-thinking. You don't need the answers to everything. Sometimes you just have to accept things as they are and acknowledge that you can't change or control everything.

You may also have to physically make yourself be still. Stop moving, rushing and overstimulating yourself. Find a place—your kitchen table, a park, in the woods, anywhere you can simply sit and breathe.

Don't compare yourself to others. Everyone has their own journey; enjoy yours. Let your journey lead you to take actions that advance your goals.

Create rituals that you enjoy. Rituals ground us and provide routine and familiarity. Simple things like sharing morning coffee with a co-worker can set a good tone for the day. Make time for something you can count on, no matter what else the day throws at you.

Make time for exercise. Yes, it's a struggle to make daily time for it, but time for exercise will give time back to you.

Self-care is an important life component that takes effort to cultivate. It's about identifying your own needs and taking steps to meet them. It is taking the time to do the activities that nurture you. Self-care is about taking proper care of yourself and treating yourself as kindly as you treat others.

Don't allow yourself to live on social media. Technology has delivered everyone's sparkly, happy, well-crafted lives into our universe almost without us realizing it. It's like watching an advertising campaign

for what we wish we had but don't. This can lead to negativity, jealousy and drama. Remember, life isn't a contest. Give yourself social media breaks; life is far bigger than your screen.

So what does self-care look like on a day-to-day basis? Get in the habit of checking in with yourself, physically and mentally, every morning. This doesn't have to be complicated. Just sit still with eyes closed for a few minutes. Notice if your mind is racing or slow, if your breath is shallow or deep or if your body feels tense or relaxed. Try not to judge how you're feeling, just observe. If you're feeling anxious, think about how you might make the day more calm. If you're relaxed, maybe today's a good day to take on something challenging. Take each day as it comes.

Be compassionate with yourself.

The world can feel like a harsh place sometimes, and we can feel helpless to change it. The best cure for that feeling starts with you. If you think the world should be more loving (don't we all?), then get out there and make the difference. A smile or a compliment can make someone's day. And that's going to make you feel better, too.

Anne Nesbitt is a volunteer battalion chief and Prevention Public Information Officer for the Key Peninsula Fire Department. She lives in Lakebay.

Rachel V. Berry
KP DAY TRIPPER



Vashon Meanderings

Summer and early fall are the best times to visit areas that are bursting with berries, offer an abundance of sunshine, beaches filled with undiscovered treasures and cool spots to taste local wine. We could almost be describing the Key Peninsula...but today's road trip takes us to a neighboring agrarian spot via a short ferry ride: Vashon Island.

Although the native populations of the Marpole, the Salish, the Tulalip and the S'Homamish had lived and visited Vashon for thousands of years, it took Capt. George Vancouver "discovering" the island in 1792 to give it its current name after his friend, James Vashon. It is the largest island in the Puget Sound south of Admiralty Inlet and is midway between Seattle and Tacoma.

Because it is only reached via waterways, Vashon has retained its quirky, small-town feeling and rural charm. From the KP, trips to Vashon start with a ferry ride from the Southworth terminal near Port Orchard or from Tacoma's Point Defiance terminal. From either location, it's merely a 15- to

20-minute jaunt and a fun way to begin your day trip adventure.

There's much to discover, suggested stops are listed in random order below.

At the southern end is **The Country Store & Farm** (20211 Vashon Hwy SW), the island's original general store. Vashon once produced thousands of pounds of strawberries but today this is the last place on the island to offer a commercial u-pick strawberry field. While the retail facility has an eclectic assortment of merchandise, don't miss the farm and its u-pick blueberries, raspberries and Asian pears in season. The store also frequently offers classes on container gardening, country crafts and more.

The Palouse Winery, located on the north end (12431 Vashon Hwy SW), is a family-run establishment producing 1,400 cases of handcrafted wine annually. On most Saturday and Sunday afternoons, visitors to the tasting room can sample the wines of the day, ranging from a viognier to several award-winning reds. You can also stroll the gardens, take in the amazing views and, during the summer months, enjoy live music. Be aware that parking can be tricky since the winery is right on the highway.

The Vashon Island Coffee Roasterie (19529 Vashon Hwy SW) is located in a century-old building constructed from now-extinct, old-growth island fir. It is more than just a casual place to get your java fix; it's an homage to Jim Stewart, creator of Seattle's Best Coffee and arguably the man who introduced specialty coffee to the Puget Sound. The Roasterie's beans are roasted on-site in one of the original, vintage ovens. A wealth of coffee memorabilia is also scattered throughout the store.

If you're ready for some exercise, you can rent a kayak, stand-up paddle board or an e-bike from **Vashon Adventures** (8900 SW Harbor Drive). There's nothing quite like getting out on the water in the summer, and Admiralty Inlet has a protected harbor for trying out or honing your skills. You can take a class, join a scheduled guided tour or go solo. Vashon Adventures is located in the Jensen Point Boathouse and is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily (except Tuesdays) during the summer.

No summer day trip is complete without a little beach combing, and the best place to find ocean treasures is **Point Robinson** (3705 SW Pt. Robinson Road), a 10-acre shoreline park. Technically on neighboring

Maury Island overlooking the East Passage, Point Robinson features a lovely lighthouse that has been in operation since 1885. Until mid-September, you can tour the lighthouse Sunday afternoons 1-4 p.m. The gift shop is open Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

So if you find yourself without plans on a fine summer or early-fall day, hop over to Vashon Island. You won't be disappointed.

Rachel V. Berry lives in Port Orchard.

Brook Hurst Stephens
LIVING FARAWAY



Summer Refresher

I'm writing this on a bright and sunny day, with temps soaring in the upper 80s. This might even be considered an uncomfortably hot day by Pacific Northwest standards. I'm grateful for our well so I can have sprinklers running on my thirsty flower beds, big old trees shading the house and a refrigerator humming along in the kitchen, keeping me hydrated with homemade raspberry shrub mixed with club soda and poured over plenty of ice.

When the McDermott family built Far-A-Way in 1915, they may or may not have had a refrigerator, but chances are they did. An article in The Tacoma Daily Ledger, titled "Seattle Man to Build Big Country Estate Near Tacoma" and dated May 9, 1915, read, "The house will have electric lighting and will be heated with hot water." Also noted was running hot water in the kitchen, another luxury in those days.

Considering Far-A-Way would have electricity and the electric refrigerator was invented in 1913, I'm betting they had the best fridge money could buy. Although Far-A-Way was merely a summer retreat, the McDermotts spared no expense. After all, construction of the main house began in the midst of their success with the Bon Marche, the department store they founded.

At the time they built Far-A-Way, the flagship Bon Marche was located at 2nd and Pike in downtown Seattle, and their "town house" was a mansion on Highland Drive in the Queen Anne neighborhood. Through a series of shrewd business maneuvers and by providing quality goods and excellent customer service, their sales increased from \$338,000 in 1900 to \$8 million in 1923.

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

CIVIC CENTER
CORNER

Key Peninsula Civic Center
presents

HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS

Red Carpet Gala & Auction

Saturday, October 13, 2018
5:00-11:00PM
17010 S Vaughn Road • Vaughn WA

Come celebrate Hollywood nights of old and new, walk the red carpet to your champagne greeting and let the fun begin.

Heavy appetizers will be served. Enjoy the silent and live auctions and the decadent dessert auction.

As a non-profit organization, the KPCCA has fostered and promoted the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula Community for over 60 years. With proceeds from the previous events, the KPCCA has been able to fund improvements to the HVAC system and the stage, purchased much needed kitchen equipment, in addition to many other projects. Our goal for this year's event is to raise \$45,000.

If you'd like to support the Key Peninsula Civic Center, we are accepting silent and live auction items, as well as many volunteer opportunities. Please contact the office at 253-884-3456.

Tickets will be available September 1 at the civic center office, Sunnycrest Nursery, Blend Wine Shop and Brown Paper tickets.

We believe that better community programs make better citizens, and better citizens make a better community in which we live.



Watch our website in August for Winter Warm-up registrations

Holiday Crafts Fair

November 10 WINTER WARMUP

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

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LIVING FARAWAY FROM PAGE 5

Now back to that shrub I'm drinking. Drinking vinegars, switchels and shrubs was all the rage before refrigeration. What do all of these nonalcoholic beverages have in common? They are all made with fruit, sugar and vinegar, with the vinegar and sugar acting as preservatives.

Your imagination is the only limit to the combinations you can come up with when making any of these thirst-quenching concoctions. Try using different fruits each time, and use whatever vinegar you have on hand. Add herbs or flavorings, like mint or vanilla beans, and you just upped your shrub game a few levels.

Searching for recipes on the internet is a fun way to spend some time; numerous cookbooks on modern shrubs are available on request at the library too. I promise you won't be disappointed.

The "All New Ball Canning Book of Canning and Preserving" has the simplest recipe I know for starting on your own path to preserving your fresh fruit in an easy-to-imbibe beverage.

FRUIT SHRUB

1 cup crushed fruit (such as strawberries, peaches, apricots, Concord grapes, plums, berries or cherries)

1 cup sugar

1-quart canning jar

1 cup vinegar (such as unfiltered apple cider, balsamic, sherry or red wine vinegar)

Directions:

1. Combine crushed fruit and sugar in a 1-quart canning jar. Cover and shake to combine. Chill 1 to 3 days or until sugar dissolves and fruit releases its juice.
2. Pour fruit mixture through a wire-mesh strainer into a 2-cup glass measuring cup, pressing with the back of a spoon to release as much juice as possible (about $\frac{3}{4}$ cup); discard solids. Stir in vinegar. Transfer mixture to a 1-pint jar. Cover with lid and chill 2 weeks before serving.

Note: The recipe suggests refrigerating, but I have also made it without for a little fizzy ferment. Depending on the temperature in your house, the kind of vinegar you use and the presence of wild yeast spores in the air, your fruit shrub may or may not ferment. But to be safe, if you are leaving it out at room temperature, don't put a lid on the jar. Simply cover with cheesecloth or a clean, dry dish towel—and secure it with a rubber band. Unless you like explosions after the 4th of July!

Brook Hurst Stephens lives in Longbranch. She can be reached at HistoricFaraway@gmail.com. Follow the restoration progress at [Historic Faraway on Facebook](#).



Adding the finishing touches to a new community landmark. Photo: Richard Miller, KP News

A Muralist Perspective—Artist Tweed Meyer

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Tweed Meyer approaches her art as she approaches her life—a full-tilt experience. The new mural in the KC Corral, which she just completed, is a case in point.

Typically, Meyer explained, a mural might be painted in panels and then installed and unveiled. But, she said, "I like people to see the process, to see the work involved in art. It is work!" Her progress was open for all to see and was posted on Facebook.

After the Corral was renovated and repainted, Two Waters Arts Alliance approached the owners, dentist John Olsson and chiropractor David Krympec, about commissioning a mural for the west wall of the building. Meyer submitted a proposal and received the commission.

Meyer began design work last December, thinking about what to include in the composition.

"I started to do something that would represent our history, with lots of details. But how I really work is to paint something real. I do landscapes, beautiful pictures, the nature of what we are," she said. "Dr. Olsson told me, 'Don't talk to anybody. Just do a pretty picture.' And so I painted Mount Rainier as seen from Filucy Bay. It's how we feel about our community, not a specific time, and the beauty of what is and what has been."

Meyer, now 65, grew up on Wollochet Bay, the third child in a family of three girls and one boy. Her parents ran the family drugstore in Tacoma. They spent time at their property on the Hoh River and that experience cemented her love of the

Northwest.

She went to Aquinas Academy, a Catholic high school in Tacoma, for one year but then returned to Peninsula High. There, she met Donald Allyn, who taught art. Allyn would go on to become both a friend and a mentor.

"He was that teacher who expanded our world," she said.

By 21, she was diving into life, committed to live life fully and experientially. She, her partner and two daughters lived what she described as a hippie life on the Hoh River, in a school bus, self-sufficient and off the grid. She ultimately left what had become an abusive relationship and moved to the Key Peninsula, describing herself at the time as a welfare mom.

Encouraged by her mother, Norma Meyer, she attended pastry school. Her final project was a confection model of the state ferry Nisqually, and after graduation, Meyer went to work at Affairs Chocolate and Desserts in Tacoma.

Over the following decade, Meyer spent a lot of time with her mother making art, concentrating on weaving, dyeing, spinning and basketry. As a young adult with three children (her son was born during this time), she developed connections to two critical mentors – her former art teacher, Allyn; and Ruth Bartlett, who was an innovator in organic gardening.

"My society did not say I was worth much in those days, but my mentors showed me I had worth," Meyer said.

Allyn's home was a central gathering place for the Northwest arts community and Meyer would come to those gather-

ings, listen and “absorb the knowledge.” It was there that she was exposed to the work of Morris Graves, a member of the Pacific Northwest School of Visionary Art. She said that her art evolved in part as a reaction to his.

“My art is more narrative, positive and story-telling. I think in part because I am a woman. Van Gogh and the Impressionists were my major influences,” she said.

Meyer has always loved gardening and landscaping. Bartlett, who died about 10 years ago, owned and managed Spring Hill Farms and taught Meyer much of what she knows. “Ruth was the Gig Harbor Farmers Market in those days,” she said.

Although she still loved food, her work in the chocolate shop didn’t fill her creative needs. At 35, Mayer enrolled in the Northwest College of Art & Design in Poulsbo. “I just went full bore,” she said.

Her art school thesis featured Bartlett’s gardens.

Meyer paints en plein air – outdoors, as practiced by the Impressionists. She has loved painting musicians and audiences in action, going regularly to the Port Townsend Jazz Festival, and more locally to Words and Music and Friends of the Holidays.

She said of her art, “I am moved to paint, document and preserve in a beautiful way what I think is important. It takes me on an adventure then brings the adventure back.”

If you want to know more about Meyer and her art, visit her website at www.tweedmeyer.org or look her up on Facebook.

KP Logging Show and Festival Moves to Gateway Park

FRANK AND COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula Logging Show and Festival celebrates 31 years of the longest-standing community event on the peninsula Aug. 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Gateway Park in Wauna. The show has been on hiatus the last four years without a KP venue to call home.

Loretta Jaggi had a great idea for a community event in 1985: Pioneer Days, with a parade, logging competitions and a day of fun for the whole community. The parade began at Key Center, proceeding down Olson Drive to the KP Civic Center. The day included climbing and sawing competitions, a tug-of-war between Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor fire departments, and more.

Local loggers Dale Boquist, Tom and Dale Van Slyke and the Parsons family of Hoodsport all participated in the logging



A volunteer team plants the climbing poles for the Logging Show. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

show events in the early days. The Parsons family has always provided the steam engines and are involved again this year.

“I was 7 or 8, and I competed in some of the events,” said John Jaggi, Loretta’s grandson and this year’s organizer of the Logging Show.

After the first two years, the event moved to the Community house in Home, then four years later to the Longbranch Improvement Club (LIC). Renamed Old Timers’ Day and Logging Show Festival, it grew with the additions of vendors, musical groups, an auction and more displays such as antique vehicles and machinery. Jaggi, who has attended most of them, recalls helicopter rides at least one year.

Dale Boquist was in charge of his last show in 2014; the LIC was unable to host in following years. The KP Parks commissioners were approached for a move to Gateway Park, an area that’s larger and more central on the Key Peninsula.

“We received a warm approval and were given the go-ahead,” said Penny Gazabat, director of Key Peninsula Community Services, which organizes the event.

The festival couldn’t be moved to Gateway in 2016-17 due to park improvements underway. With those improvements now complete, the event, newly renamed Key Peninsula Logging Show & Festival, will take place at its new home.

Jaggi of Fell Rite Timber Co. and Dan Wehmeier of Wehmeier LLC are this year’s coordinators for the logging show. With assistance from Robert Pierce, Brian Allen of Archon Tree Services, climber Jacob Goranson, and Matt Lovo, two 72-foot climbing poles donated by Gazabat, have already been set up in 12-foot deep holes.

Competitions will include pole felling, pole speed climbing, bucking, axe throwing, “hot saws” and several chainsaw events, plus a tug-of-war between kids and loggers (“pound for pound” with weigh-in required).

People who wish to participate in an event must register. A \$5 fee per event must be paid at registration, which begins at 9 a.m. at the park.

The event has been a major fundraiser for Key Peninsula Community Services for decades. Money raised through the logging events, auction, plus booth fees and food sales directly supports the KPCS food bank and senior center programs.

Truck and new equipment dealers will be on display too, including Peterbilt.

Rick Selfors, retired Key Peninsula Middle School shop teacher, will be the show’s master of ceremonies.

People are welcome to bring their own displays of related antiques, but need to coordinate with Gazabat by calling 253-884-4440 or emailing kpcsdirector@centurytel.net.

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

OBITUARIES



Paul Stanley Froode

Paul Stanley Froode died July 10, 2018 with his family by his side. He was born in Racine, Wisconsin, July 4, 1949.

He spent his childhood in Racine and graduated from the University of Wisconsin with an engineering degree.

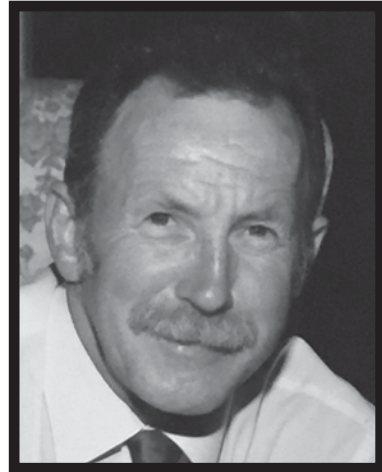
In his mid-20s, he followed the railroad to Washington state with his first wife and eldest child, Tara Froode. The couple had two more children, Shane (Aaron) and Blake (Jennifer). Froode later married Rhonda in 1990 and together, they raised his fourth child, Parker Froode.

Froode discovered his life passion in the design and maintenance of railways. He built a successful railroad construction company, Coast Rail, Inc.

He enjoyed living on his farm in Longbranch. He traveled to tropical islands, where he enjoyed the warm weather and snorkeling. He loved hummingbirds, butterflies and taking care of his friends and family.

His family will always cherish his perseverance, humor and generosity.

Froode is survived by his father, Arnold; brothers, Dave and Mark; four children; 10 grandchildren and wife, Rhonda.



Lawrence "Lorry" Jopp

Lawrence Eugene Jopp was born Oct. 9, 1931, to William and Olga Jopp at the family farm in Longbranch. Jopp died peacefully July 8, 2018, at St. Anthony Hospital in Gig Harbor with his family at his side. He attended Peninsula High School and served in the Navy during the Korean War from 1951 to 1955. After his discharge he worked for Universal Builders and Irwin Construction before starting his own business, L.E. Jopp Builders, which he operated for 25 years. He purchased the Jopp family farm in 1966 and lived there with his wife of 50 years, Susan, until his death.

Jopp is survived by his wife Susan; four children, Chad Jopp, Teresa (Rance) Smith, Ric (Leesa) VandeKamp and Tad VandeKamp; eight grandchildren, Rachel, Aleece, Brynn, Brock, Chase, Cole, Brooke and Tyler; sister Linda Armour; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jopp was preceded in death by his parents, William and Olga Jopp; sisters Alice and Carol; and three brothers, Don, Marc and Cedric.

Jopp enjoyed the Mariners, Huskies, Seahawks, hunting, gardening and was a master winemaker. He was a strong, smart, handsome man and we are privileged to have had him in our lives. We will miss him terribly.

Letter to the Editor

A Moment to Pause

What if you went to work this morning knowing you may see someone die? What if you went to work and knew someone was depending on you to see their families again, to hear their children laugh one more time, to smell a rose or to enjoy a good meal? What if, despite all your efforts, you ended up holding a victim while they died?

We all have something about our job that we dislike or even hate. If it was all fun, we'd have to pay our employers for the pleasure instead of being paid ourselves. I want to take a moment to share an aspect of a very special kind of job—I'm talking about our first responders and more specifically our firefighters and medics. We all want them to be there for us and come when we need them, yet we rarely think about the trauma they witness or consider the scenes that stick in their minds because they are so impossible to reconcile.

They pull human beings out of horrific car wrecks, and they are routinely exposed to every imaginable bodily fluid. How many times do they witness preventable tragedies, senseless deaths of children and people in our community—our friends, our neighbors, our families?

All I ask is that when you see someone from the fire department, please reach out and thank them for what they do. Thank them for being ready to come at a moment's notice. But you might especially thank them for the things they see and do so that we don't have to.

"A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles." — Christopher Reeve

*Frank Grubaugh, fire commissioner
Key Peninsula Fire District 16*

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10:30 am Worship on Sunday

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www.epcgrace.org Ed Longabaugh, Pastor

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

Letters to the Editor Letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published. Letters are used on a space-available basis and will be edited for length and clarity.

Mail obituaries and letters to editor@keypennews.com or P.O. Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394.

In May, Angel Guild awarded \$9,600 to:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| KP Cooperative Preschool..... | \$5,000 |
| The Red Barn..... | \$3,000 |
| Longbranch Foundation..... | \$1,600 |

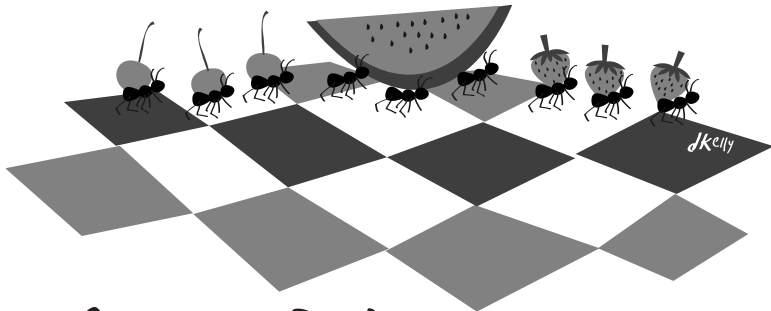
Angel Guild Thrift Shop

Tues-Saturday 10 to 4 Key Center Corral 253 884-9333



26th LD Democrats Community Picnic August 26, 2018, Noon-4pm

FREE TO ALL!
Donations gladly accepted.



Gateway Park
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Gig Harbor, WA 98329

BBQ Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Chips & Drinks provided by the 26th LD
Democratic office holders and candidates will speak!

contact: JohnPatKelly@aol.com



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August 2018
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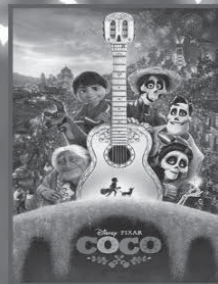


Popsicles in the Park!

Wednesdays, 5-6 pm or while supplies last.
August 8 at Gateway Park and
August 22 at Home Park.

Cinema Under the Stars

Friday nights in August!



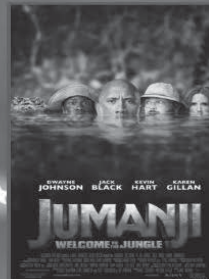
August 3
At Gateway Park



August 10
At Volunteer Park



August 17
At Gateway Park



August 24
At Volunteer Park



August 31
At Gateway Park

Presenting Sponsors



Craft Sponsors

Shawn & Sami Jensen
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Pre-movie activities begin at 7:30, movies begin at dusk. Movies will be shown at either Volunteer Park or Gateway Park.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for the food bank.

For more information, visit www.keypenparks.com

Moving Forward with Gateway Park Phase 3

Help us build the Splash Pad!

To financially support this \$50,000 project, contact Key Pen Parks, Scott Gallacher 253-884-9240, scott@keypenparks.com or Key Peninsula Park & Recreation Foundation, PO Box 188 Lakebay WA 98349

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

Join us for a Happier Hour August 16 from 6 to 8pm.

Enjoy day's end on the porch,
listen to live music in beautiful "Uptown"
Key Center and see the Key Peninsula's
newest venue – now available for rent

Music provided by The Down Home Band

Complimentary snacks, soft drinks
and mocktails

Gnosh food truck on site

Create a watercolor masterpiece August 8 from 10 to 11:30am.

Create your own masterpiece based on the
work "Forest of Birch Trees" by Gustave Klimt
in a watercolor art class

Share the classroom with the kids
of Peninsula Hands on Art

Learn shading and creating texture
through paint layering; understand horizon
line, foreground, background, depth

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Don Zimmerman

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Don Zimmerman—pharmacist, businessman, hunter and fisherman, beloved citizen of the Key Peninsula community—is a workhorse. He has never shied away from long hours. His drive has taken him from poverty to business success, but he is far more proud of the people who work with him than he is of his own accomplishments.

Zimmerman spent his early years in Ephrata and moved with his parents and sister to Bremerton at age 7. Initially they lived in West Park government-subsidized housing. A few years after arriving in Bremerton, the family income improved, and they moved to a two-bedroom place that they improved themselves over time.

"I had tremendous parents. My mother was a waitress and my father worked in the shipyard. Neither of them graduated from high school," he said. "My mom had worked as a scrub lady in New York and my father was in the Navy. They were German-Polish and had a strong work ethic."

Zimmerman attributes his work ethic to his parents. If his friends came over and he had chores to do—which included caring for a large yard, with chickens and 14 rows of strawberries; and chopping wood—his friends helped him first before going to the movies.

A West Bremerton High School graduate, Zimmerman planned to become a dentist, but that plan was derailed. When he experienced his first heartbreak, he left Washington State University abruptly, and as a result had a string of F's on his transcript. He joined the Marines and served as a reservist for six years.

When he was ready to return to college, he found out that the pharmacy school accepted all applicants.

"The problem is that I knew I could get in, but there was a 90 percent flunk-out rate," he said. "I was apprehensive because it required five years of chemistry."

Dentistry's loss would become pharmacy's gain.

Zimmerman worked through college, which made studying a challenge. He said it was hard to comprehend things when you're tired.

"I would work all night at Universal Car Loading and get off at 7. Biochemistry class started at 7:30 so I'd drive to campus, violating every speeding law," he recalled. "I'd sleep on the sidewalk in



Key Peninsula's favorite pharmacist. Photo: Richard Miller, KP News

between classes. The sidewalk was dry, and I figured people could walk around me.”

He graduated in 1969 and married Kathryn McDonald the following year. They have three children and eight grandchildren between the ages of two and 28.

After working in Seattle at Payless Drugs, he transferred to Harold Meyer Drugs in Tacoma.

“Mrs. Meyer told me I was too good of a pharmacist to be working for them and that I should go on my own,” he said. “I asked for advice from a pharmacy owner in the area and he mentioned Purdy as a good location.”

For the next six months, he worked three full-time jobs to raise money to purchase an inventory for his own business. He opened Purdy Pharmacy in 1971.

“In 1971, there weren’t a lot of people coming here. There were no freeways heading toward Tacoma,” he said. “At first, I did everything—I scrubbed the floors, opened the till and cleaned the toilets.”

He worked six days a week at his pharmacy, and then spent 12 hours at Harold Meyer Drugs on Sundays to support his growing family. His business took off when a liquor store opened in Purdy, increasing traffic to the area.

In 1977, because of increasing lease costs, Zimmerman decided it was time to own his own building. He bought 30 acres with Mike Salatino and opened Purdy Cost Less Pharmacy at Lake Kathryn Village in 1984. Zimmerman speaks with pride and affection about his employees, and the feeling is mutual.

Penny Goddard, who has worked at the pharmacy for 12 years, said, “He’s one of the most generous business owners in the community. He always tries to look after the best interest of the customer, no matter what. ... I think any of us would do just about anything for him. He’s the best person I have ever worked for. He is loved by so many people in this community—he has done so much.”

Many customers have been patrons of the pharmacy for more than 30 years. The pharmacy has provided financial assistance to those who can’t afford to pay, and has supplied drugs at cost to the Key Center Free Clinic and to Dr. Bill Roes’s medical mission work in Central America.

Pharmacy technician Debra Jean Torgeson has made home visits to help frail homebound clients and drops prescriptions off to those with transportation problems. Pharmacist Ian Warren delivers

prescriptions to people in Tacoma on his way home and works with AIDS Housing in Tacoma.

“People do things for the community because the community is good to us,” Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman’s business interests go beyond the pharmacy. In 2013, Peninsula Hair Design, across the street, was going to close and the manager approached Zimmerman with a proposal, “He took it and ran with it,” said Krissi Hamilton, current manager of Salon 302. “It was important to him that the salon be affordable and luxurious. He wants us all to succeed. He is on our side to make sure we have what we want and need. He is the best person I have ever worked for.”

Zimmerman’s father instilled a love of fishing and hunting at an early age. They fished in lakes from the time he was small.

“We had cane poles, tied a string around them and I’d sit on the bank. It was all good,” he said. “My dad always wanted to go to Alaska, but we didn’t have the income. When he died at 47, I always thought I wanted to go to Alaska for my dad. I first went about 20-30 years ago, and I loved it. Now I go a couple of times a year.”

When he was 10, his father would take him out of school to hunt.

“He would take two weeks off from the Navy Yard every year. The first week was deer hunting and the second week was elk hunting,” Zimmerman said. “He went with a large group of guys and some would go for just one week. I would go for one week to hunt deer and then someone would bring me home. It was one of the best memories of my dad.”

He goes elk hunting once a year and says that the taste of an elk hamburger can’t be beat.

Hamilton said she doesn’t think Zimmerman will ever retire. He said that if anything does drive him to quit, it will be Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PMBs). Insurance companies, to drive down health care costs, have hired PMBs to manage prescription costs. They have had a big impact on independent pharmacies, and sometimes the reimbursement for a prescription doesn’t actually cover the cost of filling it.

Zimmerman’s love for his work—and for the people he works with—will keep him at the pharmacy for the foreseeable future.

DON'T SEE YOUR EVENT LISTED?

Enter your event or regular meeting schedule on our website calendar at keypennews.com. Click on "Submit an Event" and fill out the form, including contact information for verification. Send questions or updates to editor@keypennews.com or call 253-884-4699.

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. Artists will be displaying their work at multiple locations in Key Center. Live music. Eat dinner at El Sombrero that night and 10% of proceeds will be donated to TWAA. www.twowaters.org

AUGUST 2**LAKEBAY FUCHSIA SOCIETY**

Join us this month for our field trip through Sunnycrest Nursery. Please call for details 253-225-3027.

AUGUST 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**CINEMA UNDER THE STARS.**

Every Friday in August. Pre-movie activities begin at 7:30 p.m. Movies begin at dusk. Alternates between Gateway Park and Volunteer Park. www.keypenparks.com/cinema-under-the-stars.html, 253-884-9240.

AUGUST 4**DEPRESSION & BIPOLAR SUPPORT**

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

AUGUST 6 & 20**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

AUGUST 9**FRIENDS OF KP LIBRARY RECEPTION**

Meet Key Center Library's new supervising librarian, Corrine Weatherly, at this welcome reception hosted by Friends of the KP Library from 5 to 7 p.m. in the library's Brones Room. Light appetizers will be served. 8905 Key Pen Hwy NW.

AUGUST 11**KIDS' ART JAM**

Key Peninsula Civic Center 4 to 6:00 p.m. For kids 9-15 yrs old. \$10 one child, \$15 family. Contact Adria Hanson, studioartist1975@yahoo.com or twowaters.org

ROY BOOK BINDER PERFORMS

Binder, a solo, acoustic-blues musician, will perform at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center. 7:00 p.m.

AUGUST 13 - 17**CRAFT CAMP FOR KIDS**

FREE Craft Camp for ages 6 to 12 includes free lunch. 9 a.m. – noon. Seating is limited so register early. McColley Hall, KP Lutheran Church. Call 253-884-9913 to reserve a spot.

AUGUST 14 & 28**KNIT OR CROCHET**

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

AUGUST 18**KEY PENINSULA LOGGING SHOW**

Free logging show, silent and live auctions, food, vendors, and fun for all ages! 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Gateway Park, 10405 State Route 302 Gig Harbor, WA 98329.

AUGUST 27**RELATIVES RAISING KIDS SUPPORT**

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

OFF THE KEY**AUGUST 2****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

AUGUST 8**KGI WATERSHED COUNCIL**

The KP-Gig Harbor-Islands (KGI) Wa-

tershed Council fosters watershed stewardship. The council provides educational programs, outreach, and workshops and encourages the collaboration and involvement of all watershed residents and businesses. Meets second Wednesday every other month from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Gig Harbor Fire HQ, 10222 Bujacich Rd NW, Gig Harbor WA 98332. lindsey@harbor-wildwatch.org

AUGUST 16**KIDS' MAKER MARKET.**

4-7 p.m. Washington State Historical Museum in Tacoma. Makers aged 4-18 can sell their hand-crafted items. \$10 to rent table. Allison Stewart Bishins, allisonbishins@gmail.com

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 through Aug. 15 at 11:30 a.m. at KP Civic Center. Activities follow lunch. All children and parents are welcome. 253-857-7401

TUESDAYS**STORYTIMES**

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

TOPS

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

OASIS YOUTH CENTER

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**SENIOR TAI CHI**

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

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS**KP HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN**

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

WEDNESDAYS**READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS**

The Children's Home Society of Washington/Key Peninsula Family Resource Center sponsors this free cooperative preschool class for 3- and 4-year-olds at KP Civic Center. Parents or caretakers participate, playing learning games. August 8 and 22 from 10:30 to 11:30 p.m. Call 253-884-5433.

LAKEBAY WRITERS

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

KP YOUTH COUNCIL

Meets every 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. every Thursday 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 of Washington 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

INTRO TO GENTLE YOGA

8-week class ends August 24. Meets at 8:30 a.m. at the Crandall Center. Call 253-884-9814 for info.

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 through 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

August 1 & 15, KP Lions Club meets first and third Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

August 7, KP Historical Society meets first Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in the museum at KP Civic Center. 253-888-3246

August 8, Bayshore Garden Club meets second Wednesdays, 10 a.m., fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 253-332-4883

August 8, KP Community Council meets second Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-432-4948. Guest speaker: Dennis Engel, WSDOT

August 9, Ashes support group for Fire District 16 meets second Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Key Center fire station. 253-884-3771

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



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August 9, Peninsula School District Board meets second Thursdays, 6 p.m., district office in Purdy. 253-530-1000

August 9, KP Civic Center Assn. board meets second Thursdays, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 253-884-3456.

August 13, KP Parks Commission meets second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

August 14 & 28, KP Fire Commission meets second and fourth Tuesdays, 5 p.m., Key Center fire station. www.keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

August 15, KP Advisory Commission meets third Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., KP Civic Center. Reviews applications for proposed developments and makes recommendations to Pierce County. 253-432-4948.

August 20, KP Democrats meets third Mondays, 7 p.m., Home fire station, johnpatkelly@aol.com

August 27, 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



*Post Remodel Grand Re-Opening
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Thursday, August 23rd
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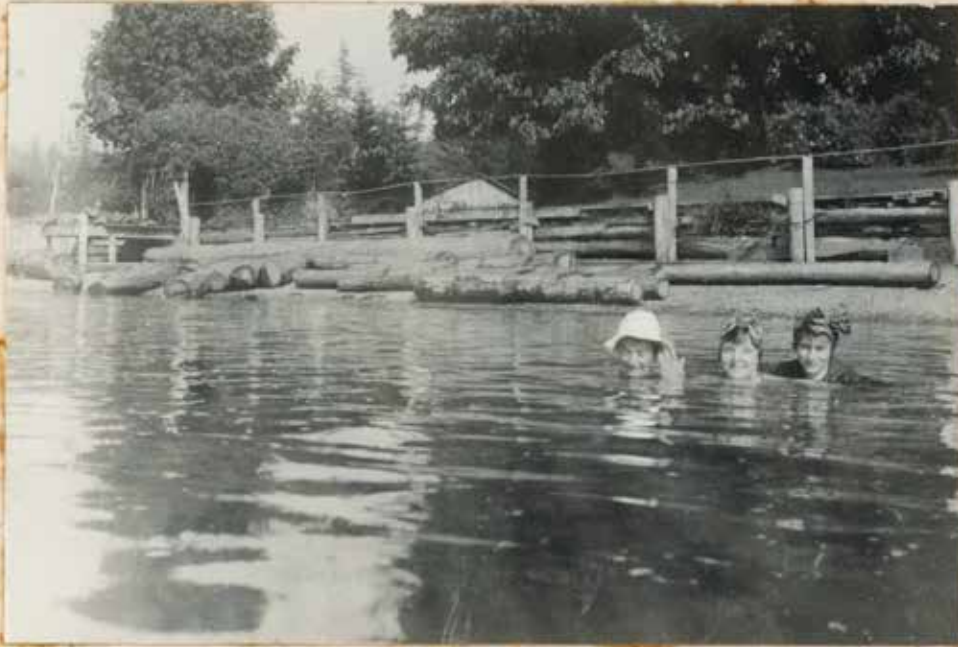


Photo courtesy Key Peninsula Historical Society & Museum



Old Ladies Who Love to Swim by Dawn Martin

They are the uninhibited, the not shy
and the first to arrive
clothed in their outdated
stiff polyester bathing suits,
brown and orange towels draped
around their necks.

They hobble gingerly down uneven ground
towards the glassy lake water,
bodies wounded by time,
Helen has lost a breast to cancer
Anita has had both knees replaced,
and trouble with her hip.

Into the cool dark water they dive
with unexpected grace,
seconds pass.

They emerge out of nature's pool,
hair smooth as the water drains from the tips.
Droplets of water, like diamonds,
sparkle on their skin.

As if some magical transformation
has occurred,
they glide freely through the water,
Like fairies flying through air.

The small lake, whose edges are framed
by tall evergreen trees, makes the
ladies feel like they are fourteen
again, diving in for the first time.

Giggling and following each other,
they explore the many coves and
corners the lake has to offer.
They sit for a while atop the immersed
log at the end of the lake.

When they swim it's like their
secret world opens up.
Gone are the years of worry, raising
families and old age.
Their spirits soar, like the resident
eagle circling the lake.

Truly, what a sight to behold, these
old ladies, who love to swim.

Green by Carolyn Wiley

Gravel shifts and crunches underfoot.
Birds offer their choral commentary
on our progress.
Evidence of fleeting fear or tasty morsel is
seen in four divots ripped from new grass
Too wide for deer,
Too small for bear.
Details dissolve into the deep green darkness
as we leave the sun's blinding glare
And move into the cool darkness
of the tree tunnel.
Irises widen and our brains
separate, differentiate,
And catalogue the surrounding greens.
Above, translucent big leaf maples diffuse
a high-chroma glowing light.
Dark green sword ferns guard
the woods beyond.
Old fronds hide tight coiled fiddleheads
poised to lift their rusty heads
And unfurl to reveal a core
of near-white green.
Deeper into the woods limbs and trunks
are defined by light on dark images
Standing before the deep velvety
curtain of low hanging cedar.
Ahead the road bends and pale
ivory goat's beards nod
And their pale green leaves
tremble in the breeze,
A sharp contrast to the glint of light
That dances off the rigid prickly
Christmas green of holly.
Leaving the deep shade, we note
the small lobed leaves
That obscure drooping red currant blossoms.
Nearby a single crimson star
foretells the emergence
Of the salmon berry that is hidden in its heart.
Shy clusters of white bells nod beneath
a reddish mantle of new growth
On the Evergreen Huckleberry.
Turning from new gravel onto
the less traveled path,
Our steps are muffled by last
year's thick track of leaves.
Here in silence, we pad along in shared silence,
Watching, searching, for the grayish
green of first growth digitalis
And the faded trilliums that heralded this day.
This perfect multi-green day.

This special summer section features work submitted by local writers and poets. It's generously sponsored the "best" businesses shown below

THE BEST OF KEY PENINSULA SUMMER

Summer on the KP

by Kendall Powers

Cool wind whips your hair backwards
 You stand there, overlooking the beauty
 Shades of blue cover the scene in front of you
 The hot rocks and sand under your feet
 As you walk into the cool, lively waters
 Little fish dart around your legs
 As you turn from the view
 To meet an ocean of evergreen trees
 The bright blue skies and everlasting sun
 That blind if you look
 You feel as if
 You could never leave
 This quiet town we call our own
 The perfect KP summer,
 With every other season
 Longing for summers yet to come.

A Perfect Summer Morning by Annan Ball

If you lay down on the soft grass of your front lawn, still slightly damp from the morning dew, the smell of warm grass, with just a hint of pine needles, would fill your nostrils. You might look up at the sky, which would be a perfect blue, occasionally dotted with white puffy clouds. Everything would be green. Bright, happy, green. The tall, majestic Douglas firs, filled with their fragrant needles, the madronas with trunks glowing a soft pinkish red. Look around, you may see an orchard, fruit just beginning to ripen burdening tree branches. The grapevine full of grapes, a few ready. If you tried one, it would burst in your mouth, sweet and slightly sour juice saturating your tongue. The bees would be buzzing around, looking for fresh flowers, hummingbirds would buzz over your head to one of the late blossoms. A few chickadees might call, and the harsh caw of a Steller's jay would reveal its location among the many trees. It would shine with a dark blue, maybe showing off to a likely mate. The call of an eagle would draw your gaze up to the sky, where you would see one circling, high above, perhaps with a companion.

All of this happens during the summer, at my home on the Key Peninsula.



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Campers revel in sunset. Photo: Richard Miller, KP News



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Filucy Bay July sunset. Photo: Richard Hildahl

THE BEST OF KEY PENINSULA SUMMER

Carnival Pond *by Phyllis Henry*

When the artesian well water flowing into our upper pond hits a certain depth, the water finds its way through a five-inch pipe into a lower pond. Each year newly-hatched baby mallards spend idyllic days swimming on the two ponds, carefully monitored by their attentive mama duck.

One sunny day a young duckling in the upper pond swam too near the overflow pipe, slipped over the edge, and was catapulted through the water slide inside the pipe into the lower pond. As the loudly squawking mama duck rushed to rescue her baby, the duckling's siblings in the upper pond also opted for the wild ride through the drainpipe, and in moments the mama duck was in the lower pond surrounded by her ducklings again.

While Mama Mallard scolded and chased after them, the babies escaped, waddled up the incline

between the ponds, and tumbled into the upper pond. Frantically quacking, their mama tried to drive them away from the overflow pipe, but one by one the ducklings again enjoyed the wild water ride. All afternoon the babies jumped into the pipe while Mama Mallard rushed from pond to pond, loudly scolding her babies for their dangerous escapades.

At the end of the day, when it seemed the babies had tired of their private water park game, the ducklings sought shelter under their mama's wings at the side of the pond. The next morning the family of mallards was gone, perhaps to live in a safer pond where the mother could distract her babies from carnival-type temptations and concentrate on teaching them how to survive in a tough world.

It Has Come! *by Amber Lee*

Summer! Oh, how fast it came!

Winter seemed like yesterday;
But it has left, and in its place
Summer has come here!

The waters it calmed, the wind it stilled,
Its glow our hearts to warm and thrill,
Its contagious joy our hearts to fill—
Summer has come here.

Neighbors laugh across the fence,
People gather at events,
The joy they feel is so immense! for
Summer has come here.

The days grow longer, shorter, nights;
The birds' grow plumage very bright;
Loud they sing, their voices light—
Summer has come here.

Let the sun dry up your tears,
Spend time with those so dear,
Fill your hearts with joy and cheer, for
Summer has come here!



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Late afternoon on Taylor Bay. Photo: Jason Comerford Photography



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Headed west for an afternoon at sea. Photo: Anna Brones, KP News

Sunday Drive *by Kathy Best*

We all know our local parks,
Play grounds and places to eat,
But a Sunday drive on a Summer day
Is pretty hard to beat.

There are many country roads
Where many of us will never go.
We fear that maybe we'll get lost
But what you'll miss you'll never know.

Old graveyards, homes and
abandoned barns
Are among the sights to see
And you may meet some local folks
To tell you of their history.

The gas station is in disrepair,
A school house leans towards its end.

The six-sided outhouse, old but prime,
Stands waiting just around the bend.

There sits an old vacant home
Slowing being devoured
By the invasion of scotch broom
And thick blackberry briars.

Have you seen the herds
of grazing sheep
Or buffalo chilling under trees?
How about the elephant of ivy
Which is guaranteed to please?

Nothing can match the thrill I feel
On a leisurely Summer drive
Or any season on the KP.
It makes me glad to be alive!

Kite Memories *by Carolyn Wiley*

A pull, a tug, a bit of slack
Tactile memories live in my hands.

A soaring, diving, spinning kite
Visual memories dance behind my eyes

Flapping paper, Humming string, snapping tail,
Musical memories play a loop through my brain.

Drifting scents of bloom, grass, and water
Slip past unnoticed on the chill fresh wind.

With feet planted in soft sun-warmed sand
I guide the kite into an endless sky

I am strong and a collector of new knowledge
Surrounded by love on a kite-perfect day



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Geoduck hunters near Devil's Head. Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News



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Idyllic Stansberry Lake. Photo: Shari Anderson Siebold

THE BEST OF KEY PENINSULA SUMMER

Starry Night by Anna Brones

The Paris summer night was hot and sticky, when the air hangs heavy and breathing feels muffled. Unable to sleep, I looked to the sky, searching for solace in the world above. A few meager stars flickered tentatively, as if unsure of their own existence. How disconcerting a starless night can be, as if I had lost my bearings. I called Paris home for a few years, and this was a regular summer occurrence, just as disconcerting every time.

“Do you remember when I used to pick you up and take you outside to look at the stars?” my father recently asked. I have inklings of early star memories, with one very clear recollection of August meteor showers, but I know his shared experience of the night sky is deep in my consciousness.

In my childhood Key Peninsula home, summer nights made for vast,

dark skies that glittered. I would leave the comforts of bed and drag my sleeping bag outside. The cool night air would kiss my face as the hammock rocked back and forth, protected by my vigilant dog lying below me.

Looking up at the night sky framed by apple leaves, I would stare at the stars until I couldn't keep my eyes open, entranced by the complexity and infinity of the world above.

A few years ago I moved back here, making my way from Paris to Vaughn. There are many things to be said about that change, many differences, many joys, many difficulties. But one thing is certain: I have always felt tethered to this place.

Now, when the hammock is out and the summer night is still warm, I make sure that I lie down and look at the sky filled with stars. A great sky, full of wonder and potential.

What I Love About KP Summer by Kathie Broderson

Key Pen-in-sula,
Sum-mer—.
Warm days, Sum-mer—.
Set a diff'rent kind
Of pace—,
More time, more space.

Go to,
Pur-dy spit.
Take time to sit.
Kites are in the sky,
Fireworks in July.
People to greet, at Swa-p Meets,
Many things I spy—
Ma-y-be-, I'll buy—.

Take a picnic to,
The park—,
Gateway—, Penrose—.

With a cadence inspired by the 5/4 beat of Paul Desmond's "Take Five," stanzas 1,3 and 5 are read slower, with 2 and 4 upbeat and inspirational.

But my fa-mi-ly,
All knows—.
I like—, to go—

And—
Play with the band.
Doc Roes is grand.
Gott'a laugh and see
"Tiju-ana Ta-xi."
Polkas are great.
"Take Five" but wait for
"Stars and Stripes For-e-ver—."

Watch the beautiful sun-set,
Go in, not yet.
Fond memories,
Hold on and don't forget.
It's what I love about Sum-mer,
KP—, Sum-mer—.



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McKenna Rieman swinging into summer. Photo: Richard Miller, KP News



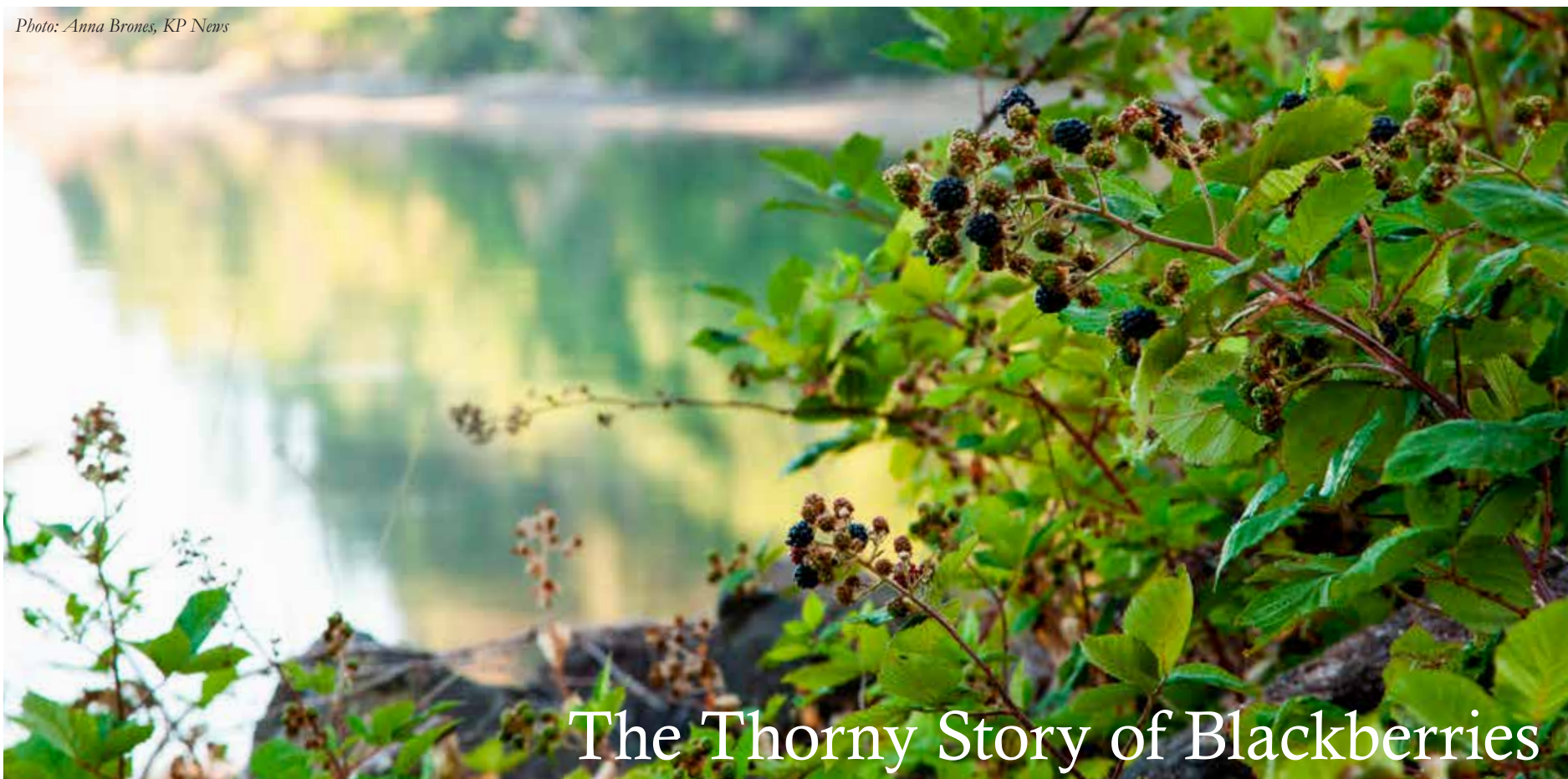
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Filicy Bay Marching Band in the 2017 July Fourth Home Parade. Photo: Shawn O'Berry



Photo: Anna Brones, KP News



The Thorny Story of Blackberries

ANNA BRONES, KP NEWS

Is there a fruit that embodies Pacific Northwest summer more than the blackberry? This time of year, the blackberry is everywhere, and it's an all-sensory affair.

We smell the fruit warmed by the summer sun and see the brambles plump with dark purple fruit. We stretch our hand in, feeling the poke of a few thorns as they dig into our skin. We hear the small cry that results, but push through, grabbing the fruit and popping it into our mouth, savoring that fleeting taste of summer. Payoff for a prickly business.

But this abundant, iconic, Pacific Northwest fruit comes with a complicated story. Here in the Pacific Northwest, we encounter three types: *Rubus armeniacus*, *Rubus laciniatus* and *Rubus ursinus*. Unfortunately, only one of them is native.

Rubus armeniacus, also known as the Himalayan blackberry, is the one that elicits our love/hate relationship. Despite its name, the species originally hails from Armenia, and if you have seen a blackberry bush in the last 24 hours, chances are it's this one.

The stems, also called canes, are enormous, and immediately take over wherever they grow, reaching upwards of 13 feet high. Canes extend outward, stretching as far as 20 to 40 feet, taking root as soon as the tips hit the ground.

Despite its plump, flavorful fruit, in Washington state the Himalayan blackberry is listed as a Class C Noxious Weed (which

means that control is recommended, but not enforced). *Rubus laciniatus*, the Evergreen blackberry, is on the same list, a blackberry whose leaves are comprised of five leaflets, all dark green and very spiky and jagged-looking.

The native species, *Rubus ursinus*, is found predominantly west of the Cascades and goes by many common names, including California blackberry, Douglas berry, trailing blackberry and Pacific blackberry. The stem is more delicate, trailing along the ground and into shrubs and small trees. Its leaves and thorns are smaller than the Himalayan blackberry; each leaf is made up of three smaller leaflets with jagged, sawtooth edges.

The native blackberry is too often dominated by the introduced varieties, and while the fruit of the Himalayan blackberry is delicious, its impact is less glorious. Its impenetrable thickets can out compete native plants and tree seedlings, as well as habitat for wildlife.

How did the Himalayan blackberry get here? To answer that question, we have to go back to the late 1800s, when a man by the name of Luther Burbank was hard at work in Santa Rosa, California, breeding plants to create new varieties of fruits and vegetables.

Born in Massachusetts, Burbank had no formal training, but he had a keen interest in horticulture, which at the age of 21 had led to the purchase of a farm. It was here that he began experimenting with plant-

breeding.

During his career, Burbank developed more than 800 new strains and varieties of plants. He set out to do the same for blackberries, looking to create a tasty berry that grew without the pesky thorns. In the course of his work, he purchased a packet of blackberry seeds that he mistakenly thought were collected in India. The fruit grew big and juicy and Burbank named it the Himalaya Giant.

Burbank hoped that this new blackberry would allow people to easily grow luscious fruit in their own backyards, and in the late 1800s, he began selling his new seeds in the mild climate of the Pacific Northwest, where the plant flourished. The rest, as they say, is history. The cultivated blackberry crop took over the region and eventually earned its status as a noxious weed.

Native blackberries are a rarer sight. While the Himalayan blackberry is bold and aggressive, tall and noticeable, the native ones are more reserved. Their stems are slender, the fruit smaller. The berries are smaller and sweeter, their flavor a little more intense than the cultivated variety; they even ripen a little earlier. They have been used by native cultures across the region for centuries, eaten raw, cooked, dried leaves turned into tea, and even used for more medicinal purposes like aiding stomach and digestion issues.

So what do we do with Himalayan blackberry? No matter how much you love the taste of summer, it is a noxious weed, and

as such, it should be removed. The Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board recommends using an integrated-pest-management (IPM) approach to noxious weed control. IPM is the use of a combination of all suitable weed control methods that not only match the management requirements of each site but also minimize negative environmental, economic and social impacts.

The easiest method is to address seedlings or first-year plants, which can be pulled straight from the ground. Larger thickets will require a two-stage process, first removing the above-ground vegetation and then the roots.

Hand-pulling the roots can be easier right after it rains, when the soil is looser. Repeated cutting of above-ground vegetation, a few times a year, year after year, can be effective as well.

If you only have a small amount of time to devote to blackberry control, the best time to do so is when the plant starts to flower. Once an area is cleared, consider replanting with native species.

As most of us know, regardless of how much effort we put in to remove these nonnative species, they inevitably come crawling back. When they do, at the very least make use of the fruit that's abundant in every backyard, every trail, every forest across the Key Peninsula.

It's blackberry season after all, and while we might not win the war on fighting the brambles back, we can at least enjoy the fruit. Consider it an act of resistance.

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Good Fishing Season Expected for KP Anglers

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

The remainder of the summer is shaping up well for KP fishing enthusiasts, according to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officer Jeff Summit, who lives and works on the Key Peninsula and is an avid local fisherman.

“I would say it’s forecast to be an above-average year, with people really excited about what is to come. People are already catching fish down here, and it’s fairly early to be catching fish in the places we’re talking about,” Summit said.

Although there are several public access beaches available for fishing on the KP, Summit recommends heading out onto water for best results.

“You can catch some salmon from the beaches, but for the summer, the main thing is going to be going out from the boat launches and looking for the Chinook and maybe even the coho as well,” Summit said. “We’re talking places like Vaughn Bay, the boat launch on 72nd Street, launching out of Home or any of the public access launches—even the Purdy Spit could be pretty good this summer.”

According to Summit, fishing in KP lakes and streams is possible, but doesn’t present the same opportunities as marine fishing.

“If you want to go for warm-water species, perch, some of the bluegill, you can go to Bay Lake, Jackson Lake, Horseshoe Lake,” Summit said, adding that summer isn’t ideal for smaller-scale lake fishing. “In these hot months, the trout kind of shut down,” he said.

Summit said the most popular fishing target for the year is the Chinook—the king salmon.

Summit said the Chinook availability should last through September, but August should be the “main push” of the fishery.

The marine waters of the Key Peninsula are a part of Marine Area 13, a district that

encompasses the waters of the Puget Sound south of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. According to Summit, the Key Peninsula and surrounding waters are mostly fished by local anglers, who know the area well. For visitors to the area, he recommends keeping expectations realistic.

“It’s not going to be like ocean fishing; it’s not going to be like Neah Bay where the fish are just off the hook biting. You have to put some time into it and you can catch some fish,” he said.

Summit noted that regulations and catch limits in Area 13 are some of the most favorable in the state, and that “if you can find two Chinook down here, you can keep them.” Chinook from Area 13 can weigh anywhere from 6 to 25 pounds, and catches from 11 to 15 pounds are common. This year’s return could be over three times as big as last year’s Chinook return to the South Sound.

Summit encourages visitors and veterans to do their research before they begin, and to be familiar with regulations and rule updates.

“I would emphasize that they have to use barb-less hooks, they need to immediately record their catch on the catch record card, and just stay within the limits when they actually get into good fishing,” Summit said.

For the 2018 season, anglers have a daily limit of two Chinook, although limits sometimes change during the season. Coho salmon will also become available later in the year and Minter Creek will open for coho this year for the first time in decades.

Related activities such as shellfish hunting and crabbing are also subject to regulations that change during the season, although crabbing season is closed this year (see “Crabbing Season is Closed in South Sound,” KP News, July 2018).

The Sportfishing Pamphlet and Emergency Rule Updates can be found at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s website, www.wdfw.wa.gov.

Salmon anglers working Minter Creek. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*



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New Group Provides Haven for LGBTQ Youth

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

Life can get tricky during one's teen years and early 20s. For young people identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transitioning, questioning or queer LGBTQ, life can get even trickier.

This spring, Oasis Youth Center of Tacoma opened its first satellite location hosting free, fun, once-a-week drop-in sessions at the Key Peninsula Civic Center for young people ages 14-24. Oasis offers a safe and supportive environment where Key Peninsula youth who identify as LGBTQ can learn, connect and thrive alongside their peers and adult advocates.

The sessions take place every Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. At each session, Oasis staffers organize icebreaker games to help apprehensive attendees relax.

"We're really helping youth break down those barriers, not feel like 'I'm on my own,' and recognize there's a lot of others like them, and there are safe adults they can come to and build trusting relationships with," said Michelle Woo, director of leadership and wellness for the Oasis Youth Center.

The sessions include time to discuss empathy, build skills to address bullying, brainstorm ways to problem-solve issues with parents, or any other topics that are of particular concern to the youth at the program that day.

This flexibility is intentional. Catching issues as they happen in the home or the community helps address the needs of LGBTQ youth in a timely manner and empowers them to be part of the bigger-picture solution. Oasis is more than an advocacy organization for individuals.

"We want to create systemic change," Woo said.

Discussions sometimes take place with

the whole group, with chairs in a circle and rules against interrupting the speaker or checking cell phones. Other times, the discussion is informal, occurring in small groups or one-on-one.

Each session includes an activity for the day. For example, recently, each youth created a flag to display at Tacoma Pride Festival. Another day they simply headed outside and tossed Frisbees on the lawn.

There are always plenty of snacks—and there's the freedom to just hang out.

After more than three decades operating in Tacoma, Oasis offers a wide variety of programming choices, activities and get-togethers for youth in the city. Just two months into the Key Peninsula Civic Center meetings, "we're experimenting, seeing what's needed, what's going to work," Woo said. Future possibilities include a session for younger students; in Tacoma, Oasis hosts special programs for youth as young as 11. Staff and volunteers are also interested in starting an open mic night, a cooking class or other activities based on local youths' interests.

Young people with a wide variety of needs seek help at Oasis. Timothy K. (last name withheld for privacy reasons), who is now a volunteer with Oasis, originally came to the group after being kicked out of the house and facing homelessness. While family arguments had been extensive and ongoing, Timothy said for his parents, the news of their child coming out as gay was the final straw.

"Everything cascaded from there," he said. "Being kicked out of my own home was very harsh. To be able to turn to an entire group of people who had their arms open and said, 'You can be part of our family,' has been phenomenal."

For Kadin Brooks, finding an LGBTQ

support organization that catered to folks in their early 20s was key. Brooks did not come out as gay until his junior year in college. He sought support first through Stonewall Youth, a similar group in Olympia. However, that group accepts those only up to age 21. So, as a nearly-22-year-old, Brooks set out to find community elsewhere.

"I felt like I needed to do something, especially in the current political climate," Brooks said. "It's been a big learning experience. Not only does (Oasis) give you a safe space and a place where there's other LGBTQ people, but also a lot of these organizations focus on social justice." He views Oasis Youth Center as in alignment with groups supporting the rights of women, ethnic minorities and other marginalized persons.

"It is one organization out of many working toward goals of social justice in the community," Brooks said.

Rachel Schmit, a youth counselor and peer leader with Oasis, sees the group as providing young people with a safe place to find out more about themselves. Schmit enjoys "being able to come to Oasis and feel comfortable with myself."

"Oasis is so welcoming. A lot of parents will say 'Oh, it's just a phase,' but here, we just allow you to go through those evolutions of yourself. Oasis is a paradise for whoever wants to come," Schmit said.

The unique struggles of gay and lesbian high school students are a particular concern among Oasis group leaders, who acknowledge that such students face higher rates of bullying and are at greater risk for depression and dropping out.

"A lot of the incidents are small. Maybe a comment, pushing someone or throwing food at them. Small incidents don't have large consequences. But they happen continually," Schmit said.

"I am really happy that Oasis has set up programming at the Civic Center," said Laurel Schultz, program director for Communities In Schools Peninsula.

She said that future plans include arranging free transportation to and from the drop-in sessions in order to increase accessibility.

Pierce County Councilmember Derek Young visited the group during a recent open house at the Civic Center.

"I'm so pleased that Oasis is beginning this move toward satellite centers," Young said.

He said that the plan for bus service to and from the drop-in sessions is important and necessary, because "transportation issues can be especially difficult for young people."

As Brooks sees it, misunderstanding is at the root of homophobia. "Society will

only get better when there's more things like this," Brooks said.

Schmit agrees, saying, "It's hard to be accepting of something you don't understand."

To Key Peninsula youth considering taking part in an Oasis drop-in session, "they are welcome here," Timothy K. said. "Please come. Find yourself. Enjoy the time."

To find out more about Oasis Youth Center, learn how you can help or to donate funds or snacks, email oasis@oasisyouthcenter.org or visit them online.

KP Teen Hailee Hutton Battles Aplastic Anemia

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Last October, the lives of eighth-grader Hailee Hutton and her family were turned upside down. Within a few days of what seemed like a mild viral illness coming on, Hailee was suddenly not able to run in PE class and developed enormous bruises.

Her mom, Hollie, and her sister, Taylor, took Hailee to the emergency room. At first, because of the bruising, the staff separated Hailee from her family, fearing abuse. But as soon as lab work came back, things changed.

"When the ER doctor came to talk to us, she didn't really look us in the eye, didn't give us a diagnosis, but said that the test results were abnormal and that she needed to get a different doctor," Hollie Hutton said.

Dr. Robert Irwin, a blood specialist at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, came to talk about the blood tests.

"He sat down with us and explained the test results. He said that Hailee might have aplastic anemia or leukemia but that they would need to do other tests to figure that out. He told Hailee, 'You are a very sick girl,'" Hutton said.

Three days later, when bone marrow biopsy results came in, the medical staff had the diagnosis: aplastic anemia. Hailee's bone marrow was not making blood cells. Platelets help with clotting and a low count leads to bleeding and easy bruising. Red cells carry oxygen and a low count causes shortness of breath and fatigue. White cells fight infection and a low count increases risk of infection.

Hailee underwent a combination of immunotherapy and chemotherapy. The treatment was fairly successful, according to Hutton, but Hailee had significant side effects like bone pain, joint swelling and



Hailee Hutton with father Nick, sister Taylor and mother Hollie. Photo: Richard Miller, KP News

water retention, and she needed multiple transfusions. She returned to Key Peninsula Middle School in February and graduated in June. In the fall, Hailee will be a student Peninsula High, where her sister will be a senior.

Facing the medical issues has been a challenge. Hutton said, "It has not been easy. But we are a really close family and this makes us closer."

Hutton had to quit her job as assistant director of a youth center at Joint Base Lewis McChord and finances are tight. Hailee's father, Nick, works as a mechanical foreman for a company that does road and bridge construction. Although the company has been understanding, he does not have paid time off.

It has been difficult for Nick Hutton to find time to be with Hailee during hospitalizations and appointments. Her parents have worked hard to keep Taylor's life as normal as possible, making sure she was able to play on the PHS basketball team.

The family was told from the beginning that the bone marrow transplant was inevitable once the medical treatment was no longer effective.

"It's weird to go for almost a year with the treatment, only to know that it will fail," Hutton said. "They always talked about transplant as when and not if. We are in that weird spot of waiting for the

treatment to fail and trying to keep Hailee in as good a shape as possible for when she needs a transplant."

Hailee gets regular blood tests and when her counts fall, she will have final testing to find a bone marrow donor. Her sister was not a match, so she will have an unrelated donor. The transplant will take place in Seattle and requires moving there for several months to be close to medical care even after Hailee gets out of the hospital. The cost of housing will be covered, but the added expenses of food and transportation will not.

The Huttons have no other family in the area, but friends have rallied around. Matt Voss, best friend of Hailee's father, and his wife, Michelle, organized a golf tournament to raise money; KP Cares has organized fundraisers and the family has established a GoFundMe account (www.gofundme.com/help-hailee-beat-aplastic-anemia).

Hutton said, "Anyone who has met Hailee knows the kindness in her soul. She is such a caring and loving individual who has been a joy to raise. She is always worried about other people and how they are doing. Helping her to stop worrying about everyone else and focus on herself and getting better is our main priority. The love and support of everyone so far has blown our entire family away and with your support, she will beat this."

YMCA Camp Seymour Plans Draw Opposition from Neighbors

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Representatives of YMCA Camp Seymour went home frustrated and disappointed after facing neighborhood opposition to their recent proposal: To construct a concrete water tower, 30 feet in diameter and 60 feet tall, to be situated on the high ground of the 126-acre camp to achieve the water flow required by the current county fire code.

“We don’t normally see this many people at our meetings,” said Don Swenson, chairman of the Key Peninsula Advisory Commission to the packed house assembled July 18 in the VFW Room at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Following hours of testimony from both sides, the KP Advisory Commission voted unanimously to recommend denial of the application to the Pierce County Hearing Examiner.

Ty Booth, planner for Pierce County Planning and Public Works, reminded interested parties that KP Advisory Commission makes recommendations to the Hearing Examiner who is not, however, obligated to consider their counsel.

In 2012, the Pierce County Hearing Examiner approved Camp Seymour’s Major Amendment to their 2001 Master Plan to allow additional development of the camp. Booth noted there was no public testimony in 2012 at the examiner’s hearing. In fact, the KP Advisory Commission voted 5 to 1 to recommend approval of Camp Seymour’s development plans in 2012.

In the time since that approval the YMCA was informed by the Pierce County Fire Protection Board that the water flow requirements increased since that 2012. Camp Seymour’s existing 50-year old reservoir provides insufficient volume and pressure to meet the code requirements.

The Pierce County Hearing Examiner’s approval of the camp’s master plan amendment in 2012 was subject to compliance with county codes in place at the time of application for a building permit. For YMCA Camp Seymour to proceed with the projects outlined in their amended master plan, they must first address the issue of water volume and pressure.

Beginning in January 2018 Camp Seymour had conversations with Pierce County planning staff about the need to add a reservoir and were directed to file

a Minor Amendment, since the tank was not addressed in the 2012 Examiner’s approval. Minor Amendments are usually approved or denied administratively and do not require a review before the KPAC or the Examiner. Minor amendments only require public notices.

In May 2018, the Minor Amendments application was created after the fees were paid.

Booth reported that, upon further review by different planning staff and consideration of comments received from the public, it was determined that YMCA Camp Seymour’s proposal did not qualify for a Minor Amendment. On June 29, 2018, the application was converted to a Major Amendment, subject to review from KPAC and the Pierce County Hearing Examiner.

According to information provided by YMCA Camp Seymour to Pierce County Planning and Public Works, the camp’s goal was “to meet all the fire flow requirements and not be a long-term financial burden on camp operations as the proposal represents a large expense.”

“As part of the proposal 800 feet of new water main would be installed to connect to the existing water system. The tank would be filled from a well(s) with existing water rights. Besides providing water for fire protection to the camp, the camp’s fire system would also provide high capacity fire hydrants at which fire tankers can refill in order to reduce refill transit time needed to more rapidly combat a fire,” according to documentation provided by YMCA Camp Seymour on file at Pierce County.

In correspondence with Pierce County, the camp explained how they arrived at the current water tank proposal:

“Many options were considered without having a large expensive pumping system that will cost a lot of time and money to maintain. Seeing that a gravity system is currently in place and has worked flawlessly for over 50 years, a new gravity tank is the most economical and has longevity and reliability. The chosen location is necessary



YMCA Camp Seymour’s Thomas Road entrance. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

in order to provide sufficient head pressure to supply the hydrants at the required flow, pressure and duration.

“An alternative plan the camp explored was installing the tank on a parcel just north of Thomas Road. This option would provide gravity fire flow, however the reservoir would be more or less ‘in the backyard’ on an existing home to the east and for that reason the alternative was not pursued.

“Utilization of fire pumps to provide fire flow would still require a new reservoir, though two shorter reservoirs could be used in order to be less than 40 feet tall. Unfortunately, sufficiently level ground is not generally available in the upper area of the camp, as all level ground of sufficient size to accommodate the tanks is utilized by building or by the camp’s drain field. These reservoirs would likely be installed in the same location as the proposed reservoir, the only difference being two 20-foot tall reservoirs rather than one 60-foot tall reservoir. A fire pump station is also required, though this might be able to be located further from Thomas Road.”

According to testimony given by the YMCA’s agent, Doug Piehl of Northwest Water Systems, during the KPAC meeting, Camp Seymour looked into pumps as alternatives but concluded that pumps were neither cost-effective to install nor economically efficient to maintain and operate.

Consistent with comments made by nearly every member of the KP Advisory Council, all of the concerned neighbors expressed fondness for the camp, its mission and its having been a good neighbor in the past.

“The primary issue here is the visibility of

the structure,” said Dave Ward, who lives adjacent to Camp Seymour. “The entire point of a conditional use permit is to ensure compatibility with surrounding land uses. In this case, all of the surrounding land uses are rural residential and not a single property in this rural residential community could build a 60-foot-tall building.”

According to staff comments included from Planning and Public Works staff in the Initial Project Review presentation to KPAC, the “YMCA has considered the comments received from the public and is now proposing to paint the water tower green and plant additional trees. In this case it does not appear the tank would block any view but simply boils down to whether a large tank visible along the road is an impact or not.”

According to Pierce County Fire Marshall Warner Webb many camps throughout Pierce County whose buildings or cabins may be nearing replacement still want to keep camps in a rustic and natural environment. It can be very expensive to comply with fire code in areas that lack municipal fire protection and said his department works with all the camps to explore the variety of options available to achieve compliance with fire code.

“YMCA Camp Seymour is right in line with what we would normally see throughout Pierce County for how you can comply with fire requirements given to a project,” Pierce County Fire Marshall said via telephone interview.

Camp Seymour’s current application is scheduled to go before the Pierce County Hearing Examiner Aug 8 at 2 p.m. in Pierce County Annex in Tacoma.



Photo: Adobe Stock

Choose Precaution Over Panic Regarding Ticks

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

Nationwide, ticks and tick-borne diseases are on the rise, and the Key Peninsula is no exception. People who are often active in wooded areas are most at risk for tick bites. Free-range pets with access to wooded areas are at risk too.

When Key Peninsula resident Michelle Olsen's spaniel, Cassie, began exhibiting flu-like symptoms and later became unconscious, Olsen rushed her to the emergency vet in Tacoma. "Cassie had anaplasma, and likely ehrlichia, from a suspected tick bite in her side. When it was said and done, I was \$3,000 lighter. And Cassie came back from essentially the dead," Olsen said.

Ticks are small, dark-colored parasites that feed on blood and can transmit diseases to people and pets. Some varieties live in grass and low shrubs and can latch onto the clothing or skin of a person who brushes past. Other varieties are associated with rodents and are only active at night.

Once aboard a host, ticks can crawl long distances across the skin to find a preferred feeding location, and then burrow in to feed. Bear, deer, raccoons, skunks and opossum often harbor ticks. Depending on the species, life stage and the host, the tick may continue to feed for just a few minutes or up to several days.

Tick-borne illnesses are significantly lower in Western Washington than in other parts of the country, especially those with hot, humid summers. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) places Washington in the bottom 20 percent of states reporting cases of tick-borne illness, including Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever

and others. The most recent data available cited 300 reported cases statewide between 2004 and 2016.

"Lyme disease is very rare in our state. According to the state Department of Health, each year there are seven to 23 cases in the state. In almost all those cases, people get the disease from traveling out of state, specifically to the Northeast and Midwest," said Steve Metcalf, communications specialist for Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. "I don't have specific data for Key Peninsula, but our county data are in line with what's happening statewide."

Nationally, the CDC reports the incidence of illness contracted from ticks more than doubled between 2004 and 2016.

Tick-bite prevention includes tucking pant legs into socks when venturing into the woods, avoiding brushing past long grass or shrubs if possible, showering after being in the woods, and checking for ticks between toes and other body crevices, as those are preferred feeding locations.

"The Department of Health has a resource page to show people how to safely remove ticks and, if necessary, send them in for testing," Metcalf said.

After her close call with her spaniel Cassie, Olsen isn't taken any more chances with ticks. "We check for ticks on our dogs and ourselves at least three times a week during the summer," she said. "I use rat-traps and have bait stations under my house for rodents. I removed all bird feeders from the yard to prevent bear and deer from finding the yard desirable."

More information about ticks is available from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department at www.tpchd.org.

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DON TJSSEM, KP NEWS

World Traveler Lands New Position at KP Civic Center

to organizations, groups, families and individuals.

Longtime KPCC board member Peggy Gablehouse, who handles human resources for the organization, said, “Stefanie is very warm and open. I think she’s going to do very well.”

When Warren saw the job advertised, she said it felt almost too good to be true. “I was looking for ways to continue supporting my dreams financially without going back to the world of cubicles and shareholders.”

She is a seasoned world traveler with over 36,100 miles to her credit.

Her childhood dream of becoming an actress was fulfilled early on. She appeared on stage at the Silverdale Community Theatre in grade through high school. After graduating from Central Kitsap High School in Silverdale, she toured with a professional acting troupe from Chicago. After that first year, Warren said she realized, “It was not what I wanted to do with my life.”

Professionally she moved onto event planning in the Seattle area, an occupation she enjoyed for seven years. Two noteworthy experiences included planning a Microsoft Christmas party with 400 casino tables at the Four Seasons Hotel; working for Events Northwest she coordinated 88 Christmas parties in December 2000.

Warren later earned a bachelor of science in health psychology and spirituality from Bastyr University. She is not bashful about being a druid and is an active member of The Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids. The group

is active in Washington state, not just England. She enjoys sharing her knowledge of druidry.

After 10 years of performing operational management for Philips Healthcare in Bothell, Warren was seduced by wanderlust and left her steady job to travel the world.

Her solo trip, three years in the making, lasted six months. She visited 33 countries, including a visit with a cousin in Tasmania, where her grandmother once lived.

In 2017, Warren bought a motor home and traveled the states, before eventually settling down. She and her partner, Dave, are developing their homestead on 4 1/2 acres in Longbranch. At the moment, that means living in two motor homes, while awaiting the electrical, septic and well permitting processes with the county.

Warren said she feels fortunate to work in nearby Vaughn. And she is thrilled to have the opportunity to do work she enjoys, while meeting new people and becoming part of the community at the same time. “People have been so warm and friendly,” she said. “It feels like home, and we’re only getting started.”

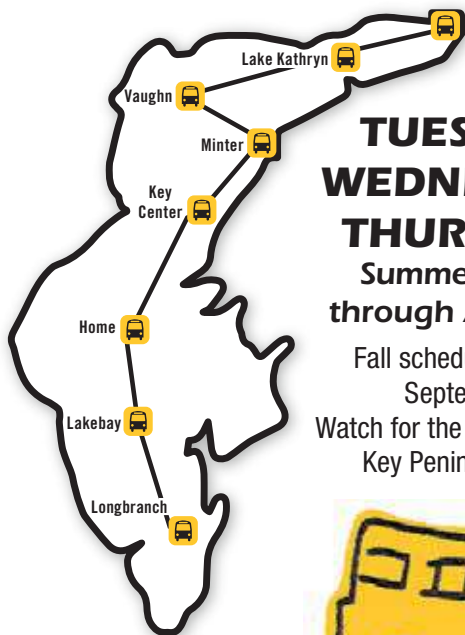
Besides a large garden, they plan to raise goats, chickens, bees and other small farm animals. The couple shares their home with two motorcycle-sidecar-riding border collies. Between the two of them, they have six pet sugar gliders—pocket-sized marsupials originally from the rainforests of Australia and Indonesia, now bred domestically as household pets. Warren said, “We love our sugar gliders! That is what brought us together.”

The Key Peninsula Civic Center board hired Stefanie Warren as the new marketing and facility coordinator, replacing retirement-bound Patty Ghioffi after a successful three-year run in the position. Essential to the smooth functioning of the civic center, the role includes responsibility for such time-honored events as the popular Civic Center Crab Feed, KP Livable Community Fair and the Winter Warmup & Holiday Craft Fair. Warren will handle marketing and provide coordination for all building rentals

Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

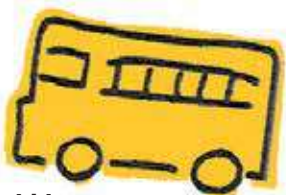
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| 10:42 | Whiteman Road @ Whiteman Cove Road |
| 10:47 | Palmer Lake Public Access 24th St, sunny side |
| 10:48 | Palmer Lake 21st St & 193rd Ave, park shelter |
| 10:53 | KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank |
| 10:53 | Home Gas Station KP Hwy NW |
| 10:58 | 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 |
| 4:08 | Rouse Road @174th Ave |
| 4:09 | Longbranch Improvement Club |
| 4:13 | Evergreen Elementary School |
| 4:21 | Volunteer Park |
| 4:23 | Red Barn/Key Pen Hwy and 84th St NW |
| 4:26 | Wright Bliss and Olson Dr |
| 4:29 | 4 Corners, 76 Station |
| 4:32 | SR302 & 150th Ave, Lake Holiday |
| 4:34 | SR302 & 140th, Lake of the Woods |



Key Center library community welcomes Corrine Weatherly. *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News*

Meet the New Librarian in Town

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

Corrine Weatherly became the official supervising librarian at the Key Center Library June 16. Weatherly has worked at six of the 20 library locations in the Pierce County Library System (PCLS).

When the position in Key Center opened in March, she was serving as the branch supervisor in Steilacoom and decided to apply. Weatherly admits that she thought she had blown the interview when she was asked, “What contributes to the strength of a community branch library?”

“It’s the community,” Weatherly answered.

The Key Center Library is unique. According to a PCLS analysis of usage data, this Key Peninsula branch is one of the most heavily used per capita of any system library.

“I suspected the claim was true because ‘the books on hold’ shelves are filled every morning; by the end of the day, over half are empty,” Weatherly said.

She was nonetheless impressed to discover that the June data report showed “circulation is higher than at any other small library and is comparable to the ranges of circulation at the medium-sized urban libraries.”

Carol Dike, the librarian often seen in the

Brones Room surrounded by story-time children, said of Weatherly, “The thing I like most so far is the way her heart shows in her dealings with people. She is really good at finding ways to make sure every customer’s needs are met.”

“We are thrilled to have her. She fit right in and will be a great asset to the community,” librarian Teddie Emmerich said.

Weatherly, who was the featured speaker at the Key Peninsula Business Association at the July 20 lunch meeting at El Sombrero, said, “I’m very happy to be here. The Key Center Library is great, the staff is amazing and the community is incredible. Rosina [Vertz, retired supervisor] left some big shoes to fill and I’m going to do my best.”

Like all good librarians, she used the KPBA audience as an opportunity to promote library programs. “We’re having a great response to our summer reading program,” she said. “This year’s theme is ‘Libraries Rock’ and we are still signing kids up every day. Both kids and adults can sign up; it’s not too late.”

Friends of the Key Peninsula Library invites the community to attend a “Welcome Reception for Corrine Weatherly—Meet Key Center Library’s New Supervising Librarian” on Aug. 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library.



Sunday morning worship in the open air. *Photo: Lisa Bryan KP News*

United by Faith—KP Churches Worship Together

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

The congregations of six Key Peninsula churches, about 400 people, gathered for an open-air service including worship, communion and group prayer July 15 at Gateway Park in Wauna.

Attendees sat on the gently upward slope near the playground. Some brought canopies and umbrellas to reduce the heat and glare, while others took shelter under the trees around the main field. The service lasted about two hours, and some attendees stayed afterward for an informal picnic.

A band of musicians from several churches, including pastors and members of local group The Bluegrass Minstrel provided both hymns and contemporary Christian music. Worship was followed by brief prayer, where the congregation broke into groups of five to pray for healing and prosperity on the Key Peninsula.

Several pastors shared responsibility for the introduction and leading prayers throughout the service and communion.

Dennis Fuqua, author of several prayer-focused books and director of a ministry based in Vancouver, Washington, gave the sermon. Fuqua, who grew up in the Key Peninsula area, spoke on the opening verses of Psalm 133 and on unity among Christians on the KP.

“When the body of Christ on the Key Peninsula walks as one, works as one, worships as one, even though they’re in different locations, they are distinguished. That’s how people know you are followers of Christ,” Fuqua said, emphasizing the need for churches to know each other, act as a unified community and support each

other in individual and group evangelism.

Six local churches collaborated in the service: Lakebay Community, Key to Life, Wellspring Fellowship, Waypoint, Grace Evangelical Presbyterian and Longbranch Community. The event has been in planning since the fall of 2017 when the idea came up in a monthly fellowship that several KP pastors attend.

“I was impressed by the unity that we got. We have people from all the churches here, doing things that religious people don’t always do together. We shared in communion...we worshipped together and we had one speaker—that’s a big deal,” said Mark Klingler, discipleship pastor of Waypoint Church.

Some of the pastors acknowledged differences in the way the churches conduct their weekly services but chose to focus on areas where they could find agreement instead. Asking Fuqua to preach the main message was another move toward avoiding unnecessary conflicts.

“We didn’t want any one of us to speak, so it was intentional that we got someone from the outside so we’re not promoting our own churches,” Klingler said.

Attendees enjoyed the chance to interact with other Christians from outside their own churches. Several commented on the surprising size of the gathering and on the diversity of churches represented.

“I didn’t realize there were so many churches out here—I just think it’s a cool opportunity for all these different churches to come together and worship,” said event participant Bri Maxted. “It was good to be able to be very inclusive, because that’s the way Jesus is.”

Photo: Adobe Stock



Nutrition Gets a Boost at Red Barn

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The Red Barn staff and students have much to celebrate. Thanks to a grant from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD), they will soon have a much-improved kitchen. And funding from Pierce County has allowed them to transform a storage room into a multipurpose classroom that doubles their usable space.

Susan Ricketts, the food and garden coordinator, is thrilled to receive the TPCHD grant.

“The grant was designed to improve healthy eating in our community,” she said. “The health department asked for ideas, including from our students at the Red Barn. At least 100 ideas came in, and a committee met to look at them all. We formed the ideas into six projects, and then voting took place online and at the Livable Fair. The idea for the Red Barn – kitchen improvement with a full-sized double oven and stove top for better food for our students, and then a plan to offer cooking classes – won.”

There have been a few roadblocks in implementing the grant. Clint Rosson, Red Barn’s executive director, said that the building is wired “like a Christmas tree” and bringing the kitchen wiring up to the standard required for a big oven would have used the entire grant budget. They decided to install a propane stove. A new sink and improved cabinetry will complete the project.

“Construction is going crazy right now and it is hard to find a plumber and elec-

trician to do the work,” Rosson said. “But we hope to have the new kitchen up and running by fall when school opens.”

Ricketts, who has been working in kitchens since she was 18, is excited. The current kitchen only has a small convection oven and a microwave.

“I can bake about eight cookies at a time, so it can take all day to make cookies for 40 kids,” she said. “Now we will be able to cook real food and teach the kids to cook real food. I am not a processed food fan.”

She and volunteers plan to have cooking classes for adults soon after the kitchen is remodeled, including canning, baking and nutrition.

Despite the current inadequate kitchen, Ricketts is proud of the shift in eating habits she has seen since she arrived a few years ago. She recalled a student working on a project that required her to find images of food.

“She looked perplexed, saying she couldn’t find many pictures. She had found some of Oreo cookies and a hot dog,” Ricketts said. “When I found picture of a carrot, the student commented that she hadn’t thought of the carrot as food. I knew then that I had a job to do. I am happy to say that rarely if ever do they ask for ranch dressing to use as a dip for the vegetables anymore.”

The multipurpose room remodel transformed a storage area into a well-lit, insulated room. Rosson said the room was initially going to be for basketball, but when the board saw the finished work, they decided it should be used as a classroom.

Rosson, who has a background in

teaching trades, will start with a small engine class. He said that they plan to give a series of courses, such as sewing and electrical, that will be introductions to the trade courses taught at Peninsula High. There are also plans afoot to provide a covered outdoor area for basketball, as the current hoop in the parking area is used year-round.

The Red Barn, sitting on 8 acres just south of Key Center, was first established by several community churches, under the leadership of Waypoint Church. In 2013, the organization incorporated as a 501(c)(3) and no longer has any religious affiliation. Initially working with about 20 middle and high school students, the Red Barn serves at least double that number now.

Students arrive at the Red Barn after school and spend about 45 minutes on homework before having a healthy snack. There are 30 laptops (donated by Rotary Club) available, a few to loan if students

need to work at home, and a printer. Additional activities include foosball, basketball, field trips, art classes (provided by Two Waters Arts Alliance) and talks on such topics as bullying and violence prevention.

Kellie Bennett, the program director, manages the day-to-day operation. Bennett’s background is in English and history. She worked teaching financial literacy before coming to the Red Barn. She ensures there is always adequate supervision, communicates with parents about upcoming activities, and sometimes helps with homework and occasionally with discipline.

“I really like teaching life skills,” she said. “Our goal is to have our students not just survive but thrive, to go through life really enjoying things.”

The Red Barn is open from 2:30 to 6 p.m. five days a week during the school year and for six weeks in the summer from 1 to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

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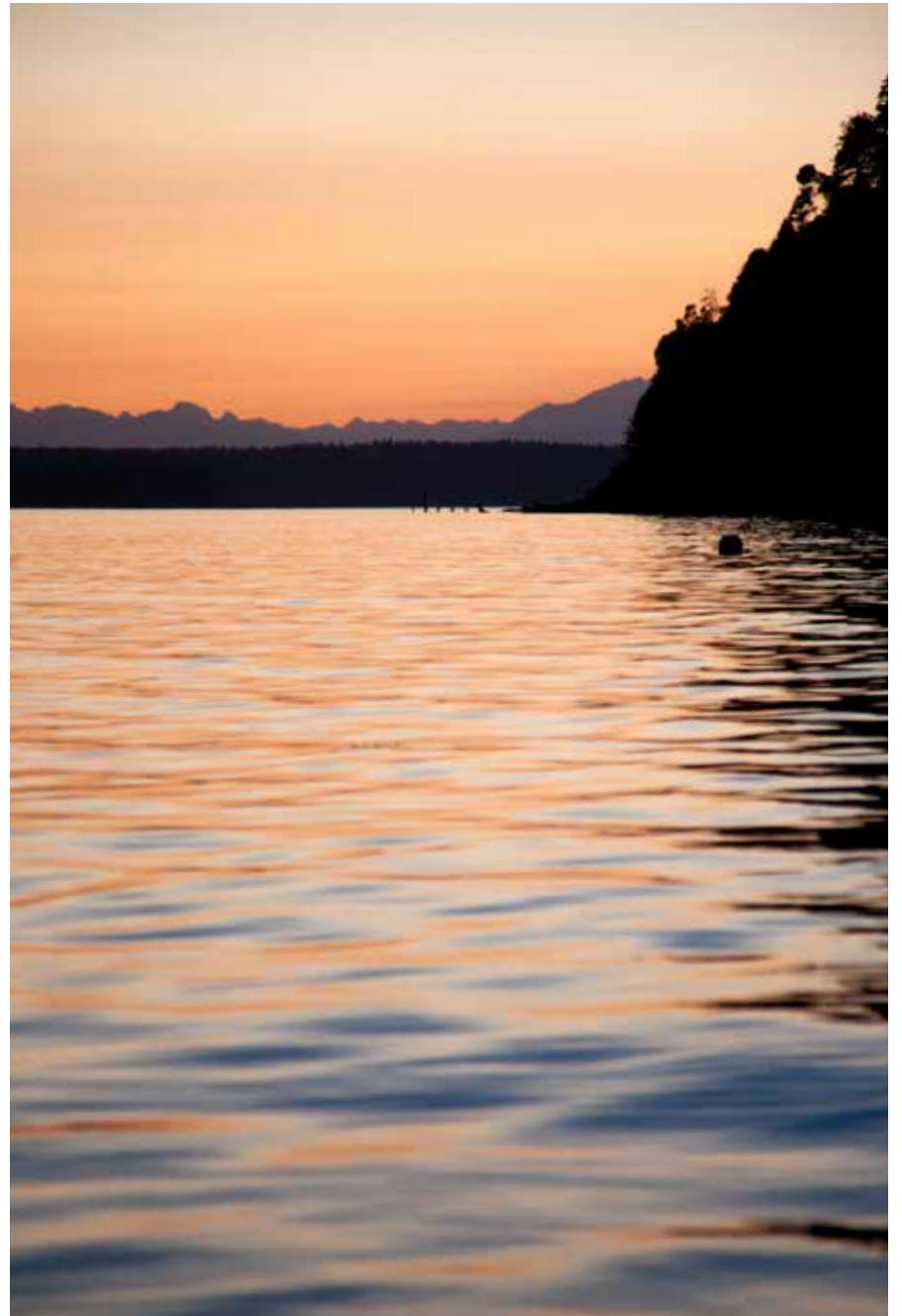
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TOP LEFT: Home parade pirate crew. *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News* **TOP RIGHT:** Joemma June sunset. *Photo: Anna Brones, KP News* **MIDDLE LEFT:** Rare visit from orcas passing through Drayton Passage. *Photo: Richard Hildahl* **FAR LEFT:** A summer walk. *Photo: Anna Brones, KP News* **CLOSE LEFT:** Patriotic Fourth of July celebrant at Home Parade. *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News* **ABOVE RIGHT:** Vaughn Elementary students singing at Aisle of Honor, under direction of Lisa Mills. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*