



KEY PENINSULA NEWS



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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

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KP Parks Breaks Ground on Gateway Park Splash Pad

The long-awaited 3,000 sq. ft. water feature should be ready by summer.

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

Key Pen Parks officially broke ground on the Gateway Park splash pad project Monday, September 9.

Dozens of community members gathered under the pavilion to listen to the celebratory words of local dignitaries before they plunged ceremonial golden shovels into the soil.

Opening remarks by Key Pen Parks Executive Director Scott Gallacher and Park Commission Board Vice President Ed Robison were followed by brief speeches from Sen. Emily Randall (D-Bremerton), Rep. Jesse Young (R-Gig Harbor) and Pierce County Councilmember Derek Young (D-Gig Harbor). Rep. Michelle Calder (R-Port Orchard) was delayed by Olympia traffic, though her legislative assistant was on the scene.

"It'll be great to have it open for next year for next spring and summer, and we beat Gig Harbor," said Park Commissioner Kip Clinton to resounding laughter. "The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District has brought a lot of grant money to the KP for this project and many others."

CONTINUED PAGE 3



Eva Jones, 7, and brother Sonny, 5, dig in to help. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News



Images courtesy Peninsula School District

New Evergreen Elementary School Closer to Reality

Plans are approved to build the first elementary school on the KP in 50 years.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The excitement over the Evergreen Elementary School replacement was palpable. "We are so excited," said Principal Hugh Maxwell. "We wanted a building that we could be proud of — both in how it looks and how it feels. We were amazed at how responsive the architects were to our input."

Planning moved into high gear soon after voters approved a \$198,550,000 school construction bond on Feb. 11, 2019. The Peninsula School District purchased an adjacent 2.74 acres to the northwest of Evergreen for the replacement school, minimizing construction impact on school operations. The permitting process began and from May through June a group of about 18 parents, staff and community members met regularly with the architects to translate their vision for Evergreen into reality. Maxwell continued to meet with the design team over the summer and the board approved the plans at its meeting in early September.

Patrick Gillespie, director of facilities for PSD, said the district provided a standard for all new schools. It included a requirement for a music room, gym and commons, a secure entry vestibule, flex spaces for independent project-based learning, and space for community engagement.

Rocky Bay resident Jeff Greene of Greene Gasaway is the project manager. He said most school projects have a concept-to-construction timeline that is longer than this one, and that with longer planning periods, staff and community

participation may drop off. "This was a compressed schedule but with full engagement," he said. "They were consistent, active, outspoken, and excited to be part of the process."

Maxwell said that first and foremost the planning group wanted to maintain the close connection between students and staff. All staff greet each child

linger once they have dropped their children off. Maxwell asked that the roof at the entry be extended to expand the feeling of the commons outward.

"WE ARE SO EXCITED."

The new school will have two stories. The first floor will include the commons with the gym and music room to the south. There will be a moveable wall between them and



Plan view of the new Evergreen Elementary site. Outlines in lower left indicate existing buildings.

as they enter the building. "We didn't want to lose that space, the warmth that happens when you step through the door," he said.

Natural light and community engagement were also very important. The commons, which the planning team described as the school's family room, will be a two-story space that is just beyond the vestibule and will continue to be the place where every child is greeted each morning. Parents often

the music room will be elevated, allowing it to be used as a stage for performances viewed from the gym.

Two clusters of four classrooms will be located to the west and will border an outside courtyard. Each cluster of classrooms will include a flexible space that can be used for such things as tutoring and project-based learning.

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Here's What I Think About That

For the second year in a row, KP News will take top honors in a statewide newspaper contest.

LISA BRYAN,
EXECUTIVE EDITOR, KP NEWS

The Washington Newspaper Publishers Association holds its annual convention later this month where the Key Peninsula News will receive at least nine awards for excellence in writing, photography and design. Placings will be announced at the formal awards banquet Oct. 11 in Olympia.

The WNPA represents more than 100 community newspapers across the state, advocating for local news and "a high standard of publication quality and community leadership." Its judges evaluated over 1,500 entries for its 2019 Better Newspaper Contest.

Associate Editor and writer Ted Olinger and writer-historian Joseph Pentheroudakis are in line for writing awards, as are columnists Phyllis Henry and Carolyn Wiley. Awards are in store as well for production designer Tim Heitzman, and awards for photography will come home for Jim Bellamy, Richard Hildahl, Ed Johnson and Richard Miller.

These awards are confirmation of what you already know — KP News is well worth reading and supporting. We believe that strong, healthy and vibrant communities benefit from the results of well-informed citizens. Your participation and engagement in civic affairs are essential to the life we enjoy today and want to leave for future generations.

What does it take to produce and deliver the independent nonprofit newspaper you hold in your hands? It takes dedication and commitment. It takes a large team of people who enjoy discov-

ering the richness of life all around us by being involved in it.

HOW IT WORKS

Fresh editions of the Key Peninsula News arrive at the KP Civic Center in the early morning once a month, stacked in bundles atop wooden pallets.

Half a dozen volunteers on the distribution team count, bag and sort bundles for carrier-route delivery through one of our three local post offices.

The team schleps bags outside to an improvised loading dock where an aging pick-up and cargo van await. Papers delivered to local post offices arrive the next day in every mailbox on the KP. Paid subscriptions are stamped, labeled and mailed first class to readers living outside our free distribution area.

In total the crew handles 10,000 newspapers each month. Those that aren't mailed directly to roughly 8,500 households on the KP are distributed by team members to select establishments on the KP and in Gig Harbor and surrounding areas.

THE STORIES

A volunteer-powered team of reporters and photographers meets with editorial and production staff for a monthly strategy session that defines the course of planned coverage for the next edition while seeking out breaking stories in time to meet the next deadline.

We share ideas, resources and criticisms. We compare notes, coordinate calendars

and synchronize watches. We are forever curious, asking questions, researching and looking for answers from elected officials, county government, and experts covering the spectrum of life here.

We enjoy a growing stable of talented and award-winning journalists who abide by the time-honored practices and ethics demanded by the profession.

We continue to expand with the help of



award-winning columnists too, each sharing their experience to provide thought-provoking and entertaining commentary on wide-ranging topics. In this edition, you'll find thoughts on social media and politics, a haunting tale from encounters with

ghosts, the empirical voice of reason from new columnist Richard Gelinis, and a lesson on why shared experiences make life better.

THE RESULTS

The greatest honor in doing this work is the opportunity to meet and talk with readers from all walks of life up and down the Key Peninsula. The support, appreciation and critical feedback we receive month after month carries us forward with renewed enthusiasm.

We dig deep into Key Peninsula life both past and present. None of this would be possible without the support and generosity of everyone involved in reporting, delivering and reading this vital community newspaper come to life through your passions and your stories.



[A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY]

Subscribing to the KP News is still only thirty dollars. That pays for 12 issues of Who, What, When, Where and How, not to mention our community calendar, not-always-flattering head shots, surprising stories and sometimes-wild opinions.

Your subscription to Key Peninsula News means more than first-class mail delivery. It says Yes! to the staff and volunteers who give their time and talent to produce an award-winning community paper.

If you're lucky enough to live on the KP, we're delighted to deliver your copy free of charge, thanks to support from donors and advertisers.

Join us. Subscribe for \$30 a year. Or donate just as much (or little) as you like at keypennews.org or mail to PO Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394.

The KP News invites community information, concerns or complaints at editor@keypennews.org or 253-884-4699. You're also invited to post public meetings or events on our online calendar at keypennews.org. Entries received by the 15th of the month will be printed in the next edition.



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EVERGREEN FROM PAGE 1

A preschool classroom and offices will be on the east side of the building. At the northeast corner will be a community room. It will have a separate security system so that it can be more easily used after school hours.

The second floor will have two clusters of classrooms, one with five rooms and one with four, with each including a flexible space. A library full of natural light will face the east. Greene said the building site is relatively elevated, but they won't really know what the view will encompass until they build.

Greene said that the promise of the bond was to replace portables with classrooms. Evergreen currently has 26,000 square feet with eight classrooms and six portables. The new building, with 46,000 square feet, will have 17 traditional classrooms, a preschool classroom and a community room that can also serve as a classroom.

Maxwell said that not all classrooms will be necessary when the new building opens. "We will have extra classrooms at first, but they will not be empty." He anticipates using them for such purposes as workspace for the STEAM consultant and alternatives to recess.

Once the construction is completed, the existing school building will be dismantled. The old gym may be removed, but that has yet to be decided. Gillespie said they are excited about the possibilities for the grounds, but exactly what they will look like has not been determined. Landscaping will be native, drought-tolerant plantings, but

"WE WILL HAVE EXTRA CLASSROOMS AT FIRST BUT THEY WILL NOT BE EMPTY."

details depend on the budget and what is discovered as the old building is removed.

The project will go out to bid in March and construction should start in the spring of 2020, with completion anticipated as the school year begins in fall 2021, according to PSD. A similar schedule is planned for replacing Artondale Elementary School.

The bond funds the construction of two new schools and two replacement schools, and Greene and Gillespie said that although the construction of four schools over the next two years is complicated, there has been "significant synergy."

Tacoma-based TCF Architecture is responsible for the Evergreen replacement and Pioneer Elementary No. 10, the new magnet school on the campus of the former Boys and Girls Club in Gig Harbor. Seattle-based Integrus Architecture is responsible for the Artondale replacement and the as yet unnamed School No. 9 in Gig Harbor North.



Local contractor Wildwood Carpentry LLC Superintendent Brandon Jones (left) with Project Manager Darrin Fiskum. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

SPLASH PAD FROM PAGE 1

"We're trying to expand our influence and engagement within the community, and them with us," said Rob Home, president of the Key Pen Parks Foundation, which continues to raise funds to support the new splash pad project.

A splash pad is an above-ground area that uses jets, sprinklers and nozzles to create a water feature without the cost, maintenance or safety concerns of a pool. The open design also allows the play area to be accessible to individuals with mobility issues. The completed Gateway Park splash pad will feature a dozen unique water toys and provide over 3,000 square feet of recreation space.

The splash pad will be built on the north side of Gateway, adjacent to the playground. Construction is slated to be completed by May of 2020, allowing the community to begin using the pad as soon as next summer.

The winning bid for the project came from Wildwood Construction, a local company whose management expressed enthusiasm about working on a community improvement project so close to home. "We have young kids ourselves, and we're excited about the splash pad for our families. We got real competitive on this one," said Brandon Jones of Wildwood, who

lives near Delano Bay with his wife and three children.

Key Pen Parks sees the finished project as a draw for residents and for members of surrounding communities looking to cool off during the summer. "We anticipate residents of the Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor and South Kitsap area using the park," Gallacher said. "There are a number of people who come from different areas who use Gateway Park, and we expect that to continue."

The most visible part of the splash pad installation will be the laying of a large, new concrete slab, but additional work will be required to put the pad into operation. "There's a lot of in-ground things that people won't see. Plumbing, piping for the components, as well as the drainage ditch for the water when it goes away. It's still a large project," Gallacher said.

The pad was designed by a consultant with experience designing similar features in the area. "They looked at our water flow and things like that to determine what features we could have," Gallacher said. "It was a pretty straightforward design process. Our biggest challenge was that we have a small

water line coming in, but we have quite a bit of pressure."

According to Gallacher, the building process shouldn't interrupt normal park activities. "As part of our contract, the park has to stay open. People may see fenced-off areas, but the park will remain open as the pad is being constructed," he said.

The splash pad is part of phase three of the Gateway Park master plan, a blueprint for park improvement created in 2015 with input from

OTHER PHASE THREE DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDE AN AMPHITHEATER AND AN ADDITIONAL PAVILION.

community members and consultants. Other phase three developments include an amphitheater and an additional pavilion, although these projects were split off from the splash pad construction to make the grant application process simpler. Further down the list are plans for more trails, a sports field and a baseball diamond.

Funding for the project comes from several sources. A \$500,000 grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office is being matched with several other sources by Key Pen Parks, including real estate excise tax funds from Pierce County and local donations.



Get ready to squeeze your apples at the KP Farm Tour Apple Squeeze event Sunday, Oct. 6 at Volunteer Park. *Photo: Chris Konieczny, KP News*

Key Peninsula Farm Tour Grows and Transforms

The KP tradition enters its 13th year now as a two-day event with more destinations and new activities.

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

The annual Key Peninsula Farm Tour will showcase local farmers October 5 and 6 with an expanded two-day opportunity to visit historic farms and take in art, live music and farm-fresh culinary delights.

Returning for its 13th year, the 2019 Farm Tour is organized by the Key Peninsula Farm Council, which operates as a subcommittee under the 501(c)(3) umbrella of the Key Peninsula Community Council with support from Key Pen Parks, the Peninsula Light Co. and the Bruce Titus Automotive Group.

“The Farm Tour is (when) you can get on site and enjoy informative tours and see who is doing what and how,” said Leona Lisa, President of the KP Farm Council and owner-operator of the Bill Fold Family Farm near Horseshoe Lake.

The KP Farm Tour dates back to 2006,

when it was first established by Trillium Creek Winery as a participant of Pierce County Harvest Fest. The following year, they lost county funding but were able to raise enough money to keep the KP Farm Tour going. The budget has grown with grants from The Angel Guild, Pierce County, sponsors and donors.

“We have seen many changes over the years,” Lisa said. “One of the things that

has come up each year is the need for more time and to add a second day to the tour. We have new sites on the tour and returning favorites,

so something for everyone.”

Surveys conducted over the years reflect well over 1,000 visitors from 55 different zip codes.

The 2019 Farm Tour will kick off at the KP Fire Department headquarters in Key Center at 8 a.m. on Saturday with a pancake breakfast, followed by firehouse

demonstrations.

At Trillium Creek Winery, visitors can meet KP Farm Tour founders Claude and Claudia Gahard, stroll through their vineyards, and taste wine made from fresh fruit processed in the wine cellar on the 15-acre property in Lakebay.

Bliss Manor Farm is new to the Farm Tour this year. Located above Rocky Bay, visitors can stroll with goats and chickens, and take a ride on the hay wagon to the Christmas tree farm.

Grand Farms in Vaughn will conduct equestrian demonstrations and offer previews of its Haunted Forest. There will be a food truck, beer garden and parking on site.

Kaukiki Farm in Longbranch will have dog herding demonstrations, a garden tour, interpretive walks, and activities for kids. Visitors can learn about the organic practices the farm uses while raising grass-fed beef, lamb and chicken sustainably and naturally while protecting the environment and wildlife.

“One of the aspects the Key Penin-

sula Farm Council promotes is environmental sustainability (and) education,” Lisa said. “We have added the Minter Creek Hatchery this year in addition to having two kids camps that have agricultural education outreach programs: YMCA Camp Seymour’s Living Machine will once again be open to tour.”

“Sound View Camp near Devil’s Head will have archery, guided nature walks and other camp activities during the Farm Tour, as well as being available for families to stay overnight for a full Sound View experience with dinner, an evening campfire, and breakfast included for those who pre-book the stay,” she said.

A new event on Sunday will be an apple squeeze at Volunteer Park, with live music and old-fashioned activities for children, including an egg toss, a three-legged race, and bobbing for apples.

“People will sign up for a time at a press,” Lisa said. “We will have a variety of apples washed and prepared for squeezing, but folks are welcome to bring their own apples. They will also get a reduced rate for the cider to reflect that. Volunteers will be on hand to assist.”

Fresh-pressed cider will be available for purchase. Visitors can bring their own container or buy one there, Lisa said.

There will be a farmers market alongside the apple squeeze, featuring several vendors and apple themed items.

In conjunction with the Farm Tour, the Longbranch Improvement Club will host the 12th year of the KP Fiber Arts Festival, “Threads Through Time,” featuring artist Cecilia Blomberg, whose tapestries have appeared in national and international exhibitions. (See “Fiber Arts Show Featured Artist: Cecilia Blomberg” in this issue.) More than two dozen artists will demonstrate, exhibit and sell their work at the festival.

Shuttle buses courtesy of KP School Bus Connects will run between sites on Saturday. Gateway Park is the bus terminal for the northern route and Longbranch Improvement Club is the southern route terminal, with shuttles leaving approximately every 20 minutes. Parking is not available at every site.

Blend Wine Shop will host the Farm Tour Art Show through October 7, including paintings of Grand, Kaukiki and Foxglove Farms by the Peninsula Art League plein air artists group.

In addition to the expanded Farm Tour program, The Farm Council plans to increase its programs in 2020 to include Farm to Table dinners, a spring Farm Tour, and free farming classes.

For more information and the full Farm Tour schedule, visit kpfarmtour.com.



The wait is nearly over for eager shoppers at Lake Kathryn Villiage. *Photo: David Zeigler, KP News*

New Businesses Aim for Fall Opening in Lake Kathryn Village

New retail space will expand shopping options on the Key Peninsula.

SARA THOMPSON KP NEWS

Two anchor businesses are scheduled to open in the new Lake Kathryn Village buildings this fall. The Dollar Tree and Domino's Pizza signed leases in September and should be open for business in October.

Domino's will occupy the north side of the new building. Steve Gaube of Gig Harbor is the owner.

He runs three other franchises, one in Gig Harbor and two in Port Orchard, with his wife and two sons. Gaube started as a driver for Domino's in 1981 and said he opened his first store in 1987.

"I like to be involved in my businesses and being close to home is good," he said. "I'm seeing a lot of community excitement — more than I have seen when I opened my other stores. We expect to be busy from the get-go."

He plans to employ about 25 full and part-time workers, including 10 in the store and 15 drivers.

Bob Wilkins, who hosts the Key Peninsula Swap Meet, said, "We love our Burger King and its employees, but it will be nice to have an option from Domino's when the pizza mood strikes."

Dollar Tree will occupy 11,700 square feet of the building.

Dollar Tree is a chain of discount variety stores selling items for \$1 or less. It operates nearly 15,000 stores in the U.S., and has stores in Shelton, Tacoma, University Place and Lakewood.

Local residents were enthusiastic about Dollar Tree coming to the Key Peninsula.

"I think it is a great idea for those of us who cannot afford all the high-end stuff and for those who can afford it but complain about their money situation on a daily basis," said Diana Marcoe of Lakebay.

"I know a lot of elders that would love to be able to shop a little cheaper."

Nicole Elliott, who teaches at Key Peninsula Middle School said, "Amazing for us teachers as well!"

"I'm so excited to hear that this is confirmed! People underestimate the value of the items that this store sells," said Rachel Johnson of Gig Harbor. "That store got

me everything I needed in college, and the cleaning supplies are amazing. Can't wait to

have access just a few minutes away."

Mike Sherman, a long-term business associate of Lake Kathryn Village owner Don Zimmerman, is working with Zimmerman to manage the property and leases. The building was completed in late 2018, designed as a shell with spaces to be finished by tenants. Sherman said this arrangement has allowed for flexible options for the spaces and competitive rates.

"Don is a very supportive landlord," he said.

Several businesses are considering the remaining six spaces, some of which could be combined. One measures 2,000 square feet, a second is 1,400, and the other four still available at press time are each 1,200

square feet. Sherman said that leasing is limited to family-friendly businesses.

"We know it is going to be a great center. The neighborhood has grown, and I think the stores will take off real fast," Sherman said.

Phase two of Zimmerman's vision for Lake Kathryn Village will be complete once the new building is fully leased, Sherman said. Phase one was getting the road and light installed at the State Route-302 and 94th Ave NW intersection. Phase three is underway, with a plan to include some major retail businesses on the site.

An award-winning photo essay from April, 2018, selected by the WNPA Better Newspapers competition.



A winning proposition

Even while other communities grieve the loss of their local newspapers, our Key Peninsula News continues to prosper. It takes dedication, inspiration and hundreds of donors and advertisers to create what you're holding right now — the only independent source of local news serving our community.

The Key Peninsula News provides more than news. It enables voices and views otherwise unheard, and provides a catalyst for connection, cooperation and growth.

After joining the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association, we won awards for excellence. This year, nine staff and contributors have won again, for writing, photography and ads. Later this month, Jim Bellamy, Tim Heitzman, Phyllis Henry, Richard Hildahl, Edward Johnson, Richard Miller, Ted Olinger, Joseph Pentheroudakis and Carolyn Wiley will be honored at the WNPA Awards ceremony.

While awards are certainly satisfying, the most important accolades come from our readers. Letters and notes, checks and online donations add up to prove just how successful the Key Pen News has become.

When we work together to build community, we all win.



Rob Vajko

KEYTHOUGHTS



Political Posts – Just Don't

Facebook would seem like the perfect platform to share political views. It isn't.

Let me explain why your political posts aren't going to convince anyone of anything.

Facebook is in the business of making money, not in the business of trying to bring the world together.

The longer you stay on Facebook, the more ads you're exposed to and the more money Facebook makes. It's pretty straightforward: in order to keep you on their site, Facebook has learned to give you what it is that you want to see. They've also learned that offering up posts that you disagree with, political views that make you see red, cause people to log off and stop logging on to Facebook.

Contrary to what most political activists might believe, most people don't actually enjoy arguments, name calling and insults (which is what political posts inevitably turn into). Bottom line is that if you support candidate X and don't like candidate Y, Facebook isn't going to display your posts to those who support Y and don't like X. It's as simple as that.

Want to blame Facebook for a sly piece of marketing? Don't.

Facebook knows what you want because you tell it what you want: You click on certain articles, people and videos. Facebook then serves up more of the same. You begin to see only the content you like and agree with, and nothing else.

This is called confirmation bias. What you have unconsciously "liked" on Facebook reinforces what you already think is true.

The repercussions are rather important. By far the largest number of responses you're going to get from your political post, for example, will come from people who already agree with you because that's the demographic Facebook is serving. Those you're hoping to sway and convince with your brilliant musings are, for the most part, not seeing anything you've written.

It also means that we can easily start to believe that everyone sees the world like we do (after all, most people agree with my post). It's akin to physically walking down to your party's political caucus office and complaining about the opponent's views and policies; you won't be surprised that people tend to agree with you.

If you do manage to reach someone who doesn't agree with what you have to say, the odds of them changing their minds is close to zero. I won't rehash something that I covered in a past column ("You Can't Change My Mind," KP News July 2017), but the gist is that we really don't change our minds even in the face of overwhelming evidence. We find a way to explain away the evidence instead, especially if that evidence is presented in a loud and obnoxious way (yes, you can tell when people are yelling, even on Facebook).

No one likes to be insulted, threatened or ridiculed. You might agree with me about this and you might be extremely respectful in the way you share your views on Facebook or elsewhere, but you don't control those who are going to read your post and respond. If you have spent any time at all on social media you have witnessed a seemingly innocent post turn into a gladiator arena where people call each other the vilest things. You know that you don't like it when others treat your views that way so don't subject your friends to it.

Rob Vajko lives in Gig Harbor.

Ted Olinger

ANOTHER LAST WORD



Just in Time for Halloween: DIY Exorcisms

Of the many questions we seek answers to across the infernal expanse of the internet, surely there was never one more purpose-built than: "How do I get rid of a ghost?"

It was a problem I never expected to face nor one I was predisposed to artfully solve.

Nevertheless, the Fates tapped me with their unfeeling fingers to address certain affairs of extended family members who had discourteously moved on to their final reward after full and eventful lives, leaving me — always the last to leave a party — to clean up.

"The problem is," said the property manager, "people don't want to go there. Housekeeping doesn't even like going in there."

There were sounds, he said. Doors opening and closing by themselves. Water running at all hours.

This otherwise rational person was telling me the mountain cabin owned by my family for generations was no longer a viable vacation rental unit because it was haunted.

The unwelcome news came to me shortly

after I inherited the equally unwelcome task of disposing of this once-treasured cabin and distributing whatever residue remained to far-flung entities that took little interest beyond getting paid.

It was necessary for me to visit the site and meet the manager and a broker and a building contractor, the last of whom I thought could address whatever was causing the alleged haunting by replacing floorboards and worn-out plumbing.

As it turned out, the contractor's crew had already been called upon to perform repairs in the cabin over the years. He said they called the resident ghost "Uncle."

That moniker was enough to launch my internet research.

A sampling of suggestions on the exorcism of dispossessed spirits ranged from the strategic sprinkling of sea salt across thresholds to the judicious placement of mirrors on facing walls. These seemed like half measures that would serve only to fuel the indignation of the departed ancestors I had to confront.

As so often happens in dramas of the unseen, help arrived unexpectedly from an acquaintance with experience in such matters.

"It's actually a very simple thing," she said, describing how to perform an exorcism of one's vacation home, "but you have to take it seriously. Otherwise, there could be consequences."

Such as?

"One time I drove out this fire elemental from the basement of my friend's parents' house," she said. "But it followed me home."

And then?

"Well, it caused some problems, but now we know how to take care of it, so it's fine."

The cabin had been a favorite retreat for my parents, their siblings and in-laws and cousins and their children and grandkids. It was built in a lonely spot near an abandoned mine and a forgotten pioneer cemetery surrounded by dark alpine forest riven with trout streams, all features that somehow conspired to enhance the haunted quality of the place.

The manager had left an outside light on for me, but I had to move slowly down the wood paneled hallways feeling for light switches I was once too small to reach. As the lights came on in the empty cabin, I realized I had never been alone there in my life.

The place was full of ghosts.

There were the stacks of puzzles and board games piled neatly on end tables, ready for play. There were the towering shelves of books on how to fly-fish, bird

watch, and correctly identify the constellations of the Northern Hemisphere. There was the upright piano where we had pounded out everything from Chopin to the Wabash Cannonball. There was all that dubious artwork still clinging to the walls, dozens of things collected from swap meets and county fairs, objects that at first seemed quaint and then turned ugly only to become beautiful at last.

I turned the lights on in the kitchen. Water was pouring out of the faucet. I pulled the handle down and the flow snapped off without a drip.

I opened the empty refrigerator out of habit, expecting to see the quart containers of ketchup and pickles and the leftover casseroles we consumed like locusts. How many mountains of pancakes were made in this kitchen, how many trout were fried, how many gallons of chili stewed and washed down with how many hundreds of beers?

I went to choose a bedroom for my overnight stay rather than the pullout couch where I'd spent most of my summer nights as a kid. When I returned to the kitchen, water was pouring out of the faucet.

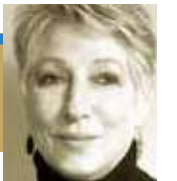
It was time for the exorcism. I filled a glass with something expensive and offered a toast to the unseen quorum. "Uncles, cousins, parents — wherever you are — thank you for your kind attentions, but our revels now are ended. We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep."

Not long after the cabin finally sold, back in my own home I awoke late one night to a strange sound. I slipped out of bed without disturbing my wife, crept past the door of our sleeping child and down the dark stairs stacked with laundry, Legos and unread mail, past the snoring watch dogs sprawled across the living room floor, and into the kitchen, where water was pouring out of the faucet.

Ted Olinger lives in Vaughn.

Vicki Husted Biggs

A SHIFT IN PERSPECTIVE



Shared Experiences Make Life Better

On the 50th anniversary year of Woodstock, we look back on the pictures of that event with wonder. Thousands of strangers sharing music, food, pot, mud, travel and good times. We may envy the experiences of those who were there and, if we are old

enough, we relive where we were during that momentous time. The sights, sounds, film images and news of that concert are legendary.

Fifty years later, here on the Key Peninsula, we have many opportunities for shared experiences; none so epic as Woodstock, but valuable nonetheless. For example, we have ball fields for team sports, and two historic buildings where dances, auctions, events and parties are held. We have parks and trails and beaches where families and groups gather for picnics, recreation and celebrations.

But what really is so important about shared experiences? Why do they matter and what is the benefit?

As it turns out, shared experiences have been studied quite a bit. The findings show the shared social connections are more valuable to people than the experience itself. People, in general, have an inner drive to share experiences with others.

Another aspect is a fulfillment of people's drive to share information. The social connections formed at events can help pass along knowledge used for decision making and adds to a collective store of wisdom. For instance, you meet a new person at a party and discover they are familiar with a place you have an interest in visiting. The conversation reveals important logistics, influencing your travel plans. You pass this tip along to others in your circle.

Perhaps the most important aspect of shared experiences is their effect on our wellbeing. Social connections formed by shared experiences provide "protective factors" for individuals. As a social worker, some of the most informative questions I ask have to do with an individual's connection with family or friends. Sharing meals, looking at photographs, attending church, taking a walk — all are activities enhanced by company.

As a result, our mental, emotional and physical health are bolstered. Just reliving the memories of positive events provides a continued source of enrichment. Conversely, those lacking connections and opportunities for shared experiences often suffer depression, anxiety and cognitive decline.

Sharing an activity amplifies the emotion we attach to it, positive or negative. For instance, if we see a movie with friends, a negative comment tends to intensify a bad review. Likewise, a group can be influenced by a positive comment to remember an experience as better than it actually was.

Sharing pain and struggle are also ways people come together in shared experiences. They produce bonding and cooperation, and might be referred to as our social glue. For example, our older relatives

lived through the Great Depression of the 1930s, a decade-long experience that influenced their entire lives. Northwesterners remember where we were in 1980 at the eruption of Mount St. Helens. The camaraderie of soldiers is well known. Shared adversity increases creativity and innovation. Shared experiences can be a reminder that we have more in common with others than we do differences.

Volunteers seek out the company of others who share a passion. Locally, we have many nonprofit organizations working to improve the lives of those on the Key Peninsula. Volunteers contribute many hours on behalf of elderly people or low-income families. It is not difficult to jump in and become a friend of the library or a helper with Food Backpacks 4 Kids. Many adults volunteer with our local schools to tutor kids struggling to read. These types of shared experiences benefit individuals and the community as a whole.

Next time you are tempted to stay home and veg out with a solitary movie night, ask yourself if this might be a time for sharing the movie instead. Living as far from civilization as we do on the KP opens the door for making our own fun and getting to know our neighbors. I recently joined my neighbors having a tea party in their orchard, and loved observing a neighboring family hosting an apple pressing party. The effort you make to share your most valuable asset — your time — may reap the greatest reward for your well-being.

Vicki Husted Biggs is a longtime social worker who lives in Home.

Rich Gelinias
EMPIRICALLY YOURS



Common Sense from an Uncommon Clam

Clam: Ouch! Watch where you're walking.

Homo sapiens (H sap): What are you doing on top of the sand? You're usually buried a foot or so into the sand.

Clam: I'm trying to build my shell away from the sea water that tastes sour, and it's getting worse every day. You must know what I'm talking about.

H sap: No, sorry, I don't.

Clam: Ocean acidification resulting from constantly increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

H sap: What was that? Ocean acid something and the atmosphere? What's the connection? You're a clam so where did you even learn language like that?

Clam: My, my. You really are ignorant, aren't you? I rely on carbon, in the form of

carbonate (CO₃), dissolved in sea water, for life. I can only add carbonate to my shell and grow if the acidity of the sea water is correct, at a level I evolved with. Over the past several years the acidity of Puget Sound water has been rising. The state has studied this and the results have been published. Atmospheric gases like carbon dioxide and oxygen are in contact with the oceans and they dissolve in sea water. Carbon dioxide is not neutral; after it dissolves, it makes the water more acidic by forming bicarbonate — HCO₃ — simple as that.

So, the water I live in is becoming more acidic and the carbonate I depend on is harder for me to remove from the water to make my shell. Other studies show that when some of my sisters and brothers were placed in water with the acid level Puget Sound could reach in 20 years, if today's trend continues, everyone got sick and their shells had defects, including holes. Actual holes! The carbonate I grew up with is being replaced with bicarbonate. I repeat: There is too much carbon dioxide in the air and when it dissolves in the sea, it makes HCO₃.

H sap: I had no idea.

Clam: You're ignorant about this as well? I can hardly believe this guy! How do you even balance on two feet, one of which is still on my shell?

H sap: Ignorant doesn't mean I'm stupid.

Clam: The shellfish companies learned that the oyster larvae they need to grow each year were dying because the acid levels in the sea water they used were too high, either water from the Sound or from offshore Washington beaches. They were forced to move their cultivation of oyster embryos to Hawaii, where, if they went deep, the water was OK.

H sap: I had no idea.

Clam: My, my. This has been in the news for years.

H sap: Well, I missed that, but I like oysters.

Clam: Good for you! What I'd like to know is where all of this extra carbon dioxide comes from. It's not always been this bad.

H sap: It's not our fault. Many of us believe that the carbon dioxide we put in the air from burning fossil fuels is utterly harmless, with no effects on animals and plants or the climate, and it's not our fault.

Clam: "Not our fault." Did you ever read "The Tragedy of the Commons" by Garrett Hardin? Do you know what an "externality" to a process like mining and burning coal is? The relentless, dreadful change in the ocean is an existential threat to me. I can't change fast enough to keep up. Do you ever wonder what would happen to salmon if

my species and species like me low on the food chain were to disappear? The problem here is bigger than me, bigger even than geoducks or horse clams — it affects the entire food chain in Puget Sound.

H sap: I like salmon.

Clam: Good! Then tell me why Homo sapiens, a species literally named "wise man," would permit a simple waste product like carbon dioxide to accumulate in the atmosphere and the ocean to poisonous levels. Now kindly get your foot off my shell so I can dig back into my hole.

Richard Gelinias, PhD, whose early work earned a Nobel prize, is a Senior Research Scientist at the Institute for Systems Biology. He lives in Lakebay.

Letters to the Editor

ON GUNS

I am a gun owner and I commend Ted Olinger's column about reducing gun violence ("I Like Guns, But..." KP News, September 2019).

Nearly 40,000 annual deaths (and 100,000 injuries) is a lot of people dying or getting hurt because a handful feel that without guns they are not safe. The facts speak differently. More guns and more gun access have produced more gun deaths and injuries. The fact is less than 3 percent of all gun deaths are prevented by a good guy with a gun.

Guns should be handled like any other public safety threat. Two simple steps can help: (1) Universal background checks for all gun sales and (2) banning military style assault weapons in civilian hands. Weapons with a high rate of fire, high muzzle velocity and high capacity magazines have no place in civil society.

We've already lost far too many people to gun mania in America because leaders don't lead. "Thoughts and prayers" come from political paralysis due to fears of the gun lobby. Our political leaders need to start leading instead of cowering. Take the two steps that protect public safety and Second Amendment rights.

Curt Scott, Lt. Colonel USAF (Ret.), Home

MORE ON GUNS AND CHILDREN

I would like to offer comments on two of the opinion pieces in the September edition of the paper.

Ted Olinger offers a well-reasoned opinion on the gun issue facing our country ("I Like Guns, But..."). One significant factor he didn't mention was the thorny psychological aspect of the situation. Guns have become a vital part

CONTINUED PAGE 9



Meet the Candidates

PORT OF TACOMA COMMISSIONER

Position 3

Deanna Keller

Frank Boykin

Position 5

Kristin Ang

Dave Bryant

PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

District 1

Claudia (Sami) Jensen

Chuck West

District 3

Lori Glover

District 4

Leslie Harbaugh

Natalie Wimberley

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

COMMISSIONER

Frank Grubaugh

KEY PENINSULA METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Position 1

Bruce Cook

Linda Weeks

Position 3

John (Pat) Kelly

Mark Michel

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KP Civic Center

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

Broadcast live by KGHP 89.3/105.7 FM



Algae in full bloom at Bay Lake this summer. *Courtesy Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department*

Lake Minterwood and Rocky Bay Algae Blooms Resolve

Two algae blooms clear without treatment interventions

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The algae blooms that closed Lake Minterwood and killed clams on Rocky Bay cleared in September. The blooms were unconnected. One was on a freshwater lake caused by cyanobacteria commonly, but mistakenly, called blue-green algae. The other, in Puget Sound waters, was caused by the alga *Protoceratium reticulatum*.

Blue-green algae are not algae

at all, but a type of cyanobacteria often present in lakes that thrives in warm, nutrient-rich water. The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept. lifted the toxic algae advisory for Lake Minterwood September 5 when levels of microcystin, a liver toxin produced by some species of cyanobacteria, were no longer a threat to people or pets.

The advisory had been in effect since July 8, when levels were 40 times over the safe limit. TPCHD made weekly visits to check for any visible bloom and tested toxin levels every two weeks.

The Lake Minterwood homeowners association decided not to treat with algaecides after receiving the advisory, according to Don Thomson, who oversees the lake for the group. The decision was in part due to cost and in part by default because Thomson was out of town for two weeks. He couldn't see the bloom within a week of the advisory warning, but the community was surprised by how long the toxin lingered. "We had no idea how long it would last," he said.

Doug Dorling, head aquatic biologist for Northwest Aquatic Eco-Systems, said that once a bloom is treated it should begin to die off within a day and, depending on the severity, be clear within three to seven days.

Lindsay Tuttle, environmental health specialist with TPCHD, said that how quickly the toxin levels fall depends on many factors, but that toxins are generally not a problem once the cyanobacteria are no longer present. Blooms can develop quickly and TPCHD staff may see blooms that the general public will miss, so its weekly visual monitoring is an important part of their program.

Palmer Lake, Bay Lake and Jackson Lake were also monitored over the summer. Bay Lake had a visible bloom in August but not enough for an advisory, and Palmer Lake and Jackson Lake did not have blooms.

The Rocky Bay bloom caused a clam die-off in July. Teri King, a specialist with

Washington Sea Grant and program manager for the SoundToxins program, said that the blooms in South Puget Sound have subsided, though continue in other parts of Puget Sound. "The story is still evolving," she said. "Once the data from this sampling season is wrapped up, we can go back and look at previous datasets to see if a hypothesis for the blooms can be affirmed or further trends identified."

Kent Kingman, who owns the Minterbrook Oyster Co. and about 75 acres of tideland on Rock Bay, said the extent of loss was less than initially thought. About half of the clams died, he said. Oysters were not affected.

Nature, through tides, crabs and gulls, took care of most of the beach clean-up. The nets covering the clam beds were opened to allow for the tides to wash away the empty shells, which will break down to become part of the beach substrate. The Taylor Shellfish Co., which has partnered with Kingman since 2012, will continue to farm until the current clam crop is harvested and then Kingman will take over. The transition was already planned and is not connected to the bloom.

Of the risk for future blooms, King said "That is always a possibility. This organism creates a resting cyst and cysts can be reactivated when conditions are

right for the cells to thrive. We are actively working to better understand the life cycle of resting cysts of *Protoceratium*."

Erin Ewald, assistant director of regulatory and environmental compliance at Taylor, said "Toxic alga is a conundrum. Even if we know what it is and what it does, the effects and occurrences are inconsistent. You can adjust your sails, but you can't change the direction of the wind."

"WE HAD NO IDEA HOW LONG IT WOULD LAST."

"YOU CAN ADJUST YOUR SAILS, BUT YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF THE WIND."

LETTERS, FROM PAGE 7

of many Americans' sense of self. Given all the constructive opportunities that are available to build one's identity, it's perplexing that a person would choose something that has so much heart-breaking misery associated with it.

That being said, there is no simple way to get people to disavow core beliefs no matter how counterproductive they may be. The one hope is that a devotion to guns is clearly not an innate human characteristic; there are many nations where that is not the case. Unfortunately, until devotees can be persuaded that more comprehensive gun ownership principles are not a threat to their identity, there will always be a hardcore vocal group making it politically difficult if not impossible to make progress on the issue.

Meredith Browand, in her piece ("Other People's Children"), quotes the late writer and Nobel laureate Toni Morrison: "When a child walks in the room, your child or anyone else's child, do your eyes light up? That's what they're looking for." It's a thought well worth remembering when our screens so often seem to hold greater allure for us than the presence of our young ones.

Richard Schwartz, Longbranch

OBITUARIES



Virgil Iverson

Virgil Iverson was born in Bellingham, Washington on April 17, 1934 and died Sept. 3, 2019. He grew up in the town of Snohomish and graduated from Seattle Pacific University and Bethel University School of Theology. He and his wife, Norma, lived the past 30 years on the Key Peninsula.

Virgil was pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church in Tacoma for seven years before joining the U.S. Army as a chaplain. He served in this capacity for 23 years and never met a soldier he did not love. He

proudly served in many units throughout the world, including in Vietnam. Airborne training was one of his proudest accomplishments. After his retirement from the military he served as a prison chaplain for the State of Washington for 14 years.

In retirement, Virgil enjoyed four groups: Longbranch Community Church, Key Peninsula Veterans, Retired Military Chaplains and Longbranch Improvement Club. He believed that every person he encountered was sent to him by God.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Norma; sons Wade (Deb) and Bruce (Shelly); daughter Lori (Kent) and her son Paul (Missy) and daughter Lynn; by 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; and by his brother Verlyn (Marian). All his grandchildren knew him as "Grandpa Sugar."

A celebration of Virgil's life will be held at the Longbranch Improvement Club Oct. 20 at 2 p.m. with a reception to follow.



Louis M. Padilla

Louis M. Padilla died July 30, 2019, following a five-week battle with cancer. He was 76 years old.

Louis was born Aug. 25, 1942 to Pedro and Maria Padilla in Lawrence, Kansas. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1959 and retired as a first sergeant after 20 years. He served during the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, and in three tours as a drill instructor and another tour as the chief instructor of Drill Instructor School at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. He loved his Marine Corps and was a true patriot who loved his country.

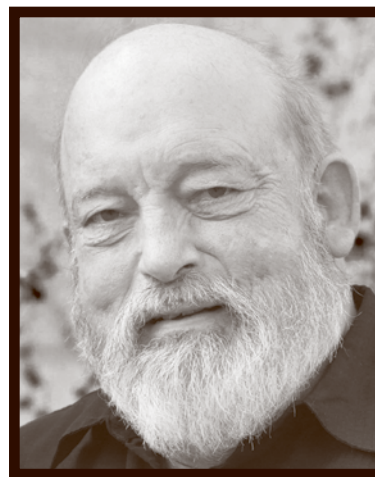
Following military retirement, Louis worked as the head of human resource management for Ace Parking in San Diego before relocating in 1982 to the Key Peninsula to be near his wife's family.

Louis worked as the produce manager for Uddenberg's Thriftway. Later he became partner-owner and operator of Parkview Terrace Grocery in Port Orchard with his father-in-law, Dalton Trent, selling the store after 12 years. He spent his final

career with Alaska Airlines as a ramp service agent, using his skills in leadership, mentoring and work ethics before retiring for good in 2008.

Louis was founding board member of the Key Peninsula Little League, coaching both girls' and boys' teams. He believed all youth deserved the opportunity not only to play but to be taught the mechanics of the sport. A great athlete himself, in later years he was an avid pickleball player.

Louis was preceded in death by his parents, sister Rebecca and brother Ricardo. He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Lynne; sisters Lucy Gedeon of Ohio, Antonia Valdivia and Socorro De La Fuente Silguero of Kansas; children Miguel Padilla of Redding, California, Catherine McMnigle of Gig Harbor, Gabriel Padilla of Kirkland, Theresa Courtwright, Louie Padilla, Cindy Thompson and Christina Lira Bronson, all of Kansas; and many grandchildren.



William Clarence Vanlaanen

Bill was born May 26, 1950, to Clarence and Virginia Vanlaanen, and lived 69 years on the Key Peninsula until his death June 16. While growing up, he worked at his dad's gas station in Key Center and became a real outdoorsman. He learned to pick brush and huckleberries, and worked in the oyster farms to earn extra money from a young age. He loved hunting, fishing, crabbing and shrimping. He was a star athlete in football and baseball. Right after high school, he went to Alaska to work on the fishing and crabbing boats. He also liked to mine for gold.

He was married briefly in the early 1970s and became an electrician. He married Kandy Valley in the mid-1970s, and they had two sons, Dale and Billy. Kandy passed away in 2009. Shortly after, Bill met Maxine Abundis. They were married in 2011. Early in their marriage, he was diagnosed with cancer.

In coping with that struggle, Bill and Maxine learned to live life. They went on a cruise to Alaska, traveled to South Carolina,

and drove through the Blue Ridge Mountains. They made trips to Florida and the Keys, visited New York City, and drove to Mexico with friends. They enjoyed a 16-day cruise through the Panama Canal. They made numerous classic Washington road trips — the North Cascade Highway, along the Columbia River, and down Highway 101. They went to concerts and shows, and gambled from time to time. He took the trip of a lifetime in 2017, traveling to South Africa to hunt big game. But more than anything, he loved spending time on the rocky beaches of Hood Canal.

Bill was a hard-working good man and will be missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Maxine Vanlaanen, his sons, Dale and Billy Vanlaanen, and his sister, Laura Buxo.

Myrna Jean Williams

Myrna Jean Williams died peacefully September 9. She was a 20-year resident of the Key Peninsula area. Prior to that she lived in Seattle and worked for various television and radio stations before moving to the Longbranch area and pursuing her passion of horticulture. She worked in various garden centers in the area before retiring and volunteering at the Angel Guild Thrift Shop in Key Center.

Myrna grew up in Gig Harbor and graduated from Peninsula High School in the class of 1961.

Anyone who knew Myrna knew that she could be quite feisty, and all her friends and family will miss her dearly.

She is survived by her niece, Heather Dautel, who loved her so much. Myrna was always there for Heather's dance recitals and the birth of Heather's first child.

Myrna is also survived by her brother, Dixon Williams and his wife Mollie, her brother Monte Williams and his wife Georgette. In lieu of flowers please make memorial donations in Myrna's honor to The Angel Guild, P.O. Box 703, Vaughn, WA 98394.



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The Lakebay property is not zoned for commercial use. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

Unpermitted KP Gun Range Shut Down

The grand opening of a commercial gun range in southwest Lakebay was welcome news for enthusiasts but shocked a residential community that never saw it coming.

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Pierce County Code Enforcement Officer Mark Luppino, accompanied by Pierce County Sheriff's Deputy Seth Huber, performed a site inspection and posted an order to cease and desist the operation of a commercial gun range called The KP Compound at 1320 205th Avenue SW in Lakebay, the morning of Sept. 5. The move effectively shut down the self-described commercial gun range that stands practically no chance of operating legally at the single-family residential location, according to Pierce County.

The cease and desist order allows the property owner, Morgan Dayhoff, 14 days to appeal the order.

"The (subject) property was recently transferred to my company but the deed hasn't hit the assessor's site yet," Dayhoff wrote in an email to KP News.

State records confirm Dayhoff is governor of Ella Industries, LLC dba EIN Development in Tacoma that specializes in business development and construction services, according to their website. She is also the registered agent of The KP Compound, LLC, according to an application filed online with the Washington Secretary of State Sept. 3.

"The KP Compound project is being run by the man I work with, a Veteran of the Army Rangers and current member of the National Guard. Since he has extensive experience and intentions to safely bring together the sometimes "outlaw" type gun community on the KP, it seemed like a good project to back. I'm not even a 'gun

person,' just a logical person," Dayhoff's email continued, "His project made sense."

According to code enforcement reports, the tenant living in the single-family residence on the subject property told enforcement officers she was very surprised to find a gun range operating on the property when she returned from a trip. She said she received no warning of the owner's intentions for the rental property. She expressed concern for her own safety and told officers she moved her horses to another location to keep them safe from harm.

Printed flyers began appearing in various locations across the KP announcing the "Grand Opening of KP Compound" on Labor Day, Sept. 2, from 11 a.m. until dusk with prices of \$9 per range visit or \$7 for members.

Sheriff's deputies noticed the flyer and emailed it to code enforcement Aug. 29 for clarification on whether the gun range is permissible at the advertised location. Code enforcement confirmed the use is not allowable at the site.

Pierce County Sheriff's Deputy Dan Wulick arrived at the subject property at approximately 1 p.m. Sept. 2 after numerous 911 callers reported considerable noise from gunfire in their rural residential area. Neighbors who learned of a commercial gun range opening in their neighborhood expressed outrage that such an operation could be possible without any notice or public comment.

Pierce County Councilmember Derek Young (D-Gig Harbor) weighed in through social media messages to community

members saying his office had received reports about the gun range. He cited zoning regulations that prohibit this kind of activity per Pierce County Code 18A.26.020 Use Description Table. A gun range is an Amusement and Recreation Level 3 per Pierce County Code 18A.33.270 B that is not permitted in a Rural 10 zone.

"The only permitted use on the site is single family residential; not a gun range," Young wrote. "Pierce County Planning has not received a permit application, nor could KP Compound establish a legal gun range at the subject property, which is located in a Rural 10 zone within the Key Peninsula Community Plan."

County records indicate Luppino received a call Sept. 3 from a person identifying herself as Morgan Dayhoff and informed her a gun range use is prohibited on her property. Dayhoff told Luppino she had read the Pierce County regulations and that is why she was operating the gun range.

Luppino suggested she misread the code, after which Dayhoff asked for a written explanation of why she could not operate a gun range there.

The following day, Dayhoff emailed Luppino, apologizing and explaining that she had read the wrong code. Dayhoff wrote that she is changing her use to a private club and would apply for a land use permit as she intends to use the property for commercial purposes.

Luppino replied to Dayhoff's email saying that a gun range is not permitted even if she changed it to a private club and that he would be issuing a notice to stop operating a gun range on her property. He suggested further questions should be directed to Pierce County Development Center so staff could assist her with questions she may have on how to establish a lawful gun range in Pierce County.

"It's confusing how it could go this far," Young told KP News, "but they seem to have believed that because the property wasn't in the sheriff's firearms restriction zone, which is not a land use code but an overlay that says, 'You can't shoot here,' that a gun range was an appropriate use."

"There is no ambiguity here," Young said. "It is absolutely crystal clear, this use isn't allowed here." He acknowledged that KP Compound had obtained a state business license but that made no difference; it is a commercial operation and the land use code applies.

"The irony is that a lot of people would like to have a gun range out here somewhere. I've got one I live next to, not a big deal, I run by it every day," Young said. "They observe hours, they have clear safety parameters set up."

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ELECTION DAY
TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 5TH

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- Developing a comprehensive student safety agenda encompassing security, vaping, substance abuse, and social/emotional concerns
- Expanding opportunities through Career and Technical Education to include JROTC and aviation related career fields



NatalieWimberley.com

Photo by Friends of Natalie Wimberley



Administrative assistant Kyong Bertsch at work with Tracy Stirrett, right. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

New KP Community Services Leader Helps Build Resilience

Executive Director Tracy Stirrett joined KPCS in January 2019 to further its mission to achieve wellness and foster resilience, one family and one life at a time.

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

The board of directors of Key Peninsula Community Services hired Tracy Stirrett in January to fill the top spot vacated by outgoing Executive Director Penny Gazabat, who led the organization for 10 years and retired at the close of 2018.

KPCS Board President Ann Shoemaker, one of three members on the hiring committee, said they received wonderful responses from dozens of applicants, interviewing people from as far away as Alaska before choosing Stirrett as their new leader.

“I came into a culture that was established — 37 years for the food bank and 30 years for the senior center — and deeply rooted in the community,” Stirrett said.

KPCS currently has about 75 active volunteers, a high percentage of whom are seniors themselves.

“The first thing I noticed about the culture here is the humility, which is what attracted me to this place; it’s embedded in everything that happens here,” Stirrett said. “The problem with a culture heavy in humility is that if people don’t know you exist then they can’t help you.”

“Tracy helped us refine our vision and our mission,” Shoemaker said. “The board winnowed their strategic plan from 14 pages to only two. We worked and improved it over the years, but not

everything was clearly measurable or even obtainable.”

A grant from The Angel Guild helped KPCS purchase a new food bank software system that allowed staff to keep much better track of how they serve the community.

“I think we all have assumptions about the food bank, but I learned within five days of being here that every single assumption I had was completely wrong,” Stirrett said. “Whatever image those terrible stereotypes bring, it doesn’t apply to a single person I’ve met.”

In August 2019, KPCS served 815 households on the KP and of those 44 percent were seniors,

according to Stirrett. The number for seniors increased

but remained constant for children with about 16 percent for youth and close to 3 percent for infants. Adults ages 19 to 54 represented 37 percent of those served.

“We need demographics, but if someone doesn’t want to tell us their name or where they live, we’re still going to feed them,” Stirrett said. “The numbers we had failed to include were people who want to stay anonymous, but just in the few months we’ve had the new software, we know we have 42 percent more households we’re serving.”

The addition of a refrigeration system in the “bread closet” — a walk-in pantry where anyone can help themselves to what they need — allows KPCS to offer complete nutrition from the closet, where only bread was available before. Stirrett said anybody can obtain dairy, fruits and vegetables, in addition to the monthly food baskets KPCS packs for families.

“What does it feel like the first time someone uses the food bank? What may have driven the need? In the end, it doesn’t matter,” Stirrett said. “If someone is hungry, we have food. Nobody on the Key Peninsula should be hungry.”

Annual surveys also informed KPCS how to improve its programs. Stirrett said as a result of the 75 surveys

turned in last year, the senior center has more days of exercise classes, tai chi, and lunches that include more fruits and vegetables.

“They asked for speakers, so we’re having more people come with Q&As during lunch and hope for more speakers,” she said. “They asked for support, so we’re looking to offer an elder care support group scheduled for evenings, so working people can come.

“Growth in the senior center is up 24 percent over last year,” Stirrett said. “We’re

seeing new people who had never participated here before. It’s exciting, we’re growing everywhere.”

“I love this community and am so happy to be here,” said longtime volunteer and employee Kyong Bertsch, who returned to the organization as an administrative assistant.

“Kyong is a bit of a social worker out there, working with anybody who walks in the door to help get them to the next step,” Stirrett said. “She knows everyone’s names and recognizes when somebody didn’t show up for lunch. She does all our accounting, she’s worked with difficult domestic violence cases, she is amazing.”

The focus of KPCS is to remove barriers that may prevent people from seeking help, according to Stirrett. “People are food insecure here; 815 households? That’s at least 2,000 people. Only a very small percentage of people who come here aren’t from the KP, but they come here from all over the Key Peninsula. The same is true for all the other food banks here. If you have a big family it takes all of them to make it work. We aren’t the only resource; all of us are serving them.

“How can we learn more? How can we let people that need help know that we might be able to provide it? I’m hoping people will share those stories with us,” she said.

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Click on "Submit an Event" at keypennews.org and fill out the form. Send questions or updates to calendar@keypennews.org or call 253-884-4699.

OCT. 2**MEDICARE FORUM**

Discuss Medicare insurance options with a local insurance broker. Key Medical Center in Key Center, 7 to 8 p.m. 253-884-9221

OCT. 4**POETRY & PROSE: OPEN MIC**

Open mic and recital, 2 to 3 p.m. at The Mustard Seed Project. Young and old share words that have touched their heart, mind or spirit. Original work welcome. Free and open to all ages. 253-884-9814.

OCT. 11**SENIOR LUNCH WITH DR. ART JARVIS**

PSD Superintendent speaks at senior lunch. Suggested donation \$3 for 60+, \$5 for guests under 60. KP Community Services in Home. 253-884-4440

OCT. 12**EXPLORE YOUR WORLD: CHEMISTRY**

Basic principles of chemical experimentation for preschool and elementary ages; ages 8 and under must be accompanied by adult. Key Center Library from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Registration required. 253-548-3309

FLU SHOTS: KP & HERRON ISLAND

Flu shots for adults on the KP. No charge with Medicare card or \$15 donation to KP Health Center. Key Medical Center in Key Center, 9 a.m. to noon; Herron Island Fire Station, 5 to 6:30 p.m. 253-884-9221

OCT. 16**FLU SHOTS: KP COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Flu shots for adults on the KP. No charge with Medicare card or \$15 donation to KP Health Center. KP Community Services in Home, noon to 12:45 p.m. 253-884-9221

SENIOR LUNCH: SEN. EMILY RANDALL

Suggested donation \$3 for 60+, \$5 for guests under 60. KP Community Services in Home. 253-884-4440

OCT. 18**COFFEE WITH A LIBRARIAN**

Learn about your library and what it has to offer, give feedback. Key Center Library, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 253-548-3309

SR. LUNCH: REP. MICHELLE CALDIER

State Rep. Michelle Caldier speaks at senior lunch. Suggested donation \$3 for 60+, \$5 for guests under 60. KP Community Services in Home. 253-884-4440

OCT. 19**CANNING 101**

Learn the basics of canning and making preserves. Key Center Library from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 253-548-3309

OCT. 21**COFFEE WITH SEN. EMILY RANDALL**

State Senator Randall speaks with the community. All welcome KP Community Services in Home, 4 to 6 p.m. 253-884-4440

EXPLORE AND CREATE: ROBOTS

Build and program the library's robots; create your own Wiggle-Bot to take home. Ages 5 to 12. Key Center Library from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Register at 253-548-3309.

OCT. 26**HENNA TATTOO AT THE LIBRARY**

Chat with the Friends of the Library. Local tattoo artists create small henna tattoos for participants. Key Center Library from noon to 3 p.m. 253-548-3309

OCT. 29**DSHS MOBILE AT KPCCS**

Dept. of Social and Health Services mobile van at KP Community Services in Home from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. No appointment needed.

OCT. 31**CANDY CARNIVAL**

Fun for the whole family. Giant double slide, bounce house, toddler fun fair area, chili and cornbread. Admission is one bag of wrapped candy per child and a donation to Backpacks 4 Kids. From 6 to 8:30 p.m. WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW. waypoint-church.org or 253-853-7878

OFF THE KEY**OCT. 9****KGI WATERSHED COUNCIL**

Meet neighbors, share concerns and knowledge of environmental issues affecting the Key-Gig Harbor-Islands watershed from 3 to 5 p.m. at Gig Harbor fire station, 10222 Bujacich Road NW. Jeff Barney, 253-798-7620, jeff.barney@pierccountywa.gov

OCT. 10**HISTORY AFTER HOURS**

Explore the exhibition "A New Moon Rises" and learn about Washington's role in the space race. 21+ event. Cash bar. Washington State History Museum from 7 to 10 p.m. at 1911 Pacific Avenue. Tickets and details 253-272-3500 or receptionist@wshs.wa.gov

OCT. 12**FAMILY SATURDAYS AT THE MUSEUM**

Hands-on activities inspired by local history for ages 4 to 12 but all are welcome. Washington State History Museum from 1 to 3 p.m. at 1911 Pacific Ave.. 253-272-3500

CARL TOSTEN CONCERT

Grammy winning artist Carl Tosten at the Olalla Community Club, 12970 Olalla Valley Road SE. \$20 donation requested. Potluck dinner at 6 p.m.; concert at 7 p.m.

OCT. 17**THIRD THURSDAY AT THE MUSEUM**

Free admission to the Washington State History Museum from 3 to 8 p.m. at 1911 Pacific Avenue. 253-272-3500

WEEKLYEVENTS**MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS****YOGA AT THE CIVIC CENTER**

Bring your mat, blanket or towel. Drop-in \$12.50 or four classes for \$40. Cash or check only. KP Civic Center from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. 253-884-3456

MONDAYS, WEDS & FRIDAYS**S.A.I.L. EXERCISE CLASSES FOR 65+**

At The Mustard Seed Project. Improve balance and mobility and prevent falls. For any fitness level — you can even participate sitting down. \$70/15-class punch or \$5/drop-in. Preregistration required. Limited scholarships. Mondays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. 253-884-9814

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES FOR 60+

At KP Community Services in Home, 8 to 9 a.m. and 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Free, suggested donation is \$5 per class. Call 253-884-4440 to register.

TUESDAYS**COUNTY ON SEPTIC**

Tacoma-Pierce County Environmental Health Specialist in sewage and septic systems will answer questions about septic systems or help submit applications for design or repair 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the KP Community Council office, KC Corral. sriley@tpchd.org, 253-798-6470

ELDER CARE SUPPORT GROUP

Oct. 8 & 22 (first and third Tuesdays). Caregivers and family members welcome. From 6 to 7:30 p.m. at KP Community Services in Home. 253-884-4440

KEY SINGERS REHEARSALS

Rehearsals for KP choral group. All singers welcome. Membership \$10 per year. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church. Marianne at 253-884-5615.

LOVING HEARTS KNIT OR CROCHET

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

SENIOR SHOPPING DAY

Oct. 1 & 15. Shopping trips for seniors on first and third Tuesdays. Sign up with Key Peninsula Community Services. 253-884-4440

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

First TOPS meeting is free of charge with no obligation. Weigh-in from 8:35 to 9:25 a.m. Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. marcgrubb1990@yahoo.com

OASIS YOUTH CENTER

Are you a queer or questioning youth between the ages of 14 and 24? Games, new friends, learning and snacks. Oasis Youth Center satellite program Tuesdays 3 to 6 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. oasisyouthcenter.org, oasis@oasisyouthcenter.org or 253-671-2838

STORYTIMES

Preschoolers discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the Key Center Library from 11 a.m. to noon. 253-548-3309

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME**

The Children's Home Society of Washington KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool and toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. Caregivers stay with child. Drop-ins welcome; stay as long as you wish. A \$1 per child donation is suggested. Weekly except during school breaks. 253-884-5433

REFIT FREE WOMEN'S EXERCISE

REFIT is a fitness experience designed to engage the heart as a muscle and a soul. Childcare provided. Tuesdays 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Thursdays 10 to 11 a.m. WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW. waypoint-church.org or 253-853-7878

SENIOR TAI CHI

KP Community Services in Home, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Sign up at 253-884-4440.

TUES, THURS & SATURDAYS**SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES FOR 60+**

KP Community Services in Home from 9 to 10 a.m. Free, suggested donation is \$5. Call 253-884-4440 to register.

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS**KP HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN**

Key Peninsula Historical Society museum at the civic center is open 1 to 4 p.m. Free admission. 253-888-3246 or keypeninsulamuseum.org

WEDNESDAYS**BLEND HOOKERS AND TINKERS**

Does your fiber diet include skeins of yarn? Join in at Blend Wine Shop for a rollicking good time. Bring projects, show-and-tell or hang out with a fabulous group of Key Penners. All skill levels and fiber interests welcome; 21 and over, 5:30 to 8 p.m. hannah8ball@gmail.com or 817-929-3943

BOARD GAMES FOR SENIORS

Games and social time for Seniors at KP Community Services in Home from 1 to 2:30 p.m. 253-884-4440

LAKEBAY WRITERS

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

KP YOUTH COUNCIL

Key Center fire station from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Keypercouncil@gmail.com

READY SET GO!

Free early learning program for 3- and 4-year-olds. Limited to 16 children with parent or caregiver. Focus on kindergarten readiness and lots of fun. KP Civic Center, VFW room, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. 253-884-5433

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS**SENIOR MEALS**

Nutritious meals for ages 60+ served at noon at KP Community Services in Home; \$3 suggested donation. Guests of all ages under 60 are welcome to attend; \$5 suggested donation. 253-884-4440

THURSDAYS**COMPUTER CLASS FOR SENIORS**

Bring questions and learn the basics. Seniors 60+. From 10 to 11 a.m. at KP Community Services in Home. 253-884-4440

COUNTY ON WELLS

Oct. 3 & 17 (first and third Thursdays) Tacoma-Pierce County Environmental Health Specialist in drinking water and Group B wells answers questions about drinking water or shared well from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the KP Community Council office, KC Corral. sriley@tpchd.org or 253-798-6470

COUNTY ON WASTE

Oct. 10 (second Thursdays) Tacoma-Pierce County Environmental Health Specialist on household waste management answers questions about household hazardous

waste, garbage haulers and recycling. KP Community Council office, KC Corral, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. sriley@tpchd.org, 253-798-6470

COUNTY: WATER, SHELLFISH, SHORELINES

Oct. 24 (fourth Thursdays) Tacoma-Pierce County Environmental Health Specialist in surface water answers questions about shellfish, local lakes, streams and shorelines. KP Community Council office, KC Corral, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. sriley@tpchd.org, 253-798-6470

REV & FLOW FREE WOMEN'S EXERCISE

An easy on the joints workout from 11 a.m. to noon at WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW. waypoint-church.org or 253-853-7878

SENIORS LUNCH

All are welcome when the KP Senior Society meets for a potluck, games and fellowship in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 253-884-4981

TOASTMASTERS

Have fun improving your public speaking ability and leadership skills. Guests are welcome with no obligation to speak. From 8 to 9 a.m. at WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW. keypeninsulatoastmasters@gmail.com

FRIDAYS**INTRO TO GENTLE YOGA**

Older adults encouraged to move at their own pace. Yogic philosophy, range of motion, strength and balance, breathing techniques and relaxation. Limited space; call to register. Instructor: Lisa Dunham. \$12/drop-in or \$100/10 class. From 8 to 9 a.m. at The Mustard Seed Project. 253-884-9814

TRIPLE P PARENTING CLASSES

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Oct. 1, 11 a.m. **KP Historical Society** board meeting in the museum at KP Civic Center. All are welcome. 253-888-3246

Oct. 1, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. **KP Business Association** business meeting at the Snack Shack. kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com or 253-312-1006

Oct. 1 & 15, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. West of the Narrows **Depression and Bipolar Support**-Lakebay Group, KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. Kimberly 253-753-4270 or dbsalakebay@gmail.com

Oct. 2 & 16, 6 to 9 p.m. **KP Lions Club**, Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

Oct. 3, **26th Legislative District Democrats**, 6 p.m. social; 6:30 p.m. meeting. Public invited. Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard. 26thdemocrats@gmail.com

Oct. 3, 7 p.m. **Lakebay Fuchsia Society**: Winterizing fuchsias. KP Civic Center. 253-884-2283

Oct. 5, **Writers Guild**, 10 a.m. to noon, KP Community Council office, KC Corral. 253-884-6455

Oct. 7 & 21, 7 to 8 p.m. **KP Veterans** group, KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. Veterans, military service members and families with children 16 and older are welcome. 253-884-2626

Oct. 8 & 22, 5 to 7 p.m. **KP Fire Commission** at Key Center fire station. keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

Oct. 9, 10 to 11:30 a.m. **Bayshore Garden Club**, Longbranch fire station. Wendy, 253-332-4883

Oct. 9, 10 to 11:30 a.m. **Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition**, Gig Harbor Fire District Headquarters, 10222 Bujacich Road NW, Gig Harbor. Pep-c.org, Steve Rees, 6ftwav@gmail.com, 253-720-0662

Oct. 9, 7 to 9 p.m. **KP Community Council**, Key Center fire station. 253-432-4948

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

Oct. 10, 6 to 7:30 p.m. **Peninsula School District** board, district office in Purdy. 253-530-1000

Oct. 10, 7 to 8:30 p.m. **KP Civic Center Assn.** board, Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. kpciviccenter.org, 253-884-3456

Oct. 14, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. **KP Parks Commission**, Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

Oct. 16, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. **Key Peninsula Advisory Commission**, KP Civic Center, reviews applications for proposed developments and makes recommendations to Pierce County. Verify meeting details at piercecountywa.gov/5937/Key-Peninsula-Advisory-Commission

Oct. 17, 7 to 8:30 p.m. **Key Peninsula Emergency Preparation**, speaker Ed Bressette on solar power, Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center, 253-686-7904 or gablehouse@aol.com

Oct. 17, 7 to 8:30 p.m. **KP Citizens Against Crime**. Discuss what's happening in our community with Pierce County Sheriff. Key Center fire station. doloresstarr@centurytel.net or 253-884-3105

Oct. 18, Noon to 1 p.m. **KP Business Association** luncheon meeting, El Sombrero. kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com or 253-312-1006

Oct. 18, 1 to 3 p.m. **Two Waters Arts Alliance** board welcomes artists and art lovers to join its meeting, VFW Room, KP Civic Center. twowaters.org 253-884-1163

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



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Oct. 19, 10:30 a.m. to noon. **Key Peninsula Caregivers Support Group** at The Mustard Seed Project. Please call Debra Jamerson before attending, 360-621-1110

Oct. 21, 7 to 8:30 p.m. **KP Democrats**, Home fire station, johnpatkelly@aol.com

Oct. 24, 11 a.m. to noon. Book discussion group at KC Library. Book list at the library. 253-548-3309

Oct. 28, 6 to 8 p.m. **KP Farm Council** planning meeting, KP Community Council office, KC Corral, 253-432-4948 or keycouncil@gmail.com; kpfarmtour.com

Oct. 28, 6 to 8:30 p.m. **Relatives Raising Kids** support group. Grandparents and relatives raising children meet at Evergreen Elementary. Potluck dinner and childcare provided. 253-884-5433

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

Date TBD 6 to 8 p.m. **KP Discussion Group**. Discuss issues that affect the KP. Blend Wine Shop. Contact Ted Ralston, tralston1232@gmail.com



NEWS BRIEF

Improving the roads should mean improving traffic, eventually. Photo: David Zeigler, KP News

Current, Completed and Possible Coming KP Road Improvements

STAFF REPORT

STATE ROUTE 302 WORK UNDERWAY

What could be a nearly year-long, multi-phase project is underway on State Route 302 between Elgin-Clifton Road and 118th Avenue NW. Washington State Dept. of Transportation crews have begun clearing vegetation and creating a work zone to build a two-lane bypass. Crews will then replace one bridge and two fish-blocking culverts over Minter Creek and Little Minter Creek. Work will continue east on SR-302 as crews repave parts of the roadway and install sidewalks in Wauna. The Purdy Spit Bridge will have new decking installed next summer, according to WSDOT.

Drivers should expect weekday daytime lane and shoulder closures as work progresses.

SHOULDER WORK SOUTH OF KEY CENTER

The existing shoulder of an approximately 1.8-mile section of Key Peninsula Highway NW from 88th Street NW to 59th Street NW is being replaced and repaved to a consistent width of 6 feet. Any affected driveways and drainage ditches will be rebuilt. The month-long project began September 9.

The new shoulder will be constructed for pedestrian use to the maximum extent feasible, according to Pierce County, but will not include curbs or sidewalks.

Work will be done Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The highway may be reduced to one lane during work hours. Motorists should expect delays.

The work will cost approximately \$557,000, and is funded with county road funds.

NEW INTERSECTION NEAR LAKEBAY MARINA

Pierce County is scheduled to reconfigure the intersection at Cornwall Road SW,

Lorenz Road SW and Delano Road SW near Lakebay Marina to improve visibility for those turning at the intersection. An eastbound left-turn lane for traffic turning from Cornwall onto Lorenz will be added, reducing one yield and two stop signs to a single stop sign on Lorenz. Crews will remove the gravel island and repave the intersection the week of September 23, and will take one day with restriping to follow.

ALTERNATE ROUTE TO KP SOUTH

A project to extend 186th Avenue NW from 300 feet south of 19th Street NW to 1,400 feet north of Herron Road NW is in preliminary engineering, according to Pierce County Planning and Public Works. The new section is expected to include two paved asphalt lanes and gravel shoulders.

Following a 2018 collision that temporarily blocked KP Highway NW near Home and access to points south, the county determined there was a need for a secondary access road to the southern end of the KP.

Work to date has focused on tasks such as property research, survey efforts, and assessment of possible environmental issues, according to Brian Stacy, principal engineer, Planning and Public Works. "We expect to complete the initial design and cost estimate in a few months. There is currently no construction funding for this project, so a completion date is unknown," he said.

ROUNDBABOUT OPTION IN LAKEBAY

Pierce County is currently analyzing options to reconfigure the three-way intersection at KP Highway NW, Lackey Road NW and Jackson Lake Road NW.

"We have explored five alternatives and have considered the design concept, prop-

erty impacts and costs," Stacy said. "One of the alternatives considered is a roundabout at the existing intersection location."

Residents will be able to weigh in at a future online open house.

"We will factor in any community feedback we receive through the online open house to help determine the preferred alternative, and will report on the findings of the engineering analysis and the online open house to the Land Use Advisory Commission," Stacy said.

There is currently no construction funding for this project.

WHITEMAN ROAD SW REPAIR COMPLETED

Work to repair a culvert under Whiteman Road SW and install a guardrail was completed August 8. The culvert is located where the road intersects with Whiteman Cove Road SW.

The repair was needed to stop continued settlement of Whiteman Road due to a leak in the culvert's pipe joints. Approximately 125 feet of guardrail was installed on the west side of Whiteman Road in the project area.

Depressions developed in Whiteman Road above the culvert, which required continued maintenance. "The purpose of the project was to repair the culvert pipe joints to protect the integrity of the existing roadway, but not necessarily extend the expected life of the culvert," Stacy said.

"This work was covered by Pierce County's programmatic Hydraulic Project Approval through the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. We are not aware of any impact to the Whiteman Road culvert due to the Whiteman Cove restoration project," he said.

Join us! Community Volunteer Network
Senior Ride Program | Key Senior
Information Center | Assisted Living Project
Support Groups, Forums and Classes



Supporting Seniors Every Day

JOIN OUR ENRICHING CLASSES AND EVENTS

**Thinking Thursday:
Medicare & Open Enrollment
w/ Sandy Ruffo, Office of the
Insurance Commissioner**
October 31 from 10am-12pm

A Beginner's Guide to Tapestry w/ Margo Macdonald (TWAA)

A one day workshop on the
history of tapestry weaving with
some hands-on basics.
Saturday, November 2
10am - 3:30 pm

**S.A.I.L. Exercise &
Intro to Gentle Yoga**
for older adults
(call to register)

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www.themustardseedproject.org

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In August, Angel Guild awarded \$13,800 to:

KP Community Services	\$700
KP Parks	\$3,000
KP Partnership for a Health Community	\$2,600
KP Children's Home Society	\$4,000
PHS Band Boosters Club	\$1,000
KP Historical Society	\$2,500

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All Hallows Eve Celebration



Saturday, October 26
6-8 pm at Gateway Park



Join us for a spooky celebration!
It's free family fun!
Costume contest, Live DJ, S'mores & Hot Cocoa,
Creepy touch boxes, Take a stroll through the Spooky Barn
Trunk or Treat with NW Mopar Mafia

OCTOBER 31ST
6-8:30PM

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Key Pen Parks 2020 Budget Hearings: You're welcome to be part of the budget process for next year at 7:30 pm on October 14 and November 12 at the Volunteer Park office of Key Pen Parks. *These public meetings are required per State of Washington RCW854.52.020

Please join us for Key Pen Parks **Comprehensive Plan Public Input Open House** at KPMS on October 9 at 6:30 pm to discuss future projects for Key Pen Parks. Your opinions matter to us!

Key Pen Parks Board Meeting for November will be held Tuesday, Nov 12 in observance of Veterans Day.

Now Hiring! Caretaker for the Taylor Bay Park residence at 17712 76th St. SW, Longbranch. *Seasonal Maintenance:* Perform routine maintenance of park buildings, facilities and grounds during a 40-hour work week for six months. Position description and job application on www.keypenparks.com or pick up an application at the park office during regular business hours. This post will close when filled.

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

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- 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
- 9:10 67th Ave Ct NW @ KP Hwy N
- 9:14 Food Market in Key Center
- 9:15 KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr NW
- 9:21 Lake Kathryn Village SR 302 & 92nd Ave NW
- 9:26 Purdy Park & Ride

EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY AM

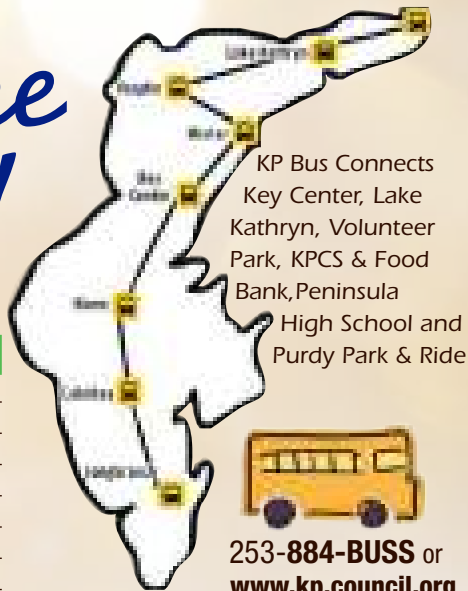
- 9:50 Evergreen Elementary School
- 9:54 Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
- 9:55 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @ 193rd Ave
- 10:00 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 10:01 Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
- 10:05 67th Ave Ct NW @ KP Hwy N
- 10:09 Food Market in Key Center
- 10:10 KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr NW
- 10:16 Lake Kathryn Village SR 302 & 92nd Ave NW
- 10:21 Purdy Park & Ride

VAUGHN TUES & THURS AM

- 8:50 Vaughn Elementary School
- 8:59 Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr NW
- 9:00 Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct NW
- 9:05 Wright Bliss Road @ SR 302/4-Corners
- 9:06 SR 302 @150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 9:10 SR302 @ 140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 9:14 SR 302 @ Charbonneau Construction
- 9:15 SR 302 @ 92nd Ave NW/Lake Kathryn Village
- 9:21 Purdy Park & Ride

VAUGHN WEDNESDAY AM

- 9:50 Vaughn Elementary School
- 9:51 Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr NW
- 9:52 Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct NW
- 9:54 Wright Bliss Road @ SR 302/4-Corners
- 9:57 SR 302 @150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 9:59 SR302 @ 140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 10:01 SR 302 @ Charbonneau Construction
- 10:04 SR 302 @ 92nd Ave NW/Lake Kathryn Village
- 10:09 Purdy Park & Ride



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Key Center, Lake Kathryn, Volunteer Park, KPCS & Food Bank, Peninsula High School and Purdy Park & Ride

253-884-BUSS or www.kp.council.org

TUESDAY & THURSDAY MIDDAY

- 10:33 Peninsula High School
- 10:35 Purdy Park & Ride
- 10:38 Cost Less Pharmacy @ Lake Kathryn Village
- 10:48 SR 302 @ Windermere Realty, near 118th Ave
- 10:50 SR 302 @ 140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 10:51 SR 302 @150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 10:54 Wright Bliss Road @ SR 302/4-Corners
- 10:56 Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct NW
- 10:58 Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr NW
- 11:00 Food Market @ Key Center
- 11:06 KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct NW
- 11:09 Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
- 11:12 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 11:18 Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
- 11:19 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @ 193rd Ave
- 11:25 Evergreen Elementary School

TUES, WED & THURS PM

- 4:43 Peninsula High School
- 4:45 Purdy Park & Ride
- 4:51 Cost Less Pharmacy @ Lake Kathryn Village
- 4:54 SR 302 @ Windermere Realty, near 118th Ave
- 4:58 SR 302 @150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 5:00 Wright Bliss Road @ SR 302/4-Corners
- 5:02 Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct NW
- 5:03 Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr NW
- 5:06 Food Market in Key Center
- 5:06 KP Hwy N @ 84th St NW/Red Barn
- 5:10 KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct NW
- 5:14 Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
- 5:14 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 5:19 Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
- 5:20 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @ 193rd Ave
- 5:24 KP Hwy N @ 17th St Ct SW
- 5:36 KP Hwy N @ 84th St NW/Red Barn

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Hurricane Dorian did not leave much behind after hitting the Bahamas. *Photos courtesy Empact NW*

KP Volunteer Deploys for Hurricane Dorian Rescue

Local first responders donate their time and skill when disaster strikes.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Lakebay resident Siu-May “Sil” Wong-Underwood, 42, traveled with a team of volunteers to the Bahamas to conduct search and rescues after the island nation was hit by Hurricane Dorian from September 1 to 3.

Wong-Underwood spoke to KP News from Marsh Harbour on Great Abaco September 7, saying, “I’ve been to over a dozen disasters around the world and domestically and this looks like what I saw in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan. None of the trees have branches, houses are completely destroyed, there’s destruction everywhere.”

Super Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippine Islands on November 7 and 8, 2013, with winds of 196 mph, causing 6,300 deaths.

Dorian struck the Bahamas as a Category 5 hurricane with winds peaking at 185 mph, leaving 70,000 people homeless, killing at least 50 and injuring a number still unknown at press time. Approximately 1,300 people were missing.

It made landfall on Cape Hatteras,

North Carolina, as a Category 1 hurricane September 6 and gradually weakened as it climbed the Eastern Seaboard up to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island the next three days.

Wong-Underwood is a logistics coordinator and president of the board of directors of Empact NW, the only nonprofit, all-volunteer urban search and rescue team in the United States. “We have ER docs, medics, EMTs; a lot of our team are first responders in their own departments, some do technical rescue; we’re all highly trained,” she said.

“Today we did a door-to-door search in a large area of Treasure Cay that had not been searched whatsoever. We have two dogs here on the ground who are doing great work, Asher and Packer, and their handlers, LaFawn and Keith Davis. We also have a structural engineer,” she said.

“The government is just trying to get everybody out at this point because there really is not much of an infrastructure left,” Wong-Underwood said. “People haven’t had much food or water at this point, but there’s more aid coming through now. But they don’t have shelter,



and fuel is a big issue.

“There are definitely people missing but it’s hard to gauge,” she said.

“Sil had just started with Empact NW when I met her,” said her husband, KP fire department Lieutenant Jeremy Underwood, 42. “We went through training and I was a team member but when it came down to a choice between Sil or I going it was something that she really feels strongly about, and we have a farm and a son, so I’m more than happy to let her do that and take care of the stuff at home.”

The couple have been together eight years and married four. Wong-Underwood also works fulltime as a flight attendant for Alaska Airlines.

“I think every year she’s gone on a deployment since we’ve been together,” Underwood said. “She’s gone to some places I wasn’t thrilled with. I was in the military and I imagine it’s something like what a military spouse goes through.

“I’m really proud of her for all the work,” he said. “I went to the Oso landslide with Empact (in 2014, where 43 people died). That was a lot of recovery rather than rescue and that’s unfortunately part of the nature of the work. Sometimes you find live people and that’s a happy time, and sometimes you’re just giving closure.”

Empact NW was formed after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti that is estimated to have killed between 100,000 and 160,000 people. When local first responders could not find a way to donate their services, they decided to create one.

“Most organizations wanted a doctor or a nurse, they didn’t want EMTs or medics,” said Tamara Glasgow, a former Lake Mint-erwood resident and ER nurse now at Tacoma General Hospital. “So, we started with the intention of allowing anyone to join that wanted to help, hence the name ‘empathy-impact’ — Empact. If you want to help, we will train you on how to properly do urban search and rescue.”

Glasgow has since been to Haiti multiple times and deployed to Japan after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami as a medical specialist. She also does logistics, assisting others on deployment.

“When you are on the ground in a disaster environment, your main concern is helping those in need, so the last thing on your mind is ‘Where am I going to sleep, how am I getting from point A to point B, how am I getting home?’ That’s where I come in,” she said.

Wong-Underwood and her team returned to the U.S. September 11.

For more information, go to www.empact-northwest.org or contact Empact NW at 206-453-0353.

Fresh Food Co-Op Expands Beyond KP

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

With some important structural changes made, more folks are shopping locally through the Fresh Food Revolution Food Co-op, an organization that began operating out of the KP Civic Center in spring of 2011.

In March 2018, the co-op board, comprised of farmers and other producers who sell through the co-op, nixed both the customer membership fee and the required customer volunteering, transferring both to the producers who sell through the co-op instead.

FFR board member Karen Olsen, who serves as the market manager and sells meat products from her Port Orchard farm through the co-op, said, “Changing the structure really changed the dynamic of the market. It gave an ownership of the co-op to people who sell through it.”

Farmers and producers were willing to take on the membership fees because the co-op sales structure makes up for it. “The producers just stepped up to the plate. We haven’t had to force our farmers. They are feeling the success in their sales,” Olsen said. Current shoppers do pay a \$1 processing fee per order, due when the order is placed online.

The Fresh Food Revolution Food Co-op was founded in 2011 by Barb Schoos and the late Holly Hendrick, with a mission to “encourage locally grown, high quality foods and products produced by sustainable, natural methods that contribute to the health and well-being of our community.”

It was consumer demand following the failure of a local KP farmers market that inspired the beginning of Fresh Food Revolution. KP cooks wanted access to fresh

organic local produce and were willing to contribute by sharing the work, management and cost to help farmers grow by banding together as a co-op of consumers, producers and farmers as members.

Some aspects of the co-op remain unchanged from its first days of operation. Customers still place their orders through a website. The co-op doesn’t have a storefront. Pick-up times are limited to a couple of hours a week as well.

With customers ordering ahead of time online, farmers are able to harvest only what has been sold. Many find this preferable to spending all day in a farmers’ market, where harvested produce may or may not be sold.

A second important change was the addition of multiple locations around the region where customers can pick up their orders. Customers are no longer required to show up at the civic center in Vaughn. They can now also choose to pick up at locations which may be more convenient, such as the Seattle Oyster House in Allyn or Blackjack Valley Farm in Port Orchard. The co-op is currently looking for a new pick-up location in Gig Harbor. A Belfair location is also in the works.

Michelle Alger of Fable Farms in Port

Orchard began selling through the co-op recently. “My husband and I both work full-time jobs, leaving us perpetually short on time. We simply don’t produce enough items in a large enough quantity to offer wholesale, and selling at a traditional farmers market would mean losing a full weekend day of farm work,” she said.

“We’re very grateful for the option to list through FFR, and consider the membership fee a small cost for doing business.”

Customers also appreciate the co-op’s growing list of products. At its start in 2011, the co-op sold almost entirely produce but has since expanded to include local eggs, granola, honey, sauerkraut from a company based in Olympia, barbecue sauce and salsa, as well as many types of dried beans.

Ethically-produced meat products included sausage, bacon, chicken and ham, and fresh, canned and frozen seafood from Westport. The co-op offers local dairy products including butter and cheeses. Local bakers sell everything from crackers to sandwich loaves.

For local folks considering making their first purchase through the co-op, Olsen said “It doesn’t cost anything to visit the online store. Buy as little or as much as you want.”

For more information, go to freshfoodrevolution.org

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Fiber Arts Show Featured Artist— Cecilia Blomberg

A weaver's weaver, the accomplished artist will display her work during the Farm Tour.

JOSEPH PENTHEROUDAKIS, KP NEWS

Cecilia Blomberg's tapestries have a way of making you stop and look. And look some more. The visual pleasure at the imagery and composition is only matched by the sheer appreciation of her craftsmanship. Visitors at this year's Fiber Arts Show at the Longbranch Improvement Club have a rare opportunity to see her work in person; she is this year's featured artist, on view Saturday, Oct. 5.

Blomberg grew up in Sundsvall in northern Sweden in a household that hummed with art. Her father was an artist, printer and cartographer, specializing in screen printing, and working with a small staff in the family's living room. He printed mainly maps but also posters and limited editions for artists, and often received payment in artwork. It was lively and often messy, "Our bathtub was always full of color," Blomberg said. "That's where my father rinsed the ink off the screens after printing."

Initially drawn to painting and drawing, by her teens Blomberg had begun considering a career in architecture. "From when I was little, I'd be outside drawing and tracing floor plans in the snow," she said. Admission to architecture school, however, required having first worked in an architecture office for two years. Blomberg decided that life in an office wasn't for her.

A class in weaving on small frames got her interested in working with yarns and fabric, and in 1970 she was accepted into the textile department at Konstfack, the National College of Art, Craft and Design in Stockholm. The school follows the principle adopted and elaborated by Bauhaus artists that form follows function; designers are trained both in art and its practical applications. To prepare for the rigorous four-year program she was required to take a loom weaving class and one in industrial weaving. "I've never in my life worked so hard," she said. "It was wonderful. I could have done that 24 hours a day. I had incredible teachers, all fantastic pros and all very open to playing with the medium."

After receiving her Master of Fine Arts degree in 1976, Blomberg moved to the U.S. where she has lived and worked ever since. Although she primarily works in tapestry she has also worked as a muralist and a graphic illustrator.

Tapestry, like all weaving, is made by

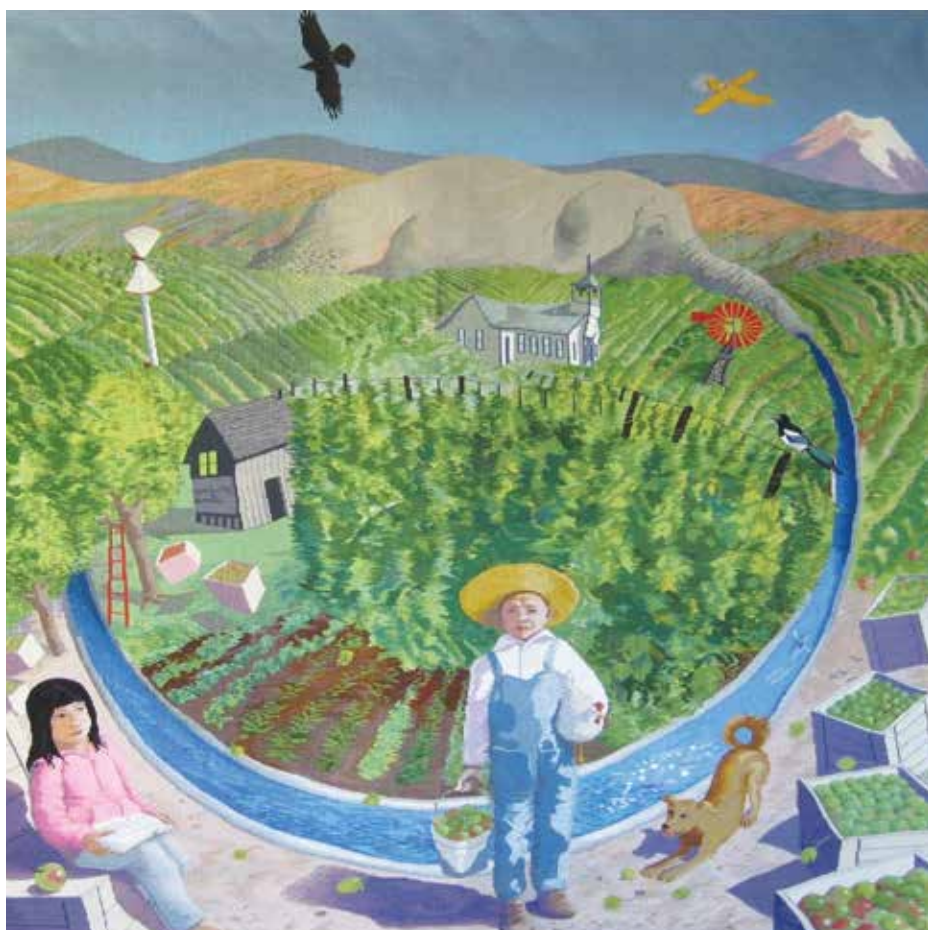
passing thread or yarn, known as the weft, horizontally between the threads of the warp, which are fixed vertically on a loom or frame. In traditional weaving the weft threads are passed across the entire width of the warp, creating patterns that are often repeated. In a tapestry, however, the artist can weave any image, building up individual shapes using shorter lengths of weft threads.

Blomberg plans each composition and colors in preparatory drawings. The tapestry is woven from the bottom up; the lower part gets rolled up at the bottom of the loom as she works, so she doesn't see it as she moves up the image. That creates some intriguing challenges. "If I want to do a reflection of something, I have to work on the reflection before I put in what's reflected," she said. "And I won't see the entire tapestry I've been working on for maybe a year until I unroll it."

The imagery in Blomberg's work from the 1970s to the early 2000s drew on places and people she was familiar with. A favorite dock on a lake near Stockholm; her grandmother holding her first-born daughter, an image based on a vintage photograph; a friend's grandfather in dappled sunlight in a Greek village; a smiling cafe owner in Cyprus at a table on a sandy beach under the Mediterranean sky; her husband's father and friends at Sabbath in Palestine, where they had settled around 1918, shown taking a break from roadbuilding. These are all almost life-size works, and their scale has the effect of inviting the viewer into the image.

From 2005 to 2007 Blomberg was part of an international team of master weavers tasked with recreating the historic medieval Unicorn Tapestries for the palace in Stirling Castle in Scotland. The original tapestries, depicting in exquisite detail the imaginary hunt of a unicorn, were made in Flanders between 1495 and 1505 and are now at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Cloisters Museum in New York. Working on the project meant she had to understand how early weavers worked and how they solved technical and compositional problems. "You ended up having to think like them," she said, "which was really interesting." The project was completed in 2013 and the tapestries now hang at the palace.

Blomberg has received several commissions over the years. The imagery in these large tapestries is rich in references to each area's culture, industry, history and natural environment; viewers enjoy spotting



Moxee, 78x78" for Moxee Elementary School, 2010 *Courtesy Cecilia Blomberg*



Joan of Arc (detail in the loom) for U.S. Air Force Academy, 2012 *Courtesy Cecilia Blomberg*



Blomberg at work in her Gig Harbor studio *Photo: Chris Konieczny, KP News*



Mates (detail), finished piece 35x50" 2011 *Courtesy Cecilia Blomberg*

those references in each tapestry, according to Blomberg. Commissions include the Bonneville Power Administration headquarters in Portland, Oregon (1987); a three-part work for Mary Bridge Children's Health Center in Tacoma, in collab-

oration with Margo Macdonald and Mary Lane (2005); and a series of eight images of saints and five altar covers for the Catholic Chapel at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado (2017).

She has also received commissions

through the Washington State Arts Commission for tapestries that now hang in the Grays Harbor College library in Aberdeen (2004); Moxee Elementary School in Moxee (2010); McMicken Heights Elementary School in SeaTac

(2012); and Sacajawea Elementary School in Richland (2018).

Cecilia Blomberg's work will be on view at the Fiber Arts Show at the Longbranch Improvement Club Saturday Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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RESEARCH CONFIRMS THIS TO BE THE BEST APPLE CRISP RECIPE EVER CONCEIVED



A Taste of Fall: Bingham's Best Apple Crisp

PEG BINGHAM

My mom made the best apple crisp in the whole wide world. It's a dessert made of baked chopped apples topped with a crispy crust. My sister and I learned to make it and we had it all the time. We took it for granted.

Somewhere along the line I decided I was going to be healthy and I quit making it. I got over that but when I went to make it again a few years later, I had lost the recipe.

I called on my sister for help. She had lost it too.

I tried many different combinations from many different cook books, and after talking with my sister I reconstructed the recipe below from my memory of what Mom's tasted like.

Back then I sometimes ran the kitchen at the Longbranch Improvement Club, and when it came time to do something for the very first Fiber Arts Festival, in 2008, we wanted to use fall fruit. I decided to make this crisp. We had a team prep it the day before and we started baking that morning, so when the festival opened the whole place smelled like fresh-baked apple crisp.

That first year we made eight pans out of 36 pounds of apples; it takes about five pounds per pan. We sold out every year until I stopped in 2015.

So, here it is for you to try.

For the filling:

- 2½ pounds Granny Smith apples, washed, cored and chopped
- 2½ pounds Yellow Delicious apples, washed, cored and chopped
- 4 tablespoons lemon juice
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- Mix in a bowl, cover and refrigerate overnight.

For the topping:

- 2¼ cups sugar
- 2¼ cups flour
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 1½ teaspoons cinnamon
- ¾ teaspoon nutmeg
- 3 sticks of cold, unsalted butter

Cut butter into flour mixture with pastry blender or two knives and mix with the topping ingredients until the mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Do not use a food processor, as that will change the texture of the topping. It's best to make it a day ahead and refrigerate overnight.

Place filling into ungreased 9 by 13 inch pan. Sprinkle topping over apples. Tap pan on the counter once or twice to settle in the crumbs.

Bake in 375 degree oven until topping is golden brown, juices are bubbling and apples are tender, about 50 to 55 minutes. Serve warm. A scoop of whip cream wouldn't hurt.

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CONTACT MARK
253-884-1010
Mark4KPParks@gmail.com
Facebook/MarkMichelKPParks

Making the Key Peninsula a great place to live, takes leaders who are willing to work hard. Here's what the Trail Committee under Mark Michel has made possible:

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600+ Adults Participating in Events **7** Trail Committee Meetings **8** Trail Committee Members

“...this is an important election for the future of Key Pen Parks.”



CONTACT LINDA
253-405-5915
LindaKPParks@gmail.com
Facebook/LindaWeeksKPParks

“In addition to serving as Board President, and in response to public demand, I volunteered to put together and chair the Key Pen Parks Trail Committee - to get things done. I'm proud of the Key Pen Parks' accomplishments, and give huge credit to our dedicated staff and an abundance of selfless volunteers. There's so much more possible. Help me keep the progress going by re-electing me and electing someone to the board who understands service to the community. That candidate is Linda Weeks for Position 3. Linda will be a valuable asset to the board, providing leadership, increased recreational opportunity, and fiscal responsibility for the people of the Key Peninsula.

Thank you for your time and effort to make an informed decision.”

-Mark Michel, KP Parks Board President

Mark is Proudly endorsed by: Bill Trandum (former KP Parks President), Greg Angliemyer (former KP Parks President), Steve Nixon (Pen Met Parks Commissioner), Sheila Niven (St Anthony Emergency Department Manager, Commissioner FD 16), Courtland Capwell (Tireless Trail Builder, Park Steward), Anne Nesbit & Kristina Butorac (Involved Citizens and selfless volunteers)



State Climatologist on Salmon and Climate Change

State Climatologist Nick Bond remains optimistic that cooperation, resources and growing knowledge can save our icon.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Washington State Climatologist Nick Bond was on the Key Peninsula in September to do one of the things he loves — talk to people about how climate impacts us all. The Longbranch Improvement Club invited him through a program sponsored by Humanities Washington.

Bond moved to Seattle in 1980 to get his Ph.D. in atmospheric science. His research focuses on how climate change impacts marine ecosystems, and he has taught a course on weather analysis at the University of Washington. Describing himself as a “weather geek and generalist,” he jumped at the chance to become the Washington State Climatologist about 10 years ago when the position opened. He said that it gives him the opportunity to learn about the impact of climate over a wide spectrum of issues. Outreach is a big part of his job, including speaking to the public and being a resource for state and local agencies.

Bond chose salmon as his segue into the topic of climate change because “we feel an emotional connection to them. It’s a way to engage folks — what we have already seen and what may be coming.” The title of his talk, “Are Salmon Doomed? Hatching a Plan to Save a Northwest Icon,” reveals his optimism.

“I can give a piece of good news along with the realization that the climate is changing, and we ignore it at our peril,” he said.

Bond said that there is growing recognition that a healthy environment and

human health go hand in hand. For instance, improving parks in inner cities improves the health of city children. “We are not just talking about the health of salmon — we are talking about the health of people as well.

Many factors have led to the decrease in salmon runs, from overfishing to habitat issues to climate change, he said. The fish passage count of chinook at the Bonneville Dam was stable until the 1970s and then fell. Limits were placed on commercial and sports fishing, fisheries began to change practices (such as improving the time of release for migration, trucking juveniles around barriers), and the numbers improved.

The numbers recently plummeted, this time probably due to warm ocean conditions known as “the blob,” which resulted in poor feeding and lower survival of the young. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported monitoring a similar situation now. Bond said that even with interventions, salmon runs will not recover to historic levels, and that there will be some good years and bad, but he does not predict imminent disaster.

Stakeholders — farmers, power companies, fishermen, tourism, tribes and environmentalists — share overlapping interests and are cooperating.

Climate change has resulted in rising water and air temperatures, sea level rise, and ocean acidification, Bond said. In the Pacific Northwest that has meant wetter winters and drier summers, with an impact on salmon habitat. There is increased flooding, and Bond said that while a weak flood can help clean up the river and open up a few additional areas of flow, a major flood can scour a river, wiping out eddies and silting over otherwise healthy gravel beds. Warmer river temperatures lower the oxygen content of the water and increase the energy needs of adult salmon, as well as increasing the number of parasites. Warmer saltwater decreases the nutritional value of copepods, one of the main tiny crustaceans that feed young salmon.

Despite the concerns, Bond sees reason for hope. “We have more information and resources and are learning what really makes a difference and where you get the bang for the buck. We aren’t completely

there yet but we are learning, for example that the kinds of habitats that are favorable for coho may be different from the kinds for chum,”

“WE ARE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT THE HEALTH OF SALMON — WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE AS WELL.”

he said. “We are learning about that and starting to put what we know into effect. Groups like the Nature Conservancy are buying up critical flood plains that are important nursery grounds for salmon. They may help out with future flood damages plus be a benefit for the salmon.”

Municipalities, state agencies and tribes are coming together to find common ground, he said. Some religious groups have realized that environmental stewardship is part of their mission and want to leave a positive legacy for their children and grandchildren. Bonneville Power has set aside funding to study and improve salmon habitat; in some cases, dams do good, helping to regulate water flow when the snowpack is lower and winter rains are heavier.



Bond at LIC Photo: David Zeigler, KP News



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TOP LEFT Longbranch Marina one early autumn morning. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **TOP RIGHT** Plein-air painter Ray Steiner captures morning light at Longbranch. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*
LEFT MIDDLE Blossoming Mexican sunflowers (*Tithonia roundifolia*) easily grown from seed, attract bees as pollen season ends. *Photo: Ron Cameron* **CENTER** Though not native to the region, Nuttall's cottontail has made itself at home. *Photo: Chris Konieczny, KP News* **LOWER RIGHT** Senior Cole McVay tries to pull down a pass during the Peninsula Seahawks season opener at home Sept. 6. They lost 21-6 to the Fighting Irish of O'Dea High School from Seattle. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **BOTTOM LEFT** Filucy Bay at low tide. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*