

Key Pen Parks to Purchase Old Lavender Farm for Almost \$1 Million

The park board is eager to add the new property to its holdings; staff is working to get the due diligence done.

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

At a special meeting of the Key Pen Park Board of Commissioners Oct. 31, the commissioners voted unanimously to authorize Executive Director Tracey Perkosky to execute a conditional purchase and sale agreement to acquire property located at 10613-19 Wright Bliss Road NW for its listed price of \$999,990, with an anticipated closing date of Feb. 29, 2024.

The approximately 15-acre parcel sits just north of a narrow parcel KP Parks already owns and uses for parking and access to Key Central Forest. The acreage, once the site of a small lavender farm, includes three single-family dwellings currently under lease and some small outbuildings.

Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District Commissioner and board chair Linda Parry said that the purchase of this property connected to Key Central Forest would allow greater public access.

“The individual dwellings are each leased to tenants and those leases will continue until their term expires,” Parry said. “Our plan is not to become rental owners or landlords.”

The district attempted to purchase the same parcel several years ago and thought it struck a deal when park commissioners approved the purchase and sale agreement. But the owner delayed several days, after which Key Pen Parks learned the parcel was sold to somebody else, much to the disappointment of the park board.

CONTINUED PAGE 15



The 1926 farmhouse will be adapted to house camp staff. *Tina McKail, KP News*

YMCA Camp Seymour Purchases Neighboring McColley Property

The camp plans to use the farmhouse for staff and to preserve the land for outdoor education. In 1920, William Wolcott Seymour donated his land to the YMCA, and the camp that bears his name was officially dedicated in 1927.

CHRIS RURIK, KP NEWS

A new chapter has begun for an old farmhouse at the head of Glen Cove. Where once the McColley family rose in the dark to feed cows before school, camp staff now have a place to lay their heads away from their energetic charges.

YMCA Camp Seymour closed on the McColley property, just across Cramer Road from the camp, in July for \$1.5 million. The largely forested 19-acre property includes the tidal cove and creek beyond the Glen Cove bridge as well as one of the community's early homesteads.

For years Pearlita McColley welcomed

visiting camp students to come down to the creek to see salmon. When she passed away in July at the age of 89, her children reached out to parks departments, Great Peninsula Conservancy and Camp Seymour. (See McColley's obituary in the KP News, July 2022.) “I would've loved to have bought it,” said Marleigh Nodtvedt, one of her children. But she and her siblings are in their 60s and know the work it requires to keep up a homestead. Granted, Nodtvedt acknowledged it kept her mother in shape: The last time she saw her, Pearlita was on a riding lawnmower.

Their hope was for conservation of the property and access for the public to enjoy it. “I kind of wanted something like 360 Park,

Gateway Park,” Nodtvedt said.

But conservation funding was going to take too long to materialize. The YMCA ruefully declined. “I had no margin on my end,” said Charlie Davis, CEO of the YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties. “We were really hurt from Covid.”

The McColley children put it on the market. Soon after, Davis mentioned the property to a donor who saw how perfect it would be for camp. A second donor appeared, inspired by the first. Within two weeks the purchase had begun.

“The way this happened was mind-blowing,

CONTINUED PAGE 5



253-884-4699

www.keypennews.org

www.facebook.com/KeyPenNews
PO Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Lisa Bryan
editor@keypennews.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Ted Olinger

STAFF CONTRIBUTORS: Vicki Biggs,
Nancy Carr, Eddie Macsalka, Tina
McKail, Joseph Pentheroudakis,
Chris Rurik, Sara Thompson,
Carolyn Wiley

CONTRIBUTORS: José Alaniz,
Dan Clouse, Richard Gelinas,
Dan Whitmarsh

CALENDAR EDITOR: Meredith Browand
calendar@keypennews.org

DESIGN EDITOR: Heather Meier

SOCIAL MEDIA: Joseph Pentheroudakis

BOOKKEEPER: Linda Grubaugh

AD DESIGN: Tim Heitzman

AD SALES: Deanna Hunter
sales@keypennews.org

DISTRIBUTION: Norm Brones, Bill Dietz,
Charlie Grant, Bruce Macdonald, Herb
O'Niell, Jay Stewart, Bob Wilkins,
David Younkin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Robert Otsea,
president, Barb Floyd, Michele
Gorman, Bruce Macdonald, Susan
Quigley, Sara Thompson,
Clark Van Bogart

UNDERWRITTEN WITH SUPPORT FROM:

The Angel Guild
Fund for Nonprofit News at
The Miami Foundation / Newsmatch
Community Donors

Member WNPA and INN

Copyright 2023 Key Peninsula News, all rights reserved. An independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, KP News is made possible by advertisers, donors and subscribers. Mailed at no charge to Key Peninsula residents and available at local merchants; annual subscriptions are \$30 for first class mail delivery. **Share:** Send community information, concerns or complaints. Signed letters to the editor published as space allows, include daytime phone number. KP News reserves the right to edit all submissions. Deadline 15th of month.

ALL THANKS TO YOU

Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN,
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I cannot tell you how many times I've sat down to write, only to stare at an empty screen with a blinking cursor before me and realize I have nothing nice to say. The whole world is in turmoil. Our nation is polarized. Much of the world is at war. Where do we look for hope?

Enter the season of generosity and kindness, of warmth and goodness and twinkling lights.

The whole house smells like a feast in the making. We're about to sit down to Thanksgiving dinner at our son's table, dog and kitten at our feet. We are together. We are grateful.

These are the joyful moments I want my future self to recall when the darkness of winter comes and my outlook on life turns grim. I know I'm not alone in this seasonal struggle with melancholy in the middle of holidays when everyone else seems so happy.

There is much to be grateful for.

This issue of Key Peninsula News is the 72nd edition since I became executive editor in January 2018. It doesn't seem right, or even possible, that six years have gone by but it's true. I did the math and shook my head in disbelief too.

In that time the newspaper has changed enormously. Our news team has matured and blossomed with new

talent. We have a solid range of fine voices in our columnists. We publish more pages, with more color, more beautiful photos and in-depth stories than ever before. We focus on what we're curious about, how things work to make this place we live so special. And what you miss in print or prefer to read online? Our robust website is filled with history back to our earliest editions 51 years ago and runs entirely without paywalls.

I am proud to say that today we rank

among the best community newspapers around, if for no other reason than you tell us so. But it also bears repeating that our staff and volunteers raked in 25 state awards from the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association this year, one of the largest and oldest such organizations in the country, where we competed against 47 other newspapers.

Who would believe it possible in a 24/7 news cycle dominated by profit that a monthly nonprofit publication could make a difference in our community?

How do we do it? Together. We make this newspaper with you.

I can't begin to thank all the readers and all the people willing to share their

lives, their struggles and successes, sorrows, hopes and dreams.

My gratitude overflows when I think of each and every person, staff member and contributor on our team who goes the distance. Month after month, our reporters find the thread of a story, reach that source, get that quote, and write to make that deadline needed to produce the next edition.

When all is said and done, Key Peninsula News works because of you. Local advertisers help make this paper possible, but they can't

do it alone. Foundations and generous individual donors large and small enable us to go forward, be better, and do more. We could not exist without your support. Every dollar matters.

Leading the Key Peninsula News team is far and away the most fulfilling work I have ever done. To have the honor of working with this dedicated team of talented people from the community where I live and which I love is, in a single word, priceless. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued support.

Happy holidays Key Peninsula. Be well, be safe, and take care of each other. We can make it through the hardest times together. ■



Key Peninsula News staff, contributors, board members and volunteers at our awards party last summer. And this isn't even everybody who makes this paper possible. (See "KP News Wins Record-breaking 25 Statewide Awards," November 2023). *Bill McKail*

Wauna Artist Mardie Rees Unveils Bronze Sculpture at Burien Hospital

The larger-than-life image of St. Anne took more than a year to complete. "You have to have grit. Sculpting is not your usual profession."

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Wauna sculptor Mardie Rees feels blessed. Her most recent work, a larger-than-life bronze sculpture of St. Anne, was unveiled Nov. 30 at St. Anne Hospital in Burien. It took more than a year from the initial sketches to the unveiling.

"You have to have grit," Rees said. "Sculpting is not your usual profession."

St. Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary, is the patron of unmarried women, housewives, grandmothers, mothers and educators. Rees said that typical depictions of St. Anne are a young woman holding a child. Rees uses live models and the committee from St. Anne wanted her to use Sister Anne, a nun active in the church community and 80 years old. Rees was drawn to the image of the saint as a storyteller and presented drawings and small clay "sketches" to the committee for consideration. An image of St. Anne seated with a scroll in hand was selected.

Creating a bronze sculpture through the lost wax technique involves many steps, each taking time, skill and technology that is ancient but includes modern adaptations.

Rees first sculpted a maquette, a clay sculpture about 18 inches tall, that would serve as the template for the full-sized work. A model sat for many hours as Rees finalized the basic figure and drape of the clothes. Sister Anne then sat for about another 30 hours total as Rees perfected the details of her hands, feet and face.

A full-sized foam form was milled using the maquette template. Rees assembled and adjusted the form as needed and then applied a one- to two-inch layer of oil clay – a type of clay that will not dry – to the surface. Over the next seven months, Rees sculpted and shaped the clay to complete the final form.

The clay sculpture was then shipped to a foundry for casting, a process that took about three months.

The clay sculpture was covered with a layer of silicone, the silicone was removed in sections and each piece was encased with plaster so that it would hold its shape. Then wax was poured into the silicone molds to coat the internal surface, forming hollow full-sized sections of the sculpture. These were removed from the silicone mold, inspected for imperfections, and then dipped in a ceramic material that hardened into a shell. The wax melted, replaced by molten bronze.

Once the bronze cooled the shell was



Mardie Rees with her St. Anne. *Mardie Rees Artist LLC*

removed, creating hollow bronze sections. The sections were welded together, and the sculpture was ready for its final finishing touches, including removing imperfections, sandblasting and heating the surface with a torch before applying the chemicals to achieve its patina finish.

Rees knew as a teenager that she wanted to be an artist. Her father was a framer and there was a long tradition of tailors and seamstresses on her mother's side of the family. She spent her childhood sewing, building and drawing. After attending Minter and Purdy Elementary Schools, she was homeschooled during middle school. "I was an artistic kid and didn't

fit the mold," she said. In 1995, when she was 15, the family moved to Ecuador for three years as part of a community development program.

Art classes at an international school in Quito settled her future. "I had an incredible art teacher," Rees said. "There comes a point where you really want to do art, that there is no other option. I couldn't see myself doing anything else."

The family returned to Wauna and she completed her senior year at Gig Harbor High School.

Rees always had a passion for figurative art, and she wanted to dive into creating it as soon as possible but also wanted to

stay on the West Coast. She decided that Laguna College of Art and Design was the best choice for the kind of training she wanted. After taking a portrait sculpting class her freshman year she never looked back.

"I wasn't necessarily amazing, but I loved it," Rees said. "I felt more at home sculpting than I did painting, and I wanted to do something challenging that could be a gift to the world and was something different."

Her senior project, Samaritan Woman, was a high relief project in clay and it led to her first commission, the life-sized St. Anthony and Child installed in the lobby of St. Anthony Hospital in 2009. Other commissions include pieces located at the outdoor pavilion at Skansie Brother's Park, the St. Anthony medical campus in Westminster, Colorado, and the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

She has won the Beverly Hoyt Richard Award, an award recognizing young sculptors through the National Sculpture Society, twice.

Rees lives and works in a house on the same property where she grew up. Her parents bought 3 acres and built their first house in the early 1980s when Rees was a toddler. Her mother lives in the second home built on the property and Rees and her husband, Jeremy Broderick, an architect, designed and built their own home next door in 2013. Broderick works for a firm in Gig Harbor but he is also integral to her work, helping with installations and structural issues with the bigger pieces. They have three children, ages 7, 12 and 14.

"This is a peaceful, beautiful place to be inspired," Rees said. "I love being outside. I love to work in my garden."

Much of Rees' work is commissioned by organizations or individuals, but she also shows work at Nedra Matteucci Galleries in Santa Fe. "I have to play around a lot," she said. "If I just focus on the commission work I will dry up." And for a break, she will draw or paint. "It is nice to have something you can actually finish in a reasonable amount of time."

She can't rest on her laurels, however. The foam model for her next commission, St. Elizabeth of Hungary for Enumclaw Hospital, is in her studio ready for assembly and a layer of oil clay. "I am a little tired already, thinking about it," Rees said.

To see more of Rees' work visit her website www.mardierees.com. ■

Local Alumnus Blake Cohoe Makes Good on Middle School Goal

A Peninsula School District graduate grows from KP kid to scholarship Air Force physician. He will begin his medical residency next year.

VICKI BIGGS, KP NEWS

On Jan. 26, 2011, Blake Cohoe said these words: “I am enrolling in the ROTC program and then joining the Air Force. I want to serve my country and then get my degree. Hopefully, I will work for a military hospital. Or become a flight doctor.” He was featured in the Air Force Times.

Cohoe was 12 years old at the time, a seventh-grader at Key Peninsula Middle School.

He was part of the NASA Explorer program at the school. Airlift squadrons from Joint Base Lewis-McChord would send pilots each year to speak with students about careers as a pilot. A panel of three pilots visited the school on that day and Cohoe’s interview was part of that visit.

Fast forward 12 years. Blake Cohoe, now 25, will be graduating from Washington State University in Spokane from the College of Medicine in May 2024. He plans to become an orthopedic surgeon.

“I am an Air Force HBSP student,” Blake said, referring to the Health Professions Scholarship Program offered through the ROTC.

“I graduated from ROTC in college. I was commissioned as an officer. I went in as an inactive until I graduated from medical school. I think it’s an opportunity not many people know about.”

The HBSP includes many benefits, he said. For example, students receive full tuition and required fees at the accredited U.S. medical school of their choice, books and other educational fees, an annual salary of \$34,000 for ten months, and a \$20,000 signing bonus for some students.

Because of his ROTC enrollment, Cohoe will finish eight years of higher education with no student loans.

After he completes his medical residency, Cohoe will serve eight years in the Air Force, a repayment of each year of undergraduate study and medical school. He has the choice of serving his residency at a military hospital where he would be able to meet his obligation concurrently, or training in a civilian setting and serving his eight years in the military after he’s completed his training.

Cohoe credits his family and community for his academic successes and direction. His mother, Marcie Cummings Cohoe, is an elementary school teacher



Blake Cohoe visited his alma mater, Key Peninsula Middle School, over the holidays. *Tina McKail, KP News*

in the Peninsula School District, which made Blake feel very connected to the education community at large and led to valuable encouragement from PSD staff.

“I enjoyed my teachers as the caring people that they were,” he said.

Cohoe aspired early on to be a doctor and seldom wavered from that intent. As he moved through high school, he realized he liked science and liked working with people. Medicine seemed a perfect meld of those two interests. “I liked the idea of people being central to my career and my job,” he said.

Cohoe said his grandfather, Richard

Cummings, sparked his interest in ROTC. His grandfather taught ROTC in Bozeman, Montana. Cohoe learned it was an honor to serve in the military and applied to ROTC because of him.

“MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE BEING KIND TO PEOPLE AND KEEPING THOSE LASTING RELATIONSHIPS — YOU CAN NEVER GET THOSE BACK.”

Cohoe also credited the Peninsula High School Hawks Scholarship Fund for a great deal of help during his first year of college. It

was during his freshman year he applied to the ROTC college scholarship program. PHS did not have an ROTC program when Cohoe attended but now offers an elective course in the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. There is no scholarship component and

students do not have an obligation to serve in the military, but successful cadets have an advantage if they do enlist or apply to a military academy or ROTC college.

And Cohoe had advice for today’s middle-schoolers: “This probably comes in part from my dad, but make sure that you are being kind to people and keeping those lasting relationships — you can never get those back. Keep following different avenues. Find things that you enjoy no matter what happens. Hard work is what matters most. Be willing to put in the time, I think that is what it takes.

“No matter where you go to school, there are opportunities, you just have to find them.” ■



The McColley property is just across Cramer Road NW, at the head of Glen Cove.

Tina McKail, KP News

YMCA FROM PAGE 1

really,” Davis said.

Two staff members lived in the house this summer. A 1926 farmhouse, it has five bedrooms but only one-and-a-half baths. The inspection revealed nothing more substantial than a list of minor repairs. According to Scotty Jackson, director of Camp Seymour, the plan is to modernize the house for use as staff housing — replacing the oil furnace with a heat pump, adding bathrooms — and keep other infrastructure to the homestead’s already developed footprint.

While Jackson is waiting until spring to gather his local advisory council, board members and past educators to walk the property and begin to formulate a plan, he and Davis agreed that the real value for Camp Seymour is in the land and habitat. The cove with its salmon run and the creek that feeds the estuary — “These are all things we teach the kids about,” Jackson said. They envision trails.

“This was a huge gift for the camp. Game changer for us,” Davis said.

Preservation is the intention. The camp will look into conservation easements. Jackson hopes to consult with the Squaxin Island Tribe. There is a shell midden on the camp property where campers will learn about village life, as well as how indigenous people fished and spent time together in Glen Cove. Jackson says he can imagine that the creek mouth on the McColley property would have been used in such a way.

He also hopes to rebuild the barn that once stood behind the house. Beyond moving equipment storage away from its current location on the shoreline, it would tie in with the camp’s educational lessons on the energy cycle, composting, vegetable growing — even perhaps a return of the pigs once kept by

the camp.

One wrinkle is the county’s planned reconstruction, likely in 2024, of the Glen Cove bridge. With the bridge out for a summer season, the McColley property will be a six-mile drive from camp.

Nodtvedt said she remembers when the house was linked by a party line to other homes on the cove. “My mom and dad had a long relationship with the Y,” she said. She grew up alongside the camp directors and their children. She remembers getting all the apples and huckleberries they needed from the land as well as good well water. They had a rowboat they would take back into the creek.

“It’s just pretty,” Nodtvedt said.

Her parents, concerned about drowning, taught her to swim at a young age. She learned that when the tide comes in, the cove water is warm on top, heated by sun-warmed mudflats. When the tide goes out, an inch of cold water from the creek sits on the surface.

When an old chicken house began to sag, her parents invited the whole community over for cider and snacks and had the fire department do a controlled burn of the structure.

She hopes that spirit of community involvement will continue. “I’m just glad it’s still somewhat public access. I would like something where we can wander the property. I don’t think that will happen with the Y, but at least people can pay for camp and go through it that way.”

For Jackson, the situation reminds him of a time 117 years ago, when William Wolcott Seymour first invited a group of boys to camp on his land. Within a few years, tents had been erected. In 1920 Seymour donated the land to the YMCA, and the camp was officially dedicated in 1927. The rest is history. (See “Camp Seymour Gears up for Centennial Celebrations,” KP News, January 2005.) ■

NEW COMMUNITY MATCH FUNDS THROUGH DECEMBER 31

“We love our Key Peninsula News so much we’re committed to help it thrive.”

Every month, you’re given a fresh, bright look at life here on the Key Peninsula — with award-winning stories, colorful photos and thoughtful insights.

And every month, we hear your praise.

This year we won a record-setting 25 awards for journalism, photography and design. It’s a whole lot more than you might expect from a “small-town newspaper.”

The mission to build community through fair, honest news is supported by charitable grants, loyal advertisers and hundreds of individual donors — allowing free local delivery and an always-open website.

Your donation is matched by NewsMatch and a new community match fund.

Matching magnifies the impact of your contribution for nonprofit news and supports free, unbiased news for everyone living on the Key Peninsula.

Mail your check in the handy green envelope or give online at keypennews.org.

Every dollar helps makes the paper possible. Please give your monthly or annual gift now.

KEY
PENINSULA
NEWS



CHARGE IT! GIVE ONLINE AT KEYPENNEWS.ORG

Dan Whitmarsh
WRITING BY FAITH



All That Brings Joy

It was the early 1990s in Azusa, California, where I was in college. It was December, it was finals week, and, needing to blow off stress, we went Christmas caroling.

We hopped into a friend's truck and drove to a neighborhood of tract homes and perfectly manicured lawns where we serenaded the unsuspecting residents with our favorite carols. We were young, we were enthusiastic, and we were all music majors. We sang like angels.

Still, something felt off. Despite the fun and the spontaneity and the joy we shared it still didn't feel right to me. It took a while, but I finally figured out why: we were Christmas caroling in shorts and T-shirts. We sang songs about snowmen and horse-drawn sleighs, but we were in Southern California where it was 75 degrees and sunny. Green lawns shaded by palm trees were our musical stages. A cold glass of water was more welcome than a mug of hot cocoa. It just didn't fit.

All my Christmas experience to that point had been at home in the Pacific Northwest and, as the song goes, Christmas here is a gift God wrapped in green. Cold weather, snow in the mountains, and fog-shrouded evergreen trees are the backdrop of our holiday season. Sweaters and parkas and boots are the costumes of caroling. We don't just sing about frosted windowpanes and frost-bitten noses; they are our winter reality. Christmas caroling in shorts in summer weather doesn't compute.

That spontaneous holiday excursion helped me realize that not everybody experiences Christmas the way I do. My own family traditions are simply that: our traditions that aren't necessarily enjoyed by others. Some have real trees and some have artificial ones. Some enjoy Bing Crosby and others prefer Mariah Carey. Some host fancy dinner parties, some spend a quiet day alone, and I've even heard that some go out to the movies on Christmas Day. Some don't even celebrate Christmas.

Over time I have realized, however, that almost everybody, whatever their traditions, is doing their best to find joy, to celebrate goodness, to bring meaning into their harried lives. These traditions that have so much meaning to me might be foreign to others, but I have witnessed how other families' cherished traditions are important to them. We are all trying hard to create meaningful moments that

build us up across our lives.

When Christians gather to celebrate the origin of this holy day, we remember the glorious pronouncement of angels to lonely shepherds on a hillside outside of Bethlehem, a promise of "good news of great joy for all people." After all we have endured over the last decade, it seems to me that we could use some joy.

Unfortunately, one of the newer traditions in our country is the annual argument over the supposed War on Christmas. Arguments about how and what people celebrate and how they greet each other drain the joy out of what should be a season of happiness and light. If there truly is a war on Christmas, I suspect it is the grumpiness and bah-humbug-ness that often marks our discourse, and judging others who we suspect of celebrating "incorrectly." Perhaps we would be wise to take comfort whenever we see people doing the things that bring joy to their lives.

This is, after all, the great promise of the Christ-mass; that divine love has entered the human condition to restore life and peace and love and joy. I believe that, if something is infused with joy, then it must carry that divine spark, and that is a very good thing. If it brings true joy, it must be of God.

As for me, I'm going to put on Handel's Messiah and enjoy it while sipping my cocoa beside our decorated tree, and, should I go caroling, I'll be wearing my warm sweater and boots. I hope to see many of you out and about reveling in your own ways.

On behalf of the churches on the Key Peninsula, I wish you all joy in this season, whatever your traditions and however you choose to celebrate, if you do. May the carols of angels pronouncing good news fill your heart with gladness.

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

Richard Gelinas
EMPIRICALLY YOURS



Clams Inspire Pollution-free Cement

Cement manufacturing is killing us. Cement making around the world releases so much carbon dioxide that if it were a country, it would be the third biggest source of CO2 pollution after China and the U.S.

Worse, CO2 in the air is still increasing. As measured at the CO2 observatory on top of Mauna Loa, the level of this gas was up 0.7% from October 2022 to October 2023.

If we do nothing and continue making cement by the traditional method, it will worsen climate disruptions. But maybe we can learn something from clams and oysters, who have been making their cement-hard shells from seawater one atom at a time for hundreds of millions of years.

There are two sources of polluting CO2 from making cement. The first is the CO2 released when the raw material limestone (calcium carbonate) is heated in kilns to make calcium oxide, the key ingredient in cement. CO2 is also released from the fossil fuel burned to heat the kilns. Just in time, many startup companies are testing new methods that minimize or eliminate one or both of these sources of CO2.

Two companies — Terra CO2 Technologies, in Golden, Colorado, and Brimstone Chemical Manufacturing, of Oakland, California — have kicked limestone out of the recipe and use other rocks: silicates like granite or basalt. Terra and Brimstone realized that the silicate rocks, which cover 80% of the Earth's surface, could substitute for limestone. Silicates contain calcium but they don't release CO2 when they are processed to make what the industry calls a "supplementary cementing material." Pilot plants are being built in Texas and Nevada, respectively. The companies claim their methods will be 70-80% cleaner than traditional processes — and the cement or concrete produced should absorb CO2 from the air.

Cement companies that use the traditional method are starting to pay attention because Brimstone recently received an independent endorsement certifying that its cement is structurally and chemically identical to old-fashioned cement. This is essential for the new cement to gain the acceptance of the cement and concrete industry.

Another company's recipe, Carbon-Built Inc., of Los Angeles California, makes concrete blocks without heating rocks. What, no kiln? Their secret process captures a mineral binder from calcium-rich waste materials from "undisclosed industrial sources." (Maybe they are burning biomass material.) CO2 is added during the formation of the block to complete the reaction that yields conventional concrete. They claim a 70 to 100% reduction in CO2 emissions. They are already making concrete blocks at a factory in Alabama. With other partners, they are making blocks with CO2 captured from the air.

Yet another company, Sublime Systems Inc., in Boston, Massachusetts, uses electricity to split water (into an acid and a base) which reacts to dissolve calcium from silicate rocks. Calcium oxide is formed but

it quickly reacts with the silicate material to form good, old-fashioned calcium silicate hydrate, which is of course cement as we've always known it. There is no kiln, just electricity. They have a pilot plant up and running in Massachusetts. The "sublime cement" they make passed all the industry tests and has been endorsed by the industry, like Brimstone.

Fortera, located in San Jose, California, has a way to double the yield of today's cement factories. Fortera captures CO2 from one end of a conventional kiln and minerals from the other end and recombines them in a special solvent to make a stable form of cement. The process captures and reuses almost all of the CO2 that is generated in the kiln, doubling the yield compared to traditional methods. A pilot plant is being built in Redding, California.

Prometheus Materials, based in Colorado, is making concrete blocks starting with light and algae in a process they call "photosynthetic bio-cementation." Yes, they use light to drive the growth of algae in very large tanks in simulated seawater with trace nutrients and CO2. This is essentially the process used by shellfish. Calcium carbonate forms and after mixing with "natural binders and aggregates" it becomes bio-concrete. Their process avoids essentially all of the emissions of the traditional method. They will begin selling precast products like concrete blocks next year.

These companies are cleaning up a product we all use but it is just one of the big planet-wide clean-ups we need to implement. Remember from our brief trip to Hawaii that CO2 is still increasing in our air. Until we take action to first slow and eventually reverse air pollution, the consequences will soon be utterly impossible to ignore. Weird weather will continue around the world with droughts, floods, vast wildfires, tornados and frequent hurricanes. Warming oceans will continue to melt ancient ice in Greenland and the north and south poles and sea level rise will reshape the shapes of continents.

Does anyone believe we could get through all this without a vicious economic contraction?

We've burned through fossil energy for more than 200 years to build ourselves a large industrial civilization. But unless we decarbonize our economy, Earth will choke us, flood us, or burn us. Fortunately, we can learn from mollusks how to make cement without air pollution since they do it all the time in the ocean without polluting the air.

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

Dan Clouse
THE OTHER SIDE



Metaphor: A Virgin Field Pregnant with Possibilities

Sure, you expect to laugh at lists of crazy English menu mistranslations on social media, “Braised Dork with Bamboo Gunfires,” not to mention episodes of The Three Stooges.

“Hang on!” you say. “What about the laugh lines in presidential debates?”

OK, fine, but there are plenty of funny things in unexpected places, too. Take, for instance, the Whatcom County ordinance that sets aside the entire county as a Sasquatch Refuge.

Gone looking for a laugh lately offline? Tip: Have you tried any print handbooks of English usage? These tsk, tsk collections from Fowler to Garner offer a trove of hilarious howlers to avoid, e.g., “Being old-fashioned, she never wore pants.”

The pettifoggers who write these manuals love to hate the dreaded “mixed metaphor.” That’s the nonsense you write after losing track of a metaphor’s literal meaning. You know, combos like “Her eyes narrowed to a gimlet stare, and she let him have it with both barrels.”

I laugh at these bloopers, at least when they’re someone else’s. Ever since my misspent ivory-tower salad days, I’ve been nuts about these bonehead expressions.

Sportswriters are past masters of the metaphorical hodgepodge. Sports-page macédoines can end up as what the French unappetizingly call a “potpourri,” literally, a rotten pot. Put that in your pipe and smoke it!

Back in the 1940s, the New Yorker Magazine humorist Frank Sullivan wrote a classic send-up of baseball clichés. You’d have to be deaf not to see that all the sportswriters’ metaphors of 80 years ago still run amok in baseball journalism.

“The home team won” could be written in two dozen figurative versions, “they nip, top, wallop, trounce, rout, down, subdue, smash, drub, paste, trip, crush, curb, whitewash, erase, bop, slam, batter, check, hammer, pop, wham, clout, zero, and blank the visitors.” It still is.

Which means there have always been plenty of figures of speech in the sportswriters’ thesaurus to lay a hand on in a pinch.

Alas, since the somnambulant Cleveland Indians updated their mascot to the woke “Guardians” a couple of years ago, we miss out on fevered brain freezes like “Indians Scalp Tigers.” In any case, we will always have, if not Paris, gems like “Red Sox Whitewash Blue Jays,” and “Marlins Hammer Astros, Rocket into First Place.”

Summer before last here in the Northwest, we thrilled to “Mariners Sail Path Out of Playoff Desert with Wind-aided Walk-off Four-Bagger.”

Self-help gurus, politicians, business pundits, students and Facebook groups should feel no shame at failing to scale the heights of such depths.

Even sportswriters have to stand back with jaws akimbo at the corporate HR consultant’s advice, “Don’t let your comfort zone fence you in.”

We’ve all had fun with the unique verbal purées Yogi Berra cobbled together when he was a star on the baseball diamond. “A nickel ain’t worth a dime anymore.” Forget “A specter is haunting Europe!” Karl Marx would have given his eyeteeth to have hatched such a phrase to put economics in a nutshell it doesn’t take a rocket surgeon to understand.

But then, sports have always been a cascade budding with metaphors. What pinnacles of leadership could ever rival the no-nonsense authority of the legendary pigskin coach who was seen to have barked, “OK, everybody. Line up alphabetically by height!”

Politicos get us all roweled up into a coma

with gems like “We must not let ourselves be stampeded into stagnation,” and complain, “Don’t drink the Kool-Aid of her policy waffles,” when their uphill campaigns go south.

Asleep-at-the-wheel business writers go off the deep end of the beaten path cranking out nuts-and-bolts management pearls like, “Supervisors need to keep their eyes on younger workers with a fine-tooth comb,” or train wreck dumpster fires like, “Elizabeth Holmes hit a home run with her elevator pitch.” You just can’t make heads or tails out of these head-scratchers.

A student 40 years ago gifted me relief from the tedium of my bleary-eyed grading when he wrote, “Mexico is at the apex of its tether.”

Cloudy days and the brief sunlight hours of winter make it challenging for us to tell night and day apart, but not to worry, even ethics writers struggle with the distinction: “At the end of the day, you have to face yourself in the mirror the next morning”

Leave it to a Facebook commenter to blend our sterling rustic character into a blood-and-sap Unhappy Hour margarita: “Most people on the Key Peninsula have rock-solid morals, but anymore our lifeblood is being sapped by urban values.”

And speaking of margarita, the Spanish word for both pearl and daisy, it’s a slam dunk to make metaphor slurries in the brain’s Metaphor-A-Matic when you don’t know a word’s original meaning. Let’s not cast daisies before swine or drink a watermelon pearl at the new restaurant in Home.

Emerson, from the soapbox of “Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations,” thought that all language is “fossil poetry made up of images, which have long ceased to remind us of their poetic origin.”

It’s hard enough to avoid Osterizing all those poetic fossils in English, but jiminy cricket, the imported ones! How not to make a hash of things? From redundancies like “the big Rio Grande River,” to the anatomical confusion

of, “as the ice thawed in their tête-à-tête, his knee touched hers,” or the social class mix-up of “Don’t be so bourgeois! Noblesse oblige is old hat.”

And then there are clichés — but don’t look under that rock and push my buttons!

Dan Clouse lives in Lakebay.

José Alaniz
WE LIVE HERE



All I Want for Christmas is Krampus

’Tis the season — for all those Mariah Carey horror memes.

Truth to tell, I’ve actually never minded the song; it’s fine. The horror comes from having it repeated ad nauseam between now and Jan. 1.

Let’s face it: for many of us, the holidays are the loneliest, most depressing time of year. You want scientific proof? The American Psychological Association found that almost 40% of survey respondents experienced increased stress levels during the Christmas season; other studies indicate that a significant portion of the population struggles with heightened depression. (Reports that suicide rates spike in this season, though, are a myth — thank goodness.)

Maybe all the enforced cheer and positivity has something to do with it?

The holidays, in fact, may put us in a spiral of what the philosopher Lauren Berlant calls “cruel optimism,” a sort of compulsory cheeriness that erodes the soul. You have to pretend to like Christmas to fit in, but deep inside you’re dying because you hate it. Or at least, you hate what it’s become.

Fortunately, there’s a cure.

Enter Krampus, the European folk demon

José Alaniz WE LIVE HERE: LADY KRAMPUS

DEBORAH JEZEK, RETIRED NAVAL OFFICER:

IN DECEMBER, 2021, WHEN I SAW A FACEBOOK EVENT ABOUT A KRAMPUS NITE IN BREMERTON, I DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN CHARACTER. AFTER SOME RESEARCH, I CREATED A LADY KRAMPUS COSTUME SIMILAR TO AN OLD GERMAN POSTCARD I HAD SEEN.



I FOUND OUT THAT LADY KRAMPUS REPRESENTED FRAU BERTHA [AKA PERCHTA]. SIMILAR TO KRAMPUS, SHE WOULD SCOOP UP MEN WHO MISTREATED WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

THE MESSAGE THAT LADY KRAMPUS BRINGS IS JUST AS RELEVANT TODAY AS IT WAS CENTURIES AGO: MEN NEED TO TREAT WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROPERLY AND WITH RESPECT— OTHERWISE THEY ARE GOING TO GET SEVERELY PUNISHED.

TOTALLY A BASKET FULL OF KEN DOLLS



KATE LARSON, BALLAST BOOK COMPANY:

KRAMPUS IS A FUN TRADITION FOR THOSE TIRED OF WHAT CAPITALISM HAS TURNED SANTA CLAUS INTO.



(horns, fur, tail) who accompanies St. Nicholas on Dec. 6 to punish children who've been bad all year. Eric Morley, 46, who works in insurance, plays a terrifying Krampus at various local events this time of year. He wears a wood-carved mask and yak fur costume imported from Austria. The founder of the Krampus Bremerton troupe, which boasts 30 members, he has big plans to turn his town into "the premier Krampus destination in the U.S."

"Christmas has become very commercialized, stressful, and I've heard Krampus described as the antidote," he said. "It's a fun alternative. It's a little bit of a relief."

Morley started his part-time demon impersonation gig by launching a Krampus Facebook group in 2019, which put him on the radar of the burgeoning Krampus scene in Seattle and beyond. The December 2020 First Friday Artwalk had him cavorting alone in costume down Bremerton's streets; a year later, he had associates and over 500 attendees. The next year that grew to 2,000. This year, which will feature a Krampus Kraft Market of some 25 vendors and a free Krampus photo set, they're expecting over 3,000.

It makes sense that Bremerton, with its industrial grit and weirdo-friendly vibe, would become Krampus central, Morley said. Calling himself "an orphan of the holiday," he was cut off from his church in Utah when he came out as gay. Christmas just wasn't the same. But in Bremerton, he found a welcoming, diverse community. Krampus is a natural extension of that.

"What's awesome is that Krampus is all-inclusive," he told me. "He doesn't care about your wealth, your religion, your politics, whatever you are, only if you're naughty or nice. It's a great unifier."

But Krampus doesn't unify everybody.

Some (a minority) find him disrespectful to Christianity because he kinda sorta looks like, well, you know, Satan. But that's a big misconception. It's more accurate to say that Krampus and the popular image of the devil have a common ancestor in pre-Christian antiquity; think satyrs.

Besides, the yuletide season itself is stitched together from pagan symbols and iconography: the color scheme; the mistletoe; Christmas trees; even the time of year (around the Winter solstice and the Roman festival of Saturnalia) — they were all heathen stuff co-opted by Christianity as it asserted cultural dominance. Try though it might, the Catholic church just couldn't eliminate Krampus from the people's psyche, so it ultimately incorporated him into its holiday traditions by hooking him up with St. Nicholas. Not everybody wants to see it that way, Morley said, but he takes it in stride.

"I respect that people might be offended

and that they don't understand the origins of the holiday and its connection to Christianity itself," he told me. "Because of my background, I try to have patience with folks who don't know and a thick layer of skin for people who like to attack me."

And they have attacked. In 2022 the Seattle Krampus troupe was disinvited from the Leavenworth Village of Lights Christmas celebration due to complaints from (you guessed it) a loud minority. Morley learned from that debacle.

"I watched what happened in Leavenworth, and how it went awry," he said. "Some business owners got together and petitioned the city council and the chamber of commerce to express their disdain for Krampus. So, here in Bremerton, I started with the businesses. 'I'm bringing 2,000 customers to you that you wouldn't normally get!' Then I brought the chamber of commerce and the city council and the mayor on board. So that when we got challenged — and one woman in particular has spoken a couple of times about me and the Krampus character in the public forums of the city council — when that happened, nobody shouted me down, because I had already done a lot of the preparation to make sure people knew about the economic benefit to the city. So that even some of the shop owners for whom Krampus is not their cup of tea, they still participate in it because they're smart businesspeople."

Thank you, Eric Morley. As a KP-er I am thrilled to have such a wonderful annual event as Krampusnacht practically in my backyard. Krampus belongs to the "older, more dangerous Christmas," as described by Al Ridenour in his book "The Krampus and the Old, Dark Christmas: Roots and Rebirth of the Folkloric Devil." It's a throwback to a time when Yuletide was scarier, with hints of otherworldly powers lurking in the winter murk.

We see vestiges of it in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," a ghost story about undead creatures who frighten a bad man into doing good, or more recently in Tim Burton's "A Nightmare Before Christmas," which ecstatically blurs the line between Christmas and Halloween. Krampus is part of a global tradition of children's bogeymen, whether it's Slapu the Native wild woman of the woods in stories from the Clallam area, or La Llorona (weeping woman) from my south Texas upbringing.

Viva Krampus! And no offense to Mariah Carey.

José Alaniz is a professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the Department of Cinema and Media Studies (adjunct) at U.W. He lives blissfully with his wife and many animals in Longbranch.

OBITUARIES



Virginia Bryant

English major, English teacher, published author, stained glass artist. Our beloved Mama went to her eternal rest Nov. 9 following a long and valiant battle against Parkinson's disease and dementia. She was 81 years old.

Born in Tampa, Florida, in August 1942, Virginia took her 5-year-old daughter and moved to California where she met and married Clyde Baxter. In 1975, they packed up and moved to Vaughn where they renovated a chicken barn on Lackey Road into a home.

Family was the most important thing to Mama. Holidays and birthdays with her family, playing Balderdash, and laughing hysterically while trying to eat that darn fruit salad she made are memories we will always cherish.

Virginia was preceded in death by her first husband Jerry Lantz and second husband Clyde Baxter. She is survived by her daughter Mindy Taylor (Dick); son Lloyd Baxter (Sarah); granddaughter Hillary Minor (Jeremy);

grandson Nathan Farnsworth (Jennifer); and great-grandchildren Skyler, Lily, Belle and Rolly. It's not goodbye Mama, only "Later, gator."



Michael Reaves

Michael "Mike" Reaves passed away Friday, Oct. 27 in Vaughn. Mike was born in 1949 in Bakersfield, California.

He is survived by his wife Lynn; daughter Laura; granddaughters Alyssa, Ashley, Gabriella and Danielle. Other loving family members are sisters Terri and Vicky; brother Randy; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mike loved all of his family as well as many friends here in Vaughn and in Bakersfield. He loved this incredible area where he built a beautiful home and barn. Interment will be scheduled at Bakersfield National Cemetery, Arvin, California. The date and time of the Honor Guard interment will be announced at a later date.

Letters to the Editor

THANK YOU KP FIRE DEPARTMENT

I would like to thank the Key Peninsula Fire Department and Peninsula Light Co. crews for responding quickly to my calls Nov. 11 during a storm with wind gusts reportedly up to 50 MPH.

Just after midnight, we heard the awful cracking, crashing, thumping sounds of a tree falling somewhere nearby and immediately lost all power. I had just notified Pen Light via cell phone when my husband stepped out on the porch in the dark and said, "There's a fire!" There were flames on the street, apparently from a downed wire.

After difficulty with my cell phone reception, I was finally able to get through to 911, all while we were trying to function in the pitch blackness, find our flashlights and candles, and stay calm in a howling windstorm.

The fire department was soon on the scene — we could see the engine and their lights from our house down the hill from the street. There were lights in the darkness for hours. After a time we could tell the Pen Light crew had arrived and were at work. This went on all night.

By morning we had power. It was kind of miraculous to have had all of that going on in the dark while we slept and the wind howled, and to wake up in the morning with the heat working again and able to make our coffee as usual.

I am so relieved that no one was hurt and that the brave men and women of both our own fire department and Pen Light were there when we needed them. Many thanks to you all.

Eddie Morgan, Longbranch

Creating 'Elena' — KP House Builder Turns Boat Designer

John Carlson was well-known for building custom homes on the KP, but now he's turned his skill to a finer art.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

It started a year ago. Or maybe it started 60 years ago, when John Carlson, 75, built his first boat. Or maybe it was just 40 years ago when John and his wife Helen bought their 28-foot Herreshoff wooden sloop, *Rozinante*.

Many Key Peninsula residents will recognize John's name as the accomplished house builder of Carlson Builders. (Real old-timers may remember it as Lakebay Woodworks.)

"I started out in Seattle doing small cabinet jobs and little repair things," John said. "When we moved down here to Home in 1979, I was doing similar things and just stuck at it long enough until it actually worked."

He built several houses on the KP. "I don't really know how many houses I've built, dozens anyway over my career," he said. "I wasn't a large builder at all — just one at a time."

John designed many of them. "I'd say it was an equal split between architect projects and people that came to me with ideas. But I thought then and still think that having a structural engineer is an inexpensive way of ensuring that what you're building is going to stand."

He retired from house building in 2014. Now he's building something else.

"I grew up in the North End of Tacoma and I used to hang around the Point Defiance boathouse," he said. "When I was 14 or 15 my brother and I decided we were going to build a boat. It was a little motorboat, an 11-foot B Class runabout. We had a 9-horse Johnson or something; it probably went about 20 miles an hour. It was great fun going around Vashon Island and down in the Narrows."

A few years later John graduated from the University of Washington with his wife, Helen. They bought a house in North Seattle, soon followed by *Rozinante*.

"We were pretty taken with her," he said. "We'd had canoes and kayaks, and we were hell-bent on the idea of getting some kind of a boat."

They sailed *Rozinante* up and down the Sound with their two children for 31 years. After they sold her in 2006, John set out to fill the void. He built a 12-foot sharpie designed by Olympia boatbuilder Sam Devlin. Then he commissioned Devlin to build John's design of a small,



Hull panels stitched together with copper wire before gluing. *Courtesy John Carlson*

1930's-era overnighter powerboat. A year ago in October, he started building his own design.

Elena is an 18 1/2-foot stitch-and-glue sloop with a 7-foot beam that will weigh 1,800 pounds empty and carry 200 square feet of sail, which is large for her size.

Stitch-and-glue construction is a modern building technique made possible by epoxy, fiberglass, and marine plywood. Thin ply panels are stitched together with copper wire around molds or to permanent frames to shape the hull, then glued together with strips of fiberglass. The wires are removed, and the hull is often glassed again and coated with epoxy to stiffen and waterproof it to create a relatively light, rot-resistant and durable vessel.

The technique also provides an easy

entry into boatbuilding for the home builder.

"I came up with this myself, but it's sort of a combination of our experiences with different boats over the years," John said. "I wanted to have some of the same attributes that *Rozinante* had, namely just enough weight to carry it easily and not be constantly changing sails; to be comfortable on the boat."

Elena started as a drawing, then a pattern, and then three scale models over two years.

"Most of that time was spent thinking about it," John said.

"It looks like a pretty classic design, but maybe it's more accurate to say it's a design with classic elements," he said.

"I think it's possible to build a reasonably successful sailboat if it has reasonably fair lines, all things being equal, and

you put the sail in the right place," he said. "It's bound to do something no matter how good or bad it is."

John said it will take at least another year to finish the build. If so, that would be four years he spent on the project.

Why?

"I'm getting old," he said.

"There's a joy to building things, and in particular boats, that nobody else has ever built before. The trick is to not move too quickly when you're traveling in uncertain territory. If you wait long enough and think about things, a reasonable solution will reveal itself, at least as far as building is concerned. I've found that to be the case along the way with intended hopes, imagined successes, or utility that are sometimes not exactly what we had in mind. But *Elena*, as a learning experience, it has worked extremely well." ■

Key Peninsula Middle School Faces the Future

PSD has incorporated the use of artificial intelligence programs for students to perform tasks such as research or learning English.

VICKI BIGGS, KP NEWS

On the morning of Nov. 13, Key Peninsula Middle School Principal Luke Grunberg and Joy Giovanini, coordinator of innovation technology and highly capable students, stood in the entry welcoming visitors to the KPMS Artificial Intelligence information event. “AI for All” was the theme of the day. A detailed schedule that included student-led tours of the building, hands-on experience for visitors, and observation in classrooms awaited visitors from the community, teachers from other buildings, and the Education Service District.

KPMS underwent two profound changes this year to launch students into the future.

The old middle school building was reimaged and rebuilt in the years following the passage of the February 2019 bond that funded the building and improvement of several schools in the Peninsula School District. Work at KPMS was completed faster and more efficiently than anticipated, which allowed for more changes than originally planned. Large media smart panels were installed in each classroom, while windows and open spaces provide light throughout the building.

Hand in hand is the second major change at the middle school — the incorporation of artificial intelligence in the classroom.

Kris Hagel, executive director of digital learning for PSD, said staff began talking about AI in January 2022. It was new territory for most, and the initial feeling was that AI use would be something like using smartphones for things other than phone calls.

But by the spring of 2022 staff were talking about using some of the technology regularly. A working group of 25 staff was formed, called the AI Action Research Group. Hagel said, “They sat and learned about AI, and then they went back into the classroom and started using what they had learned.”

By the time school started in September, the staff had embraced the transition to AI. “We are getting a lot of recognition around the country for what we are doing here,” Hagel said, including a segment on PBS, and an interview in *Time Magazine*.

District Superintendent Krestin Bahr credited school leadership with the move to AI. Teachers received some training during professional development days and on their own time. There is also the very real sense that students and teachers alike are learning new skills every day.



“The future is here, and there’s no going back.” From left to right KPMS students Jaelynn O’Donnell, Sofie Babbitt, Walker Cox. *Tina McKail, KP News*

The language arts class taught by Kate Schrock was open for observation during the tour. The students used AI programs to prompt writing ideas and to enhance writing with illustrations. Students worked individually but were enthusiastically sharing discoveries.

Other classes with students for whom English is a second language used AI to help with translation and improve writing skills. The AI programs are available for students to choose the skill level they are most comfortable with. For example, if their skills are lower than some, they can privately choose the level where they can best function, moving up in skill level as they learn.

PSD System Integration Analyst Reese Herber and Mason Pratz, data integration analyst, are proponents of AI use. “The future is here, there is no going back,” Herber said.

Because AI usage is still new to the district, test scores and hard data are not yet available. Anecdotally, some KPMS teachers said they felt the programs make a difference, more so for struggling students.

“It will help close the equity gap ... It will only get better, more refined, more useful,” Herber said.

“It would be a mistake not to use it,” Pratz said. “It’s necessarily going to change how everything works.”

The staff developed a document called AI Principles and Beliefs, which can be found on the district website. The document addresses ethical issues and guidelines for AI use. “We



Harbor Ridge teacher Julia Clements guides Sofie Babbitt and Jaelynn O’Donnell. *Tina McKail, KP News*

view AI as a tool that can intensify the human element in education.” The document emphasizes the positive aspects of AI in the classroom while acknowledging the potential pitfalls and precautions that are necessary for ethical use.

Some parents expressed opposition to AI and opted their children out of use. “Last year we saw about a 3% opt out rate,” Hagel said. “This year we have yet to track it systematically.”

ChatGPT and Grammarly are AI tools available to everyone at KPMS. Other programs, such as Elicit and Curipod, are

available for teachers to assist with planning, activities and learning assistance for students. AI is available for creating posters, videos, presentations, and research of primary sources and citations.

Former PSD school board member Marcia Harris attended the presentation. “I found it quite exciting. Personalized education for every student is something I’ve dreamed about for decades. To have the early adopters get involved to work through the details and see the results paves the way for others to take up the idea and adopt it as well. The kids can experience success right from the start.” ■

Key Peninsula Fire District 16 Unveils 2024 Budget

Inflation, cost of living increases and debt payments will increase expenses by 8% over 2023. "Expenses continue to increase."

EDDIE MACSALKA, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula board of fire commissioners unanimously voted to approve its 2024 budget for the KP fire district Nov. 14, calling for projected expenditures of some \$13.9 million. It's an 8% increase in overall expenses over the 2023 budget.

A significant portion of the budget is allocated to essential operating expenses, like training programs, equipment purchases and building maintenance. Paying for employee salaries — including a 4.6% cost of living adjustment — overtime, benefits (medical insurance premiums went up 3%) and insurance typically makes up about 75% of the budget.

"Expenses continue to increase; it's just crazy," said Board Chair Stan Moffett. "Everything is going up and it impacts us severely each and every year."

KPFD 16 is funded by taxes on KP property, mostly residential. The district has three levies: a fire levy, an emergency medical services levy, and a maintenance and operations levy. The M&O levy will be up for renewal in 2024.

Among the big ticket capital expenses for 2024: \$200,000 for technology services; a \$121,000 down payment on a new mini-pumper fire truck for \$341,460; \$111,000 toward replacing self-contained breathing devices for \$500,000; and \$90,000 for new roofs and paint for Stations 44 (next to Gateway Park) and 49 (Longbranch).

"We won't need to come up with that \$500,000 all at once," said Fire Chief Nick Swinhart. "All the major SCBA manufacturers have loan programs; (the \$111,000) is what we anticipate we might need to come up with for a first-year loan payment."

The budget anticipates significant cuts to administrative overtime and about a 10% increase for line personnel. "Overtime is notoriously hard to predict," Swinhart said. "We tend to use averages from previous years to try to predict what it will do."

The district will soon be paying much less for its evolving IT system however, which had been contracted through Central Pierce Fire & Rescue for \$220,000 a year.

"Central Pierce notified us a couple months ago that our 2024 costs were going to increase to \$330,000," Swinhart said. Instead of paying that, the district will move to a new provider over the next year. "Once we are fully transitioned, our IT services cost will drop down to around \$120,000 per year."

Perhaps the most visible expense is the \$310,000 the district will spend to pay down



The fate of Station 46 in Key Center remains an open question in the budget. *Ted Olinger, KP News*

debt. That includes the final payment on a loan for a medic unit the district bought three years ago and payments — including \$37,000 in annual interest — toward a bond used to buy property. The district spent \$2.125 million on Key Center real estate two years ago for a potential new headquarters building and will begin repaying principal in December 2024, when payments of approximately \$129,000 will be due twice a year until 2040 unless one or more of the properties is sold before then.

KPFD recently completed a capital improvement plan that took much longer than anticipated, with an initial recommendation for using the property. It also includes input about improving existing fire stations.

"I thought we'd be much further along in this whole process," Moffett said. "Frankly, I thought we'd be having discussions and town halls about this plan two years ago." He admitted that some internal strife and "bad feelings" between the community and district over the last few years have led to the delays.

Newly-elected Commissioner John Pat Kelly said the board of commissioners is to blame.

"We are not financially ready for these big, grandiose plans," said Kelly, who was

concerned that the 2024 budget shows just \$210,000 going into the reserves. "The debt is crippling us. We are one disaster away from financial ruin and I haven't seen anything from the board that shows there are financial problems. It seems like (the current board) is waiting for a taxpayer bailout."

Kelly was scheduled to take his seat on the board at its Nov. 28 meeting.

"I would love to have a new headquarters when we can afford it, and that time is not right now," he said. "Let's put (the capital improvement plan) up on a high shelf and once we build our financial reserves we can pull it down and see if it makes more sense."

Kelly mentioned that while he is against funding a new headquarters at this time, he fully supports Swinhart and Assistant Chief Chris Beswick. "This is the kind of leadership KPFD needed all along."

Moffett said earlier this year the board hired an outside firm to review district finances and help come up with a 10-year plan. He is looking for opportunities to better engage with the public and help break down communication barriers. To help bridge that gap, the 2024 budget calls for a Citizens Fire Academy to educate the public on how the fire service

works, including how the district is funded.

"A lot of that disagreement comes from people in the community who don't have the facts and information about what's going on," Moffett said. "A lot of people don't get that information because we can't reach everybody."

Kelly wants to either add study sessions that are open to the public or make the board's bimonthly meetings longer to give attendees more time to get their questions answered.

Coming up for renewal November 2024 is the \$800,000 Maintenance & Operations levy. Moffett calls those funds crucial to the district's operating budget. "If (voters don't approve the levy), that unfortunately means layoffs, and people are our most valuable asset," he said.

Though Kelly agreed with that, he said he is undecided on the levy. "The district has squandered away money and community support. It was unthinkable years ago to vote down a levy. I don't even know if I can vote to approve it unless I see some effort there will be change. That's what the public wants, for the board to show us they're willing to change." ■

Making Spirits Bright for Feral Felines of the Key Peninsula

Trap-Neuter-Return program hopes to reduce the local feral cat populations on the peninsula to improve their quality of life.

EDDIE MACSALKA, KP NEWS

Whether you are the “Here kitty, kitty, kitty” Kris Kringle-type, or a “Shoo cat” Scrooge, local experts say there are many ways to lend a helping paw to the feral felines toughing it out in the wet winter chill this holiday season.

Trap-Neuter-Return

A small army of animal advocates and concerned citizens are gearing up against large populations of feral cats in and around the Key Peninsula. These volunteers specialize in a method called Trap-Neuter-Return, and it’s exactly what it sounds like. They trap feral cats, take them to get spayed or neutered at places like the Humane Society of Mason County in Belfair, and then return them where they found them.

Why?

“It’s humans’ fault the cats are out there,” said Kelleen Thaxton, who runs the Kitsap/West Sound Community Cats Facebook page, a local resource to help people deal with homeless and feral cats. “I think it’s our duty to reduce all the suffering we’ve caused these animals.”

And They Told Two Friends, and So On and So On ...

An unspayed female cat can produce three litters of cats a year starting at just four months old with each litter averaging four to six kittens. That means one female cat can produce at least 12 kittens a year, and those kittens can start producing litters when they turn four months old.

According to SpayUSA.org, spaying and neutering one male and one female can prevent more than 2,000 unwanted births in just four years, and two million over eight years. Katherine Johnson, executive director of HSMC, said spring is generally “kitten season,” but they have been inundated with kittens the past two months. “If you find a feral kitten and it’s younger than 10 weeks old, there’s a good chance we can socialize that cat and adopt it out,” she said. “Any older than that and the cat is pretty feral.”

Though not all feral, HSMC has performed more than 2,300 spay and neuter procedures on felines just this year.

Cat Colonies on the KP

A TNR volunteer who didn’t want to be identified (because she doesn’t want the recognition for the work she’s doing), said she’s trapped and returned nearly 200 cats in just two years, many on the KP. The hot spots for her are Lake



Kathryn Village (11), near Jackson Lake Road and Lackey Road NW (11), and near Jimmy’s 94th Ave. Pub (8). There are many other colonies and some cats are just too wily to trap. Thaxton said the most humane way to get rid of a cat colony is to get the cats fixed and let them die out naturally. “Feral cats live about one-third of the life as their domesticated cousins,” she said.

Know Your Cats

Don’t just assume a cat wandering around your yard is lost or feral. Thaxton says there are easy ways to tell the difference. Feral cats are born and raised in the wild by feral parents. They’re wild animals and see people as predators. They may see you as a food source if you feed them, but they probably don’t want to be around you. Ferals can’t be adopted and don’t make great pets.

Then there are community, or unsocialized, cats. They likely have been on their own for a while but may have experience around people. “A pet cat can go back to being feral-like after a month or so on their own,” Thaxton said.

Then there are stray cats. Any cat that isn’t on their owner’s property is technically considered stray, but most of the time these are cats that are lost or have been abandoned by their owner.

Living in the Wild

No matter the type of cat, they usually play it safe when outdoors. Feral cats, according to Thaxton, generally live

underneath large blackberry brambles or raised sheds. It’s easy for them to get around underneath the blackberries and it protects them against predators. For the warm-hearted KP residents who want to offer cats housing, Thaxton advises using storage containers or large Styrofoam coolers with two exit points. Use dry straw for bedding because it doesn’t hold moisture. Cats can freeze to wet blankets or towels. If possible, prop the house up on two-by-fours and put some weight on top. Cats don’t like wobbly things.

Got Rodents?

Technically, cats roaming around your yard can help you tackle a rodent problem. But if they’re not spayed or neutered, “Then you’ll have a cat problem,” said Thaxton, who added that large colonies of cats bring noise, filth and odors. “It’s all the sights, sounds and smells of peeing, pooping and mating.” Thaxton suggests that if you want to get a fixed barn cat, get two instead. “They’re better as doubles.”

Caring for a Colony

Feeding feral cats is very kind, but “If you feed cats that aren’t fixed, you’re just inviting more cats. It can get overwhelming,” Thaxton said. Get a trapper out to your house. These volunteers, though busy, are happy to help, and will likely shower you with praise for being kind to kitties. Thaxton and Johnson agree that the best thing to do to help feral cats is to get them spayed or

neutered. And it likely won’t cost you a dime.

Help for You

Just a 20-minute drive from the Vaughn area, HSMC has a \$50 baseline package to spay or neuter feral cats. That includes all necessary medical assistance. It is significantly less than just bringing the family pet in for the same procedure. Johnson said donations help offset expenses, and they don’t limit the number of feral appointments. “If the community is willing to (trap and return), then we’re more than happy to facilitate the surgery,” Johnson said. You can notice if a feral cat in your neighborhood has already been spayed or neutered if a piece is missing from the top of one of its ears. That is the tell-tale sign a feral cat has been cared for through the TNR program. For strays or other cats that are people-friendly, Dr. Justine Zingsheim-Nadeau at Brookstone Veterinary Hospital said they can scan for a chip to see if the cat has an owner.

How You Can Help

The HSMC accepts donations on its website, including specifically to the TNR program. The organization also accepts pet food donations to help support the 60 people a week who use its pet pantry.

Thaxton said she is always looking for people interested in becoming trappers, and those interested can reach her on her Facebook page. Because her efforts are self-funded, with support from the Kitsap Humane Society, she also seeks help with items on her Amazon Wish List. ■

An unspayed female cat can produce three litters a year starting at just four months old with each litter averaging four to six kittens. That means one female cat can produce at least 12 kittens a year, and those kittens can start producing litters when they turn four months old.

Tina McKail, KP News

KGHP May Be Looking for a New Home Outside PSD

The school district continues to pay \$25,000 a year for a radio station in danger of becoming an afterthought.

EDDIE MACSALKA, KP NEWS

The KGHP studio on the campus of Peninsula High School is mostly dark these days.

The station's "On the Air" light brightens up the lonely hallways a few times a week for a couple hours a night when longtime on-air personalities like Denny Dale and Betty Devereux do their live shows. Otherwise, automated software programmed months ahead of time is playing the music listeners can still enjoy across the Key Peninsula (89.9 FM), Gig Harbor (105.7 FM) and Fox Island (89.3 FM).

KGHP has been around since 1988 helping students learn the ins and outs of the radio business, but after years of waning interest, PHS stopped offering radio broadcasting courses in 2021. Spencer Abersold, the station's former manager whose on-air moniker was "The Walrus," was one of 15 district employees laid off over the summer as part of PSD's attempt to cut \$12 million from this school year's budget. His salary made up a large chunk of the station's annual budget.

But even with Abersold's salary off the books, Kris Hagel, PSD's executive director of digital learning, said the district still pays \$25,000 a year to operate KGHP. About half of that goes to engineering expenses and the other half toward maintaining their Federal Communications Commission license. The not-for-profit station plays no commercials and brings in no revenue for the school district. And as technology evolves and the station's equipment becomes outdated, Hagel said the district has no plans to invest in new gear.

So, with a rarely used studio, equipment collecting dust and a computer acting as a deejay, the question is: Should the school district continue funding a radio station that has little educational benefits to students?

Hagel and Superintendent Krestin Bahr don't think so. But the two also don't want to let the license lapse, which would leave Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor and Fox Island residents without a key communication resource.

To help ponder that question, the district hosted more than 25 residents, business representatives, and current and former KGHP on-air talent and their supporters at the school district headquarters Nov. 7.

Hagel, Bahr, PSD School Board President Natalie Wimberley and Executive



Spencer Abersold's 21-year career as KGHP-FM station manager came to an end in June due to budget cuts to help compensate for low enrollment. *Tina McKail, KP News*

Director of Student Services John Yellowlees were on hand to facilitate the conversation.

The potential solution from those in attendance was to either partner with a nonprofit organization or form a new nonprofit that would take on the KGHP license, equipment and operational expense — at a low cost.

"We'd be very interested in having that conversation," Bahr said. Hagel agreed. "We're not here to make money. We want to find a home for KGHP and figure out how we'll move forward."

A nonprofit organization can explore grant opportunities and business partnerships, and get creative with fundraising strategies to help overcome the lack of commercial revenue.

One core element that the community hopes remains is the use of KGHP as a form of emergency preparedness during storms, earthquakes and natural disasters. Leland Smith, who taught radio broadcasting classes at PHS before retiring in 2021, said KGHP was one of the few stations broadcasting during severe ice storms in 1996 and 2006.

But for the station to be effective, it needs power. Currently, there is no backup generator for KGHP at PHS so if the

power goes out, the station is useless in emergencies.

Wherever KGHP finds a home, the new owners will need to spend about \$10,000 to move it from the high school, according to Hagel.

That cost did not deter those in attendance at the Nov. 7 meeting, with one person saying the community easily has 25 people willing to donate \$1,000 per year to keep the station going.

The new owners would have to maintain an education component to the station to maintain the noncommercial, educational license. The station, even in its new incarnation, could still offer hands-on experience for teens considering a career in broadcasting.

"If a nonprofit acquired it, nothing says that a (student) couldn't go through a work-based learning program, put in the time, learn how to do it, and get course credit," Smith said. "That would be a win-win."

John Campbell, who hosts a funk show on KGHP, mentioned how this also can be an opportunity for people of all ages to learn these skills, not just high school students.

There were those in attendance who looked at the station as more than an

educational tool but as a hub to connect listeners to their local community.

Gig Harbor resident Victor Rhett, who recently retired as a finance director for a nonprofit in Tacoma, said that's the model the new owners should follow. He is one of at least 10 people who signed on for further discussions with the district about forming a nonprofit organization to take ownership. Rhett also has an interest in doing on-air work, admitting he likes to "spin a few tunes and talk local politics."

Broadcasting local events, especially PHS and Gig Harbor High School sports was another topic of conversation. After missing most of the football season, the volunteer crew of sports broadcasters assembled for the Gig Harbor Tides playoff game in October and plan to cover as many home basketball games for the PHS Seahawks and Tides as they can this season. Ohad Lowy, who has been helping with broadcasts since 2008, will join the likes of Timothy Merk and Melinda Curry in calling the games.

Bahr said the workgroup will reconvene to continue talks about KGHP's future and anyone who wants to be a part of these conversations can email Hagel at HagelK@psd401.net. ■



LEFT Moon snails are in the family of Naticidae predatory gastropod mollusks. ABOVE Moon ring over Vaughn. BELOW A local Barrow's goldeneye is recognized by the crescent moon shape on its cheek.

NATURALIST'S NOTEBOOK

Moon Snails, Moon Jellies, Moon Wobble, and More

CHRIS RURIK, KP NEWS

For all our handwringing about the sun and what it is or isn't doing, it is the moon, lustrous and unsought, that has the power to haunt the mind's eye.

A friend who lives on Crescent Beach remembers an evening three decades ago, when she was a kid, when she walked the beach south at dusk with her mom and her mom's friends. They came to the point and the moon appeared over the trees. "It was huge, low, glowing the most intense orangey-yellow color. I can still see it in my head. It was stunning."

It was also her first lesson on the speed of tides during a full moon. The onrushing tide forced them up against a bulkhead. On tiptoes on a narrow concrete ledge, they reached for the lip of the wall and hauled themselves up — such an adventure for a kid.

The moon's dance with tides goes beyond the twice-high, twice-low daily

rhythm. Tides have been described as the world's largest waves. As these gigantic masses of water move, they change the distribution of Earth's weight. Earth's gravity holds the moon in orbit, and the shifting nature of Earth's mass — caused by the moon's own gravity working on Earth's tides — serves to destabilize the moon's orbit, pushing it away from Earth at the rate of an inch and a half per year.

The moon also wobbles. On an 18.6-year cycle that has been recognized for hundreds of years, its position relative to Earth oscillates, enough to slightly dampen tides in the lower part of the cycle and slightly amplify them in the upper part. Right now the moon wobble is amplifying tides, nudging them higher and lower. But it is moving toward the lower part of the cycle. So the next decade will see a dampening of so-called sunny day floods, where seawater without storm surge creeps over the rims of our beaches, and the 2030s will see those floods boosted, just as climate change really starts to push sea level higher.

Where else has the moon left its faint

tracks on our landscape?

I think of moon snails first: roving moons all over the sandflats. On the prowl, a moon snail enfolds itself in its muscular body, shapes it like a plow, greases it with mucous, and cruises under the sand for clams, which it bathes in a calcium-based acid before drilling distinctive counterbored holes through the poor beasts' shells.

Moon snails couple under the sand too. After mating, a female exudes mucous to bond the surrounding sand into a collar-shaped mold of herself. She scatters thousands of tiny eggs against the collar. She repeats the mucous trick. The double-layered collar, eggs sandwiched in the middle, protects the eggs until they hatch into free-swimming plankton. A moon snail can live over a decade.

Then we have the moon glow anemone, a sand-bound creature that acts almost more like a geoduck than an anemone. It anchors itself deep under the surface of the sand and stretches its body to the top of its hole to feed. It retracts when it is bothered or exposed. Being stuck in place, moon glow anemones must mate by

Rings, Halos and Coronas

On a frigid clear night, look for a moon ring like this, also called a lunar halo. The phenomenon always has the same radius: 22 degrees, about the width of your hand at arm's length. From that basic observation, you can lose yourself in a cascading sequence of geometric calculations, as light rays must be bent in specific ways to create the halo and the dark hole inside it. While hexagonal ice crystals high in the atmosphere are known to be the cause, they must be scattered in random orientations to form the full ring and the conditions required to sustain such randomness remain unknown. A moon ring is different from a lunar corona, when moonlight is diffracted through ice crystals water droplets or even clouds of pollen create a multicolored haze with bands around the moon.

broadcasting their gametes to the seven seas. They somehow synchronize this mass spawning. I wonder if the timing

PARKS FROM PAGE 1

When the parcel recently came back on the market Key Pen Parks went straight into action.

“We have a (conditional) purchase and sale agreement in place and right now we’re in a 60-day feasibility study period,” Perkosky said. “There are a couple of hurdles we have to move through before conditions are cleared and this turns into a final purchase and sale agreement.”

In the meantime, the property remains on the market as the seller, a development company, continues to consider potential backup offers.

Key Pen Parks is going through a Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office-approved appraisal and appraisal review process. That appraisal would allow the district to apply for acquisition grants from RCO — the most common funding agency for parks and recreation — after the purchase.

“We have 60 days to get that done and that’s an incredibly short timeline with the holidays coming up,” Perkosky said.

Perkosky noted that if the appraisal comes in lower than the purchase price, the board will have to decide about moving forward. If the appraisal comes



Coming soon? Expanded park land for the Key Peninsula. *Tina McKail, KP News*

in substantially lower than the purchase price, the seller will have the opportunity not to accept the park board’s offer.

During this feasibility period, there will also be inspections of the well and water quality as well as a meeting with a home inspector to identify any concerns.

The current property owner also did a

timber harvest on the property. Another condition of the purchase and sale agreement is that the seller completes the replanting required as part of the Forest Practices Application approved by the DNR.

“We are looking for those requirements to be fulfilled before we assume

that responsibility,” Perkosky said. She noted DNR requirements do not include removing the slash.

What vision park commissioners have for the property remains to be seen.

Perkosky said the board has not had extensive conversations about its vision for the 15 acres. Some of the preliminary conversations concerned more parking to provide better access for Key Central Forest as well as a possible playground.

She also anticipated discussion about a new restroom facility since the property has water and septic.

“We’re really in just the beginning stages of that vision, how we would fund it or even how that might impact other capital projects or other land acquisitions or ongoing maintenance needs,” Perkosky said. One of the things the board will be working on is a formal, stand-alone capital facilities plan that will help guide the future.

“Once we get through that capital facilities plan and work on the vision, not only for Key Central Forest but certainly all of our other park properties as well, we’re going to see what that future looks like,” Perkosky said. “We either own or maintain 1,300 acres of land here on the Key Peninsula on a tiny budget.” ■

WILD FROM PAGE 14

is related to the moon and tides. But if sexual reproduction doesn’t work, a moonglow anemone can always duplicate itself by splitting lengthwise.

Slowly, slowly naturalists are picking up on nocturnal rhythms, recognizing the power of the moon to shape life. If you are a small nocturnal mammal, your night under a full moon looks quite different than a night in darkness. You’ll stay closer to shelter, eat less, move less. If you’re a coyote or bobcat you’ll shift your waking hours and sometimes the target of your hunt. A study on red foxes found their diet to be highly dependent on moon phase.

Moths seem to respond to the moon, some with their mating flights, some with their migrations. But using the moon as a navigational aid ought to be impossible: the moon’s tilted orbit means it rises at a different heading every night. Recent research indicates some moths nonetheless make their moon compass reliable by pairing it with an ability to read Earth’s magnetic field, which remains fixed and calibrates the moon’s position.

I’d guess that the Key Peninsula’s

highest concentration of selenophiles — moon lovers — is at Crescent Beach. It makes sense. My friend describes how the moon hangs in the vast expanse of the western sky, just above the Olympics, sometimes its reflection on the water so bright she wakes up thinking it is morning when it is the middle of the night. In Turkish the word for the moon’s long reflection on water is *gümüş servi*, meaning silver cypress. In Swedish it is *mångata*, moon street.

Those millions of shining ripples, like the leaves of a cypress, or cobblestones of a street, are sometimes laid over literal millions of the last lunar creature I can conjure: the moon jellyfish. In late summer and fall, South Puget Sound can host blooms of this translucent jelly massive enough to be visible from aircraft. The biggest blooms seem to be correlated with periods of higher water temperature and salinity, such as during the infamous Blob of 2014-15. But there is much variability — yet another complex rhythm we have yet to fully grasp. When the moon jellies are in, they are in. Under a boat, they turn a bay’s water into a drifting, shifting galaxy. ■

INDEPENDENT, LOCALLY OWNED. FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS.

SHOP FROM OUR GREAT SELECTION!

- 📦 PUZZLES 📦 FINE CHOCOLATES & TRUFFLES
- 📦 LOCAL ITEMS 📦 LEGOS
- 📦 BARBIES 📦 CARDS & WRAPS 📦 SMARTWOOL SOCKS 📦 COCOA MIXES & BOMBS 📦 CHRISTMAS DÉCOR AND MUCH MORE!

Your Family Pharmacy is stocked with LOTS of gift ideas for your loved ones.

PHARMACY 253 857-7797 M-F 9am-7pm, Sat 'til 6pm, closed Sun
 STORE 253 857-7944 M-F 9am-7pm, Sat 'til 6pm, Sun 10am-5pm
 COSTLESSPURDY.COM

Purdy COST LESS
 PHARMACY & MORE

LOWEST RX PRICES IN AREA WE MAIL PRESCRIPTIONS

Dig Into Design: How Else Will You Garden All Winter?

KAMRYN MINCH

There comes a point in many homeowners' landscaping journey when they look out onto their own patch of the American dream and unwittingly throw in the towel, declaring "When I have more time this yard will really be something!" Eventually, the yard becomes more of a burry, overwhelming, weedy backdrop to everyday life, a nuisance that needs to be continuously wacked back from creeping into the crawlspace or up the siding.

Landscaping is one of the more intimidating home improvement projects as it's the only one where some form of life is on the line. But by looking at a few components of what makes a good landscape, you can get out of decision gridlock and finally get those hands dirty creating the outdoor oasis you can feel confident will survive.

The first thing you should do before even thinking about what to install or plant is take an inventory of site conditions. Look at each section of the yard on all sides of the house and note how much sun exposure they get, what type of soil is present, the nearest water spigots, and if there's any existing vegetation what kind and how does it look. These factors combined tell you what kind of plants are likely to do best in each of the sections.

For example, if the front of the house gets shade in the morning but a lot of sun in the afternoon you'll want plants that can tolerate full or partial sun exposure. If the soil is heavy clay (difficult to dig in and holds a lot of water), you'll likely want to avoid plants like lavender since they require good drainage. Instead opt for plants with thick roots and crowns like echinacea, sedum, hosta or iris.

After getting to know your site conditions, a great place to start in the design process is with your movements through the landscape. Where you move is generally the space you'll use, and the space you're using is where you're going to be able to keep things maintained the best. So when you're outside, make note of the spaces you spend the most time in, like a patio or deck, and then from there notice when you're walking from the house to anywhere around the yard.

Pay attention if there is a particular route you tend to take when you walk to a shed or another outbuilding. Perhaps the trail is well-traveled, and you can see



Consistency is key. In this landscape, rhododendrons provide structure throughout while the understory plants change depending on site conditions. Flagstone is used as the primary hardscape material. *Kamryn Minch*

the established path you regularly take. Now, imagine putting in a stone or gravel walkway bordered by garden beds on either side. Because the path is already where you naturally step, the hard part of figuring out where to put anything more permanent is already done.

If you don't have an outbuilding you're

accessing regularly, think about whether there may be one in the future and where you'd ideally want to put it, then walk to the spot as if it was already there. Let yourself meander until you find a path that feels comfortable. Parts of the yard that you don't visit often can still be incorporated into the design, but planted with



low-maintenance vegetation.

If you never find yourself outside because there's legitimately nothing there (that's the problem, isn't it?), notice what windows you're looking out of regularly to observe the nothingness. Use them as a (literal) frame of reference. What could be placed within the scene to make the view more compelling? A tree with leaves that change in the fall, flowers that bloom in the spring, or an evergreen with a unique form that attracts attention year-round could be the focal point of the landscape. The rest can be filled in around it.

After you determine a layout for the yard, it's time to think about piecing everything together to create a coherent design. With hardscaping materials, be consistent with the type of material used around the landscape. For example, if you're using flagstone for a front yard walkway, don't use red brick for one in the backyard. Similarly, what plants you choose can also follow this idea, even if each site condition around the house is vastly different from one another.

Plants that can tolerate a wide range of conditions include ornamental grasses like carex or Japanese forest grass, hostas, coral bells, daylilies, ferns, rhododendrons and azaleas. Using a few plants as a sort of anchor throughout the landscape will bring each space together.

Native plants are especially good at fitting in wherever you need them. They should be your go-to if you're looking for a low-maintenance landscape, but also ideal if you live underneath fir and cedar trees which are notoriously difficult to plant gardens around. Mixing natives in with commonly cultivated plants is also a great way to seamlessly blend the borders between wild and domesticated landscapes.

No matter where you're at on your landscaping journey, know that great gardens aren't built in a day. It can take a few seasons before the pieces start fitting together just right. And that's how you want it anyway. Mature landscapes are difficult to edit. So don't wait until the time is just right or you know exactly what to do. Your yard is knocking, and it wants you to come out and play. ■



HERO
ACE
HARDWARE



GRAND OPENING

**FREE
Pictures
with
Santa!**

**20% OFF
Anything
That Fits
in the
Bucket***

**Samples
from the
Smoker**

**Over
\$2,500 in
Raffle
Prizes**

**Ribbon
Cutting
at
1 PM**

*Excluding power tools.

**Saturday, December 9th • 11 am to 2 pm
14220 92nd Ave NW • Gig Harbor (Wauna)**



CHRISTMAS

AT PENINSULA LIFE CHURCH

We would love you & your family to join us
this Holiday season as we celebrate the
Birth of Our Savior.

THE FESTIVITIES START DEC 3RD

Go to Peninsulalife.com/events

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES ARE AT 9AM & 11AM

6501 147th ST CT NW Gig Harbor WA 98332

Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

SUNDAY, DEC 24TH

4:30PM & 6:30PM

**NO SUNDAY MORNING ON CHRISTMAS EVE



Some of our 2023 accomplishments —

Resources added for KP organizations: Connecting KP Co-Op Pre-school to support and funding for much-needed childcare • Helping organizations secure: wheelchair elevator and maintenance, ADA walkways, HVAC systems, AED defibrillators, grab bars and railings • Financial support of Minter Creek and Vaughn ES “Move It” programs, Red Barn Summer Program, KP Community Office, KP Free Clinic and Farm Tour • Gas card program
Creating sustainable and long-term solutions to KP-specific challenges: A Childcare Creation project manager for more KP childcare options • KP-specific transportation pilot program • Identifying and fixing access to care issues, barriers to employment and transportation • Policy work at county and state levels to make sure KP concerns are included
Information, education and resources to the KP Community: A full-time KP Community Health worker • A “Fentanyl Community Conversation” in cooperation with Elevate Health and TPCHD • Over 50 community updates

**Strengthening the Key Peninsula
Connecting the Community**

For resources and information:
www.kphealthycommunity.org

A registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, EIN 86-2537545



Holiday Open House

Saturday, Dec 2
from 10 to 4

Join us for hot cider, treats, door prizes and a drawing for a \$50 gift card.

30% Off on Holiday gifts, home décor and all plants in the nursery.
(Florist items not included.)

December Specials

30% OFF WEEK 1
All Christmas ornaments, gifts, candles, garland and Evergreen trees

40% OFF WEEK 2
All Christmas items, Spring bulbs, Evergreen trees and shrubs

50% OFF WEEK 3
All Christmas items, Spring bulbs and houseplants

UP TO 60% OFF WEEK 4
Select seasonal and garden goodies

WE'RE CLOSED
Christmas Day, New Years Eve and New Years Day. The store will be closed Jan 1 - 10.

🌿 Preorder now! Custom wreaths, garland and centerpieces for pickup or delivery 🌿 Check our website and Facebook for wreath class details
 🌿 All of us at Sunnycrest wish everyone in this fantastic community a safe and Happy Holiday.



IN KEY CENTER OPEN MON-SAT 9 to 4 SUNDAY 11 to 4 253 884-3937
sunnycrestnursery@yahoo.com www.sunnycrestnursery.com

The Village
a Mustard Seed Project

**ASSISTED LIVING
CLOSE TO HOME**

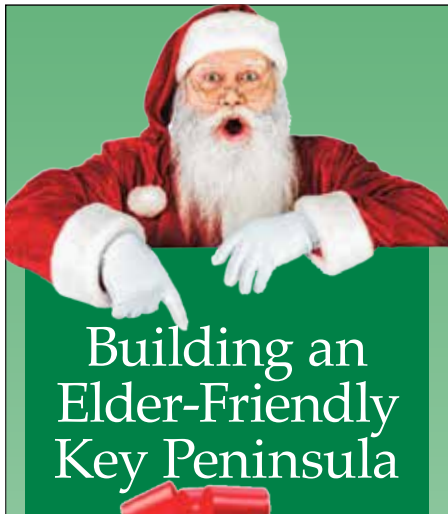
Medication Management
Personal Care
Healthcare Coordination
Memory Care

Where equality, empowerment & respect are our top priorities.

Call to set up a visit
(253) 900-9936

guide@mustardseedvillage.org

9115 154th Ave. Ct NW
Lakebay, WA 98394



Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula



Santa for Seniors



**FESTIVE MEAL
GIFTS
LIVE MUSIC**



**11am Dec 12 & 13
Call to reserve your spot!**



The Mustard Seed Project

253 884-9814

Office open Monday-Friday, 10 am to 4 pm
tmspinfo@themustardseedproject.org
www.themustardseedproject.org
Follow us on Facebook!

Protect yourself from flu, COVID-19, and RSV!

Use these healthy habits to protect yourself and those around you:

- ➔ **Get vaccinated.**
 - Everyone 6 months or older should get flu and COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Those 60 or older can get RSV vaccine.
 - Pregnant? Get RSV vaccine at 32–36 weeks or baby should get RSV protection at birth.
- ➔ **Wash your hands.**
- ➔ **Cover your coughs and sneezes.**
- ➔ **Stay home when you're sick.**
- ➔ **Avoid places where people are sick.**

.....
[Learn more at tpchd.org/protect.](https://tpchd.org/protect)

You're more likely to get very sick if you're:

- 5 or younger.
- 65 or older.
- Pregnant.
- Living with a health condition, like lung disease, heart disease, or weakened immune system.



Longbranch Community Church

www.longbranchchurch.net

Come and join us Sunday mornings

Worship Service and Children's Church 10:30
Adult Bible Study 9:00

16518 46th St SW, Longbranch

425 492-4177

God's Blessing to You - Pastor John Day



CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

U-CUT TREES & LIVE TREES
WREATHS & CEDAR GARLAND

10am-4pm

253-884-2010

18514 Rouse Rd. in Longbranch

Buying or selling? We will take good care of you.

At Windermere Key Realty, we know the local market better than anyone, that's why we're the market leader.

Our agents are devoted to delivering personal service, backed by the largest network in the region.

Selling, buying or just looking, make us your personal connection for real estate.



Windermere Key Realty 253-857-3304 11615 State Route 302

LARGEST IN THE AREA, BIGGEST IN THE REGION

Our new board room seats up to eight and is available as a courtesy for local community service organization meetings. Call Rob for your free reservation.

Members and Volunteers needed!



Join Friends of the Key Center Library

Pick up an application at the library or email us at keycenterlibraryfriends@gmail.com

Follow our Facebook page:
Friends of Key Center Library

And learn about upcoming Library Programs and Events

Washington's Finest Cannabis Retailer Now Open in Lake Kathryn Village



Announcing the opening of our 5th location - **The Gallery Gig Harbor**, in Lake Kathryn Village Mall at 14122 92nd Avenue NW, Suite 102, next to Dominos Pizza.

Open from **8am to 11:30pm** 7 days a week/365 days a year for all your cannabis needs.

We carry flower, pre-rolls, edibles, tinctures and topicals from the finest producers in the state of Washington.

Don't forget to sign up for our rewards program and earn points towards future purchases.

21 and over only, please.

Come in and see us! Bring this ad in for a 20% discount on your purchase.

FAMILY FUN
SUNDAY
DECEMBER
3RD
3-6PM
at the
KC Corral

"Key Pen" It Merry

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY
 SPONSORED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE
 KEY PENINSULA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION AND
 KEY CENTER CHIROPRACTIC & MASSAGE

Cocoa Bar, Food, Coloring,
 Cookie Station, Santa Letters,
 Holiday Games, Music, Smores and
 pictures with Santa!



List



- All Around Gutters
- Angel Guild
- Ashley Ford - Keller Williams West Sound
- Aspen Land Surveying, LLC
- Beauty Counter
- Bell-Ahh
- Bepa Water Heaters
- Blue Spark Health
- Bobcat of Olympia - Brent Pawson
- Bret Price, ARNP
- Brookside Veterinary Hospital
- Chuck West Construction, LLC
- Communities in Schools of Peninsula
- Community Health Care - Key Medical Center
- Costless Pharmacy & Drugstore
- Country Customs LLC - Animal Containment
- Custom Dentures Direct
- DK Property Management, LLC
- Drive thru Feed on the Key and U-Haul
- E&L Civil Engineering
- El Sombrero Family Mexican Restaurant
- Ellis Accounting & Taxes
- Figaro's Pizza
- Food Backpacks 4 Kids
- Four Winds Riding Center
- Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce
- Gig Harbor North Rotary Club Foundation
- Glen Cove Repair
- G.NOSH Food Truck
- Go!n Postal
- Gotcha Covered Window Treatments
- Greater Gig Harbor Foundation
- Home Base Washington Real Estate
- Home Excavating and Dozing
- Hoppy-Do Enterprises
- Judith Share's Tupperware Products
- Key Center Auto Repair
- Key Center Chiropractic and Massage
- Key Center Family Dentistry
- Key Center Pierce County Library
- Key Free Clinic
- Key IGA Supermarket at Key Center
- Key Pen It Clean
- Key Pen Parks
- Key Peninsula Beautification Project
- Key Peninsula Civic Center Association
- Key Peninsula Community Council
- Key Peninsula Community Services
- Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center
- Key Peninsula Historical Society and Museum
- Key Peninsula Lutheran Church
- Key Peninsula News
- Key Peninsula Tech Solutions
- Key Peninsula Veterans
- Kiwi Fencing Company, Inc.
- KP Partnership for a Healthy Community
- Lake Kathryn Ace Hardware and Market
- Larry Sequist
- The Longbranch Foundation
- Longbranch Improvement Club
- LPL Financial
- Madrona Cafe
- Marcia and Jeff Harris
- My Haunted Forest
- New Beginnings Real Estate
- Paint-Right Painting
- Pawson Agency of Farmers Insurance
- Peninsula Community Health Services
- Peninsula Light Company
- Peninsula School District
- Pierce County Fire District 16
- Ravensara Drive-Thru Espresso and Bakery
- Red Barn Youth Facility
- Rest Stop Adult Family Care
- Robyn Denison - Pierce County Council District 7
- Rolfzen's Home Services
- Safe Streets Campaign
- Snack Shack
- Some Dudes Farm
- Sound Credit Union
- Sunnycrest Nursery Florist & Decor
- Tacoma Waters Arts Alliance
- Take Charge Electric
- The Mustard Seed Project
- Two Waters Arts Alliance
- VIA Unlimited LLC
- Wehmeler LLC
- Westwynd Motel and Apartments
- Wild Earth Rocks
- Windemere Key Realty



Over 65+ years of real estate experience to better serve YOU!
2 out of 3 of us live on the Key.

Visit us at:
jojensengroup.com

Kimber Parker **jo jensen** **Matt Means**
206-948-8041 253-988-2231 253-370-0260



Key Peninsula Civic Center Buy a Brick Campaign



For questions, please contact KPCCA Office at (253) 884-3456 or email office@kpciviccenter.org
To Order Go Online to www.fundraisingbrick.com/kpciviccenter/
Or complete this order form and send along with payment to Key Peninsula Civic Center Association,
PO Box 82, Vaughn, WA 98394
Make Checks Payable To:
Key Peninsula Civic Center Association



- 4X8 Engraved Brick \$125 (3 lines of text, 20 characters per line)
- 8X8 Engraved Brick \$200 (6 lines of text, 20 characters per line)
- 8X8 Engraved Brick Corporate Logo \$500 (Corporate Logo)

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Don't miss out on this great opportunity,
order your personalized engraved brick today!

Please print your inscription here

Line 1																			
Line 2																			
Line 3																			
Line 4																			
Line 5																			
Line 6																			

SHINING WHERE THE LIGHT IS NEEDED.

We serve current Heron's Key residents and others who treasure life in beautiful Gig Harbor. A not-for-profit community wholly focused on taking care of our own, we offer Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing for residents at Heron's Key. If your loved one has Alzheimer's or another form of dementia, we can provide compassion, true friendliness and highly specialized Memory Care at The Lighthouse.

CARE IS NEAR. CALL 866-765-8076



4340 Borgen Blvd.
Gig Harbor, WA 98332
PenroseHarbor.org



MEMORY CARE • ASSISTED LIVING • SKILLED NURSING • REHABILITATION





Great Things for a Great Community

Founded in 1925, Peninsula Light is your member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative, providing reliable power throughout Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula. We are dedicated to continually improving the quality of life in this great community through system reliability, helping you conserve and use electricity more efficiently and rising to the challenges of a rapidly changing industry.

Call 253-857-5950 or toll-free 888-809-8021

Open Monday-Friday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM
13315 Goodnough Drive Gig Harbor, WA 98335



www.penlight.org

Peninsula Light Co.
a mutual corporation · since 1925
The power to be...



GO AHEAD

REACH
FOR YOUR BEST FUTURE

It's well within grasp right here.

You've lived life on your terms. Why should retirement change that? At Heron's Key, you'll have more time to do what you love and to discover new delights.

TO SET UP A VISIT, CALL (866) 860-4821


HERON'S KEY
GIG HARBOR

A MEMBER OF EMERALD COMMUNITIES

4340 Borgen Blvd., Gig Harbor, WA 98332

Heron'sKey.org



INDEPENDENT LIVING AND
A FULL CONTINUUM OF CARE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: DEC. 22 IS NATIONAL COOKIE EXCHANGE DAY

The Great Holiday Cookie Swap Draws Near: Prepare to Face the Batter

BARBARA VAN BOGART

For the uninitiated, cookie exchanges are a real thing, especially around the holidays. Dec. 22 this year is National Cookie Exchange Day (mark your calendar), so there is plenty of time to organize one with friends and family. It doesn't matter whether you choose to do this over coffee in the morning, at brunch, or in the evening after a potluck supper, it's getting together and sharing that counts.

Cookie swaps (or exchanges) typically include people who commit to baking their favorite cookie, get together to sample cookies, bring several dozen to share, and leave with a variety of cookies other than their own.

When and where did this tradition begin?

Legend has it the Dutch brought this custom with them when they came to America, likely back in the 17th century. The word "cookie" likely comes from the Dutch word "koekje." The first recorded swap occurred during a Dutch-themed event in New Amsterdam (now New York) in 1703. While the initial exchanges may not have occurred during the holiday season, this lovely tradition continues to this day, usually during December.

By the mid-1950s, cookie swaps were associated with Christmas and flourished. As more women entered the workforce, swaps became a popular way to increase the variety of holiday cookies they could serve while reducing the time spent baking different kinds.

Over the years, it's been my pleasure to host and attend many cookie exchanges. It's great fun to get together with friends and share stories of other holiday traditions as well as cookie recipe successes (and failures). It's a great way to celebrate the season and friendships while enjoying classic or new cookie recipes.

Below are a few recipes usually associated with the holidays. All are from "Betty Crocker's Cookie Book," the old standby from the 1960s. This cooky (sic) book is a classic, and is still available new or, if you are so inclined, vintage copies are available online. My copy is well-loved, well-used, and falling apart. While the internet is a great resource for all kinds of recipes, there is nothing quite like opening up an old cookbook and browsing its pages for the perfect recipe.

Russian Tea Cakes (sometimes called Mexican Wedding Cakes)

1 cup unsalted butter, softened to room temperature



Chef Barbara Van Bogart at work in her seasonal research facility. *Clark Van Bogart*

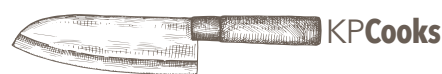
½ cup sifted powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
2¼ cups flour
¼ teaspoon salt
¾ cup finely chopped nuts

Mix butter, sugar and vanilla thoroughly. Measure flour by the dipping method (scoop into a measuring cup and level off with the edge of a knife), and add to butter mixture, blending well. Mix in nuts. Dough will be stiff. Chill dough for an hour.

Heat oven to 400. Using small scoop or tablespoon, roll dough into balls and place on an ungreased baking sheet (cookies do not spread). Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until set, but not brown. While still warm, roll in powdered sugar. Cool. Roll in powdered sugar again. Makes four dozen; one dozen to keep and three to share.

Sugar Cookies

¾ cup fat: half unsalted butter, half shortening
1 cup granulated sugar
2 eggs, room temperature
½ teaspoon lemon flavoring or vanilla
2½ cups flour (measure by scoop method, described above)
1 teaspoon baking powder



1 teaspoon salt
Mix shortening/butter, sugar, eggs and flavoring thoroughly. Stir flour, baking powder and salt together and blend with shortening/butter mixture. Chill dough for at least an hour.

Heat oven to 400. Roll dough 1/8 inch thick on lightly floured board or pastry cloth. Cut out with various shaped cookie cutters. Bake six to eight minutes, or until cookies are a delicate brown. Frost with powdered sugar icing and decorate with various sprinkles, if desired. Makes four dozen.

Candy Cane Cookies

½ cup unsalted butter, room temperature
½ cup shortening
1 cup sifted powdered sugar
1 egg, room temperature
1½ teaspoon almond extract
1 teaspoon vanilla
2½ cups flour (measure by scoop method, described above)

1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon red food coloring
½ cup crushed peppermint candy
½ cup granulated sugar

Heat oven to 375. Mix shortening, butter, sugar, egg and flavorings thoroughly. Mix flour and salt, stir into butter/shortening mixture. Divide dough in half. Add food coloring to one-half.

Roll out a 4-inch strip of dough (about one tablespoon) from each color. For smooth, even strips, roll them back and forth on lightly floured board or pastry cloth. Place two strips side by side, press them lightly together, and twist like a rope. For best results, complete one cookie at a time (if all the dough of one color is shaped first, strips become too dry to twist). Place on ungreased baking sheet. Curve top down to form the handle of a cane.

Bake for about nine minutes, until lightly browned. While still warm, remove from baking sheet with spatula and sprinkle with mixture of sugar and candy cane. Makes four dozen.

And there you have it — everything you need to start your own koekje swap. ■

Computer | Server | Telephone | Security

Your KP electronics expert.

We can unsharl legacy setups or install new ones.

Key Peninsula Technology Solutions LLC

kparr@keypentech.com
Call/text 253-851-6988
Fax 253-300-5252

Rental property professionally managed by local experts.

Property management for owners and renters. We handle it all for you. Looking to rent? See what we have at dkpropmgmt.com

DK Property Management, LLC.

call 253 **884-2076**
in Key Center at 9121 KP Hwy (at the light)

Qualified renters ready to move in now

Pregnant? You are not alone.

We provide services at no cost to you.



Care Net
OF PUGET SOUND

1-800-NOT-ALONE
WWW.CARENETPS.ORG

HOME

EXCAVATING & DOZING



NATURE TRAILS,
BEACH ACCESS,
SITE CLEARING & PREP.,
LOGGING,
ROCK WALLS & STEPS,
DRAINAGE SYSTEMS,
ROAD GRADING,
DEMOLITION,
STUMP REMOVAL,
GRAVEL &
TOPSOIL DELIVERIES,
& MUCH MORE.

DIFFICULT JOBS ARE OUR SPECIALTY!

(253)884-5798

PAINTING DRYWALL
TEXTURING MILLWORK
WALLPAPER HOME REPAIRS
SIDING PRESSURE WASHING



ALL TERRAIN PAINTING & REPAIRS N.W., LLC

www.facebook.com/AllTerrainPainting allterrainpainting@gmail.com

FREE ESTIMATES CALL 253-514-0997

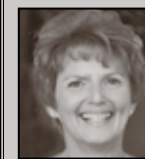
ADVOCATE/ REPRESENTATIVE

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

98% success rate since 2006
53 of 53 cases approved in 2020

MISSION POSSIBLE

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, INC.



360-798-2920
www.mpes.net

Helping Disabled Clients Since 1992

Community Health Care Key Medical Center

COMMUNITY HEALTH Care
MEDICAL • DENTAL • PHARMACY

Make an appointment today!

WHO can go to **Community Health Care?**
EVERYONE! Seniors, adults, teens, and kids!
Got insurance? No insurance? We've got you covered!



Mimi Chau, MD



Keira Hayes, MD



Katie Lager, ARNP

Community Health Care is for everyone!

Come see us!

Let us help you have a healthier New Year!

Learn more at: www.commhealth.org

15610 89th St Ct NW - Lakebay, WA 98349

SAME LOCATION! SAME GREAT SERVICE!

Providers:

Katie Lager, ARNP
Kiera Hayes, MD
Mimi Chau, MD (Pediatrics)

To schedule an appointment, call:

Direct: 253-884-9221
Call Center: 253-722-2161

Services Provided:

Family Medicine - Pediatrics
Behavioral Health - Maternity
Chronic Disease Management
***NEW* Pharmacy**
Free Pregnancy Tests

Community Health Care

has been helping Pierce County families stay healthy for **over 50 years**. We serve over 48,000 patients throughout Pierce County. We practice full service health care providing medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and other specialties.

"We strive to provide the highest quality health care with compassionate and accessible service for all. No one is ever turned away for inability to pay."

‘Bible and Sword: England and Palestine from the Bronze Age to Balfour’

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

It was a long evening with old friends and their children, who outnumbered us at our long table, all in college or college-aged, as we found our way through a cold fish course, warm pear salad and a robust duck sausage cassoulet.

We also found ourselves at odds with each other.

It was shortly after the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel.

After the standard talk about football, summer internships, and Taylor Swift, the conversation rapidly veered to events in the Middle East. I was transported back to the family dinners of my youth in the 1970s and a table just as divided, but then it was over nuclear power, OPEC and the lingering injuries of Vietnam.

It's more fun to be a kid at such a table than the oldest person in the room, which I happened to be on this latter occasion, because people think you must somehow have the answers.

That led me to start pulling books off our dining room shelves. For questions on war crimes, I found a history of the Nuremberg trials. For questions about war itself, there was a first-person account by a British officer who served in Burma, compelled to execute his own wounded soldiers instead of letting them fall into the hands of the enemy.

I also found Barbara Tuchman's "Bible and Sword," her history of the West's attachment to the Holy Land. I'd only glanced at it when my dad gave it to me in 2003 as he was clearing out his shelves before he died. Scanning the index now I found it remarkably unhelpful. Sure, there were plenty of names and dates, but no easy answers.

Oh, right.

After we had steered our guests back to the Mexican chocolate soufflé, our children dutifully sipping espressos and herbal teas while the parents drained the wine bottles, I shut off the lights in our ravaged kitchen and began to read.

Barbara Tuchman was a tower in American letters, writing 11 books of history that still loom over the landscape of how history is to be written, winning two Pulitzer Prizes before she died in 1989.

"Bible and Sword," published in 1956, is Tuchman's first book. But you wouldn't know it from her tone.

"Historically, the occupier of Palestine has always met disaster, beginning with the

Jews themselves," she begins. "The country's political geography has conquered its rulers."

Tuchman published this just eight years after the founding of the modern state of Israel in 1948, following decades of Jewish and Arab rebellion against the British Mandate and a war launched by its five Arab neighbors that resulted in the expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians, a shadow that still darkens our day.

It is a dispassionate look at the passion of generations who guided events as much or more, she contends, than the discrete decisions of leaders along the way. After all, why was any historical figure there to take action if not because of the momentum of their time? "A nation's history governs its present actions — but only in terms of what its citizens believe their past to have been," she writes. "For history, as Napoleon so succinctly put it, 'is a fable agreed upon.'"

And so we awaken in the early Anglo-Saxon era of the British Isles at the end of the Roman occupation in 410 C.E., and the conversion of its inhabitants to Christianity. The mythology of the island's origins blends surprisingly well with legends of Old Testament figures, perhaps bearing the Holy Grail, coming ashore to build a new nation, sharing a story of oppression. "The very subject produces an atmosphere that once to breathe is fatal to clarity," Tuchman writes, as Jerusalem became "the mother of us all."

Of course, Jerusalem was also the mother of Muslims as the location of one of the holiest places in Islam. But while Tuchman escorts us alongside pilgrims, crusaders and merchants over millennia, each distinct in their time and role, the people living in the Holy Land are almost interchangeably referred to as Moslems, Turks or Saracens. That is what she calls the great leader Saladin, a Kurd, who defeated Richard the Lionhearted during the Third Crusade in 1192.

It's off-putting until one realizes this is the perspective of time; not her time, the 1950s, but history's. The West identified itself so strongly with the Promised Land that it became a separate reality, developed in the dreams of pilgrims and the righteousness of conquerors, where the identity of the enemy and reality on the ground hardly matter.

The best proof of this is that Tuchman

refers to the Jewish people in the same way. They are just another impediment, or worse, to Western dreams of possessing the land of Christ. "According to Scripture the kingdom of Israel for all mankind would come when the people of Israel were restored to Zion. ... The return was visioned, of course, only in terms of a Jewish nation converted to Christianity." This at a time when an English merchant, John Sanderson, traveling through Palestine in 1601 wrote that among his fellow Christians, "the most learned men could not expound the letter A, (while) Jewish scholars could write whole volumes on the first letter only."

The dream was finally realized, sort of, with the fall of the Ottoman Empire after World War I when France and Britain divided the spoils in the Middle East. It was shaped by the Balfour Declaration of the British government in 1917, a policy statement signed by Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour addressed to Lord Rothschild, a leader of the British Jewish community, codifying support for "a national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, which then had a small Jewish population among Arabs.

There was also

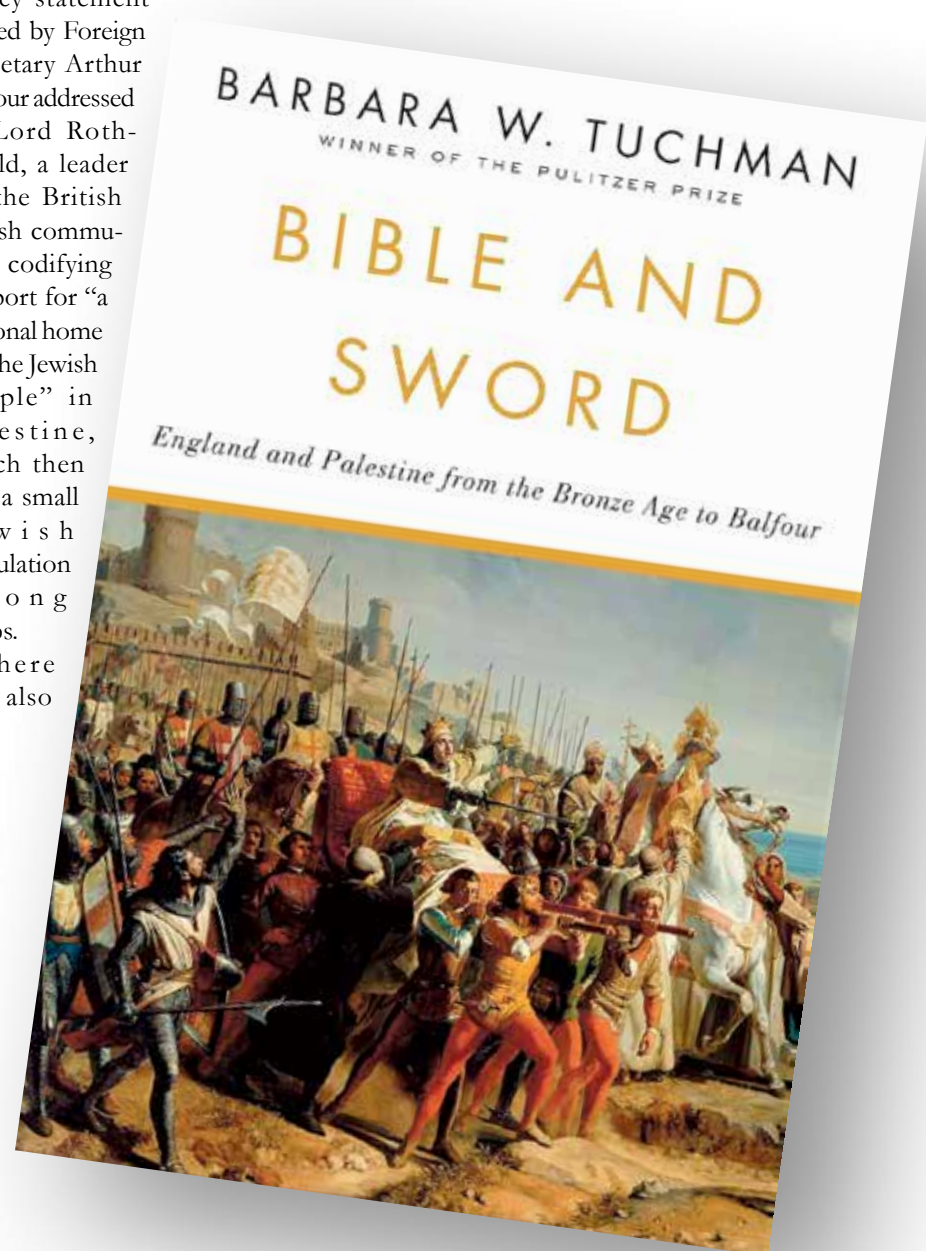
the matter of oil.

"The (British) Mandate, not the Balfour Declaration, gave a foothold in public law to the restoration of Israel in Palestine. ... The Mandate was an international engagement, signed and ratified by the Principal Allied Powers acting through the League of Nations."

However, "they were, in fact, caught in a trap of their own making."

After two decades of violence by and among British forces and Jewish and Arab rebels defending their homes, Britain abandoned Palestine in 1939, ending further Jewish immigration and the hope of a new national home.

Yet Tuchman could somehow also write of the new nation of modern Israel, founded in 1948: "But now that the original occupant has returned, perhaps the curse will run its course, and the most famous land in history may someday find peace." ■



PRINT AND ONLINE CALENDARS ARE UNDERWRITTEN BY A GRANT FROM THE ANGEL GUILD

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To add a listing for your event or find the latest details, visit www.keypennews.org/calendar

Dec 1 Washington Old Time Fiddlers Association 3:30 – 6 p.m., Crandall Center. All fiddlers, banjos, mandolins, guitars, and string basses are welcome to play.

Dec 2 Bird Walks 8:30 a.m., rain or shine. Meet nature guide Chris Rurik at Gateway Park pavilion.

Dec 2 Gig Harbor Art Walk 1 – 3 p.m., Downtown Gig Harbor. Celebrating creativity in the Harbor. Ebttide Gallery, Gallery Row, and Waters Edge Gallery.

Dec 2 Lighted Boat Parade 5 p.m., Filucy Bay. Longbranch Marina and Longbranch Improvement Club.

Dec 2 Santa Claus Visits 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., KP Volunteer Firefighters. Minter Creek Elementary.

Dec 2 Pier Into the Night 6 p.m., Jerisich Dock. Harbor WildWatch. Underwater divers livestream what they encounter below the surface.

Dec 2-3 Free Key Peninsula Holiday Shuttle Pierce County Transit. Visit www.piercecountywa.gov/8198 for the full schedule.

Dec 3 KeyPen It Merry 3– 6 p.m., Key Center Corral. Santa visits, cookie decorating, games, live music, and more. Sponsored by the Key Peninsula Business Association.

Dec 3 Letters to Santa 3 – 5:30 p.m. Key Center Corral. Hosted by Key Pen Parks and KP Fire Department.

Dec 4 Bingo! 1 – 2 p.m., The Mustard Seed Project.

Dec 5 Gig Harbor Literary Society 6 p.m., Harbor History Museum. "The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell" by Robert Dugoni.

Dec 6 Key Pen Book Club: An Hour of Coffee and Conversation 10 a.m., Key Center Library. "Quiet" by Susan Cain.

Dec 6 Cribbage Club 2 – 4 p.m., The

Mustard Seed Project. Everyone is welcome, no experience required.

Dec 7 Key Free Clinic 4:30 – 7 p.m. (check in from 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.) KPC Office in the KP Corral. No RSVP or appointment necessary.

Dec 8 Light up the Night: Saint Lucia Festival 5:30 – 7 p.m., Harbor History Museum. Crafts, games, and traditional Scandinavian snacks. \$5 per child.

Dec 9 Cookies with Mr. and Mrs. Claus 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Sehmel Homestead Park. Pictures with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, make-n-take holiday crafts, and take home cookie kits.

Dec 9-10 Free Key Peninsula Holiday Shuttle Pierce County Transit. Visit www.piercecountywa.gov/8198 for the full schedule.

Dec 9-10 Santa Claus Visits 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., KP Volunteer Firefighters. Dec. 9 Vaughn Elementary, Dec. 10 Evergreen Elementary.

Dec 12 TacomaProBono Legal Aid 1 – 3 p.m., The Mustard Seed Project. Free civil legal help.

Dec 12-13 Santa for Seniors 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., The Mustard Seed Project. For seniors living on the Key Peninsula. Call 253-884-9814 to reserve a spot.

Dec 14 KP Book Club 11 a.m., KP Historical Society. "Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood in Turbulent Iran" by Marjane Satrapi.

Dec 14 MultiCare WIC Program 12 – 4 p.m., Key Center Library. The WIC Clinic helps pregnant people, new and breastfeeding moms, and children under 5.

Dec 15 Baby Lounge 12 p.m., Key Peninsula Civic Center. A gathering for connection with other parents.

Dec 15 Penrose Point Beach Monitoring 10:30 p.m., Harbor WildWatch. Volunteers help collect data to monitor the health of local beaches. RSVP to stena@harborwildwatch.org.

Dec 15-16 Santa Claus Visits 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., KP Volunteer Firefighters. Dec. 15 KPCC Skate Night, Dec. 16 Lake Kathryn Shopping Center.

Dec 16 Book Talk with Graphic Novelist José Alaniz 2 – 3 p.m., Key Center Library. Graphic novelist Jose Alaniz will share his experience and advice about writing graphic novels.

Dec 16-17 Free Key Peninsula Holiday Shuttle Pierce County Transit. Visit www.piercecountywa.gov/8198 for the full schedule.

Dec 19 Hootenanny 2 – 4 p.m., The Mustard Seed Project. Folksong sing and play along.

Dec 19 Mystery Maker - Drop in Art and Science for Kids 3:30 – 5 p.m., Key Center Library. Drop-in art and science for kids.

Dec 20 Cribbage Club 2 – 4 p.m., The Mustard Seed Project. Everyone is welcome, no experience required.

Dec 21 Puppets Please 10:30 – 11 a.m., Key Center Library. Colorful marionettes perform a musical show.

Dec 23-24 Free Key Peninsula Holiday Shuttle Pierce County Transit. Visit www.piercecountywa.gov/8198 for the full schedule.

Dec 31 - Jan 1 Soundview Camp NYE Family Camp 24 hour camp to ring in the New Year. Register online at soundviewcamp.com.

Services, 253-884-4440. Flexibility and balance for those over 60.

M-W-F SAIL 10 a.m., The Mustard Seed Project, 253-884-9814. Stay Active and Independent for Life.

M-F Tai Ji Quan 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., The Mustard Seed Project. Exercise training program for improving balance and preventing falls.

Tuesday Friends of the Key Center Library Book Donations 1 – 3 p.m., Key Center Library.

T-W REFIT Workout Tue 6 p.m., Wed 5:30 p.m., WayPoint North, heartfitwp@gmail.com. Women's free fitness classes.

T-TH Toddler Indoor Park 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Key Peninsula Civic Center in the gym.

T-TH Tai Chi 9:45 a.m., KP Community Services, 253-884-4440.

T-TH-SA SAIL 8:30 a.m., KP Community Services, 253-884-4440. Flexibility and balance for those over 60.

Wednesday No Tears Tech Help 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Dec. 13, 20, 27. Key Center Library. Call the library to book an appointment, 253-548-3309.

Wednesday Gentle Yoga for Older Adults 11:15 a.m., The Mustard Seed Project, 253-884-9814.

Wednesday Chair Yoga 1 p.m., The Mustard Seed Project, 253-884-9814.

Thursday County Council Dist. 7 Constituent Office Hours 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Councilmember Robyn Denson and her staff. Contact 253-798-6654 for information.

Thursday Senior Bingo 1 p.m., first and third Thursdays, KP Community Services, 253-884-4440.

Thursday KP Toastmasters 8 a.m., WayPoint Church, 253-514-2836.

Friday Skate Night 6 – 9 p.m., Key

WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday Al-Anon Keys to Sanity 5 p.m., KP fire station. Family group.

Monday Yoga at the Civic Center 7 - 8 p.m., Key Peninsula Civic Center. Schedule classes online at the civic center website.

Monday REFIT Workout 7 p.m., WayPoint South, heartfitwp@gmail.com. Women's free fitness classes.

M-W Yoga at the Civic Center 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Key Peninsula Civic Center. Schedule classes online at the civic center website.

M-W SAIL 4 p.m., KP Community

Peninsula Civic Center, kindergarten-eighth grade. No skate night on Dec. 22 or 29.

Saturday Amateur Radio Club of Burley 9 – 11 a.m., located behind Burley Post Office at 14831 Burley Ave SE. <http://w7jq.org>

Saturday Community Boat Restoration Program 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Gig Harbor Boat Shop. Call (253) 857-9344 to register.

Sunday WayPoint Community Dinners 6 p.m. Free community dinners at WayPoint North and WayPoint South churches.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

26th LD Democrats First Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. , Meeting locations vary, check 26d.org for monthly updates.

Brunch First Mondays, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., The Mustard Seed Project. Open to the community, \$5 per person.

Caregiver Support Group Third Mondays, 2 p.m., The Mustard Seed Project.

Friends of the Key Center Library Board Meeting Third Fridays, 10:30 a.m., Brones Room of the Key Center Library.

Key Peninsula Advisory Commission Fourth Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. piercescountywa.gov/5937.

KP Business Association Luncheon. Third Fridays, noon at El Sombrero. kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com.

KP Business Association Business meeting. First Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. December meeting location Cost Less Pharmacy, kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com.

KP Community Council Second Wednesdays on Zoom, 6:30 p.m. keypencouncil@gmail.com.

KP Citizens Against Crime Third Thursdays, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Key Center fire station.

KP Civic Center Association Board meeting, second Thursdays, 7 – 8:30 p.m.,

Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center, 253-884-3456.

KP Democrats Third Mondays, 7 p.m., Home fire station, johnpatkelly@aol.com, 253-432-4256.

KP Emergency Prep Third Thursdays, 7 p.m., KP Civic Center, eprep@kpciviccenter.org.

KP Fire Regular Board Meeting Second and fourth Tuesdays, 5 p.m. on Zoom, keypeninsulafire.org, 253-884-2222.

KP Historical Society First Tuesdays, 11 a.m. at museum, kphsmuseum@gmail.com.

KP Lions Club First and third Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Potluck at Key Center fire station, 253-525-0802, keypeninsulalions@outlook.com.

Key Free Clinic First Thursdays, 4:30 – 7 p.m. (check in from 4:30 – 5 p.m.). KPC Office in the KC Corral.

Key Pen Parks Board of Commissioners Meeting. Second Mondays, 7 p.m., Home fire station, 253-884-9240.

KP Veterans First and third Mondays, 7 – 8 p.m., KP Lutheran Church, 253-884-2626.

Lakebay Fuchsia Society First Thursdays, 7 p.m. KP Civic Center, Whitmore Room, 253-884-2283.

Longbranch Improvement Club Second Wednesday (change for this month), 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Longbranch Improvement Club, 253-200-0308 or licweb.org.

Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition Second Wednesdays, 6 p.m., check pep-c.org for meeting location.

Peninsula School District Board Meeting First and second Tuesdays in December, 6 p.m. Swiftwater Elementary School.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Key Center Corral. Call 253-432-4948 for the schedule; Air Quality, Triple P, COVID-19, General HD, Water/Wells and Healthy Housing advice.

Light of the World Christmas Eve
@
WayPoint North WayPoint South

12719 134th Ave NW 2406 McEwan Rd
Gig Harbor 98329 Lakebay 98349
10a, 5p, 7p 9a, 11a, 5p, 6:30p

Happy Holidays!

Upcoming Events
Letters to Santa
 3:00pm - 5:30pm, Dec. 3rd
 @ Key Center Corral
WWW.KEYPENPARKS.COM/EVENTS

Rent a picnic shelter for your 2024 party, beginning on January 1st!

Sign up for our monthly newsletter!

Lakebay Community Church

Let us celebrate our Savior's birth!
Candles and Carols Christmas Eve
 Sunday, December 24, 6:30 p.m.

Worship Sundays 10 am, in-person and streaming
 11 Cornwall Road SW, Lakebay (253)884-3899
www.lakebaycovenant.net

LIC#MONTVE772D

MOUNTAIN VIEW EXCAVATION LLC

Where a handshake still means something.

EXCAVATION CLEARING DEMOLITION
 ROAD BUILDING DRAINAGE TREE SERVICE

253.514.2533
 Call owner Mark Schock

DOES YOUR RETIREMENT MATH ADD UP?

When it comes to retirement, it's all about the numbers—how much money you'll need and how much you're saving to get there. Find out your retirement numbers with this five-minute calculation. With the right information, you can move ahead and plan with confidence.

**Need your numbers?
 Contact us today to learn more.**

MKT-06070-0317 Tracking #1-819240 (Exp. 02/22)



TODD ROSENBACH
 Financial Consultant
 7901 Skansie Ave, Suite 210
 Gig Harbor WA 98335
 (253) 884-4787
todd.rosenbach@lpl.com
www.toddrosenbach.com

 **LPL Financial**

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment advisor. Member FINRA/SIPC.



DRIVE THRU FEED ON THE KEY


Order online for pickup or delivery:
www.drivethrufeedonthekey.com

Rewards bonus on every purchase. Large animal burial service. Complete selection of livestock feeds including XCel, Payback, Equis, Scratch and Peck, Haystack and Earth First brands. Wood pellets.

Call (253) 303-1260
 Open Tues-Sat 11 to 6, Sun 10 to 4 Closed Mon
 Veteran family owned & operated
 at 16915 121st St. NW/Hwy 302
 On Facebook @drivethrufeedonthekey



Thanks to all those who have donated to the Angel Guild. Donations are gratefully accepted Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30 to 3:30.



Open 10 to 4 Thursday-Saturday
 Donations accepted Tue-Sat 9:30-3:30
 Key Center Corral 253 884-9333

Exterior Painting

206-418-6667



- A 2nd generation, family owned and operated, full-service painting company.
- Four decades of experience.
- Located on the KP in Lakebay.
- Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce, and KP Business Association members.

NOW SCHEDULING 5% OFF SPRING 2024

www.paintrightpaintingwa.com

JUNK REMOVAL

Family Owned & Operated

- Dump runs
- Outbuildings demo / removal
- Clean outs

CALL OR TEXT: 206-418-6667
 License # PAINTPL826C6



STEPHEN HIGGINS (253) 549-9275
 *LICENSED, BONDED AND INSURED

- GENERAL CONTRACTOR
- KITCHEN AND BATH REMODEL SPECIALISTS
- INTERIOR/EXTERIOR REMODELS AND ADDITIONS
- CUSTOM DECKS, COVERED AREAS AND FENCES
- CONCRETE PATIOS & DRIVEWAYS
- HOMEOWNER BUILDER SERVICES
- PROJECT MANAGEMENT



Oliver Lystad
 General Manager/Lead Estimator
 Vaughn, WA 98394

Patios - Driveways - Stairs
 Retaining Walls - All Finishes

C 253.255.7012
oliver@lystadconstruction.com
www.lystadconstruction.com

Residential Commercial Building & Remodeling Concrete Flatwork & Foundation



Applebys
Plumbing
24-Hour
Emergency
Service Repair
PLUMBING & DRAIN CLEANING
(253) 370-2293
•Hot Water Heaters •Plumbing Services
•Repairs, Repipes, Remodels •Gas Lines
WA Cont. Lic. #APPLEPD077LD



★ AUTO ★ DIESEL ★ FARM ★ MARINE
Task Force 27
repairs & maintenance
your place or mine on the KP
253 358 9546



Wishing my good friends and former customers a Merry Christmas and the very best in 2024
Nita Garnier
Former owner of The Yankee Clipper
pissedoffpatriot@usa.com



EASEMENTS SITE PLANS
BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENTS
Aspen Land
Surveying LLC
253-303-0270
www.aspenland.com
Half a block east of the Key Center stoplight at The Landing

FREE ESTIMATES | 253.858.9907

SITE DEVELOPMENT	CUSTOM OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES
ARCHITECT DESIGN ENGINEERING	GARAGES ADU
CUSTOM HOMES	PATIOS DECKS
HOME RENOVATIONS ADDITIONS	SIDING ROOFING




GENERAL CONTRACTOR
LICENSED | BONDED | INSURED
WWW.RAINIERCONSTRUCTIONLLC.COM
RAINIERCONSTRUCTION RAINIC*840BV



Moran's Portable Restrooms LLC
(360) 994-9544
www.moransportablerestrooms.net
moransportablerestrooms@gmail.com

Call (253)851-9170 or Visit Today
12615 134th Ave. NW Between KP Hwy & Hwy 302



BAYSIDE ANIMAL LODGE, LTD.
Celebrating over 20 years on the Key Peninsula
Animal Care and Friendly Customer Service Our Specialties


Special Discount Packages
Kitchen Cabinet Paint & Stain
Interior/Exterior Paint & Stain
Door & Trim Package



JC PAINTING & REMODELING
(253) 225-9048 Over 25 years experience • Painting • Repair • Pressure Wash

PARAMOUNT FIREARMS
CURATORS OF FINE FIREARMS
We buy firearms and military edged weapons
I'll come to you
253 993-4101 Barry@paramountfirearms.com
Barry Bookman - licensed dealer

EXCAVATORS, TRACK LOADERS, SKID STEERS, MINI LOADERS, COMPACTION EQUIPMENT



I'm Bobcat Brent
I Deliver AWESOME
Want some?
text/call
253-345-8315
BrentPawson@peak-machinery.com
peak-machinery.com

PEAK MACHINERY
A Division of PEAK Industrial

\$\$\$CASH\$\$\$ 4 UNWANTED
CARS-TRUCKS-VANS
RUNNING OR NOT NO TITLE? NO PROBLEM!
WE DO THE PAPERWORK
CALL NOW FOR PICK-UP
253-222-2265

PERFECT EXCAVATION
general contractor
Clearing, Brush-Cutting,
Excavation, Grading,
Drainage Systems,
Retaining Walls & more!
(206)930-9043
www.perfectexcavation.com



BROOKSIDE VETERINARY HOSPITAL
TENDER LOVING CARE FOR ALL YOUR FAMILY PETS!

Justine Zingsheim-Nadeau, DVM
Lisa Woods-Zabari, DVM
Jaclyn Snyder, DVM
13701 118th Ave NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98329
253.857.7302
petfriends@brookvet.com
www.brookvet.com

GAF Certified



Rolfzen's
Lakebay's Roofing Specialist
GENERAL CONTRACTOR SINCE 1985
253-303-2171
ROLFZHS889KQ Chantel Rolfzen, Owner crolfzen@gmail.com

Equine, Livestock & Residential Fencing Since 1989
Warwick & Janice Bryant



KIWI FENCING COMPANY, Inc.
Custom Farm & Fence Solutions
13108 125th St NW 800-598-3374
Gig Harbor WA 98329 253-851-5494
www.kiwifencing.com fax 253-851-5550
#KIWIFC1055DA becky@kiwifencing.com

20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE BONDED & INSURED LICENSE #604203872



Site Prep/Clearing/Hauling
Grading & Excavation
Residential/Commercial
Logging/Tree & Stump Removal
Call for free estimate
253 649.9736
John Bassler Owner/Operator
downtodirtexcavation@gmail.com

Looking for new business?
Your business card here reaches
9,500 local customers every month
Call 253 884-4699 and get started.




KEY PENINSULA BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9 AM
FELLOWSHIP TIME 10:15-10:30
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30
WE MEET AT KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER IN VAUGHN
PASTOR PAUL JENSEN 253 353-2745
WWW.KPBFELLOWSHIP.ORG
FACEBOOK: KEYPENINSULABAPTISTFELLOWSHIP



TOP LEFT: Miss Brittany, the beautiful turkey who escaped before Thanksgiving dinner, found a new home at Heartwood Haven Sanctuary.

TOP RIGHT: A harbor seal loves fishing near the Minter Creek Fish Hatchery.

CENTER: Another glorious Key Peninsula fall. *Steve West*

BOTTOM LEFT: An eastern gray squirrel fully prepared for winter.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A female belted kingfisher at Minter Creek.

All photos by Tina McKail, KP News, except where indicated.

