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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

Oct 2021 Vol. 48 No. 10

Seahawks Prevail in Epic Overtime Fish Bowl 43

QB Jake Bice won his second Fish Bowl while running back Ethan Hogan scored three of their five touchdowns.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

The Peninsula High School Seahawks beat the Gig Harbor Tides 35-28 Sept. 17 at Roy Anderson Field in a stunning come-from-behind win for their sixth consecutive Fish Bowl victory. Peninsula took the lead in the 22-21 tally since the first crosstown rivalry game was played in 1979.

The teams met in an empty stadium last season because of COVID-19 restrictions, but this year Fish Bowl was back in all its noisy, gaudy glory. Half-dressed teenagers sporting extravagant body paint shivered in their school colors and Mardi Gras beads, making a capacity crowd of 5,000 mostly masked fans swarming the stands and sidelines despite the pandemic, heavy rain, and a power outage that left them in the dark near the end of a historic game.

The Seahawks came to Fish Bowl 43 ranked fourth in the 3A South Sound league (38th in the state) with a 1-1 record. Returning quarterback and senior Jake Bice led the team to a 5-1 record during last year's shortened, blended league season with 4A teams that began with a Fish Bowl victory in February.

Gig Harbor came in behind Peninsula, ranked fifth in the SSL (73rd in the state) but returning without last year's QB, Payton Knowles, now a Peninsula junior and Seahawk receiver and cornerback.

Both teams had wins the week before; the Tides with an impressive passing game against Bonney Lake (39-19) and Seahawks burying Mt. Rainier 41-0.

The Tides scored the first touchdown four minutes in when Gig Harbor junior and QB Will Landram connected with receiver Colin Montgomery, followed by a successful kick for the extra point.



Neither rain nor Covid nor gloom of night kept the Seahawks from delivering their 22nd Fish Bowl victory. *Tina McKail, KP News*

Bice faced a tough Tides defense from the beginning, keeping the ball on the ground for short gains before attempting a direct-snap fake punt that went nowhere. Gig Harbor ran relentlessly, sometimes gaining just a foot at a time, for their second TD after a half-yard handoff to running back Blaze Herbert, followed by an extra point.

The Seahawks could not make progress against the defense and punted, and the Tides took over on their 20-yard line. Landram was unable to connect on a few passes but slowly advanced the ball until setting up wide receiver Hudson Cedarland for a handoff and 16-yard run for a third touchdown and extra point for the Tides.

After they got the ball back, the Seahawks were forced to punt a third time.

The Tides started at Peninsula's 21-yard line. Landram hit Cedarland with a short pass that he turned into a 78-yard run for a fourth TD followed by another extra point. Score at halftime: 28-0.

In the Seahawk locker room, the QB reminded his players about the Falcons vs. Patriots Superbowl game in 2017. "I said, let's make our own story, and let's go out and win this."

"We need to be more physical defensively, we need to make more tackles and, offensively, I need a little more time," Bice said.

When the second half started, it was a different game.

A heavy rain was falling but Bice mixed handoffs with throws, making one first down after another until hitting wide receiver Knowles, the former Tides QB, who pulled a bomb down with a one-handed catch deep in the red zone. Running back Josh Hinkel ran for the first Peninsula TD from the 2, followed by the extra point.

"After going down and scoring that first drive, we were all hyped up," Bice said.

"This is where it starts, everyone just keep

playing your game, we got a long way to go still. I was just doing my best on the sidelines to get everyone hyped up, the crowd loud, because I knew they were struggling with that and that pressure of actually coming back."

But the Seahawk defense held back the Tides and Bice led the offense slowly pushing downfield. He handed off to running back senior Ethan Hogan to carry 1 yard for their second TD and an extra point. Score at the end of the third quarter: 28-14.

Three plays later, Landram threw an interception to Alden Lester on the 29-yard line, giving the Seahawks the ball. Bice fumbled the next snap, and

the Tides recovered. Cedarland ran it down to the 11 on the next play. Then Landram threw a second interception, this one caught by defensive back Ethan Fias, who ran 86 yards to score the Seahawks' third TD,

THE RAINSTORM CAUSED A BLACKOUT WITH 5:59 LEFT IN THE GAME.

"IT WAS LIKE THE FIRST YEAR I PLAYED IN THE FISH BOWL. THE CROWD JUST GAVE ME THAT CONFIDENCE AND POWER."

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UNDERWRITTEN WITH SUPPORT FROM:

The Angel Guild

NewsMatch/Miami Foundation

Rotary Club of Gig Harbor

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BE CAREFUL, BE HELPFUL, BE WELL

Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN,
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The banner stretched over Key Center announcing the annual scarecrow contest, along with a fresh crop of scarecrows lining the road, brought a big smile to my face. For an instant I wanted to close my eyes and remember what life was like in the before times. I felt almost normal.

The day before I had received a text message from a veteran first-responder and family friend who works on the other side of the Narrows Bridge:

"Heads up guys. You've got to be really careful. Don't take unnecessary risks or get hurt doing something stupid. Emergency rooms are overflowing. We are at the point there is nowhere to take injured people. I've never seen anything like this."

The idea that critical medical care may not be available when things go wrong was outside my life experience until now. The reality of it terrifies me. And for good reason.

My sister, my very best friend in all the world, was left clinging to life by a thread following a freak accident a few summers ago. Had she not been immediately rushed into the emergency room, put on life support and moved upstairs into ICU, she would be dead. Accidents aren't planned; they happen.

The alarming rise in hospitalizations in Washington state is a direct result of unvaccinated people becoming ill from COVID-19 and seeking treatment for something that could have been prevented. It is painful to watch the rise in cases in the unvaccinated and its very real and direct consequences for my family and friends.

A few months into the pandemic, I watched an ambulance pull out of our driveway with my husband stretched out on a gurney in the back, headed to St. Anthony Hospital. I followed a few minutes behind in my car. It wasn't the first time. I knew the drill. I parked my car and pulled out my identification. I was prepared to walk into the hospital entrance, head straight toward the security station to acquire my stick-on visitor badge. The officer would give me the room number, flip a switch and the doors would be opened.

Instead, I was met by a tough line-backer armed with a thermometer scanning my forehead. She asked, "Are you

here as an ER patient? There are no visitors allowed in the hospital at this time."

"I'm not a visitor. My husband was brought into ER by ambulance. You don't understand. I handle all his medical care. Please, get out of my way." I pushed passed her to the reception desk, where it was confirmed just how powerless I was against the fortress St. Anthony had become.

Those were the early days of medical care during COVID-19, when we were being introduced to a whole new ball game.

Now we are all weary, frustrated, quick to anger and simultaneously prone to tears. Civility is at an all-time low in public meetings, the checkout aisle, the roundabouts. Just the other day I received some hate mail for this newspaper's lack of coverage of Santa Claus.

Civic engagement is one of the things that makes the Key Peninsula stand out in Pierce County. The willingness to become involved, to listen and learn, to work together to make life better — or at least more interesting — is a point of pride for those who live here.

Maybe it's the geography of being mostly surrounded by water — or having grown tired of forever driving on the way to somewhere else — but what COVID-19 reaffirmed is that together we can consciously choose to do amazing, transformative things together right here, in our own backyards.

For example, now in its 15th year, the 2021 Key Peninsula Farm Tour gets underway the first weekend in October. Undaunted by the risks inherent in planning public gatherings in the pandemic, farm council organizers plowed ahead after a one-year COVID-19 hiatus. Along with the Fiber Arts Show at the Longbranch Improvement Club, this year's farm tour is shaping up to be the largest community-wide event to take place on the KP since the pandemic began.

There have been a few narrow windows of good fortune and events that went off as planned, like the Two Waters Arts Alliance Art Walk in early August. The KP Civic Center Family Fun Day boasted

over 300 people who enjoyed a great time together Sept. 11.

With a multiple event in the works this summer and the delta variant predominant in Pierce County, The Longbranch Improvement Club postponed its 100th birthday centennial celebration by one year, something even more interesting for the history books.

And then there are all the ongoing activities that bring us together with their own momentum: the food drives at our markets and giveaways at the civic center; the new

garden at the LIC growing vegetables for donation; the growing scholarship program of the Longbranch Foundation; the competing crews of neighbors picking litter up off our roadways, "Key Pen It Clean."

At the same time, the peninsula will be saying goodbye to someone who exemplified community service, Janice McMillan, at a 2 p.m. memorial at the civic center Oct. 3. Janice set the standard for volunteering out here for decades, including writing for the KP News.

We may have a long way to go to get through this pandemic. Maybe we'll never get back to the normal of the before times. But helping each other and our community, in whatever way we can, in small ways or large, in public settings or personal choices, is the only way we will get through it together. ■

P.S. Michelle and Jason Learned's cat photo came in a little late to make it to page 32. See Sunny and all the KP cats online at keypennews.org.





SEAHAWKS FROM PAGE 1

followed by another field goal. Score: 28-21.

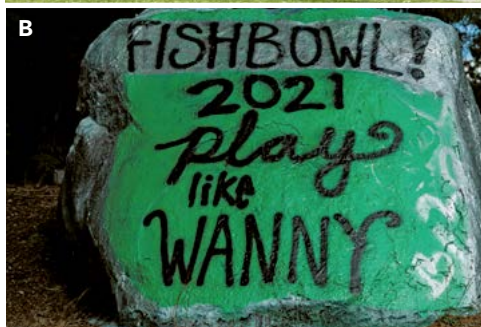
The rainstorm caused a blackout with 5:59 left in the game. After a delay of about 20 minutes, generators got lights back on the field, and Bice handed off to Hogan for his second TD of the night. After the extra point, the score was 28-28.

Hogan ran the ball home yet again in overtime making the score 35-28 with an extra point. On the next possession, the Tides were looking at their fourth down on the Seahawks' 22, when lineman Caleb Novak sacked Landram and ended the game.

"Once we got that first touchdown, I knew we could definitely do it," Hogan said. "We all put our minds together and played our hearts out."

"It was like the first year I played in the Fish Bowl. The crowd just gave me that confidence and power," he said.

The Seahawks also won the annual food bowl, a contest between Peninsula and Gig Harbor High schools to donate goods to FISH food bank. PHS won with 22,625 items over GH's 12,956. For more information, go to www.ghpfish.org.



A QB Jake Bice at work. **B** Remembering teammate Caleb Wanaka, who died in June car accident. **C** Caleb Novak celebrates. **D** Fish Bowl fan fever. **E** Hall Schmidt congratulates Joshua Hinkel on his TD. **F** QB Bice after his second Fish Bowl win. **G** What's a football game without the cheerleading team? **H** Black-out? What blackout? **I** KP native Austin Hansen's catch set-up the Seahawks first TD. *A and G: Ed Johnson, KP News, all others Tina McKail, KP News*
See these photos and more online at keypennews.org





Meet the Candidates

ONLINE ZOOM EVENT

2021 Key Peninsula Candidates Forum

October 12
Tuesday at 7 p.m.

PORT OF TACOMA

Position 1

LAURA GILBERT

JOHN McCARTHY

Position 2

DICK MARZANO

ELIZABETH PEW

Position 4

MARY M. BACON

DON MEYER

PENINSULA SCHOOL

DISTRICT No. 401

Director District 2

LINDA ADER

JENNIFER BUTLER

Director District 5

JUANITA BEARD

DAVID OLSON

KEY PENINSULA PARKS DISTRICT

Commissioner Pos. 2

SHAWN JENSEN

JOHN "PAT" KELLY

ONLINE ZOOM EVENT

Email questions in advance for candidates. Send to
keypencouncil@gmail.com

Log in details after October 1
at kpcouncil.org

Hosted by

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

Broadcast live by KGHP 89.3/105.7 FM

For years people have said "Our seniors deserve better." We listened.
Now the Key Peninsula's first-ever supportive housing for seniors is officially underway!



Grab a shovel and help us break ground at 10:30 am on Saturday, Oct. 23

Join us for music, refreshments and celebration
at the building site across from the Mustard Seed Project
overlooking Key Center at 9015 154th Avenue CT NW.

We've all worked together to make this audacious dream a
reality. Come help break ground (shovels optional) for new housing
that will keep *our* elders living in *our* community.

Together, we did it!



www.themustardseedproject.org

KPFD Chief Poised to Leave for Central Pierce Fire & Rescue

A change in leadership could mean collaboration with Central Pierce and a chief shared by both districts.

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Key Peninsula Fire Department Chief Dustin Morrow has applied for the job of chief at Central Pierce Fire & Rescue in Puyallup, the largest fire district in the county. He advanced to the last round of competition as one of two finalists at a meeting of the Central Pierce fire commissioners Sept. 8, viewable on the CPFR District YouTube channel.

Morrow informed staff of his employment status later that week and of the possibility of a collaboration between the two fire districts that could include him being the chief for both.

He has been transparent with the KPFD commissioners and kept Chairman Stan

COMMISSIONER FRANK GRUBAUGH REITERATED THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY DISCUSSION OF A MERGER WITH ANOTHER FIRE DISTRICT.

Moffett apprised every step of the way, he said. "I've been talking to Central Pierce too to make sure they understand that I'm not willing to leave District 16 hanging."

A meeting is scheduled between the two fire commissioner board chairs together with the retiring CPFR Chief Dan Olson and Chief Morrow Oct. 15 to discuss the possibilities for collaboration.

"There is a huge conversation in the county that's about breaking down the walls, being more cooperative, and sharing resources," Morrow said.

The district already has an arrangement with Central Pierce for IT-related work and administrative tasks. Merging districts would require voter approval but the commissioners could contract management of the department to be centralized in another fire district. "That is something that can occur via board action," Morrow said.

"There is no conversation in play about operationally merging or giving away our fire department," he said.

Morrow came to KPFD April 1, 2019. He told KP News his early efforts were about securing a level of stability to allow analysis of what the future might hold for the department.

"I was really honest with this board on my original assessment of where this place could go," he said. "I always felt we were going to discover whether we were going to be a standalone organization or had to get tucked into another organization in one form or another.

"It's really easy for me to articulate

that we don't have an adequate depth of resources throughout the organization we need," Morrow said. He cited back-to-back calls, short-staffed units compared to industry standards, the lack of overall administrative support needed for a robust training environment, and the EMS environment the department needs.

At the regular KPFD 16 fire commission meeting Sept. 14, Morrow reiterated that he had no contingent or conditional job offer from Central Pierce and no decision had been made by them or by him about the move or a new working arrangement.

"What if any relationship could be had between Central Pierce and District 16 and/or others in the county that would allow this policy group to

potentially make a decision that may be something different than just replacing the fire chief as the standard process?" Morrow asked. "Is there an alternate way for us to provide emergency services within our community that overall may be better than what we do today, maybe at the same or less cost than we do today? It's a continued process of discovery and I happen to be in the middle of it, not by design or choice, but it's a collision of timing and events."

During Morrow's tenure, the fire district received support from KP voters three times: a permanent EMS levy approved by 63%;

renewal of an existing maintenance and operation levy with 65% approval; and most recently a 6-year fire levy lid lift approved by 62%.

At the Sept. 14 meeting, Volunteer Lt. Dave Vezanni said he didn't remember Morrow talking about a merger or expressing interest in employment at Central Pierce during the recent campaign.

"During the levy it was, 'If you pass this, we'll have sufficient money to move us forward,' to now (when) that's not enough money so we have to look at other alternatives," Vezanni said. "That's only 30 days ago we had the election."

Commission Chair Stan Moffett said the board was going to look at the long term, beyond the next five years to consider the next 10 or 15 years at KPFD 16.

"Are we going to be able to continue to

between Central Pierce and District 16 and/or others in the county that would allow this policy group to

"ONE OF THE BIGGEST THINGS FOR ME WHEN WE HIRED THE CHIEF, AND THIS IS JUST ME SPEAKING PERSONALLY, IS LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY THAT WAS COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITY."



Garrett Morrow

go back to our constituents and continue to ask for more and more money in order to provide the services we do?" he asked. "The responsibility that we owe the citizens of this peninsula is to look at every different possibility and facet."

Vezanni said that although the 10-year financial plan was rolled out in January

to the commissioners, "it seems like the last eight days is the only time I've ever heard that we are in a financial situation where we

may not be able to provide the service we want. What happened in the eight months prior to this?"

Vezanni then asked each commissioner to state their position on having a full-time fire chief 100% employed by and focused on KPFD, adding, "If the Chief does accept the job at Central Pierce, we need to put all the capital improvement projects and investments on hold so that the next chief can pursue his vision and not someone else's," including two substantial real estate transactions (See "Voters Approve 6-Year Fire Levy Lid Lift" KP News, Sept. 2021).

"I cannot make that commitment to you because I don't have all the information and you're talking about something that hasn't occurred yet," Moffett said. "And when it does occur, I can give you my commitment

that I will do everything in my power to ensure that we provide the highest level of service to the citizens on this peninsula."

Commissioner Keith Davies said the board is open-minded to options and that consolidation is the way of the future. "It's what's happening. It's going to continue to get more and more difficult for the smaller departments to survive."

Commissioner Randy Takehara agreed that it's too early to make a decision and wants to keep an open mind. "I think it's best for our citizens not to be so steadfast, 'We've got to have a chief right away.' As I understand it Chief Olson is not retiring until the end of December, I think."

Commissioner Frank Grubaugh reiterated there has never been any discussion of a merger with another fire district. "We've talked about consortiums ... we work with other districts to pool our money and we buy at the best rates. ... As the others have said, the board is intent on doing what's best for the people. To find out what's best we have to look at all the alternatives."

Commissioner Shawn Jensen added, "One of the biggest things for me when we hired the chief, and this is just me speaking personally, is looking for somebody that was committed to our community. So, that's what I'm struggling with right now, is the potential for our chief to depart.

"What happens after that, we don't know." ■

Jack Dunne FROM THE CITIOT DESK



Eagles and Crows

Some thoughts as an offering to my new neighbors: Yes, I'm another transplant with something to say about our glorious home on the Puget Sound. I offer them in the conviction that sometimes understanding and appreciation are realized best when considered from the outside, that even spectacular becomes mundane when constant. I first really began to understand my native California only when I became a Hoosier years ago, and I hope to share my joy in my new home with those who have known it much longer in the spirit of the delighted newbie, mostly wrong in detail but perhaps interesting as a novelty.

My wife reminds me that in many ways, we are city idiots, "citiots." When we first saw deer ambling across our lawn, we got out our cameras. We struggled to accept the reality of our sunsets and forests, our wildflowers and natural aviary. We've gotten a little more engaged, enraged at the destruction of our roses and the constant cleaning of otter scat, but we still stop in our tracks when an eagle soars past. Maybe some of you sometimes catch yourself in childish wonder, even if you've been a child here for a long time.

Earlier in our PNW adventure, I was angered by the continuing drama between eagles and crows. Oh, I've seen crows, and I have shown them little respect. Watching them harry our glorious national bird gave me a sense of powerless outrage. I wanted to "do something."

Some of us manage our homes thoroughly. We establish fences between our land and the wild. Technology and hard work can yield productive, safe and beautiful spaces where we can raise our families and do our jobs. The management can be aggressive. One guy I spoke with explained that the humane way to deal with otter scat is to "shoot the #@*ers in the head, not drown them as some do."

I choose a more negotiated relationship, accepting the nuisance and enjoying their busy company otherwise. My dog and I chase the deer away when we see them, and I am glad of the hunters among us who enjoy the skilled adventure and resultant bounty. My citiot standing is probably showing, and the hypocrisy is plain, but I'm OK with less killing in my life. We've still got room here for the very earliest residents and I can only hope they feel the same about me.

I have also enjoyed meeting my neighbors, learning and sharing thoughts, including

politics. Forgive my sailing into dangerous waters, but I hope to offer only the broadest observations in the least combative tone.

Some of us are quick to defend our lifestyle from threats real and perceived. Some of us look for change, corrections to injustice, again real and perceived. As I watch eagles and crows I think of the polarized turmoil in my citizenry, sometimes nagging, sometimes dangerous. I comfort myself that the passions just reveal the importance of the struggle.

I am really not sure anymore whether the eagles or the crows deserve my sympathy. I'm pretty sure they don't care about it anyway, and the Sound is teaching me that each have their place. Whether adaptive and quick to exploit, or strong and somewhat set in their ways, eagles and crows find ways of achieving balance, and here on the Sound, I'll simply say that balance can be inspirational and stunningly beautiful.

Can we climb out of the squawking of our turbulent times, fly high enough to be inspired and inspire others? Maybe some of the many voices of the Sound will let us know, maybe not, but I'll enjoy listening for guidance.

Jack Dunne lives gratefully in Lakebay.

Ted Olinger ANOTHER LAST WORD



Swastikas, Censorship and Vonnegut

Sometime in 1988, I think, I was an editorial assistant at G.P. Putnam's Sons in midtown Manhattan when I happened to come out of the elevator to find Kurt Vonnegut trying to get past the receptionist to see his editor, our senior vice president, who was out at some power lunch at the time.

Vonnegut was tall, lanky and sketchy-looking even in chinos and a burgundy polo shirt, and he reeked of tobacco. Our receptionist and unflagging gatekeeper, Ivelisse, was this young woman from the Bronx who I not so secretly adored. Because of that, perhaps, she welcomed my intervention, and I was allowed to escort Vonnegut to the VP's office.

He sat in her chair behind her desk, slammed down a badly mangled manuscript and a pint of Jim Beam, and ordered me to find him an ash tray.

The copy editor assigned to his new novel, "Hocus Pocus," had returned his manuscript to him with something like 350 queries, meaning tiny notes stuck to it with questions about continuity, word choice, punctuation, etc. Ordinarily, one might expect to have 30 or 40 such queries

on a manuscript of similar length. "I feel like I failed a test," Vonnegut said, pointing an unfiltered Pall Mall at me. "I'm here for the make-up exam."

Some hours later, long after our VP had returned from lunch and Vonnegut had ejected her from her own office, he finished his corrections, came out into the hallway and said, apropos of something I could not comprehend at the time, "You know they burned my books in the Seventies. In America! Like Berlin in the Thirties!"

Why am I telling you this?

I was recently banned by Facebook after posting a column I wrote and published in these pages less than a year ago.

Facebook informed me I had violated its community standards by my use of a word.

The word was swastika.

Here's how I used it: "My first swastika." That was the entire introduction to the post, which was a column called "Re-history," about the time I was with my best friend in fourth grade when we came home to find a swastika carved on his front door (KP News, December 2020).

In fairness to the algorithm or bot or whatever that flagged me, I can understand how my intro might be misconstrued. It was intended to get attention. That's what writers do.

But the actual living humans at Facebook to whom I appealed stood by the decision of their automated robot servants. Repeatedly. The story didn't matter. The word did.

Here's another word we should consider: Irony.

That column was about the insidious nature and continuous danger of racism, but it was banned because a robot thought I was promoting racism and a committee of humans, supposedly, declined to reconsider its decision or perhaps even read the offending column.

More ironic is that I am one of them — I mean, like, hello? — I'm a newspaper editor.

That makes me one of your archetypal bleeding-heart, flag-burning, America-hating Illuminati that QAnon has been warning you about, or so I've been told in Key Center saloons. In my defense, I also like to shoot at things and eat red meat and will throw recyclables in the trash when no one is looking. Sometimes I even hold my upturned elitist nose and vote Republican in the antiquated notion that one should choose the best person for the job instead of what's best for their tribe.

Since Facebook and other media, including this newspaper, are private entities, they cannot technically be guilty of censorship since that narrow privilege is reserved to government. But that doesn't stop media from banning whatever to avoid giving offense.

And there's your problem.

The essential American tradition that the best response to unwelcome speech is more speech has subsumed under audiences targeted for division and weaponized for profit. The offending speaker or writer is not the only one targeted for a reaction — the listener or reader is.

We receive a great deal of unsolicited advice from all points of the compass on how to run this award-winning newspaper. When we get something usable, i.e., free of hate speech, mostly accurate and of suitable length, I am one of the reliably loud, long-winded and lonely voices in the staff room demanding we print it no matter how crazy it sounds. But we stick to our policy that while you have a right to express your opinion, we have a civic duty to make you defend it with facts, figures and eloquence, to get it right.

Getting over that hurdle is often too much for many of our interlocutors, who instead insist on shouting louder instead of standing by their words. But we try.

Kurt Vonnegut, of course, was a World War II veteran and a prisoner of war who survived the Dresden fire bombing, which he memorialized in "Slaughterhouse-Five," one of his many books burned in the U.S. and banned in some school districts. But he sat in an office one afternoon smoking Pall Malls and drinking Jim Beam until he had corrected 350 errors, misstatements or missteps in his latest book, to make sure he got it right.

And Ivelisse and I are still in touch. On Facebook.

Ted Olinger is associate editor of KP News and an award-winning journalist. He lives in Vaughn.

Joseph Pentheroudakis ON THE WING



Forget Me Not

Something unexpected happened this summer: I stopped refilling my bird feeders.

I've been keeping my backyard feeders stocked for years, only missing a day or two now and then. Nothing but the best for my winged customers: premium sunflower chips, a food that no bird species can resist; and nyjer thistle for the goldfinches and pine siskins, although even they always went for the chips first. I mean, let's face it, chocolate is chocolate.

But when a friend who has been getting me a couple of bags of chips whenever she goes food shopping for her own menagerie asked me in early July if I needed a refill, I confessed with some guilt that no, I didn't. I still had some left that I hadn't used in

weeks, and by that time my feeders had been hanging forlorn from their poles in my yard for several weeks, empty but for a few sad seeds stuck at the bottom, looking abandoned and a bit like Miss Havisham's dining room minus the jilted-bride part.

I comforted myself with the thought that the birds I normally fed would not have gone hungry, that they would have been able to track down fully stocked feeders on the island. But I've known that there were other feeders nearby for years and yet I didn't stop filling mine. Not only that, but last spring I even moved the feeder poles away from the bed with the ornamental grasses where neighborhood feral cats often hid, ready to pounce on ground-feeding species like juncos or towhees. So, clearly I had no plans to turn off the spigot.

It didn't happen suddenly. I would fill the feeders one day, then forget about them for a few days, refill them, ignore them for a week, on and off like that until in the end I just walked past them, not looking, trying to pretend they didn't exist. I tried not to notice the bag of sunflower chips sitting by the door, the seed probably going more rancid with every passing day. I was worried that if I went back to stocking the feeders it would be a short-lived miracle, that I would soon quit again and feel even more rattled by the experience.

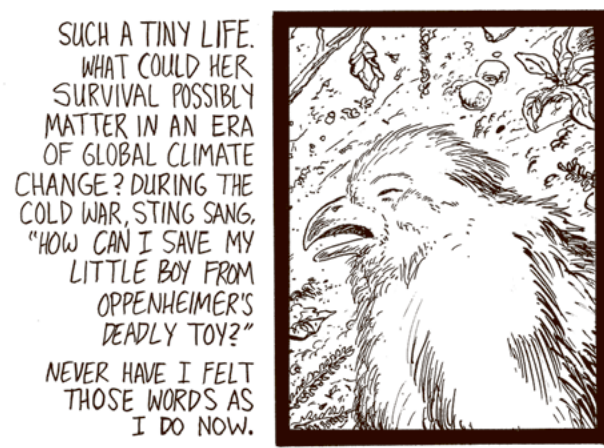
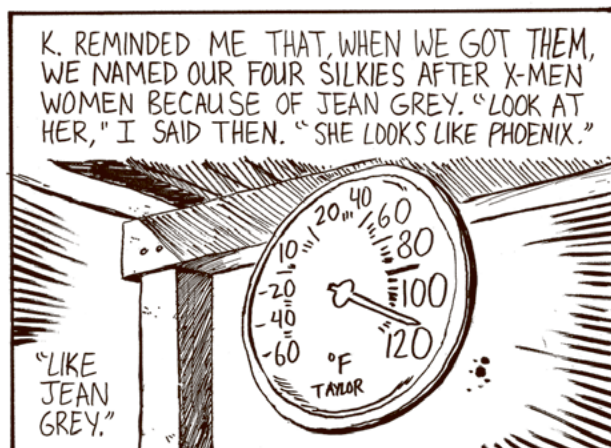
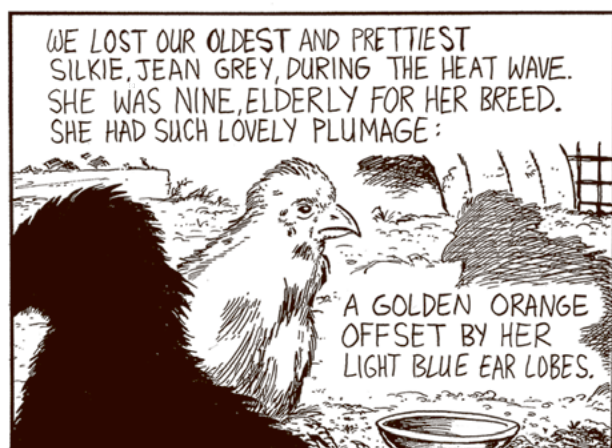
In my defense I would argue that I was busy, that I had so much on my plate this summer I just couldn't keep up. Or, again, that the birds would find another feeder and they'd be fine. That it was the middle of summer, birds were not as active so they didn't need me to feed them, and my garden had already gone to seed — there were plenty of natural food sources.

So many excuses.

But that's how it starts. That's how habits die, how attachments wither and shrivel away. I'll do that tomorrow for sure, you tell yourself. It will only take a minute, you should do that before I head out. Or right

José Alaniz

WE LIVE HERE



after breakfast; that's it, I'll fill the feeders after breakfast. But you don't.

Whatever the reason, by the end of the summer I was faced with a choice: take down the feeders for good or start up again, and this time be consistent. There's a somewhat not-safe-for-work phrase to describe indecision and the need to remedy it. Of course there was a third choice: tell myself I was overthinking this, that I should be kind to myself and not beat myself over the head about this, and so on. We know how well that kind of advice works. And that entire situation had grown into a real irritant.

So one morning I'd finally had it. I dragged out the bags of chips and thistle, cleared the cobwebs that had built up in them, and went back to the familiar routine, shaking the feeders clean and filling them up. It was like hanging out with an old friend again; a friend, however who didn't know if I could be trusted. Later that morning I looked out and sure enough, it hadn't taken them long: some of the regulars were back, the chickadees, the nuthatches and the last of the goldfinches, all busy claiming their real estate on the tubes. Then the usual ground feeders, the juncos and the giant band-tailed pigeons, taking care of what seed the messy eaters on the feeders had shared with them.

And wouldn't you know it, while all was certainly not right with the world again, that little piece of it was.

I'll take it.

Joseph Pentheroudakis is an artist, historian and avid birder who writes from Herron Island.

Dan Whitmarsh
WRITING BY FAITH



Planting for the Future

"Look here," my wife said, pulling back the thick vines growing in our backyard garden. I saw a flash of red deep in the shadows. Reaching in, I gave a gentle tug and pulled out our first tomato of the season.

It soon became the centerpiece of a fresh salad on our dinner table.

Homegrown tomatoes, fresh off the vine and warm from the sun, may be summer's greatest gift to the world.

This was the summer of our garden. It was built with sweat, planted with hope and tended with love. Peas sprouted but were devastated by June's heat wave. The lettuce was ravaged by the local rabbit population. The zucchini did fine. The tomatoes were the stars of the show.

Planting a garden requires hope. For seasoned professionals, that hope is earned from years of experience. For those lacking the proverbial green thumb, hope may be more akin to wishful thinking. In the end, one plants a garden not for today, but in hope for what it will become in weeks, months or years.

This garden was a new project. Our first years in this place were filled with other projects related to the ongoing maintenance of a home. The idea of a garden had always been pushed aside for more pressing needs. This year, however, in the second summer of COVID-19, building something that would supply our needs and give hope for the future seemed necessary.

A tiny seed becomes a fruit tree. A kernel becomes a food-bearing stalk. An act of hope and love becomes a space that pleases the eye, nourishes the body, and heals the soul. Labor in April leads to a bountiful table in the fall and preserves to carry us through the winter.

Last year a friend and mentor encouraged me to start a new hobby, to do something, anything, to break out of the doldrums wrought by a pandemic, political division and the sense of hopelessness infecting our nation and world. The past is gone, he reminded me, and the new day ahead will require new ways of being, thinking and doing.

Since then, I have paid more attention to people who are finding new and creative ways to bring life, hope and healing to their lives and to the world. I have been encour-

aged by men and women who, in both large and small ways, have refused to give up or give in to the malaise of our time but have instead embarked on new adventures, new work and new ways of serving their community.

I have been in meetings with faith leaders and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and seen fresh collaboration in sharing the message and work of community health. I've witnessed our local social service agencies develop new methods of delivering food and supplies to their constituents. Churches have found ways to creatively worship and serve during times of social distancing.

On the other end of the spectrum, a friend of mine built a flight simulator in his shed. An acquaintance went camping for the very first time. A colleague quit their job and went back to school in pursuit of a new career. A woman I know signed up for an art class.

In response to my mentor, I enrolled in graduate school to pursue a second master's degree. Oh, and my wife and I planted a garden that, while it wasn't completely successful, has given us plenty of zucchini and fresh, ripe, juicy tomatoes.

In my pastoral work, I'm drawn to the scriptures that speak of new wine skins for new wine, or the stories of farmers planting seeds and preparing for a healthy crop. In this liminal time of so much chaos and uncertainty, we can all plant seeds. Seeds of kindness, of forgiveness, of new friendships or new projects. Or literal seeds that will feed us in days to come.

Planting requires hope. In spite of all I see around me, I still have hope, and so I continue to do the work now that will build a better future. I hope you will join me.

Award-winning columnist Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church.

The opinions expressed by 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.

VIEWS, FROM PAGE 7

Rob Vajko
 KEYTHOUGHTS


Moving to Portugal

Back in March of 2020, I wrote a column here called “Moving to Reduce Medical Expenses” where I stated that my wife and I were going to be moving to Portugal, the cost of medical bills being paramount in that decision. Despite having insurance through my job, we had been at the receiving end of a huge bill when my wife got ulcerative colitis a few years back.

I knew the worry of something like that or worse happening again would rob us of any peace we might have about our ability to retire with enough money. Currently, more than half of all bankruptcies in America are due to medical bills. We had to find an alternative.

We landed in Lisbon Aug. 4.

The Portuguese healthcare system has both public and private options and the standard of care is high but expensive. Now that we are here, we only have traveler’s insurance but will be buying private health insurance for a fraction of what it cost us in the United States when we are eligible. The quality of the health care in Portugal was rated as the 12th best in the world by World Population Review in 2021. The U.S. was 37th.

To move to Portugal you need to show sufficient income to live here in the form of a remote job, savings, investments or something similar; you need to open a bank account with at least \$1,500 for a couple; you need to get a financial number called an NIF that you must provide for any and all major purchases; you need proof of residency in the form of a rental contract for at least six months; you must have booked a flight to Portugal for no later than three months after you apply; and you need an FBI background check still in its sealed envelope.

Once you’ve done all this, you go in-person to your local visa facilitation office. The closest for us was in San Francisco at VFS, a company that many governments use to outsource visa applications.

Then comes the waiting. We felt pretty sure we were going to be approved, so proceeded to give away or sell everything we owned, including our vehicles, our home and everything in it except six suit-

cases of clothing and mementos.

Selling the house and the vehicles wasn’t much of a problem but getting rid of everything else was going to be a challenge. We found an estate sale company that sells your stuff in lots. If a buyer wants a particular item, they must take everything in that lot. About 98% of what we owned was gone in six hours.

We have been in Aveiro for a little over a month and a half now. Our first weeks were spent getting everything we needed for the apartment, getting our phones operational, and getting our banking and money transfer worked out. Our place is in an older section of the city, which we love. Most of the sidewalks and streets

are cobblestone. There is a monastery we can see from our back balcony. We love hearing the bells ring out on the hour during the day and as we lie in bed in the evening. We are about six miles from the beach, a 10-minute walk to the fish market, a five-minute walk to the farmer’s market, and no more than a 20-minute walk from most everything else in this city of 78,000 people.

As beautiful as the Key Peninsula is and as much as

we miss our friends back home (shout out to all the Blenders), we love being here and are confident we made the right move. As my boss told me when I asked if I could work remotely from Portugal for a couple of years before retiring, “Your life is divided into three sections: the go-go years, the slow-go years, and the no-go years, and you never know when the no-go years are going to hit so get going while you can.”

The people we have met so far have all been extremely kind and welcoming (our neighbor and her three children brought over a plate of cookies when we arrived). They are flattered that we have chosen their country to retire in and are eager to help. They are proud of their country and what it has to offer and anxious to share it with others. My wife was standing with a suitcase on the street the other day, waiting for me to lock the car and a young woman in her twenties offered to help her. This is the norm, not the exception.

Portugal may not be for you but living an adventure, regardless of how old you are, should be. Be bold, be adventurous, and live your life fully before the no-go years are here.

Rob Vajko, formerly of Wauna, lives in Aveiro, Portugal.



Letters to the Editor

IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE BUTLER

As a Vaughn resident, I urge my neighbors to vote for Jennifer Butler for the Peninsula School District Board of Directors.

Jennifer’s commitment to representing the whole community and every student in it makes her a standout in this election. In a district as geographically large as ours made up of a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds, it’s important to have a representative who understands the issues that differentiate the Key Peninsula from Gig Harbor. That’s Jennifer.

She’s met with voters from all over and listened to their concerns. Her own kids have attended both Minter Creek and Purdy Elementary, where she volunteered in the classroom. As co-chair of Stand up for Peninsula Schools, she devoted hundreds of volunteer hours to ensuring our community passed a much-needed bond that included the needs of Key Peninsula. As a result, Evergreen Elementary, which was built in the 1950s and was woefully outdated and undersized, was finally able to be rebuilt nearly 70 years later. Key Peninsula Middle School is also being remodeled and expanded.

With no agenda other than representing her neighbors and helping kids get the best education they can, Jennifer has earned my vote and she deserves yours too.

Lisa Anderson, Vaughn

PSD BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

It has been an honor to serve on the Peninsula School Board these past eight years. I have served as vice president for four years, and I am currently board president.

We often learn the most during our most difficult challenges and come out stronger. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, during my time on the school board we accomplished some great things.

Families on the Key Peninsula faced unique challenges during the beginning of the global pandemic — most notably, the lack of internet bandwidth. With parents working remotely, and many homes with only one computer, the school board and district quickly mobilized to ensure each child needing access received a mobile hotspot and a Chromebook to help them attend their remote classrooms.

We built four new elementary schools — Evergreen, Pioneer, Artondale and Swift Water — a year-and-a-half ahead of schedule and on budget. Our aggressive construction schedule and attention to costs let us begin two major modernizations

at Key Peninsula and Kopachuck Middle schools without any additional taxpayer funding.

The board hired Peninsula School District’s first female superintendent. I am excited to work with nationally recognized Superintendent Krestin Bahr.

We added more school counselors per capita than any school district in the state. I am very proud of that.

We recently added nine additional Career and Technical Education courses, bringing our total offerings to over 50. I am a strong advocate for the skilled trades.

We added the Navy JRTOC/NNDDC program. This is an especially proud achievement for me as a veteran, and the school board.

We dedicated the old Evergreen Elementary School Gymnasium after long-time PSD volunteers Hugh and Janice McMillan.

Key Peninsula citizens have a lot to be proud of in their school district. Yet there is still work to be done. I will be honored to continue serving as your board member.

David Olson, Gig Harbor

Candidate, PSD School Board

Letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space-available basis as a community service. All submissions will be edited. Email to editor@keypennews.org.

OBITUARIES



Kristin E. Olson

Kristin E. Olson died peacefully at her home in Port Orchard Aug. 15 at the age of 71. Born Feb. 13, 1950, to parents C.T. and Delores Olson, Kristin grew up in California and earned her bachelor’s degree before relocating to Washington.

She spent 37 years as a telecommunications technician for the company currently known as CenturyLink. Her loving heart brought many close friends into Kristin’s life. A dedicated volunteer driver for The

Mustard Seed Project, Kristin continued driving people as far away as Seattle for appointments with medical specialists despite the ongoing pandemic.

Kristin was preceded in death by her parents, as well as her sister Karen Forsys. She is survived by her son Donovan. A private gathering in Kristin's honor will be held in the fall.



Gerald D. VanNoy

Gerald D. (Jerry) VanNoy died Aug. 29. He was born in Tacoma Aug. 23, 1934, to Marion and Helen VanNoy.

Jerry attended the College of Puget Sound, now University of Puget Sound, and Southern Illinois University in St. Louis, Missouri, earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in education and art. He was active in the National Rehab Association, the Taylor Bay Beach Club and the Lakebay Fuchsia Society. He was an avid reader, enjoyed traveling the world and took great delight from working in his garden.

Jerry is survived by his son Chris VanNoy, daughter Erin VanNoy, life partner Beverly Proctor, brother Ronald VanNoy and sister Sandra (VanNoy) Rogerson. His life was celebrated by family and friends at the Longbranch Improvement Club in September.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jerry's honor to The Mustard Seed Project of Key Peninsula or Food Backpacks 4 Kids in Lakebay.

Share the News

It's fast and easy to share the latest with keypennews.org.

Emailing a link to an article, photo or recipe is quick and lets you fill in your friends and relations on what's happening on the KP. Back issues are archived, so you can even send a link to what was happening in October of 1982.

Overwhelmed and Understaffed Hospitals Face New Wave of COVID-19

The latest surge in cases and deaths has not spared the under-vaccinated Key Peninsula.

KAMRYN MINCH
AND TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Hospitals across the state are at or near capacity as the highly contagious delta variant of COVID-19 spreads among the population, according to the Washington State Department of Health.

St. Anthony Hospital in Gig Harbor is no exception. From Aug. 6 to Sept. 3, all 218 beds were occupied, along with 14 of its 16 intensive care unit beds.

At the beginning of the month, the seven-day average of COVID-19 patients admitted was 26. There were 153 confirmed COVID-19 emergency room visits out of 920 between Aug. 28 and Sept. 3. Across the

Virginia Mason Franciscan Health System, which includes St. Anthony, there are over 200 COVID-related hospitalizations and 28 COVID-positive patients in ICUs, according to the St. Anthony communication department.

"Hospital capacity is currently stressed across the state of Washington," the DOH said in a Sept. 8 statement, warning that the growing strain on the medical system could force hospitals to postpone urgent and elective procedures to preserve resources for patients with life-threatening conditions.

This means, like during the worst spikes of cases in 2020, patients scheduled for surgeries requiring multiple-day post-procedure observation and care may have to wait for the current wave of COVID-19 cases to recede before they can get into the operating room.

By mid-September, Oregon and Idaho declared crisis standards of care in many of their medical facilities. The declaration allowed hospitals to make significant changes to rationing health care, like allocating ICU rooms to patients who are more likely to survive. This means a ventilator is more likely to go to someone who is otherwise healthy and will recover than someone who doesn't have as good a chance.

Idaho hospitals are seeking relief from the increased number of COVID-19 patients by requesting transfers for those patients to facilities in Washington, most of which are already at a deficit for staff themselves. CHI Franciscan Health is, in some cases, offering incentive pay to

ensure their facilities are appropriately staffed, it said.

The DOH asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Sept. 22 for more federal medical personnel to staff hospitals and long-term care facilities statewide in addition to what has already been provided.

"We know that COVID-19 patients, those seeking care for other medical reasons, along with staff shortages, have all put stress on our current hospital system," said state Secretary of Health Umaid A. Shah, MD, MPH.

DOH has also asked health care practitioners and retired medical professionals to volunteer to support hospitals vaccination efforts during the latest COVID-19 surge.

Most hospitalized patients are unvaccinated and of those who are vaccinated, many have co-morbidities that have weakened their immune system, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A Sept. 10 report from the CDC showed Washington's weekly infection rate of new COVID-19 cases was 300 per 100,000 people with a total active case count of 22,876, or about 1 in 333 residents. Admissions for new confirmed COVID-19 cases into hospitals was 9.5 out of every 100 beds. Deaths from COVID-19 were at 2.7 per 100,000 cases.

Sixty-eight percent of Washington's population has been fully vaccinated while Idaho's vaccination rate is around 41% and Oregon is at 59%. Nationwide it's 55%.

The Key Peninsula has the lowest vaccination rate compared to Pierce and neighboring counties, averaging 41%. Pierce has a 64% rate; Kitsap is at 65% and Mason at 58%.

THE INFECTION RATE ON THE KEY PENINSULA AVERAGED 1 PER DAY FROM FEB. 1 TO JULY 30, ACCORDING TO TPCHD. THAT INCREASED TO 12 PER DAY BY SEPT. 9

The U.S. currently has 17% of new COVID-19 infections around the globe despite having the best vaccine supply, according to the CDC. The increase is especially obvious among children, who make up 20% of the nation's new cases, apparently becoming infected by unvaccinated adults in the home.

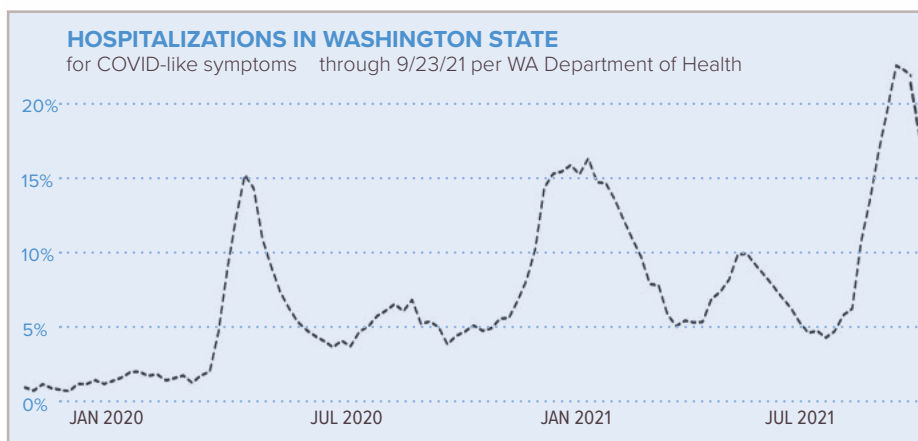
More than 177 million Americans are vaccinated against COVID-19, but cases have spiked nationally to 140,000 per day, including 1,000 deaths per day, according to the CDC. Most of the severe illness and death is occurring among the unvaccinated. Breakthrough infections in vaccinated people also occur but are less dangerous.

While the delta variant has increased hospitalizations, after re-introducing the indoor mask mandate Aug. 23, COVID-19 cases in the state plateaued compared to July numbers. However, with infections that occurred over the Labor Day weekend still pending and the Washington State Fair currently in progress, transmission among large crowds is a major concern for health care workers. There is already a Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department contact tracing investigation underway involving 20 fair workers and attendees who were at the fair during their contagious or exposure period.

The infection rate on the Key Peninsula averaged 1 per day from Feb. 1 to July 30, according to TPCHD. It increased to 12 per day by Sept. 9.

That spike followed a summer of more open behavior denied to the KP since 2019, including an all-peninsula-church gathering at Gateway Park July 25, a Peninsula High School reunion at the KP Civic Center Aug. 14 and other public events.

Total cases on the KP stood at 914, including seven deaths, at press time. ■



Pandemic Fuels Increase in Homeschooling

More parents have opted for home-based instruction on the peninsulas and across the country.

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

When local public schools closed to in-person learning in March 2020, there were 361 students from 199 families receiving home-based instruction, also known as homeschooling, within Peninsula School District boundaries. In the 2020-2021 school year, that number more than doubled to 802 homeschooled students from 514 families.

Statistics from the Washington Office of Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI) showed that home-based instruction nearly doubled in 2020-2021, with 39,843 students from 25,384 families homeschooling statewide, up from 20,844 students from 13,614 families in 2019-2020.

COVID-19 may have fueled recent growth in home-based instruction but there are many reasons why families

choose to homeschool, including children with special educational needs, a desire for faith-based instruction or dissatisfaction with local schools.

"I chose to homeschool," said Shabadrang Khalsa, who is providing home-based instruction for her 7-, 8-, and 10-year-old children on the Key Peninsula. "With all the uncertainty of the pandemic, I just try to stay away from it as much as possible. As we have seen nationwide, now that schools have opened up, lots of kids are filling up hospitals with Covid cases. I didn't want to be a part of that human experiment."

For K-1, Khalsa homeschooled her oldest child, who then attended public school for the second grade but returned to homeschooling when the pandemic hit.

"It feels really overwhelming to have to teach three different lessons, so we pick as

a family what lesson we will do each week," she said. For a science lesson on the five senses, her older child made a poster and wrote a report, while the youngest talked about how soap looks, smells and feels while washing dishes.

Charleen Haynes, whose family splits their time between her childhood home on the Key Peninsula and her husband's home country of Egypt, provides home-based education for her younger children, Robert (7), Freddy (5) and Cecilia (3). Homeschooling gives the family flexibility to spend spring and summer on the KP during the months when her oldest daughter Lucille's (16) French school in Egypt is not in session.

While in Egypt, they study in a Montessori-style classroom off their backyard. At Haynes' father's house in Taylor Bay, they

continue lessons and enjoy spending time outdoors. "You have to make it fun," said Haynes, who has a back-

ground in teaching. "They all have reading and writing and math, and we're putting in history and science now."

"I'm not against school in general," Haynes said. "All of my kids are Egyptian-American. I wanted to incorporate things in their lessons that covered both, and I wanted to take out things in their lessons that they didn't need. So, in both countries (homeschooling) was a good idea."

Hailey Lystad of Lakebay, who has been homeschooling her daughters for nine years, said, "I appreciate the light being shined on homeschooling, that it's not this stuck-in-a-cave thing. With public school on Zoom, moms and dads had to oversee their kids and make sure they were doing what they're supposed to be doing and it's a little taste of what homeschooling is like, and it's not this awful thing where kids



Hailey Lystad has been homeschooling her daughters for nearly a decade. *Lisa Bryan, KP News*

don't know how to act in society?"

Prior to the pandemic, Lystad's daughters Ava (13), Norah (11) and Charlotte (7) had a busy schedule that included a home-school co-op, in-person English and P.E. classes, an online math class, book work in various subjects, plus swim team and classes at the YMCA. They enjoy Skate Night at the KP Civic Center and have a wide network of friends.

"I feel like there's a big misconception with homeschooling that our kids aren't socialized, that we just sit at home five days a week and they're sheltered, and that can't be further from the truth," Lystad said. "When everything shut down, we were stuck at home and we went just as stir crazy as everybody else."

Lystad received a combination of private school education and home-based instruction, with schoolwork conducted via videos of teachers' lessons and assignments by mail, a retro version of virtual classes and homework submitted online. "I was homeschooled for everything but five years, so I'm obviously pretty familiar with it. I abso-

lutely loved it when I was a kid," she said.

Lystad and her husband Caleb's dissatisfaction with the public school system, combined with her own positive experience, led to their choice to homeschool. "We felt that we could give them a better education than public school education, so that's why we've gone that route," she said. "I had an excellent education. I got a GED only because I didn't have a path to

get a diploma, but I tested out at college grade level when I was finished with school."

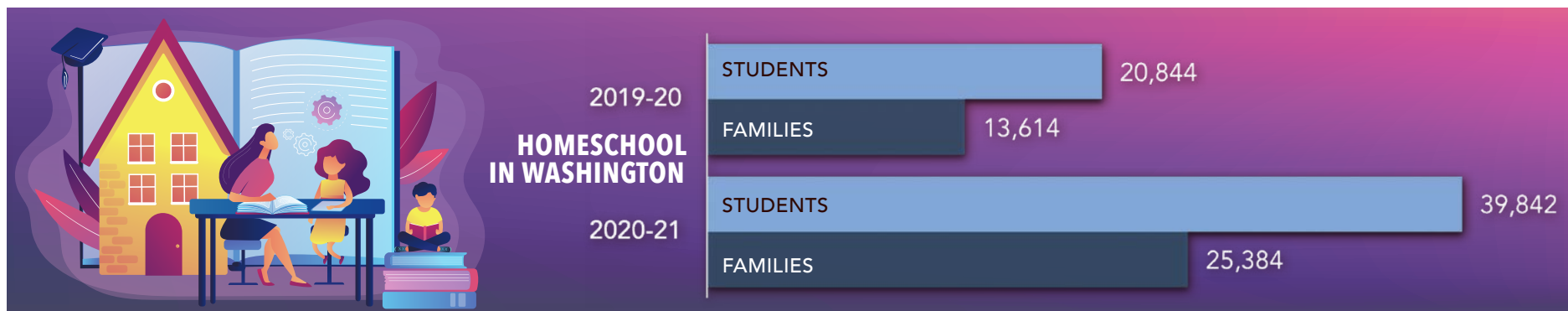
OSPI statistics on home-based education, although a clear indicator of growth, may not provide a

complete picture of the recent increase in home-based instruction because Washington state law only requires homeschooling families to meet criteria and file intent to provide home-based instruction for children starting at age 8. As of press time, home-based instruction numbers for the 2021-2022 school year were unavailable.

For more information go to www.k12.wa.us/student-success/learning-alternatives/home-based-instruction ■

"I APPRECIATE THE LIGHT BEING SHINED ON HOMESCHOOLING, THAT IT'S NOT THIS STUCK-IN-A-CAVE THING."

"I FEEL LIKE THERE'S A BIG MISCONCEPTION WITH HOMESCHOOLING THAT OUR KIDS AREN'T SOCIALIZED, THAT WE JUST SIT AT HOME FIVE DAYS A WEEK AND THEY'RE SHELTERED, AND THAT CAN'T BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH."



Wandering Bands of Berry Hunters

CHRIS RURIK, KP NEWS

Fall again. Heavy sunflower heads have fallen and the clouds of goldfinches that came for their seeds have scattered into the trees. Rain falls and rotting resumes. Down come the soggy stems of garden plants; up come the pulpy stalks of mushrooms. And yet in the forest, branches are still loaded with berries.

It's a movable feast, the yearly cycle of wild berries. Salmonberries, elderberries, twin berries, trailing blackberries, blackcap raspberries, cascara berries, salal berries — to name just a few — roll through the countryside, high and low, some patches abundant this year when they struggled last.

And the berry hunters follow them. I'm on a quiet road when I hear the shaking of leaves overhead. I look up expecting a squirrel and instead see two band-tailed pigeons. They are broad-chested. Light catches their metallic green necks as they stretch to take madrona berries. They move sedately. Suddenly, above them, a dozen cedar waxwings hurtle past. Three split off and wheel down to join the pigeons. They snatch a few berries before launching into the air again.

To see the two species together in a fruiting madrona, even for a moment, makes my walk. Both love berries. Both are known for being unpredictable travelers. Band-tailed pigeons migrate by hopping from food source to food source, wherever the food happens to be, making their jour-

neys look like paisley patterns. Sometimes they congregate in huge numbers. Even in the breeding season they like to be in small bands: Berries are not a food that must be jealously guarded.

Waxwing flocks are well known for appearing and disappearing like pirates. They arrive at the peak of berry freshness — or beyond, as they are sometimes found drunk on partially fermented fruits, each one a little flying Bacchus. Waxwings will tweak the timing of their egg-laying, often delaying it into late summer to take advantage of the richest harvests.

Berries, it occurs to me, exist to stir things up. They get us all poking around off trail, bringing circulation to the forgotten corners of our landscapes.

I'm thinking of how Indigenous people in this area had camps dedicated to picking and preserving berries. And the early pioneers competed to see which homestead could invent the most effective berry-cleaning machine. After beating the bushes for miles around, they would dump bucket loads of leaves, spiders, twigs and berries into contraptions that huffed and spun and shook and hopefully removed most of the chaff. It was an event every bit as social as an apple cider squeeze.

An old-timer once told me a story. As a middle schooler in the 1930s, he had a thing for a girl who lived a few miles away. He was horrified when she told him

she had never tried a blueberry pie. He recruited his mother as baker and the next day carried a pie to his beloved. I imagine him balancing it for miles through the forest, its crust barely holding in a mass of sweet and sticky berries — a currency of love as potent as gemstones.

The wild outdoors can feel like a place of barks and crusts. When the berries come bursting forth it feels like an undeserved gift. They stir our bodies and blood.

And berries are abundant, one of the plant kingdom's most repeated feats, independently developed in a number of plant lineages. It may seem counterintuitive for a plant to surround its seeds with food — like clothing our own babies in bear chow — yet it has proved remarkably effective at solving an age-old plant problem: how a non-moving being can move its seeds to new and distant sites.

Berries first came on the scene in the Cretaceous Period, toward the end of the age of dinosaurs. It was a time when flowering plants in general were diversifying into the multitude of families we know today. The resultant tangled forests had little wind to carry airborne seeds and low light where seeds might germinate. At the same time, birds and mammals were proliferating, populating Earth with highly mobile creatures with broad diets. Some flowering plants took advantage, offering them fruit, and the selective palates of birds,

primates and bats sped the evolution of tastier berries.

Not only were they tastier, they became chemically sophisticated. Most fruits are richer in phytochemicals than the leaves that herbalists and scientists have focused upon. A study of a Costa Rican cloud forest shrub with berries and the bird that ate them found that the berries contain a custom laxative. The more time a berry's seeds spend in a bird's gut, the farther they travel. But the less time the seeds spend in a gut, the more likely they are to grow. The berries effectively balance the trade-off by holding just the right dose of the laxative.

So, berries keep things moving. They appear in tangled corners and ask to be carried here and there, shared. I admit I cannot understand the landowners who wipe clean their forest floors. One of our neighbors takes a blower to the soil until it is bare of the tiniest fallen twig. Maybe it looks kempt. I don't know. So exposed, soil cannot hold water against drought, much less transform it into the berry harvest we all love. Shouldn't we encourage the tangle that gives birth to free food?

I push into the woods with the waxwings, my other neighbors, eating a huckleberry here and there and thinking how good it feels to poke around. We are born movers, and the berries that stir us appreciate our passage. ■

It's wild out there! Send questions, notes and stories to the KP Nature Guide at nature@keypennews.org

Into the
WILD
EXPLORING WITH THE
KP NATURE GUIDE





Mount Rainier or T'qo'bəd sometimes wears a "hat," which meant to Native people that a weather change could be expected. *Adobe Stock*

The Source of All Waters

T'qo'bəd or Mount Rainier?

LYNN LARSON, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

Who among us has not been awestruck by the mystery and majesty of the mountain that seems to disappear and reappear at her discretion? That mountain, called Mount Rainier since 1792, when Captain George Vancouver gave the name to honor Rear Admiral Peter Rainier, had been called T'qo'bəd, Taqo'ma, Tacobet or Taḡuma by Native groups for untold generations. These names are all variations that may mean "the source of all waters," "white mountain" or "snow peak."

Dominating the southern Puget Sound landscape for thousands of years, the mountain has inspired many legends and lives in the hearts of anyone who makes South Sound their home.

Long ago, at the time of change, the Transformer changed some of the first people of the myth age into animals useful to people and transformed dangerous people into stone. He named all the places in this land, giving them their right names. The simplest story about the creation of T'qo'bəd is that when the five big mountains along the coast, Baker, Adams, St. Helens, Hood and T'qo'bəd came to be, the Transformer told T'qo'bəd she would supply water and be useful in that way.

Some say they were five sisters. One sister, probably the oldest, T'qo'bəd, married a man from Hood Canal and went to live there with him and his first wife. She had a son and left her husband to go home to the Upper Puyallup, bringing their child, who became the little mountain attached to the east flank of Mount Rainier.

A more dramatic twist in this story is that the man in the Olympic Range had several argumentative wives. He sent them to different places east of Puget Sound where they became mountains. T'qo'bəd was a big woman and especially combative. He placed her in southern Puget Sound

and gave her mountain goats for her food. T'qo'bəd continued her quarrelsome ways with another wife, the two hurling lightning at one another.

Another myth features T'qo'bəd as an ogress who ate people and any animal that she drew to her. The Transformer changed the ogress into a harmless stone, with water running from inside her. The legs of the body of the ogress are today the mountain ridges branching from T'qo'bəd. Although there are many stories in the Native mythology, most groups agree that T'qo'bəd is the source of water. The headwaters of the White, Carbon, Puyallup, Nisqually and Cowlitz rivers all flow from T'qo'bəd.

The body of oral literature of the Native people of Puget Sound, told around the fire in the longhouse, especially in the winter, could be delivered as vignettes, cycles of stories or epics. The wisest people shared information about the origin of the world, its inhabitants, and proper behavior. Many myths addressed natural phenomena with embedded references to actual geological events, such as earthquakes and the big flood.

One such event memorialized in the myth was the explosive lahar that swept down the northeast flank of T'qo'bəd 5,600 years ago. One of the largest lahars on record, the near-liquid Osceola Mudflow overran the White and West Fork White river channels. It inundated entire sections of forest, filled the Enumclaw Plateau to an average depth of 60 feet with a mixture of clay, silt, gravel, cobbles and boulders, and swept through the sites of the current cities of Auburn and Kent. The debris flow trickled out into Commencement Bay and around Renton, in the Duwamish drainage. Sixty miles of the Salish Sea were filled, forcing the White and Green rivers to cut new pathways through the mudflow deposits.

The myths describe great whales carving river channels in the vicinity of Auburn,

Sumner and Puyallup. Because the White River Valley was an arm of Puget Sound before the lahar, whales were most likely visitors then and were credited with creating the new river courses. They also tell us of old land that refused to be changed by the Transformer. One of these places is a series of small hills in the Renton area that were untouched by the lahar. An isolated knoll there is a sacred place, part of the "old" world, before the Transformer came. Another such place is Filucy Bay, on the Key Peninsula, considered to be the oldest part of Puget Sound; the bay would not allow the Transformer to change it.

T'qo'bəd is sacred to all Indigenous groups who rely on the rivers fed by the glaciers of the mountain once thought to be permanently covered in snow. I am uneasy now when I catch a glimpse of T'qo'bəd, knowing that "permanent snow" may not be as certain as it once was. The glaciers are receding, the lowland rivers are overwhelmed with sediment, causing problems for all sorts of plants, animals and fish, not to mention city, county and tribal planners.

On the other hand, T'qo'bəd survived her move from the Olympics, her transformation from ogress, her eruptions, and a lahar. I am hopeful.

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

PRONUNCIATION

Pronouncing guide for T'qo'bəd or Mt. Rainier: The sound of the q in T'qo'bəd is made further back in the mouth than k. The ə is like the first sound of around. The T corresponds to the English t in tote. The b is like the English b in bay. The d closely resembles the d in English.

The ḡ in Taḡuma is like h, but more raspy. The u in Taḡuma is the oo in boot.

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Sandy Newhouse on Lines, Shadows, Shapes and Stories

The local painter has been working on bringing out the best in color and content from her canvas for almost 60 years.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Painter Sandy Newhouse stood in the studio of her Vaughn Bay home, tapping an unfinished canvas heavy with layers of acrylic paint.

“I’ve reworked this one so much I should sell it by the pound,” she said. “Paintings do talk to you. This one is finally starting to.”

She’d been working on it for three years. “I usually have several going.”

Her home holds decades of work she has produced, exhibited and sold: landscapes, portraits, abstracts — sometimes a blend of each — ranging from a six-by-six inch acrylic to a triptych watercolor landscape seven feet long.

“That one just flew, it only took a few hours,” Newhouse said of the triptych. “I kept running out of paper and had to keep adding on; that’s why it’s a triptych.” The nearly monochrome panorama looks east across Gig Harbor, early morning color shining on a fishing trawler sliding across still water surrounded by trees like sentinels in the distance. The original sold immediately in 1992, but Newhouse made a lithograph of it first and has sold over 150 prints of the image since.

“I’m very proud of it. I don’t often paint that quietly,” she said, referring to its effect.

Newhouse was introduced to art at an early age.

“Apparently, I scribbled around a lot when I was little, and when I was in fourth grade my teacher told my mom that I should have art lessons,” she said. The Portland Art Museum conducted three-hour Saturday morning art classes and Newhouse took the bus there every weekend for four years.

“They taught us everything,” she said. “We did pottery, we did printmaking, we did sketching, we did oils. It was absolutely wonderful.”

In high school Newhouse took every art class she could, then majored in art at Lewis & Clark College in 1956. “We did art history and the professor made us try things from different styles,” she said. “I was excited by a lot of it, but Impressionism really hit and made me want to paint — but I didn’t want to paint like that. I thought I was going to be a fashion illustrator.”

Newhouse married her husband, Del, during her junior year in 1959. He was in the Navy and stationed in San Diego, where she finished her degree.

“I took my portfolio to various places, but if you’re in the Navy there’s no way because you move around. In fashion, you’ve got to stay someplace, start drawing hats or handbags, and work your way up.”

Newhouse considered going into technical drawing for the Navy, but instead opted to work on oil painting, substitute teaching, and raising two children.

By 1975, her husband was out of the Navy and flying for United Airlines and California was getting too crowded. They returned to the Pacific Northwest and found 25 acres near Spanaway.

“We had everything — we had a beaver dam, we had mink, and the birds that came were just fantastic,” she said. “But the kids were afraid of the woods. The oldest was 8, the youngest was 4, and they never got used to it.”

Just a few years later, however, the family

was invited to visit a friend on Vaughn Bay.

“I looked in the paper for ads every day after that,” Newhouse said. A couple months later, in 1979, they moved into a home overlooking the Vaughn Bay sandspit.

“The kids had a great time here,” she said. The kids also had a great time getting into her oil paints.

“All I did was oils until the kids could find the oil painting, which they did, and it was always wet.” (An oil painting can take two weeks or

longer to dry.) Newhouse began taking classes in acrylic and watercolor painting and learned alongside other painters in local groups.

She was invited to join Gallery Row in Gig Harbor in 1990, which at the time was a studio shared by five artists on the west end of Harborview Drive. It has since moved to the middle of town and displays the work of 16 artists, including paintings, woodwork, sculpture, beading and jewelry.

Newhouse has sold a great deal of her work there, competed in and judged shows, and received a Signature Membership in the prestigious Northwest Watercolor Society.

“I have no idea why I paint what I do. Truly,” she said. “Sometimes it’s the light, sometimes it’s the shadows, sometimes it’s just a feeling that I have. One time I painted a group of five grocery carts out in the parking lot. It was called ‘A Conversation,’ or something like that. And every little piece between every other piece was a different color or hue or something. It was fun.”

Newhouse’s dream-like portrait of her dying mother couldn’t be more different — light and dark shadows and shapes, abstract but telling — and was exhibited at the Frye Art Museum in Seattle. “It was kind of hard to figure out how to get the whole story in. I don’t know why some of this is, it just felt like that’s what I should do,” she said.

“I’m also known for herons.”

And gulls, terns, crows and hermit crabs, all different from everything else she does, her

abstract shapes instead transformed into familiar creatures sporting the bright colors of a beach in summertime.

“I’ve heard that you should have a style, that you should have a color palette, so people recognize you. A lot of people who know my work do recognize it even though it’s at the other end of the spectrum from that,” because of the variety.

“I still mix on the palette and on the paper,” she said. “I don’t mix up a bunch of color and then paint it. That’s somewhat unusual and it’s Impressionistic in that colors go together that aren’t solid colors. I seldom paint black: I mix black so that it has various colors in it. But that’s as close to Impressionism as I get.”

Even after decades of work as a professional artist, it can take anywhere from a day to a month to years to get a painting right for Newhouse.

“It can be technically perfect but still wrong,” she said. “It has to say something.” ■

“IMPRESSIONISM REALLY HIT AND MADE ME WANT TO PAINT — BUT I DIDN’T WANT TO PAINT LIKE THAT.”



Facing page: The Newhouse triptych, Harbor Morning, 2018. *Tina McKail, KP News*

Above: A prize-winning 6-inch landscape. *Tina McKail, KP News*

Middle: Newhouse pokes fun at her work in progress. *Ted Olinger, KP News*

Bottom: Portrait of a local gull. *Tina McKail, KP News*

Newhouse's artwork can be seen at Gallery Row, 3102 Harborview Drive in Gig Harbor; online at galleryrowgigharbor.com

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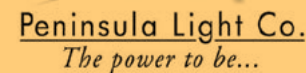
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Great Peninsula Conservancy



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McDermott Point is KP's Latest Conservation Project

The site of an iconic lighthouse that once greeted boaters entering Filucy Bay is poised for preservation.

CHRIS RURIK, KP NEWS

The Pierce County Council voted to adopt the recommendations of the Citizens Advisory Board to the Conservation Futures Program Aug. 31 to begin negotiating the purchase of conservation properties. McDermott Point ranked third out of six projects nominated in the biennial budget cycle. Available funding is projected to cover all six projects.

Comprising 12 acres, the McDermott Point property commands a sweeping view of Mount Rainier and Filucy Bay. The lighthouse no longer stands. The advisory board cited two reasons for ranking the property highly.

First, a salt marsh and barrier lagoon exist on the site. Though currently degraded, such habitat is important for a number of aquatic species, notably juvenile Chinook salmon. The project

sponsor, Great Peninsula Conservancy, which will own the property, plans to pursue a full restoration of the barrier lagoon.

Conservation Director Erik Steffens said that out-migrating juvenile Chinook from the Nisqually River are known to frequent Filucy Bay, and Skagit River juvenile Chinook have been found as far south as Olympia. "They move around," he said, making pockets of sheltered habitat around Puget Sound critical whether or not they abut a major salmon river.

Second, in a region where the vast majority of shoreline is privately held, the county places high priority on adding to the number of publicly accessible beaches.

While McDermott Point is too small and habitat-sensitive to support land access, it will be added to the Cascadia Marine Trail and made accessible by water as a day-use-only site focused on non motorized boats such as kayaks. Nearby boat launches make the point an easy destination for paddlers.

Initiated in 1991, the Conservation Futures Program aims to preserve quality of life in a rapidly developing Pierce County by ensuring that the regional landscape will always include open space, shorelines, local farms and forests, according to its website. Nearly 6,000 acres have been conserved with 75% publicly accessible. The program cites community benefits — such as physical and mental health, recreation, economic drivers, education

and quality of life. The effort is funded by a property tax of 4.44 cents per \$1,000 of property value.

The top-ranked project this cycle is a section of North Creek in Gig Harbor. A culturally important site for the Puyallup Tribe, it includes intact forest and stream habitat and could be used by a variety of salmonid species following culvert removal. It will also provide a trail link between the Cushman Trail and downtown Gig Harbor near Donkey Creek Park.

The second-ranked project is a sizable 115-acre addition to Narrows Park in Gig Harbor. The remaining projects are in Puyallup, Parkland and Tacoma.

Beyond the Conservation Futures program, Great Peninsula Conservancy is working to make additions to two Key

Peninsula preserves.

The land trust aims to add about 20 acres to the Filucy Bay Preserve. The preserve, currently just shy of 100 acres, flanks the bay's north cove.

The additional land would make it a continuous tract. Steffens said

that its forest and a three-quarter-mile shoreline with estuary and feeder bluffs is another important habitat for juvenile salmon and one of the few places left in the Puget Sound where an entire cove can be conserved. Great Peninsula Conservancy plans to use state Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funding for the acquisitions. The west side of the cove has access for kayakers with a nice picnic spot and two interpretive signs.

At the Rocky Creek Preserve north of Vaughn, the land trust wants to add 5 acres.

Much of the 190-acre preserve there was purchased with Conservation Futures funds in 2020. That acquisition came in under budget and Great Peninsula Conser-

vancy has requested permission from the county to use the excess grant funds to purchase

the additional parcel, which includes 250 feet of the east fork of Rocky Creek and would complete the protection of the creek's lower main stems.

Steffens said it would be a great addition, tying the area together.

He also said the Great Peninsula Conservancy is exploring opportunities for future additions on the west fork of Rocky Creek. The organization plans to use the Rocky Creek Preserve as a land laboratory for student environmental education as well as public recreation. ■

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A peek into the forest at the Filucy Bay Preserve. Great Peninsula Conservancy



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- 9:03 Union 76 @SR 302/4 Corners
- 9:06 SR 302 @150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 9:08 SR 302 @140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 9:10 SR 302 @Charboneau Construction
- 9:13 Lake Kathryn Village
- 9:19 Purdy Park & Ride

VAUGHN WEDNESDAY MORNING

- 9:50 Vaughn Elementary School
- 9:51 Wright Bliss Rd NW @Olson Dr NW
- 9:52 Wright Bliss Road @104th St Ct NW
- 9:54 Union 76 @SR 302/4 Corners
- 9:57 SR 302 @150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 9:58 SR 302 @140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 10:00 SR 302 @Charboneau Construction
- 10:03 Lake Kathryn Village
- 10:09 Purdy Park & Ride

EVERGREEN TUE/THUR MORNING

- 8:50 Evergreen Elementary School
- 8:59 Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
- 9:00 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @193rd Ave
- 9:05 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 9:06 Home Gas Station @KP Hwy N
- 9:09 167th Ave Ct NW @KP Hwy N
- 9:13 Food Market in Key Center
- 9:15 KP Hwy N @Minterwood Dr NW
- 9:21 Lake Kathryn Village
- 9:29 Purdy Park & Ride

EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY MORNING

- 9:50 Evergreen Elementary School
- 9:54 Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
- 9:55 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @193rd Ave
- 10:00 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 10:01 Home Gas Station @KP Hwy N
- 10:04 167th Ave Ct NW @KP Hwy N
- 10:08 Food Market in Key Center
- 10:10 KP Hwy N @Minterwood Dr NW
- 10:16 Lake Kathryn Village
- 10:24 Purdy Park & Ride

TUE/WED/THUR AFTERNOON

- 4:42 Purdy Park & Ride
- 4:47 Lake Kathryn Village
- 4:50 SR 302 @Windermere Realty
- 4:52 SR 302 @140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 4:53 SR 302 @150th/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 4:55 4 Corners gas station @SR 302
- 4:57 Wright Bliss Road @104th St Ct
- 4:58 Wright Bliss Road @Olson Dr
- 5:00 Food Market in Key Center
- 5:01 KP Hwy @84th NW Red Barn
- 5:04 167th Ave Ct NW @KP Hwy N
- 5:08 Home Gas Station @KP Hwy N
- 5:10 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 5:13 Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
- 5:14 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @193rd Ave
- 5:18 Evergreen Elementary School
- 5:29 KP Hwy @84th NW Red Barn
- 5:34 SR302 @140th NW Lake of the Woods
- 5:36 SR302 @150th Lake Holiday bus shed
- 5:48 Purdy Park & Ride



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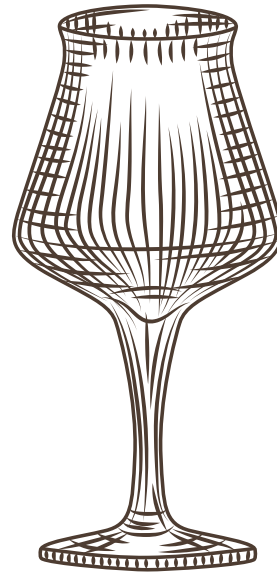
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STAFF REPORT

After celebrating its 10th anniversary Oct. 8, Blend Wine Shop will close its doors permanently at the end of the month. "Even as we were recovering and revenues were slowly starting to return to pre-pandemic levels, our landlord decided that it was time to double our rent," said owner Don Swensen in a statement. With a fifth wave of COVID-19 infections requiring a return to masks and capacity restrictions, Swensen called the situation "unsustainable."

"We know that Blend has become a community asset for many individuals and groups over the years and we are sorry that we can no longer keep that going," he said. "Please remember the good times. The concerts, the gatherings, the comings and goings, the engagements, the laughter and the tears, the friends we've made and the friends we've lost, and the friends we'll always be." ■

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Vote for Juanita Beard Peninsula School District Board, Position 5

Looking back over the almost two years that our country, our state, and the Peninsula School District has been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, it's clear that the trends already in motion were only accelerated by the pandemic. As a mental health professional, and the parent of two children attending school in the district, Juanita Beard brings a fresh perspective that is missing from the Peninsula School Board.

Beard shared that she and her family moved to Gig Harbor last year, selecting Peninsula School District for its great reputation. She knew that it would provide the best opportunity for her two young children to receive a high-quality education and achieve their dreams.

Beard explained "As a licensed mental health practitioner for the last 16 years, I see how important it is to address students' social and emotional well-being in order for them to be successful at school." She continued by noting that "This pandemic really set our community back. I knew I had to take a more active role and run for the board after seeing that mental health expertise

was missing from the conversation about our children's success."

Beard finished by saying "Students, educators, staff, and their families have faced numerous challenges this past year. Together, our community can face these challenges head-on, with the support of a school board that understands, first hand, what they are going through."

Included among these pandemic related challenges are the struggles of fellow parents balancing working from home and assisting their kids with remote learning, the emotional effects of isolation that students face coming back to in-person learning, and how educators are torn between their passion for teaching and the need to support their families.

One primary focus area for Beard is fulfilling the "Peninsula Promise," the district's commitment to providing a high-quality education, in a physically and emotionally safe learning environment, for all students and staff. To achieve this, Beard hopes to increase access to mental health resources, achieve greater administrative accountability, and promote educational equity by leveraging existing district resources

to foster authentic conversations about the real needs of the district.

Beard points out that one of these authentic conversations needs to focus on the issue of students — especially BIPOC (black, indigenous, and other people of color) students — transferring out of the Peninsula School District due to unaddressed bullying and harassment. According to Beard, it's the responsibility of the school board and district administration to recognize issues like these, and to provide trusted leadership by listening and taking action to address student concerns.

"We have an opportunity to make good on the Peninsula Promise by empowering families and educators to elevate students who are at risk of falling through the cracks," Beard said. "No student should feel unsupported, or unheard, when they bring forward their personal experiences or their needs to succeed."

Additionally, to promote educational equity, and to increase administrative accountability, Beard firmly believes in the power of input from her community to affect positive change in the education system.

"My kids love Harbor Heights and

feel at home here," Beard remarked. "Our community needs to know that we care about their vision for our schools and that we value their input. There is room for growth in making our school board meetings a welcoming space, and I want to ensure that everyone feels that the board is approachable."

According to Beard, the Peninsula School District has done great work by passing bonds to add new buildings and address much-needed renovations, but now it's time to focus the energy of the district on what's happening inside the buildings — growth, learning, and wellness.

"I'm ready to tackle these challenges in the PSD — let's lean into the crucial conversations happening that strive to address anti-bullying measures, develop our mental health resources, and improve community access by making board meetings a welcoming environment. Together, we can achieve an equitable learning environment for our students, that drives their success, by recognizing that though they each come with individualized needs and unique life experiences, they are all deserving of a quality education."



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WHEN THE WRITER DRIVES RIGHT INTO THE BLACK NIGHT OF UNREALITY

Ray Bradbury's 'Something Wicked This Way Comes'

A harrowing classic from one of the masters — just in time for Halloween.

JOSEPH PENTHEROUDAKIS

The bait is hard to resist but if you bite, you'll be trapped in a sinister nightmare you hadn't bargained for and from which you may never wake.

It's a bait dangled by Cooger and Dark's Pandemonium Shadow Show, the mysterious carnival in Ray Bradbury's "Something Wicked This Way Comes" that Stephen King called a "darkly poetic tale." The show rolls in and sets up its ominous tents in a meadow outside Green Town, Illinois, in the dead of night a week before Halloween, arriving on a dark and silent train, a calliope playing mournful tunes that can be heard in town.

Which was where Will Halloway and Jim Nightshade, who would be turning 14 a day apart before and after Halloween, heard the train arriving, its ancient engine chuffing, the calliope sighing in the night. A carnival arriving in the middle of the night in a rare season for such entertainment is no ordinary show, the two boys would soon learn.

A Mirror Maze whose endless glass walls reflect your image distorted in time, showing you the way you were but also the way you would be as an adult — or as a 100-year-old; a carousel that can stretch time in any direction like so much taffy and toss you off at a point of its choosing, returning you to a past or hurtling you into a future you while leaving you in the present. Then there are all the shadows, the cast of characters in the carnival's Main Freak Tent: the Dust Witch, her lids sewn shut, her lips stitched together, who can cast a spell to do the same to you; and Mr. Dark, the Illustrated Man who collects souls for his show, their images drawn in pulsating tattoos on his body, a gruesome ledger of his work going back to a time nobody can remember.

Welcome to a tale of fantasy and terror, its title borrowed from the witches' cauldron scene in Act 4 of "Macbeth" foretelling Macbeth's entrance: "By the pricking of my thumbs / Something wicked this way comes." Bradbury was a prolific writer of short stories, publishing more than 600 in his lifetime. "Something Wicked" was his only novel-length work; it gave him the space to explore multiple themes by creating a world and populating it with more characters with more relationships and connections than shorter works allowed.

It's a tale of the familiar battle between good and evil, but with side trips into the tropes of the end of boyhood and coming of age, of a son getting to know and understand his father, of the wisdom and knowledge tucked away in histories and books. Charles Halloway, Will's father, a janitor at the local library and a man in love with books, eventually saves the day when the boys get in serious trouble, as they inevitably would. A confrontation, powerful and almost cinematic in the telling, unfolds at the library, where Halloway has spent hours researching the carnival's dark past in old tomes and yellowed newspapers. Evil has a long lineage, as he discovers.

There are several more themes woven into the story. One is greed — not for material possessions necessarily but greed for time, greed that speaks of dissatisfaction with one's now and a selfish desire for the past or the future. But then you discover that sneaking back and forth across time is not the answer, that you may get what you were looking for but are forever trapped in the carnival's Freak Tent. You'll never get back to the sweetness of the present you left behind.

It's also the fear of dying, the fear that fills you when you see yourself in the Mirror Maze, shrunken and old, the fear of the carousel of time catapulting you into that future before you could get to it on your own.

But then there's a way out, there's a way to exorcise the demon that is Mr. Dark's carnival and restore order to the world. It comes suddenly to Charles Halloway during the confrontation at the library, and it works. Improbable though it seems, the answer is laughter, the joy of the now, peals and hoots of laughter that plant you squarely in the moment, laughter that you can share with those you love. You and your friends can laugh at the carnival's freak show together and watch the tents, the dark carousel and the calliope playing in the night disintegrate before your eyes.

Maybe that's the way to exorcise the fear of dying too.

Stephen King described Bradbury's writing as the rush that comes "when (the writer) puts the pedal to the metal, yanks back on the steering wheel, and drives his jalopy straight up into the black



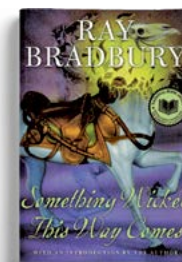
night of unreality." There's a scene where Will tries to bring down a balloon carrying the Dust Witch in its basket, who has been out at night looking for him and Jim: "the blind Witch gabbled, moaned, blistered her lips, shrieked in protest ... as the balloon wailed, whiffled, guzzled, mourned its own gaseous death, as dungeon air raved out, as dragon breath gushed forth and the bag, thus driven, retreated up."

That is the sound of the pedal hitting the metal.

"Something Wicked" is a tale that can make the hair stand up on the back of your neck, but it's also a joyous story. Bradbury dedicated the book to his good friend Gene Kelly, partly because Kelly had tried to interest Hollywood in an earlier version of the story but also in great measure because Gene Kelly's films were about that very joy. ■

BOOK NOTES

"Something Wicked This Way Comes," Simon & Schuster, 2017, 337 pages. Edition includes criticism and essays on the novel's history and context.



raybradbury.com



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ray Bradbury (1920-2012) authored hundreds of tales that straddle fantasy, horror and science fiction.

Self-taught, Bradbury started to write full-time when he was 12, by his own account inspired by an encounter with a carnival magician named Mr. Electrico; a character by that name appears in "Something Wicked This Way Comes." That novel, first published in 1962, along with "The Martian Chronicles" (1950), "Fahrenheit 451" (1953) and the autobiographical "Dandelion Wine" (1957), have entered the canon of American fiction.

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Green Corn Tamale Pie

Domestication of a wild grass was a supreme Native Americans achievement never more honored than by tamale pie.

KATRINA HERRINGBOTTOM

In October 1981, I was napping on the hallway floor near a guest bathroom the morning after a pre-wedding function in the (to me) extremely foreign land of Arizona.

I was 20ish and otherwise busily employed in Redmond but got invited to this destination wedding in the desert by a distant male cousin who was marrying into an old Arizona family.

Sometime near daylight the resident abuela — the grandmother of the bride — startled me to consciousness with the business end of a broom.

“Mira! Mira!” she said, sweeping me up to follow her.

I obeyed, zombie-like, staggering into the enormous kitchen where I found my fellow zombies — all those stunning, excellent hermanas of the night before who had shared so much I hadn’t known about sisterhood, softball and tequila. Now they stood silent, compliant, disheveled and disoriented in a production line that would produce 10 million billion tamale pies for my cousin’s wedding that afternoon. Someone passed me a shot glass of the same thing that put me to sleep in the hallway, and I was suddenly renewed.

“Mira! Mira!” said the abuela.

“That’s not my name,” I said.

The abuela looked at me expectantly, not understanding and not caring that she didn’t understand. My sisters from other mothers of the night before put their masa-covered hands over their faces and laughed like they had never seen such a dumb Anglo out of her element and over her head at the same time, which — after further research — I confirmed they had not. But after a shot, or two, that morning I mysteriously began to not only understand Spanish but to speak it too, and happily did whatever the abuela told me to do.

The wedding was at her ranch, which in that part of the world meant rocky desert with a lot of saguaro cactus, forbidding mountains, soaring buzzards and big brown guys on horseback. At the reception we served grilled T-bones, cold tequila and hot chili green corn tamale pie, and probably some other stuff I’ve forgotten about.

To get a few things straight, green corn just means corn in the husk. And there are no tamales in tamale pie. Also, it’s not a pie.

Once you get your mind around that, you are ready to embrace the unparalleled beauty of this iconic, historic and ever-enobling dish, made possible by the genius of the Native Americans who domesticated a wild grass into a golden staple that is sacred down there the way salmon is up here. They also, by the way, invented tequila.

Green Corn Tamale Pie

Four side servings or two mains

Ingredients:

2 cups corn; about 4 ears (I’ve done this many lazy times with canned corn, but you want to rinse it well because otherwise the result is way too sweet.)

2 eggs, beaten

1 cup or so half and half

½ cup or so masa harina (fine ground corn flour)

¼ cup or so manteca (lard)

¼ cup butter cut up into tablespoons

Sugar and salt to taste

1 4-ounce can chopped jalapeños.

(This is what separates the wheat from the chaff. Hotter the better.

If you’ve got fresh jalapeños, broil, peel and chop. Chipotles are excessive, but Hatch or poblanos are about right.)

Cup or two of grated cheddar or jack cheese. I’ve found it convenient when I’m feeling lazy, which is all the time, to use pepper jack.

Method:

Lightly grind corn and masa in a blender or food processor, or just mash together, old school. It’s easy to overdo and make gummy. For some reason, it’s weather-dependent and more sun means more success.

Gently blend in lard, half and half, eggs, sugar and salt to taste until you have a thick batter. Yes, taste it. You will be surprised.

Spread half on the bottom of a buttered or larded baking dish or pie tin. Smother with chilies and cheese. Put the other half on top and bake at 350 for 30 or 40 minutes.

**CHIPOTLES ARE EXCESSIVE,
BUT HATCH OR POBLANOS
ARE ABOUT RIGHT.**

Figuring out when it’s done is tricky, in my narrow Northwestern experience, because the middle stays moist while the top and bottom fluff up. At least if you do it right. I just eyeball the crust.

When it looks right, I pull it out, let it sit, and then slice it up to serve to only the worthiest.

Y mis hermanas. ■

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"JUST TAKE A LEFT RIGHT AFTER WHERE THE APPLE SIGN USED TO BE"

Tales of Key Peninsula Orchards

There are stories worth telling about apples on the KP.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

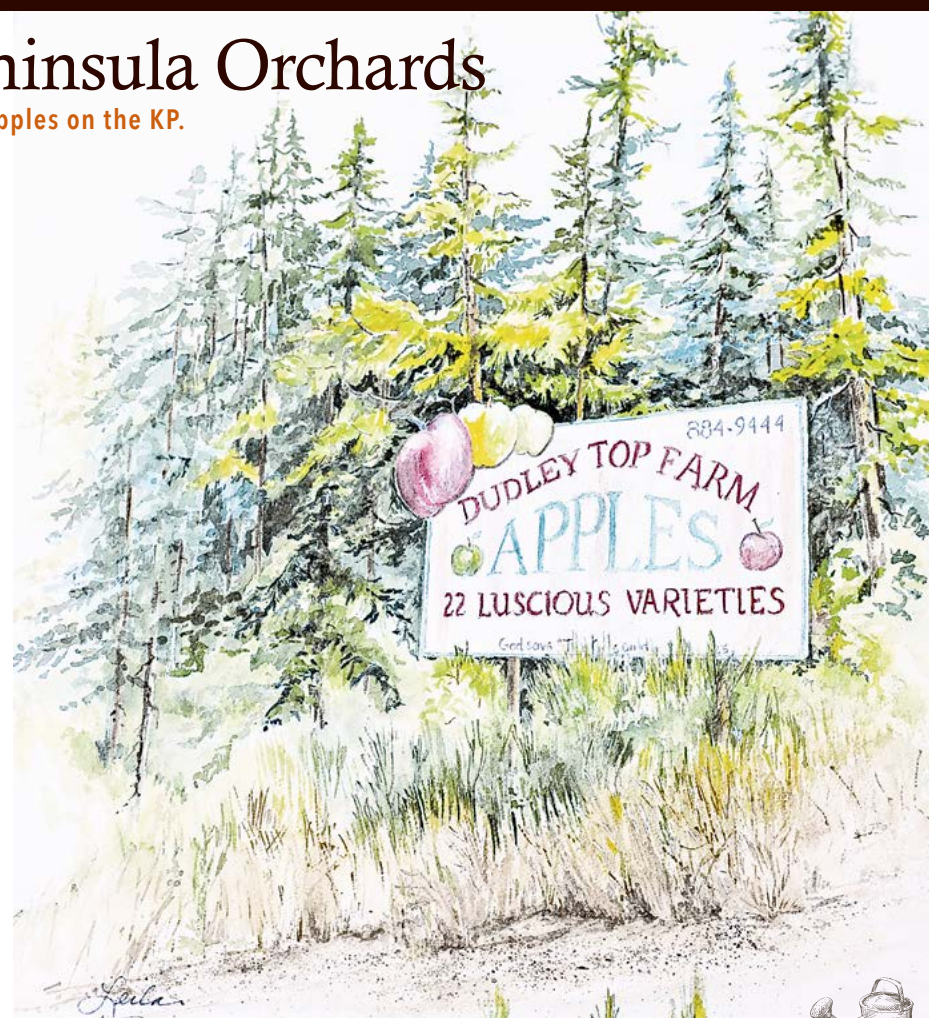
People of the Key Peninsula love their orchards, as evidenced by the apple trees growing everywhere. Historically, most apples on the Key Peninsula were grown for private use.

Tim Kezele grew up on Joe's Bay where the family had a small orchard. "An old guy from the California Dust Bowl migration taught me to prune when I was a kid," he said. Despite a good supply of apples of their own, his mom took him to abandoned plum and apple trees near the current Evergreen Elementary School location to forage. "We climbed over blackberry vines and got a lot of fruit," he said. "Mom didn't want anything to go to waste."

Claudia Loy's grandparents lived in Longbranch near the end of the highway. "Every spring they hosted a guy who came here with bare root trees. He worked his way down the peninsula selling stock to all the homesteaders," she said.

Over the years Kezele has pruned and restored many fruit trees in the area. He loves what he refers to as an old growth Gravenstein in Home, so tall and glorious that "it will give you nosebleeds." He has a few favorite abandoned orchards as well. "When the leaves are off and there are the silhouettes and the horizon, it's beautiful," he said. "There is an old shed back there but I don't know who owns it. I've always wanted to prune it. Cattle ran through it at one time."

Apples were mostly grown for personal use, but there were a few exceptions. Cathie Tritle Christie grew up on her family farm in Longbranch. About 10 acres were planted in apples, mostly



KPGardens Watercolor by Leila Luginbill of Home.

Gravensteins and a few Kings. They sold to Hogan's and Thriftway and had a U-pick option. Russell Tritle started with peaches. "Someone said that peaches wouldn't do well here, and that got my dad started," she said. "The peaches did well until they were taken out by blight. Then he switched to apples."

Customers picked their own fruit. In addition to apples, they had 6,000 laying hens, some cattle and other produce. They sold and traded with neighbors. "We had a jar for money and people traded what they thought was fair. It worked well," she said.

In 1999 Barb Schoos and her husband Scott Reichard bought the property. They pruned a few of the trees but Schoos said that most of the trees are probably more valuable as habitat for wildlife now. They pick for pies and applesauce, supply some neighbors with apples to feed livestock, and sometimes supply apples to a cider operation. The money jar still sits in the old henhouse as a reminder of an era now past.

Dudley Top Apple Farm was perhaps the best known to the Key Peninsula community. It was owned by Kyle Chapman, a general surgeon, and his wife Addy. Chapman's family purchased the

124-acre parcel in 1908. Much of the land was undeveloped, but he planted 13 acres in apples. According to an article

"WE HAD A JAR FOR MONEY AND PEOPLE TRADED WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS FAIR."

in the KP News ("The Passions of Dr. Chapman," KP News Dec. 2003) there were 25 varieties.

Chapman said that state regulations curtailed his hopes for making the operation a commercial success. He died in 2013.

The Chapman property was divided and sold. Tristan Lester and his wife, who have two young daughters, purchased the parcel that included the Chapman home and orchard last November. Lester said he has spent the last six months clearing barbed wire fencing, scotch broom and blackberries from around the trees.

"Some trees were beyond saving," he said. "But the trees that are doing well produced a lot of fruit. We shared some with neighbors and made a lot of applesauce." They hope to restore the orchard and are thinking about options to manage the produce such as a roadside stand or food bank donations. ■

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Here are three more staffers to consider. They like living in a "backwoods" hideaway. They take time to marvel at

Peninsula sunsets, cedars and wildlife. They share your love of a well-turned phrase, a fair and unbiased report, and a heartbreakingly sweet photo.

Our "Who We Are" series continues, shining a little light on these tireless and generous contributors who make our "little newspaper" so wonderful every month. Please, don't hold the applause.



Lisa Bryan, KP News

Sara Thompson

Sara wrote her first story for the KP News in 2014. She was the editor of her high school newspaper, that was the extent of her journalism background. She'd spent 30 years in Seattle working as a family physician and teaching new doctors. "Getting to know patients through their stories and learning to explain complicated issues in ways they could understand helped me when it came to writing for the paper."

Sara first knew the KP as an 8-year old when her parents bought property in Lakebay. She and her husband bought a small house nearby 30 years ago when their kids were young. In 2012 they built their retirement home and moved here full time.

When she's not reporting or working as a board member of the Mustard Seed Project, she's kayaking, riding her bike, walking Lil the golden-doodle or hopelessly trying to eradicate horsetails from her yard.

"Writing for the paper is such a gift. It has allowed me to delve into issues like logging and geoduck farms and to get to know some of the incredible people who live here. Winning the 2020 Feature Writer of the Year from the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association was the thrill of a lifetime."



Andrew Gayler

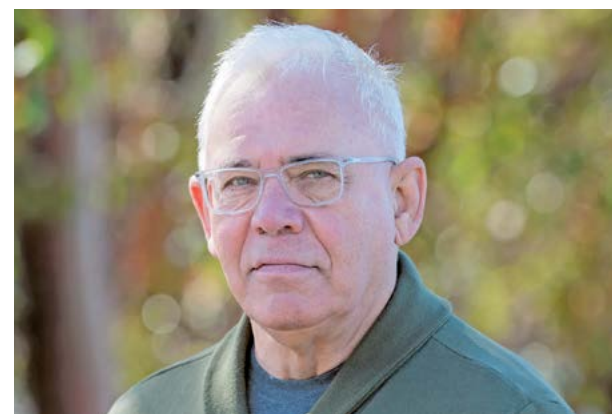
Ted Olinger

Ted Olinger sailed into Vaughn Bay one sunny day in April 2004 and never left. He's been writing about life on the shores of Puget Sound since 1991. His work has appeared in *Canoe & Kayak*, *House* magazine, *Wetdawg.com*, and other local and national periodicals.

He grew up on a beach in Los Angeles, studied literature and writing in Boston and New York, and learned how to edit during his years working for G.P. Putnam's Sons Publishing in Manhattan in the 1980s (see *Peninsula Views* in this edition).

Ted has won numerous awards for his work, including four from the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association for his reporting, and the Foreword Review literary prize for his 2013 book of short stories about the Key Peninsula, "The Woodpecker Menace."

He was hired by the Key Peninsula News in 2009 as a reporter and became executive editor in 2016. Ted now assists part-time as an associate editor. He lives in Vaughn with his family, a fleet of half-built boats, and a rotating cast of dogs.



Tina McKail, KP News

Tim Heitzman

Five years ago Tim casually offered newly appointed editor Ted Olinger "help with anything you might need." Tim's name has been on the masthead ever since.

A roll of Verichrome Pan 620 film and a Brownie camera on his 10th birthday started a path that evolved to graphic design and advertising, eventually to a senior advertising agency position as art director for a Seattle cruise line account.

Late in 1999, Tim bought a leaky cottage on the north side of Filucy Bay. Since then, he's served on the LIC board, helped local nonprofits fund-raise and kept a little freelance marketing communications practice.

When he's not hunched over a Mac, he's looking out over the bay with his terrier, Buddy. Tim loves to cook (and eat) good food, fill Wed-Sat crosswords and read mysteries.

As anyone who has worked for, with, or against him knows, things that need attention get it. He is proud to work on what in just a few years has become a bigger, brighter newspaper, filled with award-winning photography, stories and ads (yes, KP News ads win awards) that should make everyone on the Key Peninsula proud.



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CIVIC CENTER CORNER

CALL FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

If you're part of the community, you're qualified to be a part of the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association. Everyone over the age of 18 who lives or works on the Key Peninsula is encouraged to become a member. It's easy — attend a monthly Board of Directors meeting and express an interest and you've met the requirements to join!

We're looking for new Board members, and all KPCCA members are eligible for election to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

Contact our office for details (office@kpciviccenter.org 253-884-3456) or join us on the 2nd Thursday at 7pm for our monthly Board of Directors meeting.

CALL FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Do you have what it takes to make a difference in your community?

If you do, then we want to hear from you! Call 253 432 4948 or go to www.kpcouncil.org for an application before Oct 31

Established in 2004, the Key Peninsula Community Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving as a fiscal sponsor and bringing services and resources to citizens of the Key Peninsula.

Our Mission: We serve the Key Peninsula by working as a team to maintain and improve the quality of life on the Key Peninsula through partnerships, sponsorships, programs, advocacy, fundraising and volunteer recruitment.



Buy a Brick for the Civic Center



Become a permanent part of history with your own brick. Personalized bricks will be installed near the entrance of the Civic Center. Order yours today at www.kpciviccenter.org



*Strengthening the Key Peninsula
Connecting the Community*

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(Not all services available for free, some services have additional age and/or income requirements)

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The Mustard Seed Project - (253) 851-9380

KP Community Services – (253) 884-4440

Envoy America – (888) 375-5558

**For more resources and information, visit:
www.kphealthycommunity.org**

Do you need help getting a Covid-19 Vaccine? The Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept can help, they can even bring one to you if necessary. Call: (253) 649-1412 for more information.

Yoga classes are back!

8:30 am Mondays and Wednesdays

Book online

www.kpciviccenter.org/yoga.html



Friday nights 6-9pm \$5

for K-8, includes skate rental and games



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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Autumn 3-year-old adopted from Kitsap Animal Shelter last October. *Donna & Kevin Barry*



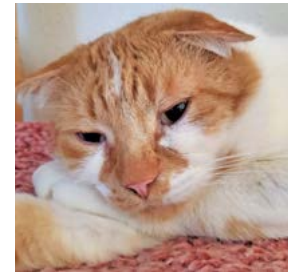
Henry Loves wearing his hand knitted cap. *Alisha Beesinger*



Mr. Max with some kid who trick or treated last year. *Marsba Kremen*



Penny *Stephanie Brooks*



Sedric My daughter's cat. *Sharon Olson*



Squiggles Beloved Calico. From a devoted Longbranch summer resident, wintering in Albuquerque *John Warns*



Carlos Street cat rescued in Nicaragua, now he's looking quite French. *Paula Somers*



Ivy *Lilia Angiolini*



Muffintop *Diane Grant*



Pippa Born and raised on the KP with canine half-brother, Kenai. *Mr and Mrs Rafe Barone*



Sirgio *Nanette Wolf*



Tahuya *Diana Nole & Roger Slaughter*



Cheza Yes sir, Officer Cheza! *Mark and Midori Clark*



Jingle (Bug) Mama's boy is turning 10 soon. *Sheila Morin*



Nikoni Dangerfield *Dayton Coop*



Punky *Robert Heins*



Spiral 5 1/2-month-old Maine Coon lives with fur brother, Kenma. Likes car rides, fetch, cuddles and chasing bugs. *Brandy Dillon*



Tiddles A hard-core logging kitty and employee of the year at Joe Smith Logging LLC.



Chungus *Diana Nole & Roger Slaughter*



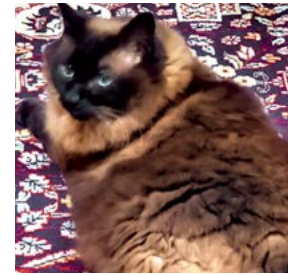
Karma between Chungus and baby Tahuya *Diana Nole & Roger Slaughter*



Oliver A 5-year-old goofy ginger tabby. Sister Daisy isn't nearly as photogenic. *Katherine Rogers*



Sala Sheriff *Mark & Midori Clark*



Spooky Found by a warehouse manager when she tripped motion detectors every night. Kathleen adopted her, which is when she stole my heart. *Ed Johnson*



Uncle Gustoff A playful tortoiseshell. *Sharon Olson*



Elsa *Nanette Wolf*



Kenma 5 1/2-month-old Maine Coon mix enjoys walks, little tricks for treats and following humans. *Brandy Dillon*



Ottoo and Troy Ottoo (oh-two) and Troy, clearly not ready to start the day yet. *Robin Winslow*



Sammy Super affectionate, but also a little stinky. *Norah Lystad*



Spooky Muffins Her favorite holiday is Halloween and she loves to dress up. She's so funny! She's 5 years old and has a big brother named Tiddles. *Garrett Smith*



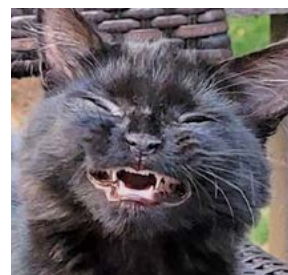
Zeus & Jupiter Adorable, destructive, sweetness and cuddles. D&D D20 die their favorite toy. *Christina Welch*



Harley Herron Island resident Harley would be insulted if I put a costume on him...not an acceptable cat thing! *Joyce Major*



Kitty Never much of a hunter, but one Thanksgiving she caught a mole for dinner. RIP. *Pintsized Purple*



Sarah who loves to smile. *Joan, Richard and Raya Kyle*

FUTURE CAT OWNERS: There's a cat ready to adopt you (if you're willing to be trained); the sooner the better. Don't stand in the way of cat love. Pet, purr and repeat. See bigger views of these cats (and ones who came late) online at keypennews.org