



KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

July 2019 Vol. 46 No. 7

Red Barn Open for Summer Thanks to CHSW

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Plans to close the Red Barn Youth Center for the summer have been suspended since Children's Home Society of Washington has stepped into the breach to keep youth summer programs there open and operational.

Word traveled quickly in June as the KP community learned that leadership of the Red Barn Youth Center decided to close their doors to regular operations over the summer with the intention of reopening in the fall, following the Peninsula School District schedule.

Gina Cabbidu, in her first year as program manager for Children's Home Society of Washington-KP Family Resource Center in Vaughn, said she was surprised by the news and wondered what else was available and accessible for middle and high school age youth during summers on the KP.

A few inquiries delivered the hard truth: not much.

With little time to spare, CHSW stepped up to create a summer youth program to host both drop-in and scheduled activities at the Red Barn in a program they're calling "Key Kidz at the Red Barn."

"We saw the need and jumped into action right away to pull the funding and resources together," Cabbidu said. "By talking to community partners to create a community-led program, accessible and fun for our youth, we found the path forward together."

"Our board came together pretty quickly to approve the plan," Peter Hedin, president of the Red Barn board of directors said. The plan makes CHSW a summer tenant in July and August to deliver the youth programming that RBYC is not staffed to provide over the summer.

This is not the first summer RBYC struggled to remain open. It announced a summer closure in 2018 due to lack of operational funds, but remained open on a limited basis.

"Our experience was that our summer operation wasn't well attended," Hedin said. "We will be doing several RBYC events over the summer, just not on a daily basis."

Beginning July 1 through Aug. 23, the doors of the Red Barn will be open to youth Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

In partnership with KP School Bus Connects, Key Kidz at the Red Barn will have transportation available Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to and from the Red Barn for youth coming for the CHSW summer activities.

"We're happy to do whatever we can to support youth programming," said Marcia Harris, who coordinates the KP Bus Connects program under the fiscal umbrella of the KP Community Council. "I'm so pleased Gina and I could work together to make this happen quickly. Transportation makes a remarkable difference for youth on the KP."

Kids coming to the Red Barn can enjoy board games, billiards, foosball, basketball, water games, volleyball, art, and more throughout the day, including snacks. But that's only the beginning.

"We're crafting a schedule of fun and dynamic activities with local community members and organizations to be offered on-site," Cabbidu said. Community partners such as Key Peninsula Fire Department, Harbor WildWatch, and others will offer musical interactions, nature lessons, science experiments, health and wellness exercises, and more, she said.

"It's been a huge effort and we are still building the program minute by minute," Cabbidu said. "The youth out here deserve enrichment opportunities, the community can show off their passions and skills, and this incredible space can rise to the potential it was built for."

Former RBYC Executive Director Clint Rosson moved on from his post in mid-June but said he is proud of the accomplishments the organization achieved during his four years at the helm. "We finished the basketball court and finally opened the multipurpose room in time to celebrate Christmas 2018," he said.



Come as you are is the only etiquette for the patriotic pageant. Photo: Richard Miller, KP News

Homemade Parade Rides Again July 4

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

It is perhaps the most fitting legacy of the 19th century utopian, anarchist, skinny-dipping founders of Home Colony that their successors celebrate the founding of the nation with a Fourth of July parade that no one started, organized or advertised, which has nevertheless attracted a marching band that doesn't march (or play music), lawn-loving patriots on riding mowers, an assortment of decorated bicycles, strollers and livestock, and hundreds of onlookers every year for nearly three decades through nothing more than the ungovernable force of its own poetic momentum through time.

"People dressed up and walked around and waved flags and other people stared at us, that's how it started," said Bette McCord, a Lakebay resident since 1979. McCord is now the conductor of the perennial Peace Train float, a tie-dyed decorated wagon overflowing with tie-dyed children.

"There were also decorative goats," she said.

Leila Luginbill has lived on A Street along the parade route since 2011; her parents bought the house in 1979. "We have front row seats," she said. "Actually, it used to be that everybody was in the parade, so there was no one left to watch it."

Luginbill first marched in the parade sometime in the early 1990s, she said, but according to her mother, local historian Stella Retherford, it had been going on for at least a few years by then.

"Mother wanted to be in it, so we finally went. There were a few lawn tractors and an old car or two, and some ponies."

Luginbill's mother continued to march in the parade until she passed away in 2014. Luginbill has tried to keep up the tradition.

"I was in it a few years ago," she said. "My friend Ginger Lanier from down the way wanted to go dressed as a squid, and so I went as a squid wrangler."

CONTINUED PAGE 3

**"THERE WERE ALSO
DECORATIVE GOATS."**

Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN,
EXECUTIVE EDITOR, KP NEWS

An accidental summer guest flew in on a wing and quickly realized he'd made a big mistake. Like most startled birds, he instinctively flew upwards toward the blue patch visible through the skylight atop the second story of the house. That's where I cornered the bright yellow bird, cupping him gently between my hands, pulling him down from the window and into my chest.

Sneaking a peek between my fingers revealed this was no American goldfinch but rather a Wilson's warbler. Such a gentleman he was, no fussing or flapping between my palms, he waited patiently to meet his fate as I walked him outside to set him free.

Slowly opening my hands at eye level, instead of disappearing in a flash of yellow, the tiny warbler perched atop my index finger to regain his bearings. He turned his head towards my face long enough for me to watch his eyes blink several times. Giving me a quick upward nod of his head, he turned away and flew off.

Sometimes nature insists, comes inside and drags us out to enjoy and participate whether we want to or not.

We all need to unplug ourselves and walk away from the screen. Go to the park, go to the beach, bathe in the forest with a simple walk in the woods. Be still and quiet in your own backyard and let the constant demands of the outside world fall away for a bit. Simply being outside for a few hours listening to the sounds of nature and doing nothing will help to feel recharged.

The Key Peninsula is a summer playground with something for everyone.

Young, old and every age in between you'll find no shortage of fun things to do while reading this month's edition.

Fourth of July celebrations take place from morning till midnight, from one end of the KP to the other. It represents the only day of the year our dogs want no part in, thank you very much. We're guaranteed to have at least one big dog cowering shamefully in the relative safety of the bathroom while the rest of us white knuckle it through another night of celebratory bangs, booms, pops and squeals followed by oohs and aahs until everyone is satisfied or the money runs out.

Summer delivers opportunities to engage and connect with each other whether chatting away in line for an iced espresso, talking with parents while the kids play at the park, or sneaking into the nursery to take another look at that plant that caught your eye last week. We are by and large social creatures who end up gabbing about gardening, or laughing over the wild and whacky stuff for sale at the swap meet.

In the middle of all these good times, we have a number of upcoming local civic responsibilities to tend to. Remember all that freedom from tyranny we celebrate in July? Part of what came from that Declaration of Independence was the notion of democratic rule the citizens of the United States of America, generation after generation, have prided themselves on so greatly through the right to vote.

While our obsession with national poli-

tics may rule the day, do not doubt that local politics matters. It is the Peninsula School District board, the Key Pen Parks commissioners, and KP fire commissioners who make important policy decisions and essential hiring choices who oversee the largest budgets on the KP.

In this issue you'll have an opportunity to meet two local candidates running for the Peninsula School Board and to learn about the upcoming fire district emergency services levy. In August, you'll meet other candidates as well. Summer is a great time to seek these people out, talk to them and learn what they think. The beauty of living in a small community is being able to engage with candidates personally, to help guide your decisions when you cast a ballot in November.

First priority is August 6, the last day to cast your ballot for the EMS levy. No matter how you vote, what matters most of all is that you do.



[A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY]

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

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The KP News invites community information, concerns or complaints at editor@keypennews.org or 253-884-4699. You're invited to post public meetings or events on our calendar at keypennews.org.



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HOMEMADE PARADE FROM PAGE 1

Whatever its origins, the parade now traditionally begins at 10 a.m. on the Fourth of July at the intersection of A Street and the KP Highway. It ambles along A Street very slowly, gathering strength as passersby join the array of vintage vehicles and decorative goats escorted by children on bikes with flags taped to the handlebars and lawn tractors trailing red-white-and-blue streamers.

The parade reliably slows down at one spot on the route where The Dr. Roes Down Home Band and guests, often in uniform (though not the same uniform), belt out brass ballads with lots of percussion.

The Key Peninsula Fire Department is also well represented.

“We’ve got no problem staffing all the rigs with volunteers that day; last year we had five in the parade plus a full shift on duty,” said Volunteer Battalion Chief Anne Nesbit. “We always overstaff for the Fourth, though we tend to get more falls than fires.”

As the parade moves on, so too does the crowd, all ending up at the corner of A Street and the uphill turn to 10th Avenue, where they confront a formidable display of pancake flipping and sausage grilling, courtesy of Home residents Paul Gruver and brothers Gerald and Garry Schneider.

“Our first summer here was 2000 and there was a small parade, but at the end there used to be a lady there that handed out Popsicles, just as a way to say, ‘Thanks, we’re glad to have you.’ We thought that was a cool thing,” Gruver said.

“But it dawned on me that I really like this Key Peninsula community, this Home community, and I didn’t know of any other day of the year where the people of this little community would actually get together, get eyes on each other, and shake hands and tell each other stories and all that kind of stuff,” he said. “So, I floated the idea of pancakes and sausage to a couple of friends, and we decided that we would put on our pancake breakfast one year. It started small, 100, maybe 75, and last year we served over 450.”

Gruver, a retired Air Force brigadier general, organizes the complimentary breakfast with the two Schneiders: Gerald, a retired Air Force colonel and Garry, a retired Navy captain. They work with ten volunteers.

“I think this is going to be our 12th year,” he said.

“We love doing this. Home is just a funky, different place and I think the parade is a fun, funky thing that celebrates our nation’s birth but in a Home kind of way, and I think it’s just perfect.”



Above: William Michael Paul makes a rubbing of his fallen friend. Below: Paul at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall. Photos: Puget Sound Honor Flight

KP Vietnam Vet Takes Honor Flight to D.C.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

In May, William Michael Paul, 77, a Lake Minterwood resident for 19 years, became the latest KP Vietnam veteran flown by Puget Sound Honor Flight to visit memorials built to commemorate military service by a nation that has not always been as grateful as it might have been.

Paul, a retired engineer and professional actor, said “I’ve been blessed with movie credits, stage work, acting awards, speaking awards, but this was the most humbling experience of my life.”

The Honor Flight Network is a nationwide nonprofit organization created in 2005 to honor America’s veterans by transporting them free of charge to visit and reflect at the memorials in Washington, D.C. Over 200,000 vets have been flown to date.

“My husband and I got involved in 2013,” said Renee Peavey, until recently a longtime KP resident. After expressing interest in volunteering, Renee and Jim were encouraged to start their own Honor Flight hub in Western Washington, where 250 flight applications were languishing.

“So, we started a nonprofit, which neither one of us had done. We had our first board meeting in late 2013 and our first trip was that October. Since then we’ve made 24 trips and taken over 1,300 Western Washington veterans back to D.C.”

Renee is now co-director of Puget Sound Honor Flight, one of 130 such hubs across the country. It is an all-volunteer organization and the trips are completely free for veterans. “It’s all paid for by donations, VFWs, things like that, we get no federal funding,” she said. “You have to have worn the uniform of the U.S. military; that qualifies you to be on an honor flight.” Priority is given to World War II veterans, followed by Korea and Vietnam veterans.

Renee ran into Paul at a Gig Harbor military ball almost two years ago and invited him to apply for a flight.

“I thought, no, that’s for WWII vets, I was just a Vietnam vet,” Paul said. “She pointed out that less than 1 percent of the population joins

the military. I had no idea of that; being of a military mind I kind of thought everybody did. My whole family are Marines, Navy, Army—aunts, uncles and brothers—we’re all military. I just never gave it a thought.

“So, I did sign up,” he said.

Paul flew to D.C. in May on a plane mostly full of veterans and their companions and Honor Flight personnel.

“We make four trips a year and we take 112 people,” Renee said. “We have a partnership with Alaska Airlines, which has been very generous to us, so we get 112 of the 168 seats on the plane; it’s kind of like a charter. We pay for our tickets, Alaska gives us a discount and they give



us free food, free drinks, they decorate the departure gate and the arrival gate for a surprise homecoming with an honor guard. They’re amazing.”

It’s a three-day trip that includes a ceremony at the WWII memorial, visits to the Korea and Vietnam War memorials and other monuments, and the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

“I went as a blank slate because I didn’t know what to expect,” Paul said. “There wasn’t a soul that didn’t cry at some point. Lots of the WWII vets being recognized battled hard to get there, and most of them were in wheelchairs. Their stories really got me.”

More Vietnam vets are starting to apply for Honor Flight trips, Renee said, and she encourages them.

“It’s a different dynamic,” she said. “We’re taking some that are half skeptical, and then they have a great experience that helped maybe get a little closure. What’s happening is that the Vietnam War was so long ago that people are starting to forget. It’s just a new generation and when people, kids and such, see these guys out there in their caps and shirts, it reminds them they were there and they’re still here.”

“I’m a Marine,” Paul said, “so the Iwo Jima Memorial was very emotional for me, because I’m Native American and most Native Americans go into the Marine Corps because of the code talkers and because of Ira Hayes, the Native American who helped raise the flag at Iwo Jima, so that’s kind of our tradition.”

Paul served four years in the Marine Corps, deploying to Okinawa and Iwakuni, Japan, to provide air support for operations in Vietnam. He returned home in 1968.

In October 2018, Paul underwent surgery for Stage III kidney cancer, with a 50 percent chance of survival. He lost one kidney, then had a life-threatening battle with pneumonia. Renee had told him he had to be able to walk at least half a mile to be part of the Honor Flight trip. He started walking up and down his driveway, and then kept walking farther and farther. Six months later he was cancer free, and flew to D.C.

“I went to the Vietnam memorial, the wall,” he said. “I lost a friend and I rubbed his name, my friend John Sherman—we called him Jack—I made a rubbing of his name. Almost everybody there was rubbing a name. The whole spirit there was very, very emotional.

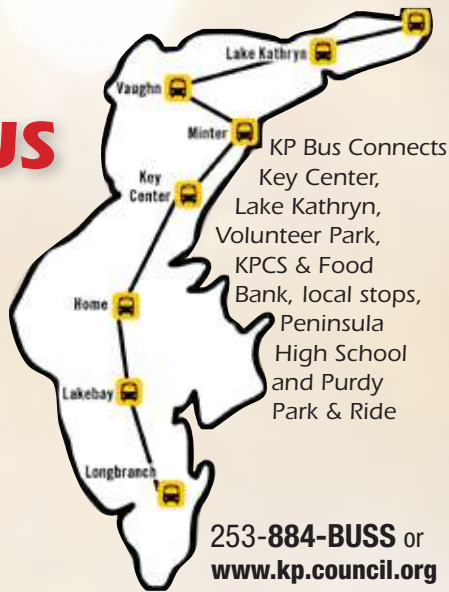
“There were a lot of tears, that’s all I can say.”

For more information go to pugetsound-honorflight.org

SUMMER SCHEDULE JULY 9 TO AUGUST 8

Summer's here!

KP SCHOOL BUS CONNECTS



TUES, WED & THURS AM ROUTE

- 7:56 SR302 & 140th Ave NW, Lake of the Woods
- 7:58 SR302 & 150th Ave NW, Lake Holiday
- 8:00 4 Corners/Drive Thru Feed/76 Station
- 8:01 Wright Bliss @104th St Ct NW
- 8:05 Food Market/Key Center
- 8:07 Volunteer Park
- 8:10 KP Hwy @ 167th Ave Ct NW
- 8:14 Home Gas Station KP Hwy North
- 8:15 KPCS Senior Center/Food Bank
- 8:20 Palmer Lake, 24th St SW, sunny side
- 8:25 Palmer Lake 21st St SW, shady side
- 8:35 Home Gas Station KP Hwy North
- 8:40 Volunteer Park
- 8:45 Food Market/Key Center
- 8:50 Lake Minterwood & 105th St Ct NW
- 8:52 Wright Bliss @ 104th St Ct NW
- 8:54 4 Corners/Drive Thru Feed/76 Station
- 8:56 SR302 & 140th Ave NW, Lake of the Woods
- 8:58 SR302 & 150th Ave NW, Lake Holiday
- 9:00 11612 SR 302/Charboneau's
- 9:08 Lake Kathryn Center @Cost Less
- 9:15 Purdy Park & Ride,connect with
Pierce Transit Route 100 at 9:30
- 9:20 Peninsula High School

TUES, WED & THURS PM ROUTE

- 3:35 Peninsula High School
- 3:38 Purdy Park & Ride, pickup from
Pierce Transit Route 100 at 3:32
- 3:43 Lake Kathryn Center @ Cost Less
- 3:45 11615 SR302/Windermere Realty
- 3:48 SR302 & 150th Ave NW, Lake Holiday
- 3:49 SR302 & 140th Ave NW, Lake of the Woods
- 3:52 4 Corners/Drive Thru Feed/76 Station
- 3:54 Wright Bliss @104th St Ct NW
- 4:00 Lake Minterwood & 105th St Ct NW
- 4:05 Food Market/Key Center
- 4:07 Volunteer Park
- 4:08 KP Hwy @167th Ave Ct NW
- 4:10 Home Gas Station, KP Hwy North
- 4:15 Palmer Lake, 24th St SW, sunny side
- 4:18 Palmer Lake 21st St SW, shady side
- 4:35 Volunteer Park
- 4:40 Food Market/Key Center
- 4:45 Lake Minterwood & 105th St Ct NW
- 4:50 Wright Bliss @ 104th St Ct NW
- 4:55 4 Corners/Drive Thru Feed/76 Station
- 5:00 SR302 & 150th Ave, Lake Holiday
- 5:05 SR302 & 140th, Lake of the Woods
- 5:15 Lake Kathryn Center @Cost Less

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Our facility and operations are funded entirely by our community through rentals, events, fundraisers, and our Annual Appeal Drive. Gold donation envelopes for our Annual Appeal Drive were inserted in the May KP News and we've already begun receiving generous contributions. **If you haven't already, please consider making a donation to support your local Civic Center!**

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Carolyn Wiley DEVIL'S HEAD DIARY



The Theory of Corpulent Polarity

To my knowledge, scientific inquiry into the topic of Corpulent Polarity is limited. My serious research began in the early 1980s, when it dawned on me that my weight was becoming exceedingly easy to observe, and my tennis game was affected. When moved vertically to return a high lob, my skeletal form would perform as usual but there was a delay in lift-off for the soft tissue.

Initially, diet and exercise seemed the way to go but when that produced disappointing results, I expanded my quest and remembered that matter—the physical substance of our world—exists. Matter can be altered but matter can neither be created nor destroyed. Hence, when a person loses weight, it is not really lost. Obviously, this unjust law of physics was affecting me.

Was it some form of magnetic force upon “lost” matter that mattered? This had to be an environmental problem affecting the atmosphere.

In my youth “bean-pole” and “rail”—as in “skinny as a”—were used to describe my less-than-Rubenesque physique. Weight had never been of concern to me. In a moment of contemplation, I realized that several neighbors had joined a weight loss program. They had “lost” the equivalent of an entire person. I had gained approximately one-third of that person.

What was acting on the “lost” matter?

After all, when you consider the effect of the moon’s gravitational pull on the liquid matter that constitutes the world’s oceans, it would seem reasonable that its first cousin, magnetism, would affect matter released into the atmosphere. Magnetism, like electricity, is magical—invisibly moving things through space and holding objects in suspension. It is a silent, powerful energy that is primarily known through observable effects of attracting and repelling forces.

For the less scholarly inclined, interest in magnetism dwindles as a passionate truth-seeking endeavor once one has tired of those magnetic draw-a-face toys of childhood.

But I was on the verge of a breakthrough. Something about the group of neighbors had caused a negative polarity that sent blasts of matter into the atmosphere. As a sole human unit, wandering through the neighborhood, I obviously had developed

a positive polarity. Polarity had to be the controlling factor in the redistribution of matter, and for that matter, corpulence.

That would explain why exercise, diet and fasting often have no effect in reversing mid-section expansion. The success or failure that a dieter experiences is not a matter of “will power,” as we have been fraudulently led to believe, it is a matter of corpulent polarity.

If you are lucky enough to be in negative polarity the weight will seemingly melt away. If you are in a positive polarity you are doomed to not just hold your own weight in stasis but also attract and retain the weight “lost” by others.

Further data is being analyzed to identify the exacerbating effects of electronic devices, rain, synthetic fibers and puffy vests upon one’s corpulent polarity. I am even now devising a mobile app for my smart phone to temporarily reverse my own positive polarity and instantly transfer excess matter onto those negatively polarized persons in the vicinity, but so far the effect has been temporary. Should my experiments succeed, however, those closest to me will be the first to know it.

Carolyn Wiley conducts her research in Longbranch.

Rob Vajko KEYTHOUGHTS



Lessons I’m Learning from Silas

Last fall my wife and I were approached by a good friend of ours who has a developmentally delayed (we shall henceforth refer to this as DD) son of 23. His name is Silas. His mother, Katherine, asked if we would consider hosting a house where he and two other DD young men would live semi-independent lives. Silas is highly functional. He takes the bus by himself, he has a part-time job at the YMCA and is generally pretty self-reliant. He just needs an occasional “guiding hand” in certain areas. After a lot of thought, discussion and prayer, Jody and I agreed to host and moved into a house in uptown Gig Harbor.

For now, Silas is the only resident. As soon as we find two other residents who fit in well and want to be here with us, our little “family” will grow and we will do life together. Silas moved in part-time with us in February and full-time in March.

Silas has taught us much in the short time we’ve lived together. Here are three things that I’ve learned from Silas.

Singing is really good for you. Silas does nothing halfway. He either could not care less about something or, if he does like

something, he’s all in. This is especially true of singing. When Silas sings, he gives it his all and he can often be heard downstairs (our living area is upstairs and the residents living area is downstairs) singing at the top of his lungs. He’s no Pavarotti but that doesn’t stop him; he sings as if he were. My wife recently told him how much she enjoys hearing him sing and that it makes her happy. Silas smiled and said “It makes me happy too!” And that’s the point—singing as if no one is around does make you happy. I think we should all do like Silas and sing out loud more often.

Laughter is good medicine. Silas loves old sitcoms like “All in the Family,” “The Jeffersons,” and “Golden Girls.” He watches them on YouTube on his laptop and you know when because you can hear him laughing. Like his singing, when Silas laughs, he laughs wholeheartedly. And his laughing is infectious. Jody and I have often found ourselves giggling simply listening to him laugh.

Don’t just be a spectator, participate. Silas doesn’t just laugh at the sitcoms he watches; he interacts with the characters. It is not unusual to hear him yelling at the computer screen something like, “I can’t believe that you did that! That would be sooooo embarrassing!” At first, I thought it odd; after all, the characters in the shows he’s watching can’t hear him or answer back, how silly to act as if they could. It occurred to me, however, that I do exactly the same thing when I’m watching football. Russell Wilson may not be able to hear me but that doesn’t keep me from yelling at him to scramble or hurry up and throw the ball, and that makes the game much more fun to watch. I suspect Silas enjoys the shows he watches all the more because he “participates” instead of just watching them.

I am certain that future columns will cover some of the other lessons Silas is teaching me, but for now I’m realizing that our “responsible adult” way of handling life might just benefit from becoming a little more like Silas. It isn’t easy, but I’m learning to be open to what Silas can teach me and I think I’m going to be a little richer for it.

Rob Vajko lives in Gig Harbor.

Curt Scott THE LONG VIEW



Drop, Cover, Hold

Because an earthquake could happen at any moment, a wise thing to know is what to do when that earthquake begins. Here are the first of nine steps that emergency management folks in the Pacific Northwest

recommend you learn and be ready to apply when you feel the shaking start.

When you enter any interior space from now on, your first duty to yourself and your loved ones is to decide if you will try to run outside or to remain in the room and find a place to get down, cover your head and hold onto until the shaking stops. Expect to be there for 30 to 45 seconds.

The question of whether to run outside or drop, cover and hold is, “Can I get outside in two seconds or less?” If not, use those precious two seconds to get under cover at the first sign of shaking.

Why the urgency? A strong earthquake (any earthquake above a 7.0 is strong enough), will toss things off shelves, table and counter tops with lots of force. You don’t want to be in the path of those objects. You need to get down fast and stay low as quickly as you can. The quicker the better.

Historical records show that a very strong earthquake of the 9.0 Richter scale variety—think megaquake—happens about every 300 to 500 years in our region. The Pacific Northwest Seismic Network, a group of scientists from a broad range of academic disciplines, discovered that the last great Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake occurred at 9 a.m. Tuesday, January 26, 1700.

These scientists looked back into 10,000 years of Pacific Northwest geological history along the coasts of Washington, Oregon and even up to British Columbia and down to Northern California. Because the last 9.0 quake occurred when there were no highways, roads, railroads, seaports, airports or any other kind of modern conveyance system for goods and services, only the indigenous people living in the PNW at the time knew of it. Their oral history recorded a tremendous earthquake six or seven generations before explorers from the eastern U.S. and Canada first arrived here in the early 1800s.

There was another group of people who also took notice. A very large tsunami traveled across the Pacific Ocean and struck the Japanese eastern coast line with enough force to cause a lot of damage and a lot of deaths. What brought that tsunami to the attention of the Japanese, who have kept meticulous records for about 1,000 years, was the lack of a corresponding Japanese earthquake.

The PNW seismic scientists, some of whom had studied seismic activity in Japan, concluded that such a large earthquake here would have very likely created a large tsunami on the Japanese

east coast. Knowing how fast a tsunami moves across the ocean—about 200 miles an hour—the scientists could calculate the exact year, month, day and time of the last CSZ 9.0 earthquake.

The subject can be frightening, even overwhelming. Just remember what to do when you walk into any interior room, because when the next big one hits, you will have only about two seconds to decide.

Curt Scott has a passion for survival and writes from Home.

Vicki Husted Biggs

A SHIFT IN PERSPECTIVE



Shifting Sand

Remember the last time you were wading at the shore in your bare feet, anticipating the next wave, letting the water rush over your toes and up your ankles and calves? There is a thrill to meeting the incoming waves, knowing each one will be different, wondering if you have judged its impact correctly. Your skin tingles with cold, particles of moving sand hit your legs, and the effect of wave action leaves you feeling more than slightly off balance. The sand shifts under your feet, while your body automatically makes adjustments to stay upright. As the wave retreats, pulling sand, shells, driftwood and pebbles with it, you brace yourself for the next one. A fresh wind blows your hair, while sea birds call out, and your lungs fill with salt air.

Sometimes our days feel like this, even when we are not at the shore. We get out of bed, plant our bare feet on the ground, and prepare for the inevitable sensory onslaught. You look forward to the rush of the first morning coffee and your new favorite breakfast treat. The morning quiet is broken only by birds and dogs, and the neighbor's chickens proudly announcing that their work is done for the day. You consider what to wear and what to pack in your lunch. You anticipate a productive business meeting. It is enough, manageable and mostly pleasant.

Then, it happens again, the thing you have come to dread. You turn on the morning news. You feel the sand shifting under your feet. You wonder if you will be able to maintain your stability because yesterday's news cycle is once again pulling you into a roiling sea of whitecaps. In addition, there is a completely new tale unfolding for today's news cycle. You recall you had this same feeling last week, but the particulars

of the situation or the people involved are now a little fuzzy. You leave the newscast feeling overwhelmed, numb, outraged and depressed all at the same time. Be assured, you are not alone.

How do we maintain our equilibrium in a world of shifting sand? Our time of political and cultural change is proving difficult to navigate, no matter what your beliefs are. The cultural landscape is a shapeshifting rollercoaster fueled by social media and a younger generation coming into their own. This is not to say that change is bad, it simply seems overmuch.

According to chaos theory, change happens in the space between order and disorder, until a new balance is struck. Perhaps that is where we are now, in the space where the change happens. While we are actively working through this process, how do we keep ourselves from going numb?

For one thing, it can be helpful to know that people are influenced by something called negative bias. People are much more likely to recall memories of negative events and to view current events through a prism of negative thinking. Bombarded as we are by news, we can only take in so much information. To cope, our brains filter this down to the most dramatic, what it thinks we need to pay attention to. This leads to a more stressful impression of the world. Events can appear more fearful, larger, urgent or more generalized than if we take some time to critically think about the information. Challenge your own first impressions.

In spite of what we think we know about the state of the world, there are many things to celebrate, things that can feed our souls and give us hope. For example, every day 200,000 people move above the extreme poverty line of \$2 a day, and each day 300,000 more people in developing countries receive a regular supply of clean water and electricity. For successful good news locally, I have only to glance from my car as I drive past our new Gateway Park, beautifully planned and filled with families.

The fact that we are alive necessitates engagement with the world. We try to keep up with events near and far, pay attention to trends and make decisions about where to place our personal energy every day. Given all our choices, it can be an unbalanced life. Be sure to look for the good news each day. It's there. Looking at the big picture, and taking a long view, can help us ride the shifting sands of our everyday lives.

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

OBITUARIES



Dorothy Bouvia Lusby

Dorothy Bouvia Lusby died June 3 at Comfort Haven Adult Family Home in Midland, Washington. She was 108 years old.

Born Dorothy Mary Keck March 13, 1911 in Biggsville, Illinois, Dorothy graduated from Monmouth College in 1933. She taught English for five years in Illinois followed by two years at Vaughn Union High School on the Key Peninsula, and then for another 23 years at Peninsula High School.

In 1936, Dorothy married Robert Bouvia in Fulton, Illinois. After his death, she married Gordon W. Lusby in 1965. Gordon died in 1995.

She became a world traveler after retiring from teaching in 1971 and visited China, Spain, Russia, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Scandinavia and many other places. She enjoyed oil painting and original composition, crochet, reading and journaling, and singing in local groups.

Dorothy attended almost every Peninsula High School reunion she was invited to over the years, and came to many lunches with PHS alums. Each March her birthday was celebrated at those lunches, the last one being when she turned 106.

She is survived by her son Brian R. Bouvia (Gail), grandsons Ian Bouvia (Sutathip) of Kent, Brendan Bouvia of Wauna and Erron Bouvia of Tacoma; great-grandchildren Jordan Stephanie Marguerite Bouvia, both of Wauna; stepchildren Eldon Lusby (Diana) and Gary Lusby (Karen); step-grandchildren Sara Mayo of New York, Mike Cawthon, Erin Lusby, Devon Lusby and Heather Brunkow (Rob), niece Jere Litwiler of Illinois, nephew Bill Fergusson (Martha) of California, and sister-in-law Marion Keck of Illinois.

A memorial service will be scheduled at Skyline Presbyterian Church in Tacoma in July. Dorothy asked that contributions be given to the Shriners Hospital for Children in honor of Manfred Keck, her deceased nephew of California.



Donald Wayne Mills

Donald Wayne Mills, born February 27, 1935, died peacefully at his fifth-generation family home June 4, 2019. He was the grandson of Helen and Dominic Mills, a pioneer family of the Key Peninsula, and son of Bertha and Theodore Mills.

Don never met a stranger in his life. Gregarious, fun-loving and witty, he was a loving husband, father and grandfather who gave generously of himself to the community that was so important to him.

He was proud of his eight years of U.S. Navy service after graduating from Peninsula High School in 1953. His first job was logging in the Olympic Mountains and Alaska, and his career as a journeyman master electrician spanned more than 50 years, including ownership of Penelco, Inc. He influenced the lives of many through Boy Scouts of America, the Peninsula Athletic Association, and by development of Volunteer Park as a charter Key Pen Parks Commissioner. He served the Key Peninsula Civic Center for many years as a volunteer and past president. A volunteer firefighter for over 20 years, Don retired as the last volunteer fire chief for Key Peninsula Fire District 16. He was a 50-plus year member of the Elks, the KP Historical Society, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and National Rifle Association. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, boating, hiking in his beloved Olympic Mountains,

CONTINUED PAGE 9



Artworks and artifacts await the intrepid swap meet connoisseur. Right: Bob Wilkins brandishes one of his many exotic but highly affordable treasures. Photos: Krisa Bruemmer, KP News

Trinkets and Treasures at the KP Swap Meet

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula Swap Meet kicked off its ninth year in May and will run through the end of August in front of Lake Kathryn Village.

Bob Wilkins, the host who took over from former hosts Joe and Stephanie Zambini two years ago, said the swap meet began as “three or four of us that didn’t want to have a garage sale at our house.”

“It’s grown quite a bit,” Wilkins said. “Now we get all the traffic going by that sees the tents so they know what’s going on.”

“We’ve got 20 regular vendors that buy a season pass,” he said. “That commits them to the 16 weeks we’re open during the summer, at quite a reduced rate actually.”

Wilkins said people often ask why there is a charge to set up at the swap meet. “For our convenience and the customers, we have a port-a-potty over by the tree there. So that’s a monthly fee.” Wilkins said additional costs include rent paid to Don Zimmerman, who owns the complex, liability insurance, overnight security and a Pierce County permit. “I need about two to three thousand dollars before we even open.”

At 6 a.m. every Saturday and Sunday, Wilkins opens the gate and vendors trickle in, driving jam-packed cars and trucks, some towing trailers. One vendor unloads items from an old school bus. In the hours leading up to 9 a.m. when the swap meet opens, tables and blankets fill to overflowing with guitars, glassware, old coins, jewelry, animal skulls, antiques, trinkets and treasures.

“My big seller is what I call rusty gold. It’s yard art that’s rusty,” Wilkins said. “And I get odd things and people buy them. They like

odd things.” Wilkins buys stuff at garage sales to resell and sells items from his own collection. “I’ve got 5 acres with a 1920 farmhouse on it and I’ve been there since ’82, so over the years I’ve collected stuff and I bring it down here. People my age come through my booth and they go, ‘I remember that...’. I had a copper wash tub, a scooter from the 30s. Every tool you can imagine.”

“Here’s the oddball stuff,” he said, holding up a wooden paddle with “Parrothead” carved across it and a realistic human skull attached to the handle. “You know Jimmy Buffet, right?”

“For me it’s for fun,” Wilkins said. “I mean, after nine years, we’re a family. We call each other up and we help each other set up our tents and everything. We’re all retired, those of us that have been here a long time, so it’s something to do on the weekends. Keeps us out of trouble.”

Bill Luke carves art from salvaged wood and stone. “The neighbors chopped down some cedar trees and they said, ‘If you want them, you better get them out of here because they’re going in the burn pile,’” he said.

Pointing at a tall carved bear priced at \$325, Luke said, “This is one of them here. By the time I’m done, I’ve probably got about three bucks an hour.”

At Our Closet, a mobile clothing shop run by Leslie Mays, “People can pick up a pair of kids’ shoes for five bucks,” said Mays’s mom, Susi Morgan, who sells LuLaRoe clothing one stall over. “Leslie gets second-hand clothes, and some of it’s even brand new with tags on it, then she’s able to sell it to people at a good price.”

Earlier in the season, Wilkins donated a

space to local Boy Scout Troop 220. “The whole troop’s dads cleaned out their garages,” Wilkins said. “They raised \$1,000 in one day.”

“I like to keep six or so spots for the KP people that want to do something on the weekends instead of having a garage sale at their house,” Wilkins said. “I had an opportunity to fill up with Star Lite drive-in transferees but to me, this is a community

garage sale, and a swap meet. And I want to keep it community.”

“Anybody that needs a space,” Wilkins said, “I’ll find space for them.”

The Key Peninsula Swap meet is in Lake Kathryn Village. Open Saturdays 9 to 5 and Sundays 9 to 3 through August 25.

Editor’s note: Bob Wilkins is a member of the KP News Publishing Board.

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OBITUARIES, FROM PAGE 7

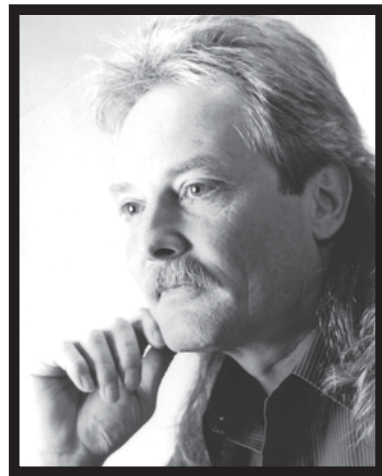
and crafting beautiful carpentry pieces. He completed all projects with great skill, and his gentle kindness and patience will be remembered.

Don is survived by his wife Judy of 57 years. Together they raised sons Matthew (Lisa), Michael (Kris) and Martin (Robin), and had seven grandchildren, Kelson, Mackenzie, Gabriel, Zachary, Ruby, Bailey and Sawyer. His son Michael was waiting to greet Don as he left this life. Don is also survived by his sister Lynn; sister-in-law Jane Glundberg; nephew Blake Glundberg (Janna and children Loki, William and Smith); and niece Melissa Dixon (Brian).

Special thanks for the loving care of friend Nadine and the Franciscan hospice team of Rachel, Sandy, Amy, Chris, Eileen and Karen.

The family will gather for a private farewell. Please leave memories at www.funeralalternatives.org.

Memorial donations may be made to the Key Peninsula Historical Society in support of the Vaughn Library Hall restoration project: KPHS, 17010 South Vaughn Road NW, Vaughn, WA 98394 or www.keypeninsulamuseum.org.



Randolph (Randy) James Viers

Born Randolph James Viers, Aug. 17, 1944, to parents Ray and Marjorie Viers in North Hollywood, California, Randy died Dec. 10, 2018, at Hospice House in Tacoma surrounded by his loving family and dear friends, following a brief battle with liver disease.

Randy grew up in Riverside, California, where he attended Catholic school. A professional musician from age 15, he recorded with The Routers and The Marketts in the 1960s and starred in the 1964 movie "Surf Party."

By 1974 Randy and his wife Marlyce moved their family to the Key Peninsula. He later directed and produced at Channel 13-KTVW, where he hosted "Rock-a-Go-Go" and played drums with many local

and famous musicians on both sides of the bridge. He loved playing worship music with his sons in local churches. His musical career came full circle in 2015 when he was honored with an award for his contributions to the creation of instrumental surf.

Ordained as a minister in 1978, Randy officiated over 100 weddings, baptisms and several funerals. He literally baptized and married generations of families.

Randy earned his Bachelor of Science in 2002 and his master's degree in chemical dependency counseling in 2004. He began working in the field in 1993 and retired from Olalla Guest Lodge in 2012 as director of clinical operations. Randy went on to work as a counselor and case manager for the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs in Retsil, retiring in 2015. He accepted the position of mentor coordinator with the Veterans Treatment Court in Kitsap County and retired permanently a year later in 2016.

Randy loved helping people and was an active volunteer for many years. He volunteered on the Peninsula Work Release-Department of Corrections; the Olympic College Advisory Board; Key Peninsula Community Accountability Board-Department of Corrections; Key Peninsula Crime Prevention Committee; Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club; the Association of Alcohol Professionals; and Hope Recovery Center.

Randy is survived by his wife of 52 years, Marlyce, three sons, Greg, Jimmie (Debi) and Gary (Lorraine); six grandchildren, Marty, Sandy, Amy, Molly, Zildjian and Sabian; four great grandchildren, Sebastian, Aurora, Mabel and Brandon; eight siblings, Ray, Dennis (Kris), Renee (Dennis), Kathy (Joe), Patty (Jim), Michael (Suzanne), Coleen, Mark; and numerous nieces and nephews plus extended family.

There will be a celebration of Randy's life at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn July 27 at 1 p.m. Please join us to honor his memory.

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KPHS board members Bart Wolfe, Judy Mills and Paul Michaels have been leading the restoration of the historic Vaughn Library Hall. *Photo: Joseph Pentheroudakis, KP News*

Vaughn Library Hall Restoration Underway

JOSEPH PENTHEROUDAKIS, KP NEWS

The passage of time is not always kind to old buildings. They may be permanently altered or torn down and replaced to suit the needs of new owners; abandoned and left to die from neglect; they may fall victim to fires or other disasters. And even when buildings manage to survive, their stories and those of the generations that built them and lived, worked or played in them can easily be lost forever in the tug of war between past and present.

The Vaughn Library Hall being restored by the Key Peninsula Historical Society is an exception.

The last remaining of the many library and meeting halls that dotted the Key Peninsula for decades starting in the late 1800s, the Vaughn Library Hall was built around 1895 and was in continuous use until 1956. The original building and its later additions have weathered the decades relatively intact.

In 1956 the library became a part of the Pierce County Library System and by 1957 it had moved to the high school in Vaughn (now the KP Civic Center). The hall was then sold to Harmon Van Slyke, Sr. and was used as a private residence until the death of its last occupant in 2012, Jerry Wolniewicz, Van Slyke's grandson.

In 2016 Wolniewicz's sister Donna

Docken offered to donate the building to the KPHS. Board president Judy Mills saw a rare opportunity to breathe life back into an historic building. "The hall was a grand lady and deserves to hear the voices of Key Peninsula families enjoying her spaces again," Mills said.

A group of community volunteers under the direction of KPHS board member Paul Michaels undertook the cleanup. "There was a lot to do," Michaels said. "The interior was in some rooms knee-deep with furniture, junk and trash." Working once a week for a couple of years, the crew saved historically significant artifacts while also taking 60 truckloads to the dump for recycling or disposal.

About that time, Michaels met Bart Wolfe, a retired architect who had worked on historic restoration projects in California. "We immediately grabbed him for our team," Michaels said. "His knowledge of building construction guided us in dismantling interior walls with confidence that we would not harm the integrity of the building."

Wolfe is impressed with the quality of the hall's construction and design. "This is a very good example of vernacular architecture," he said. "Even though there were no architects or engineers involved, they

created a strong and stable building that was visible from the water and was very usable inside. When they added on to it, they did so in a way that didn't look like patchwork. The building was built well and was maintained well."

The private owners made several alterations over the years but kept the original structure of the building intact. Interior

walls were added to subdivide the space; windows and exterior walls were covered with plywood.

Michaels, Wolfe and their crew of volunteers have been removing those added elements, revealing original design and structural elements and offering clues about the hall's early appearance.

The hall is well documented in historical photographs in the museum's archives. The original hall had consisted of a single room, used for meetings, dances or other community events; the library's bookshelves occupied an area in the corner. "We have a lot of records of both the interior and exterior finishes," Wolfe says. "That's exciting, since we can now finish this in a historically accurate way."

Wolfe points to the windows that were exposed once the plywood covering them was taken off. "You can even see what color they were," he said. "We have

(black and white) pictures of the original windows so we know what they looked like and what size they were. That means we can replicate them perfectly."

As of 2017 the hall is on Pierce County's Register of Historic Places (see "Vaughn Library Hall Achieves Historic Landmark Status," Key Peninsula News, Dec. 2017). In 2018 the state Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation designated it a Historic Building, which qualifies the Vaughn Library Hall to apply for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, allowing it in turn to apply for federal grant reimbursement funding.

By January 2019 the KPHS had obtained a building permit and secured enough funding to plan construction repairing the foundation and the exterior wall framing and adding a wheelchair-accessible ramp. Work has been underway since March, performed by Chuck West Construction and Contracting.

"Restoring this is a large effort, both dollar- and timewise," Wolfe said. "Once we finish the ADA ramp and get the outside stabilized, we can focus on finishing the library itself, since that room stands alone and construction in the rest of the building can continue."

The Vaughn Library Hall is at the intersection of Hall and Van Slyke roads in Vaughn. For more information on the restoration or to donate, visit keypeninsulamuseum.org

"THE HALL WAS A GRAND LADY AND DESERVES TO HEAR THE VOICES OF KEY PENINSULA FAMILIES ENJOYING HER SPACES AGAIN."

VAUGHN LIBRARY HALL CHRONOLOGY

1887: Van Slyke family arrives in Vaughn from Yates Center, Kansas.

1889: The Bowery, a dance floor decorated with tree boughs, is built that spring on Alfred Van Slyke's property. The library hall would later occupy the site of the Bowery.

1889: Harry and Julia Coblentz, friends of the Van Slykes, arrive in Vaughn. The Coblentzes purchase land from Alfred Van Slyke; the land includes the future library site.

1892: Vaughn Bay Public Library Association is formed; library is located at the general store and post office.

1894: Harry and Julia Coblentz deed parcel to the library association for \$1. Construction of a one-room combined meeting and library hall on the former dance floor site, which may have begun in 1893, is completed. The library occupies part of the room.

ca. 1910: Hall is expanded with the addition of a stage and dressing rooms.

1926: A separate room is added for the library, which has outgrown its corner of the meeting hall. The library now has its own entry from the road. A kitchen is also added to the hall at this time, and a basement is dug out.

1956: Library moves to the high school in Vaughn (now KP Civic Center), becomes part of the Pierce County library system. Many books are left in the old hall.

1957: Vaughn Bay Public Library Association quitclaims the property to Harmon Van Slyke, Sr. for \$600. The hall is converted to a private residence, but the original structure remains unchanged.

2012: Jerry Wolniewicz, Harmon Van Slyke's grandson and last occupant of the house, dies. Wolniewicz's sister Donna Docken inherits the property.

2015: Docken offers to donate the property to the Key Peninsula Historical Society.

2016: KPMS board (Judy Mills, president) accepts the donation. Cleanup begins.

2017: Pierce County Council unanimously adds the hall to the county's Register of Historic Places.

2018: State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation unanimously designates the hall a Historic Building.

2019: Building permit obtained; restoration work begins.

Sources: R. T. Arledge, "Early Days of the Key Peninsula"; Pierce County archives; Key Peninsula Historical Society



Winners from left: Deven Loska, Grace Nesbit and Mia Stitt with KPMS teacher Vicky Schauer. Photo: Anne Nesbit

Local Students Win Regional Art Competitions

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

In recent weeks, four Key Peninsula Middle School students, Madison Robbins, Deven Loska, Grace Nesbit and Mia Stitt, received honors for their creative photography and filmmaking skills in two regional contests.

Madison Robbins, an eighth grader at KPMS, won third place in her age group for a photo submitted to Pierce County Library's Our Own Expressions contest for teens. Her photo of a dock at sunset was snapped near Point Defiance. "I didn't expect to win," Madison said. But after a teacher suggested entering the contest, "I thought why not?" she said.

Madison's mom, Danielle Robbins, said her daughter has always been artistic, fond of writing and drawing, but in the past year or two photography also captured her interest. After receiving a camera as a Christmas gift, Madison took the photo while out walking. "I encouraged her to enter. It's her first contest. It gave her validation," Robbins said.

Pierce County Library created Our Own Expressions with teens like Madison in mind. "The contest began with writing, then expanded to art and photography," said Mary Getchell, marketing and communications director for Pierce County Library. "Photography is important to students to express their creativity."

This spring, KPMS teacher Vicky Schauer taught her class about the Holocaust as part of the eighth-grade curric-

ulum. Afterward, students were assigned to research more about the lives of the individuals in the books they had read.

This inspired eighth-grader Deven Loska to draw portraits of several Holocaust survivors. Her work earned her Honorable Mention in the Writing, Art & Film Contest at the Holocaust Center for Humanity in Seattle.

Classmates Grace Nesbit and Mia Stitt responded to what they learned in Schauer's class by producing a brief documentary film telling the story of Carla Peperzak. Peperzak, a Dutch resistance fighter, disguised herself as a German nurse to rescue Jews from trains, found hiding places for those who managed to escape, published an underground newspaper, and created fake identification papers and ration cards. The eighth-graders' film received first place for their age group in the Holocaust Center contest.

Creating a documentary went far above and beyond the class assignment. "We went to Mrs. Schauer's room every day at lunch for two weeks to work on it," Grace said.

"Mrs. Schauer helped us a lot. She helped outline each slide and helped with the filming we were doing. She connected us with other teachers. We couldn't have done it without her," Mia said.

Schauer, who has taught Key Peninsula eighth graders about the Holocaust since 2007, was happy to help. "When Grace and Mia came to me with an idea for entering a film, I was thrilled. We spent many hours storyboarding, shooting scenes, writing

scripts and learning more about the subject of their film. Then we reached out to resources such as Garrett Morrow (KPF 16 Fire Chief Morrow's 19-year-old son), to help edit, teacher Gary Alsin to help with the graphics, and teacher Richard Miller to compress the film file. As this whole production took place during state testing, it was very challenging to meet our deadline. They persisted. Just like the subject of their film," Schauer said.

The film ends with a scene of soldiers in boots transforming to feet of students walking down a school hallway. "We wanted to take the idea of the Holocaust

and compare it to something today. Bullies single people out. We wanted to show that it is really quite similar," Grace said. "The message is that one voice can change things. Standing up can have an impact."

The event served a dual purpose of honoring winners and celebrating the signing of a new bill in the Washington Legislature that supports Holocaust education. A Holocaust survivor oversaw the ceremony and gave the KPMS students their award. "Henry Friedman was Master of Ceremonies and presented the award to the students, and also autographed copies of his new book for the students. Mia and Grace then were allowed to screen their film. The girls were fantastic representatives of all of our eighth-grade students," Schauer said.

Having the students' work acknowledged by a person who had lived through the Holocaust himself was a highlight of the experience. "It was absolutely a once in a lifetime opportunity. It was a beautiful ceremony with an audience full of Holocaust survivors and their family members. Mia and Grace's video was shown and they both gave brief speeches," Mia's mother Beth Stitt said.

For Grace's mother, Anne Nesbit, the connections the students made between history and the world around them was crucial. "I am proud that they tied their message to bullying and emphasized that just one person can make a difference. The fact that young people have a voice and that the Holocaust Center for Humanity acknowledged them was not lost," she said.



Ellie Rose Kienast, 2, adds her seal of approval. Photo: Krisa Bruemmer, KP News

New Playground at Volunteer Park

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

There is a new playground at Volunteer Park and the kids love it.

The new play structure has multiple slides, monkey bars, a climbing bridge, a tunnel with peek-a-boo holes, ladders, lots of places to climb and more. In addition to the main play structure, kids can climb up the sides of the axis spinner or sit inside where it spins around.

“It’s good,” said Colton Kienast, 4, playing there with his younger sister and preschool friends on a sunny Friday afternoon. Pointing at a swirling green plastic megaphone that looks like something out of a Dr. Seuss book, Colton added, “I can talk to sea monsters through there.”

“It’s fun,” said Finley Cassidy, 4, making a monster face before sprinting a lap around the woodchip-filled play area and making his way up the main play structure.

“I love it!” said Hattie Wyrick, 5. “I liked jumping up to the monkey bars.” Hattie’s 2-year-old brother Graeme said he likes the new playground but had the most fun on the swings on the opposite side of the park.

“We sought and got input from the public,” Key Pen Parks Commissioner Mark Michel said. “Most of the labor was in-house, which saved us a ton of money.”

“The cost of the equipment, site preparation, retaining wall and engineered wood fiber was \$76,000,” Key Pen Parks Executive Director Scott Gallacher said. “We had parks staff install the equipment as the vendor could not meet our timeline for installation, which is not included in that figure.”

Key Pen Parks reused the green and yellow Spring Fling and purchased the Spinner Axis and main play structure from

commercial playground equipment manufacturer GameTime.

In addition to the new playground, 20-acre Volunteer Park offers softball fields, a skate park, half-court basketball, a swing set, horseshoe pits, a 9-hole disc golf course, a quarter-mile ADA paved walking trail, forested trails, and an outdoor concert area where Cinema Under the Stars movies will be shown on Fridays in August. The park also has picnic areas, including a picnic shelter that is available to rent. Food is available for purchase at The Snack Shack concessions stand. The Key Pen Parks office is also located at Volunteer Park.

“The new playground is one I would have enjoyed when I was a kid,” said Veronica Grandt, who coordinates events for Key Pen Parks and runs their Popsicles in the Park program. “We have had more kids playing on the playground here at Volunteer Park since its completion.”

“It is nice to hear children and parents enjoying the new equipment,” Gallacher said. “We have had a desire to replace the older equipment for a number of years, but it really gained traction in late 2017 after Gateway Park opened up.”

Vanessa Lentricia, who has a 3-year-old daughter, said she appreciates having a playground with a place to purchase snacks or lunch nearby. “It’s great they’ve got the picnic benches and they’re shaded,” she said. “It’s not crowded and there are all the trees. We love it!”

“I liked running around being a sea monster at that park,” Colton told his mom, CrystalAnn Kienast, at the end of their day. “And the Snack Shack is right there to get yummy ice cream.”

Volunteer Park is located at 5514 Key Peninsula Highway NW in Lakebay.

Back to the Drawing Board for Hope Recovery Center

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

After hearing arguments from lawyers for both Hope Recovery Center and No On HRC June 5, Pierce County Hearing Examiner Stephen Causseaux, Jr. ruled that Pierce County’s classification of HRC as a cultural center in its application for a conditional use permit was flawed and referred the matter back to county planners for reclassification, halting—or at least slowing—progress on HRC for the present.

Pierce County Planning and Land Services (PALS) staff issued a March 15 Determination Letter stating the best fit for HRC was as a Community and Cultural Services Level 3 use type in the rural residential 10-acre zone (R-10) located at 4706 Key Peninsula Highway NW in Lakebay.

No On HRC, a group of KP residents opposed to the proposed site, filed an appeal of the county’s administrative determination March 28 through their attorney, Ben Cushman of Deschutes Law Group, PLLC. The appellant contended that PALS improperly applied the zoning classification to HRC’s proposed conditional land use permit when it said the closest fit for the HRC proposal was as a community and cultural service center instead of a health care facility.

Matthew Sweeney, an attorney for HRC, argued that county staff considered the size, scale and impact of the facility to determine it would most closely match the Community and Cultural Services Level 3, which conditionally allows structures up to 30,000 square feet in R-10 zones and conditional uses such as homeless shelters.

“The group home use type includes chemical and alcohol rehabilitation facilities and has no upper limits regarding the number of residents or the size of the structure in the code defined as seven or more people,” Sweeney wrote in his summary of argument submitted to the hearing examiner.

“HRC is a residential treatment facility serving a special needs population of people with drug and alcohol addictive disorders,” Sweeney said. “Group homes are conditionally allowed in pretty much every residential category, both urban and rural, throughout the county.”

Cushman, representing No On HRC,

asked Ty Booth, senior planner for Pierce County Department of Planning and Public Works, “The applicant is now asserting this should have been categorized as an essential public facility or as a group home but that’s not what the county did, right?”

“You are correct,” Booth said.

“If the applicant is now arguing that one of those alternative categories should have been applied—the applicant is agreeing with the appellant that this was miscategorized—but is simply disagreeing about what category it should be,” Cushman said.

“I will leave that discussion for you and the applicant,” Booth said.

The examiner said, “It’s obvious the appellant (No On HRC) disagrees with it and Sweeney (for HRC) disagrees with it. So, what is in front of me now?”

Cushman said, “We are arguing that the use classification posed by the county of community and cultural services was incorrect. Both the appellant and the applicant appear to have agreement on that.”

“We are also arguing the proper use categorization. Because this is a facility that offers care, therapy and treatment—even in the applicant’s own arguments today—it is properly a health care facility as defined by the code,” he said.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Cort O’Connor, counsel for Pierce County, said “My recommendation is to keep the decision issue narrow in scope and let the application proceed on whichever way it’s going to go where it can be more thoroughly vetted.”

The hearing examiner concluded, “I agree with everyone it is not properly classified. That portion of it, I will grant the appellant’s appeal. I will issue a written decision remanding the matter back to staff. The arguments today will have further consideration.”

Caleb Lystad, one of the organizers of No On HRC, said, “The hearing examiner and the HRC lawyer agreeing with the fact that it was misclassified really adds a lot of weight to the validity of our argument, that it ought not be built in an R-10. If classified properly, it wouldn’t be allowed on the Key Peninsula at all.”

Jeremiah Saucier, founder of HRC, said, “We’re eagerly waiting for the written report and feel optimistic about moving forward.”



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Photo: Anne Nesbit

KP Fire District 16 Seeks Permanent EMS Levy Renewal

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

This August, Key Peninsula voters will have the choice to make the fire district's longstanding emergency medical services levy permanent.

The current levy was approved in 2010 with around 80 percent of voters opting to continue funding emergency services through property taxes. According to Fire Chief Dustin Morrow, the community's support of the EMS levy has encouraged the district to give voters the option of making it part of the district's standard tax intake. This will help the department to budget and plan more consistently.

Previous elections renewed the levy for 10 years at a time. The new levy going to voters in August would take the current tax rate of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value and make it permanent.

"It seems like it's time for us to go to the community and say, 'Is this part of the regular funding mechanism that can be in place for the fire department all the time?'" Morrow said. Making the switch would also eliminate elections for levy renewal. "It isn't really cheap to do (this) every 10 years," he said. "There are taxes that are collected and spent on running these levy processes."

The dollars collected from the levy will go toward EMS equipment and personnel. According to Morrow, the high cost of medications and disposable equipment—oxygen masks, intravenous solutions and tubing, EKG patches, bulk bandaging supplies—means that every call can come at significant expense. "In the grand scheme of things, it's nothing to save a life, right? But I think people might be surprised at what some of the costs are that go with that," Morrow said.

The replacement of one or more ambulances is also under consideration. "Our vehicles honestly are leaning towards the end of their service capability," Morrow said. Because of complex systems and safety features, a new ambulance can easily cost

hundreds of thousands of dollars. "So, from an equipment standpoint, we could benefit from some replacement pieces for sure."

However, this levy is about maintaining the current level of service while making gradual improvements to keep emergency medical response running smoothly. "I think our EMS delivery system for the KP is pretty robust and on the right track, but we could benefit from an infusion of a little more money and a little bit more program expansion," Morrow said.

Morrow noted that the public has expressed broad approval for the EMS levy through the years. "A lot of the interactions we have with the community when they call for assistance are EMS related, so they can relate to it really well," he said. "We have a really supportive community."

Morrow also praised the KP residents' willingness to offer whatever help they can, monetary or otherwise. "Several times we've had people that have asked, 'What else can we do? Are there other ways we can get resources in your hands so you can help somebody else when they call?'"

Although the rate would technically stay the same, this new permanent levy would bring in extra revenue for FD16. Washington State law allows only a one percent increase in taxes collected from year to year. This means that if a property tax collects \$100,000 in its first year, the next year it can only collect \$101,000, regardless of increases in property value. This means that as assessed values increase, the tax rate actually decreases significantly. Reapproving the EMS levy at fifty cents per thousand will apply that rate to the current year's property values, raising the cap and giving the fire department a funding boost.

The levy election will be on August 6th through mail-in or drop-off ballots. The proposition will require a 60 percent supermajority to pass, and turnout must equal at least 40 percent of the last general election for the vote to be valid.



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JULY 2**GUARDING AGAINST WILDLAND FIRE**

7 p.m. Learn wildland fire prevention techniques to protect yourself, your family and home. Brief presentation by KP Fire Department at Key Center Station.

JULY 2 & 30**SUMMER READING: ESCAPE ROOM**

3 p.m. Test your skills, conquer challenging escape rooms. Star Wars July 2, Stranger Things July 30. Designed for teens grades 6-12. Register at piercescountylibrary.org/calendar or call Key Center Library, 253-548-3309.

JULY 4&5**LOW TIDE BEACH WALKS**

July 4, 12:30-2 p.m. at Penrose State Park. July 5, 1:30-3 p.m. at Purdy Sand Spit. Get to know the unique animals that inhabit the intertidal zone with biologists. Free and suitable for all ages. 60-90 minutes with a lesson on beach etiquette. Dress for the weather; closed-toe shoes recommended. lindsey@harborwildwatch.org

JULY 5 & 26**PUPPET THEATER PRESENTS**

Pierce County Puppeteers present "Little Red" and "The Dog House" July 5, 2:30-3:30 p.m. and "The Runaway Tortilla" and "When Turtle Grew Feathers" July 26, 10-11 a.m. Key Center Library. 253-548-3309

JULY 6**KEY PENINSULA VOLKSMARCH**

KP Lions annual American Volksparts Association Walk in Gateway and 360 Trail Parks: 10 kilometers (6.7 miles) or 5 kilometers. Free; AVA members can pay a fee for walk credit. Trails are hilly but well-marked. Register 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Event ends at 3:30 p.m. George Robison, 253-853-2721

JULY 12**POETRY & PROSE**

Open mic and recital from 2-3 p.m. Entries may include poetry, nursery rhyme, literature, theatrical production, scripture or original work. First-timers encouraged. Free and open to all ages. The Mustard Seed Project, 253-884-9814

JULY 12**SUMMER READING: SCIENCE TELLERS**

11 a.m. Science Tellers—Aliens: Escape from Earth. An action-packed and educational adventure. Listen to an intergalactic story that comes to life. Go behind the scenes of the special effects and recreate science experiments. Fun for the whole family. Key Center Library, 253-548-3309

JULY 15**COFFEE & CONVERSATION WITH SEN. EMILY RANDALL**

4-6 p.m. Key Center Library. 253-548-3309

JULY 15-19**WAYPOINT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

9 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. For kids ages 4 years-old to 6th grade. Register online at www.waypoint-church.org. Theme is "The Fluppet Show." Recreation, crafts, crazy skits, music and more. 253-853-7878

JULY 18**THINKING THURSDAY**

3-4 p.m. Trivial Pursuit and other fun games. Bring your own refreshments or another favorite game to share. Free and open to the public. The Mustard Seed Project, 253-884-9814

JULY 19**SUMMER READING: MUSIC EVENT**

11 a.m.-12 p.m. Charlie Hope Music From Morning to Night: The rhythm of our day through song. Sing along with Charlie. A family event for all ages. Key Center Library. 253-548-3309

JULY 27**MULTIFAMILY YARD SALE**

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Taylor Bay Beach Club holds its third annual yard sale. Key Peninsula Highway and 80th Street SW in Longbranch. Please respect the 10 MPH speed limit.

JULY 28**COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE**

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Great music and well-known speaker Bob Mortimer. Bring your own chairs or blankets and lunch, or enjoy one of the food trucks. Hosted by WayPoint Church, Wellspring Fellowship, Lakebay Community Church, Longbranch Community Church, Key to Life Church, Key Peninsula Lutheran and Grace EPC. Gateway Park.

OFF THE KEY**WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS****YOGA IN THE PARK**

9-10 a.m. Outdoor yoga, June through August. Wednesday mornings at Kenneth Leo Marvin Veterans Memorial Park, Saturday mornings at Gig Harbor Civic Center Green. By donation. www.gigharboryoga.com or 650-937-9642

JULY 1, 2 & 3**LOW TIDE BEACH WALKS**

July 1, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Kopachuck State Park., July 2, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sunrise Beach Park. July 3, 12 p.m.-1:30 Fox Island and Olalla Beach boat launches. Get to know the unique animals that inhabit the intertidal zone. Free for all ages. 60-90 minutes. lindsey@harborwildwatch.org

JULY 20**ALLYN CHURCH PATIO & BAKE SALE**

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Items galore plus famous baked goods at St. Hugh Episcopal Church in Allyn. Free parking and free shuttle service to Allyn Days waterfront activities. 280 East Wheelwright Street (off Lakeland Boulevard). Proceeds benefit community organizations. LNiles@centurytel.net or 360-275-8450

WEEKLYEVENTS**WEEKDAYS****KEY KIDZ AT THE RED BARN**

Red Barn is open this summer for middle school and high school youths. Speakers and planned activities throughout the summer. Drop in Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. July 1 to August 23. Closed July 4.

SAIL EXERCISE CLASSES FOR 65+

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

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10-11 a.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. at KP Community Services in Home. Register: Marilyn Perks at 253-884-4440. Closed July 4 & 5.

TUESDAYS**STORYTIMES**

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

LOVING HEARTS

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

Visitors attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge and without obligation. Weigh-in from 8:35-9:25 a.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. marcgrubb1990@yahoo.com

OASIS YOUTH CENTER

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

KEY SINGERS REHEARSALS

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**REFIT FREE WOMEN'S EXERCISE**

REFIT is a fitness experience designed to engage the heart as a muscle and a soul. Childcare provided. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10-11 a.m. Thursdays at WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW. waypoint-church.org or 253-853-7878. No class on July 4.

SENIOR TAI CHI CLASS

10:15-11:15 a.m. at KP Community Services in Home. Sign up in advance at 253-884-4440. Closed July 4 & 5.

PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME

Off during July & August, returns Sept. 24.

TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS**FREE SUMMER LUNCHES**

11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. June 25 to August 16. Gateway Park and KP Community Services in Home. Food Backpacks 4 Kids will distribute free lunches to children of all ages. 253-857-7401

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS**KP HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN**

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

WEDNESDAYS**READY SET GO!**

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

LAKEBAY WRITERS

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

KP YOUTH COUNCIL

2:30-5 p.m. at the Key Center fire station. Keypercouncil@gmail.com

BLEND HOOKERS AND TINKERS

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

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS**SENIOR MEALS**

Nutritious meals for ages 60+ are served at noon at KP Community Services in Home; \$2 donation is requested. Guests (ages 50-59) of senior attendees are requested to donate \$2.50. 253-884-4440. Closed July 5.

THURSDAYS**TOASTMASTERS**

Have fun improving your public speaking ability and leadership skills in the portable building at WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW, 8-9 a.m. Guests are welcome with no obligation to speak. keypeninsulatoastmasters@gmail.com. No meeting on July 4.

REV & FLOW FREE WOMEN'S EXERCISE

Rev & Flow is an easy on the joints workout. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW. waypoint-church.org or 253-853-7878 No class on July 4.

SENIORS LUNCH

The KP Senior Society meets at 11 a.m. for a potluck, games and fellowship in the

Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. All are welcome. 253-884-4981. Closed on July 4.

FRIDAYS**TRIPLE P PARENTING CLASSES**

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

INTRO TO GENTLE YOGA

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS

July 1 & 15, KP Veterans group, 7 p.m., KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. Veterans, military service members and families with children 16 and older are welcome. 253-884-2626

July 2, KP Business Association: 6:30 p.m. at the Snack Shack in Volunteer Park. kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com or 253-312-1006

July 2, KP Historical Society board, 11 a.m., in the museum at KP Civic Center. All are welcome. 253-888-3246

July 2 & 16, West of the Narrows Depression and Bipolar Support-Lakebay Group, 5:30-6:30 p.m., KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. Kimberly 253-753-4270 or dbsalakebay@gmail.com

July 3 & 17, KP Lions Club, 6 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

July 6, Writers Guild, 10 a.m., KP Community Council office, Suite D, Key Center Corral. 253-884-6455

July 8, KP Parks Commission, 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

July 9 & 23, KP Fire Commission, 5-7 p.m., at Key Center fire station. www.keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

July 10, Bayshore Garden Club, 10 a.m., Longbranch fire station. Wendy, 253-332-4883

July 10, KP Community Council, 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-432-4948

July 10, Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition, 10 a.m., Gig Harbor Fire District Headquarters, 10222 Bujacich Road NW, Gig Harbor. www.PEP-C.org, curtescott45@gmail.com, 253-380-7240

July 11, 26th Legislative District Democrats,

6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Public invited. Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard. 26thdemocrats@gmail.com

July 11, KP Discussion Group, 6-8 p.m. Discuss issues that affect the KP. Blend Wine Shop. Ted Ralston, tralston1232@gmail.com

July 11, Lakebay Fuchsia Society, 7 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Will Gibbs speaks on hybridizing fuchsias. Myvanway Shirley 253-884-2283.

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

July 11, KP Civic Center Assn. board, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. www.kpciviccenter.org, 253-884-3456

July 11, Peninsula School District board, 6 p.m., district office in Purdy. 253-530-1000

July 15, KP Democrats, 7 p.m., Home fire station, johnpatrick@aol.com

July 17, Key Peninsula Advisory Commission, 6:30 p.m. KP Civic Center, reviews applications for proposed developments and makes recommendations to Pierce County. Verify details at www.piercecountywa.gov/5937/Key-Peninsula-Advisory-Commission

July 17, Longbranch Improvement Club. Speaker: Chief Operating Officer Mike Simpson of Peninsula Light Company. Social at 6:30 pm, speaker at 7:00 pm. 253-884-1384

July 18, KP Citizens Against Crime, 7 p.m. Meet with Pierce County Sheriff to discuss what's happening in our community. Key Center fire station. doloresstarr@centurytel.net or 253-884-3105

July 19, Two Waters Arts Alliance, 1 p.m., board welcomes artists and art lovers to join its meeting, VFW Room, KP Civic Center. www.twowaters.org 253-884-1163

July 20, Key Peninsula Caregivers Support Group, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at The Mustard Seed Project. Please call Debra Jamerson before attending. 360-621-1110

July 22, KP Farm Council planning meeting, 6 p.m., KP Community Council office, KC Corral, Suite D, 253-432-4948 or keycouncil@gmail.com; kpfarmtour.com

July 22, Relatives Raising Kids Support, 6-7:30 p.m. Grandparents and relatives raising children meet at Evergreen Elementary. Potluck dinner and childcare provided. Call Lori at CHSW 253-884-5433 or 253-391-0144.

July 25, Book discussion group meets the fourth Thursday of the month 11 a.m. at KC Library. Book list available at the library. 253-548-3309

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

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Bay Lake and Beavers: Coming to Terms with Wildlife

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Living in a rural location inevitably means having a relationship with Mother Nature. And sometimes that relationship gets complicated. Bay Lake residents have been immersed, literally, in just how complicated it can be to live side by side with beavers.

Beavers have lived in the area for many years. Bud Ulsh, who was born in 1933 and has lived nearby his whole life, remembers hiking around Bay Lake and seeing evidence of beavers at least 20 years ago. Bruce Wagner, a division manager with Pierce County Planning and Public Works Maintenance and Operations, said that beavers began to cause significant problems at Bay Lake in 2011. That year the county placed a device known as a beaver deceiver to prevent beavers from blocking the culvert under Delano Road that allows outflow to Mayo Cove to prevent the road from flooding.

Resident Teresa Ives, who has lived on the lake for 15 years, said the device just seemed to encourage the beavers to build dams around it. The north end of the lake was once a narrow 20 feet across and now is close to 200 feet.

A number of residents reported that the lake level has risen at least two and a half feet in the last few years. Docks that were above water are now submerged. Ives estimated that she has lost about an acre of her 7-acre property to rising water levels, and access to her floating dock was under water in mid-May.

Claude Lee bought 3.5 acres in 1967 and ran a fishing camp there until 1995. He raised the height of his dock by a foot and hoped he could live with the changes but as of this spring, he said, "Now it's flooding again. Water is lapping at my front door."

Richard Miller has lived on Bay Lake since 2007. When he planned his dock, he kayaked around the lake to see what others had done. He built a floating structure with a stationary dock for access that was higher than any others on the lake. That dock, already replaced once, was under water in May.

Miller said there used to be some variation in the water level from summer to winter, with about 10 feet of beach in

the summer. "I built stairs to get to the beach," he said, "but now the beach is gone and the water meets the stairs." He calculated the size of the lake at about 128 acres. Every foot of additional depth adds 400,000 gallons of water to the volume of the lake. "That's at least one and a half million gallons more water now than a few years ago."

Ives said, "You have to live with nature." She said that when she built her home, she intentionally built in a spot much higher on the property than required by Pierce County and noted she'd be on the verge of losing her home if she had built near the shore.

Reactions to the effects of the beavers have varied. Lee, whose house was most at risk, said, "Beaver need to be classified as nuisance animals. If they can hire a helicopter to shoot a wolf for killing cattle, they should help us get rid of the beavers. I am on the verge of losing my home."

"The division has been working on beaver issues in the vicinity of Bay Lake for many years," Wagner said. His division is responsible for keeping Delano Road from flooding and focuses on keeping the culvert open. "Initiative 713 was passed in 2000 and bans the use of body-gripping traps to catch animals. This greatly reduced the number of beavers being trapped, causing a significant increase in the population and prompting flooding associated with beaver activities."

The county can provide technical assistance for the homeowners, primarily advice about how to get hydraulic project approval (notching dams in particular, but also allowing for the use of pipes to divert

water around dams to keep the water levels stable) and information about trappers who are licensed to trap and kill beavers. Beavers are not relocated as they may either become a nuisance again or not survive in the new location.

According to Matt Blankenship, a wildlife conflict specialist with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, trying to eliminate beavers is not likely to end the problem. If the habitat is desirable, a new family will move in. The beavers live in family units of about eight and are territorial. As kits mature, they move to establish their own homes. If some beavers are removed the fertility rate of the parent beavers will increase to allow the family to again reach its stable size, according to the Beavers: Wetlands and Wildlife website (www.beaversww.org).

Multiple sources note that beavers are second only to humans in their ability to change landscape. They create wetlands.

Although dams at the north end of Bay Lake have caused some trouble, those on the north side of Delano Road in the outlet that flows to Mayo Cove have been the most problematic. They are on private property, and because the impact of the rising water has affected homes without flooding the road, it took neighbors working together to address the recent crisis.

Although the property owners declined to talk to KP News, they did work with Claude Lee. Lee reported that at the end of May they had received hydraulic project approval, had cleared a path to the stream, and that he and a team of seven helpers notched ten dams on the north side of Delano Road and one on the south side. The lake water level dropped by a foot and a half within the day.

They may need to repeat the procedure, but for now Lee is breathing a sigh of relief. "The water was four inches from my front door," he said. "This made a big difference."

Eager Beavers

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The North American beaver, the continent's largest rodent, lives throughout the U.S. and Canada. Trapping beaver for its lustrous fur nearly led to its extinction by the 1930s but thanks to conservation measures populations are now at relatively healthy levels.

Beavers are very territorial and live in family units of eight to 12 with a parental pair, kits and yearlings. Rarely 2-year olds will stay to help raise the family, especially if something happens to the parents or there is a shortage of food or the territory

is crowded. They may live for up to 24 years and continue to grow throughout their lives, sometimes reaching as much as 55 pounds.

They eat leaves, twigs and the bark of most trees. Beavers prefer to dam streams in shallow valleys where the flooded areas become productive wetlands. The dams create ponds where they can construct a lodge to store food and protect themselves from predators. Hawks, owls and otters prey on kits. Adults have fewer predators, but bears, wolves, dogs and coyotes are a threat.

The beaver's ability to change the landscape is second only to that of humans.

When beavers dam a stream, they set in motion a form of succession. The resulting backwater floods lowlands near the creek. Trees soon die, creating an opening in the forest canopy. Water-associated plants and shrubs quickly invade the pond and shoreline, creating favorable habitat for waterfowl, moose, black-birds, amphibians, fish, insects, muskrats, wading birds, warblers, marsh hawks and a score of other animals. After several years the water becomes shallow, filling in with silt and plant debris.

Stimulated by the nutrient-rich mud, grasses, sedges and shrubs begin to choke the water with their accumulating debris. The ground begins to firm as more silt is trapped.

As years pass, the trees near the lodge are cut down by the beavers for use as food and shelter. The beavers must move on and find a new spot to support themselves. Without the beavers to maintain it, the old dam collapses, draining the pond. The area becomes meadow, supporting more grasses and flowering plants. Trees begin to re-invade the drier ground and over centuries the meadow reverts to forest.

For more information, go to www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/beaver-natural-history-narrative

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Sami Jensen Seeks School Board Position 1

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Sami Jensen, who has lived on the Key Peninsula for 20 years, is seeking election to the Peninsula School District School Board this fall to represent Director District 1, which covers nearly all of the Key Peninsula.

Jensen grew up in the Los Angeles area. When asked what brought her to the Key Peninsula, she said, "Love made me do it." She met her husband Shawn in California through mutual friends. He owned a home on the Key Peninsula, and she moved here with him. She worked as a pharmacy tech at Costless and then in Tacoma, but as their family grew, "The kids' schedule became my schedule and we became a one-income family."

Her six children have all attended school in the district, and four have now graduated. Her children have attended Vaughn and Minter Creek Elementary, Key Peninsula Middle School and Peninsula High School. Jensen volunteered in the classroom and with school events for years, and began attending school board meetings regularly over the last two years because she wanted to become better informed and educated about the recent bond issue. Ultimately, she was the local lead for the successful bond campaign, Stand Up for Peninsula Schools.

Jensen has been an active community volunteer. "You do what you love, right?" she said. She is on the board of Ashes, a group established in 1952 that provides funds for firefighting equipment not covered by other sources and gives direct support to families who have lost

their homes to fire. She helps lead the July 5 cleanup of the Purdy Spit, coordinating with the Pierce County Parks Department. She volunteers with the Red Barn Youth Center and the Key Peninsula Civic Center. She recently joined KPAC – the Key Peninsula Land Use Advisory Commission. In 2018 she was nominated as a KP Lions Citizen of the Year.

When asked how she would reach out to the community about the needs of students, she said that she plans at least two meet and greets during the campaign. She will attend community forums like the recent one on homelessness. And she said that many parents have communicated with her via her own Facebook page.

"I believe education is important. We have an amazing school district, but I feel we could do more. Thank goodness this is a nonpartisan position. We don't have to make this political. It is not about the right or the left. It is about the kids," Jensen said.

Jensen thinks that the first challenge facing the school board will be hiring a new superintendent to replace Art Jarvis, who was selected as interim superintendent last summer. "We will have to connect with the whole community," she said.

Another challenge she expects the board will deal with is the completion of four new schools. "I'm excited for Evergreen," she said. "I think it will become a hub." She also is looking forward to seeing how a new magnet school will benefit the students in our community. Other concerns on her radar include bullying and doing a better job in dealing with the issues of suicide, drug and alcohol use. She wants to ensure that the district keeps up with all the advances in technology, and she thinks there needs to be an increased focus on the trades that also includes young women. She thinks ROTC should have a presence as well.



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Chuck West Running for PSD Position 1

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Longtime KP resident Chuck West was the first to declare his candidacy for Peninsula School District Board Director Position 1. Growing up on an old family farm near Peacock Hill in Gig Harbor since 1972, West is a graduate of Peninsula High School. He credits a high school girlfriend for introducing him to the Key Peninsula.

Afer completing an electrical apprentice program, he worked as a licensed electrician before joining the Key Peninsula fire department 33 years ago. Today he owns and operates a general contracting and construction business, employing a fulltime staff of three. He's lived with his wife and stepson in the same Lakebay house for 20 years.

West worked his way up through the ranks of KPFD from firefighter to battalion chief. He said he is comfortable working with multimillion-dollar budgets, understands budgeting and the processes of property tax collections, and knows how to deal with state filings and policy issues with legal mandates.

"I also understand the limitations of a school board director. The board is not hands-on running the district," he said. "We set policy, we decide the budget, we hire the administrator to run the district. We need to step out of the way and not get in their way."

West said his interest in becoming a director came in large part from his membership in the nonprofit Peninsula Schools Education Foundation.

"Being on the foundation the last 10 years has given me an insight by talking with teachers and administrators, focusing on needs," West said. Teachers throughout the district apply to the foundation for grants

to fund things the district doesn't.

"In the grant process, we see teachers looking for better behavioral tools, looking for ways to manage students, whether it's a wobble chair or curriculum change that allows learning," he said. "It might be expensive, but we're having all kinds of issues and with the state mandating how we deal with behavioral issues, we can't leave any kid behind."

By representing the KP from District 1 on the school board, West said he will ensure that his district "gets its share of the bond money with the new elementary school and hopefully some improvements at KPMS, which would come after the four elementary schools are built."

West also said he thinks "the district is doing well financially, and even before the bond, they were doing a pretty good job of managing the money." He said he is eager to jump onboard a ship already moving forward.

"We have building maintenance needs within district from HVAC systems to roofs, and to existing buildings we're going to keep. I'm very keen on maintenance," he said. "We've got to make these buildings last."

To bring himself fully up to speed, West found streaming the school board meetings online very helpful. He attended some of the early building construction meetings at Evergreen Elementary. "My intent is to continue being involved in the schools, listening to the teachers and the parents firsthand, so I can be a relay to represent the public," he said.

"Growth is going to be an issue," he said. With three new classrooms of kindergarten students enrolling this year alone, West looks ahead for that bulge to come through the system. "In the near future we're going to need another middle school so we have to be looking forward on facilities."

An immediate goal of the new board will be hiring a new school superintendent.

"I really like Interim Superintendent Art Jarvis and his ability to do so much more with the magnet schools," West said. "I would be looking for a superintendent who would continue that effort and, with regard to magnet schools, be more into the trades."

West is a past president of the KP Community Council and currently chairs the board of the Key Peninsula Free Clinic, an organization he helped found. He sits on the steering committee for the KP Partnership for a Healthy Community and serves on the Pierce County Flood Control Advisory Board reporting to the Pierce County Council and Executive.

"Between the Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce, the Key Peninsula Business Association and the fire department, I'm involved on a lot of different levels within the whole school district," he said.

LAKEBAY MARINA TIMELINE

October 2012: Mark and Cindy Scott purchase Lakebay Marina.

April 2013: Open for business.

April 2014: The Scotts hold a well-attended pancake breakfast to raise funds for renovations.

December 2014: Renovations continue.

July 2015: Pierce County Planning and Land Services shuts down the marina and cafe due to the continuing unsafe condition of the pier, new unpermitted docks, and illegal liveaboard marina tenants.

August 2015: Pierce County barricades the marina pier to keep the public out after discovering the cafe is still operating illegally.

February 2016: Pierce County again barricades the marina pier after learning members of the public are accessing the cafe and docks. With the assistance of the Pierce County Council and Public Works, permits are expedited for renovation work to continue.

May 2016: The marina cafe reopens for business.

October 2017: Scott proposes to expand the marina, add a pump-out station and build a 300-unit RV park nearby. Neighbors oppose the expansion.

December 2017: Scott announces the permanent closing of Lakebay Marina.

Summer 2018: The business of the marina and cafe having continued, Pierce County Code Enforcement issues a final notice to correct a series of violations, including operating an unpermitted RV park and campground, illegal shellfish harvesting and unpermitted signage. Scott appeals the case before the county examiner in September and that appeal is denied. Criminal charges are referred to the Pierce County Prosecutor.

January 2019: Washington State Labor & Industries issues notices of non-compliance for hazardous conditions to Scott, citing 44 known safety violations.

February 2019: Lakebay Marina is placed on the Pierce County Register of Historic Places.

March 2019: Four boats in permanent moorage are found to have sunk in their slips over the winter of 2019. Others are found cast adrift.

April 2019: Unresolved electrical code violations prompt the L & I Electrical Inspection Division to shut off electricity to the marina, leaving moorage and upland tenants without power. The Department of Natural Resources puts Scott on notice that he is in default of his lease and at risk of losing the marina.



Legal Troubles Continue for Lakebay Marina Owner

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Lakebay Marina owner Mark Scott faces a variety of legal challenges as he attempts to bring his property and business into compliance with state and county laws.

On June 7, Scott pleaded guilty to misdemeanor false swearing in Pierce County District Court. In the courtroom, Scott admitted to lying in sworn testimony about the nature of his relationship with one of his tenants in order to obtain a so-called “kick-out” order against the respondent in an effort to evict the tenant. The plea deal resulted in a one-year deferred sentence for Scott, who will be required to perform 24 hours of community service and pay various fines.

As a condition of his deferred sentence, Scott must maintain law-abiding behavior and was ordered not to engage in any hostile contact with law enforcement.

The continued presence of tenants at Lakebay Marina, both on boats and in RVs situated on the uplands adjacent to the marina, have presented a number of legal concerns for Scott.

One of those tenants, not involved in the misdemeanor Scott pleaded guilty to, obtained a civil antiharassment protection order against him for the period of one year. The protection order not only prevents Scott from being within 25 feet of the tenant, but restricts him from being within 500 feet of 15 Lorenz Road NW, Lakebay, effectively barring Scott from setting foot on property he owns.

Scott, who attempted and failed to evict that same tenant on at least two prior occasions, succeeded in obtaining an order for eviction June 18 in Pierce County District Court. The tenant has until July 1 to move or be removed from the marina property.

The marina remains without power since Washington State Labor & Industries Electrical Compliance Division shut off all electrical service April 11 because of longstanding unresolved electrical code violations.

The Department of Natural Resources issued a notice of default under the lease agreement between DNR and Lakebay Marina April 15, giving Scott until no later than May 18 to bring the marina into compliance with a lease that essentially allows the marina to exist. (See “County, State and Federal Authorities Take Action at Lakebay Marina,” May 2019, KP News).

In a letter to Scott dated May 24, DNR determined six of seven previously outlined defaults failed to be cured by the owner. Pursuant to the lease, each of these defaults has risen to the level of an “Event of Default,” which gives DNR the right to terminate the lease immediately.

The DNR acknowledged that Scott made some effort with minimal results. Therefore, DNR provided Scott with an additional grace period, extending the deadline for compliance to June 10.

In an email to DNR, Scott alerted the department to the existence of the anti-harassment order that forced him off his own property and said he was unable to do anything further until the tenant no longer resided there. Scott indicated that he had satisfied some of the requirements but also wrote, “The electrical is eight weeks out and costs over \$100,000. Not sure what to do. Do you offer grants or help on this?”

Like DNR, officials from Pierce County Building Division, the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, and code enforcement reacted promptly to the power being shut off. Without power, there is no water or sewage disposal. On April 16, Pierce County building offi-

cial posted a “Do Not Enter” notice, restricting all access to the marina cafe and store.

In a letter dated May 10, Pierce County Building Official Jeffrey Rowe outlined the issues to be addressed before full access is allowed to the building. Some of the work requires demolition permits to remove all the improperly installed heating appliances. Building repairs will require building permits and structural evaluation by an engineer. The county also requires removal of the stage area and bar from the first floor, noting that neither of these uses are considered vested and must be removed.

Several buildings on the uplands have been condemned.

“We need a plan of what you intend to do, either repair or remove,” Rowe wrote. “Repair will take a permit to remodel. Removal will take a demolition permit. Failure to act will result in our acting to remove them and you will be given notification of those actions.”

Jeffrey Ault, electrical inspector and compliance supervisor at Labor & Industries, said he has had several meetings and many telephone discussions with Scott, in addition to the owner of South Sound Electric, the contractor who has obtained an electrical work permit to complete the necessary repairs to make the marina code-compliant. Michael Prentice, engineer with Peninsula Light Co., has been involved in the utility’s design requirements.

The operation of Lakebay Marina must meet or exceed all local, state and federal minimum requirements related to safety standards. As of press time, DNR informed KP News of its intention to inspect the site before determining the next course of action.

SIMPLE, ELEGANT AND SPHERICAL, SPINACH BALLS DO IT ALL.



Seagoing Spinach

KATRINA HERRINGBETTER

My life used to be perfect, but then I went sailing.

I was young, single, and a manager in a big company in San Francisco. There was this person I didn't like in my office who was always bugging me to go out on dates. Not with her, but with somebody, anybody, because she said it would improve my mood. She really just wanted me distracted to get me off her back.

So when this guy showed up somewhere on the periphery of my perfect life zone, she was all for it. He started bugging me to go sailing on San Francisco Bay. "A sunset cruise," he called it. Being a native Western Washingtonian, I was raised knowing full well that the only good boat is the one you're skiing behind, and that it doesn't have sails.

"I'll grill a steak," said sailing guy, like that was something I couldn't do on my own.

"It'll be fun," said office woman. "You can impress him with a great side dish. Unless you don't think you're up to it."

That's all it took.

San Francisco Bay, it turns out, looks great from a distance but up close it's rough, cold and covered with lunatics in all manner of watercraft. Instead of a sunset cruise, it was more of a survival slog through two-foot wind waves and sheets of flying saltwater. It wasn't much of a date; there were two other couples, so six of us, half of whom were seasick.

After a couple hours of aquatic torture, we anchored somewhere out of the wind

and sailing guy started up the grill while his seasick guests hung their heads over the side and longed for death, preferably his. I climbed down into the kitchen, which sailing guy insisted on calling a "galley," where I did my "gal" thing, which was preparing the perfect side dish for grilled steak: creamed spinach.

Couple problems with that, some best left unsaid. The biggest: the stove was mounted on hinges, so that it would supposedly stay level while the boat rocked.

The reality was that when a good wave hit us, even at anchor the boat rocked one way and the stove rocked the other, sending the hot spinach and cream in my skillet all over the place.

Obviously this classic saucy side dish wasn't going to work, so I rooted around in the cupboards for solutions and it turned out that sailing guy, being a bachelor, had many of the predictable bachelor foodstuffs handy, including bread, cheese and wine, and some kind of dehydrated potato specks, because real potatoes were too much for him to handle I guess.

I scrambled some of this stuff together in the skillet (not the wine, I drank that) to sop up the excess moisture and found I could roll up what was left into little clumps that, after sufficient frying, weren't half bad.

I carried the steaming skillet up to the cockpit with one hand while brandishing a bottle of wine in the other and said, "Hey kids, have some fried spinach balls!"

They weren't as popular as I'd hoped but sailing guy was impressed, and that impressed me.

We didn't date for long. Instead we got married and bought a bigger boat with a proper stove, and now sail out of Filucy Bay with hardier friends and stronger stomachs. The office woman I never liked who started all this took over my job after I left and then got fired.

I honed this recipe over the years into something more manageable and transportable that is ideal for bringing to dinner on a boat, or even ashore.

- 2 packages (10 oz.) frozen spinach
- 1 6 oz. package Stove Top stuffing mix
- 1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 6 eggs lightly beaten
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ teaspoon salt and pepper

Cook spinach per package. Drain very well, press moisture out with paper towels. Combine all ingredients. Roll into balls on greased baking sheet. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes. Serve with sour cream to dip in.



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On June 11 the KP Fire District 16 board of commissioners dedicated a commemorative bronze plaque to longtime community leader, department advocate and former volunteer firefighter Hugh McMillan of Home, center, seen here with the commissioners and his wife, Janice, left. The plaque has a permanent place in front of the Key Center fire station and recounts his many good works on behalf of the KP over more than three decades. McMillan has earned many such honors in the past, including the Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award in 2010; having the occasion of his 90th birthday read into the U.S. Congressional record in 2016; enjoying April 22, 2006 as an official "Hugh McMillan Day" proclaimed by the Pierce County Council; and loaning his name to the Hugh McMillan Award given by the Peninsula School District to deserving volunteers. *Photo: Anne Nesbit*

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ABOVE Volunteers for the Coastal Conservation Association planting oysters at Penrose State Park during a June minus tide as part of a collaborative program to improve fisheries and water quality. With their ability to filter toxins and sediments from the water, oysters play a vital role in the Puget Sound ecosystem and also provide excellent habitat for juvenile salmonids and bait fish. *Photo: Chris Konieczny, KP News*



LEFT Evergreen Elementary School scientist D.J. Taylor, 7, tests the locomotive ability of a local purple shore crab, *Hemigrapsus nudus*, during an end-of-year field trip near Penrose Point Park. "He climbed faster than I thought," Taylor said. *Photo: Sara Gray*
LOWER LEFT A sign of the season. *Photo: Chris Konieczny, KP News*
RIGHT A great blue heron strikes a pose. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*
MID RIGHT A Filucy Bay river otter gives its new kit a shoreline swimming lesson. *Photo: Richard Hildabl*
LOWER RIGHT New Longbranch residents explore the neighborhood with their mom. *Photo: Richard Hildabl*

