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THE AWARD-WINNING VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

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FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, OUR "LITTLE COMMUNITY PAPER" WON TOP STATE HONORS FOR WRITING, PHOTOGRAPHY AND ADVERTISING.

KP News Wins General Excellence Award — and 16 More

STAFF REPORT

Key Peninsula News staff and contributors earned 17 awards at the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association statewide 2021 Better Newspaper Contest, held virtually Oct. 8.

Executive Editor Lisa Bryan, Design Editor Tim Heitzman and Associate Editor Ted Olinger shared the second place trophy for general excellence, competing against much larger publications. General excellence is scored on points per section, including sports, arts and lifestyle — sections KP News doesn't publish.

Now in its 134th year, WNPA gives awards for work published the previous 12 months. This year, 51 newspapers submitted almost 1,400 entries judged by the Kentucky Press Association. KP News won 14 awards in 2020, eight in 2019 and three in 2018.

Lisa Bryan won second place in the editorial category for her July 2020 "Page 2," where she wrote, "As a rural community our greatest challenge is not winning the war against COVID-19 — a feat currently beyond our capacity — but working together to hold the line against it."

Tim Heitzman won second and third place for best ad campaigns for Glen Cove Repair and KP News in-house campaigns.

Krisa Bruemmer took first place in education reporting for



Sonja Nesta of Lakebay won first place and \$175 in prize money with "The Yellow Brick Kids" in the annual Scarecrow Contest. MORE ON PAGES 10-11. *Tina McKail, KP News*

Mustard Seed Begins Building First Home for KP Elders

It's a new era for Key Peninsula elders and the community at large.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

After 15 years of planning, working and fundraising, The Mustard Seed Project broke ground Oct. 23 for the first assisted-living home for elders on the Key Peninsula.

"It's a big longhouse with three modules, or homes, and three separate entrances; two assisted living homes and a memory care home, each with 10 studio apartments, so room for 30 residents," said Eric Blegen, executive director since 2018.

"Each of the homes has a fireplace and kitchen at the center, with studios around the edges of the building," he said. "Each studio has its own bathroom and a kitchenette. There is a provision for a couple of the rooms to take down the walls to make them into a double."

"What we're building is a Green House Project model; it's a small-hearth home model, so for example if there's a resident whose family wants to come and bake cookies, they can do that in the common kitchen. The whole effort is to make it feel like home and not a facility," he said.

The building will be on a 5-acre site across the street from the Crandall Center,

the Mustard Seed office at 9016 154th Avenue Court NW, above Key Center. The surrounding land will be both garden and park-like for residents and the community, perhaps including raised beds, an orchard and trails, according to Blegen.

The contractor, Korsmo Construction, plans to finish within 12 months, which means the homes could be open by November 2022.

Eddie Morgan founded The Mustard Seed Project in 2007 as a mission to help KP elders stay in their homes as long as possible with whatever volunteer assistance she could coordinate, including yard work, transportation, or guidance navigating the vagaries of Social Security. That work revealed a need to provide assisted living to KP elders, who would otherwise have to leave their homes, friends and community.

"Basically, Eddie invented what this has become," said Dr. William Roes, the first president of the Mustard Seed board. "It was all her idea and she asked if I would be interested in helping and I said abso-

lutely. I just hate to see people kind of disappear from the peninsula when they get to a point where they're no longer able to sustain themselves."

"Assisted living is going to be part of what we do now, but we've got a track record of 15 years of helping people age in place prior to this," Roes said. "The Mustard Seed will continue to provide these other services as well."

"It was obvious to me that if Mustard Seed was going to fulfill its vision, it was going to have to have a capital campaign to build assisted living," said

capital campaign co-chair Frank Garratt. "I knew enough about capital campaigns to know I didn't know how to run one, and that it has to be big enough that we're going to need to hire a consultant."

"In 2012 Lois Crandall donated \$30,000 to undertake a feasibility study," said Dr. Sara Thompson, the current board president. (Thompson is also president of the KP News publishing board and a frequent

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"COMPLETING THE PROJECT WILL MEAN OVER 25 NEW JOBS, MAKING MUSTARD SEED THE KP'S FOURTH LARGEST EMPLOYER."



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THE WAITING IS THE WORST

Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN,
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

My husband's cardiac symptoms took us to the ER. After a now-familiar temperature scan and questions about symptoms and recent travel, we find a seat in a long hallway lined with patients on benches, chairs, on gurneys and in wheelchairs, waiting for treatment.

A wife tries to comfort her partner, writhing in pain and pleading for someone to give him something. It takes hours. The staff tell her they can't give him anything for his pain until he is in the actual emergency room. He begs his wife to take him somewhere else. But there is nowhere else to go.

"This is a repeated cycle and it's terrible for people that want help," a nurse told us. "But this Covid thing? It's killing us."

Everything is fine until it's not. Things have not been fine at St. Anthony Hospital or most other hospitals. They are overwhelmed. The existing staff are working twice as hard, pulling 12-hour shifts and more as needed. Staffing has always been problematic but during the pandemic the situation has gone from bad to worse.

Emergency patients with broken limbs, smashed fingers, kidney stones and, yes, cardiac conditions are triaged in the waiting room, which now effectively functions as the ER. There are two exam rooms where an MD assesses patients and orders tests. Technicians holler out names looking for patients to take back for various diagnostics. It doesn't take long before you know the people sitting around you and can answer, "Someone came and took him back for a test" or "She's in the bathroom."

Behind double doors and a security station, the actual emergency exam rooms have become holding areas for patients who have been admitted to the hospital but are still waiting for a bed upstairs.

A name rang out that I recognized from a recent KP News article. When she returned from her test, she sat down in the chair next to me. We'd met before but I reintroduced my N-95 face-masked self. Her eyes lit up and we became instant friends — thrown together in this strange circumstance neither of us bargained for.

As her eyes surveyed the surroundings she said, "Covid really has changed everything, hasn't it?"

Why does it feel so comforting to be in this situation with people you know? We have the same doctor, shop at the same grocery store and know many hundreds of people in common from the Key Peninsula.

In a recent article in *The Atlantic*, "What We Lost When Gannett Came to Town," writer Elaine Godfrey describes the importance of local newspapers going beyond their oft-cited role as government watchdogs and defenders of truth. "We don't often talk about how a paper's collapse makes people feel: less connected, more alone."

Local newspapers weave together the strands of real lives that form the structure of community consciousness.

The real value of KP News isn't breaking news, although we do manage that

every now and again. We often have stories that are noted, picked up by other editors and reported by other journalists in other publications.

Local independent newspapers do something else every bit as important as digging into school, parks, fire districts and county governance.

We report stories and write about groups and people no other newspaper would print, much less know about. We write about news, natural treasures and fascinating characters as nobody else can because, as they say in the media, we're embedded, we live here.

You've read it here countless times before. We are unique because you help make us so.

About three years ago we met a publishing consultant who is called upon when a local newspaper teeters on the edge, unable to keep their business going. The owners, often crusty old newshounds, feel torn between throwing in the towel and the fear that

what makes their small town a community would wither without the power of a newspaper to nourish it.

The consultant, an out-of-town subscriber to KP News, tells us he opens his briefcase and places our most recent issue on the publishers' desks. "You could try something like this. It works better than you might think."

Fair, well-written and -researched local news is the juice that makes this newspaper what it

is. We cover everything from political campaigns to scarecrow contests, the local grad who makes it big or the 7-year old raising a pet alligator lizard she found in her backyard.

Our advertisers are local business owners and organizations who not only want to meet you but want to develop a relationship and earn your business. Churches, social clubs, civic and philan-

thropic organizations all rely on the KP News to keep you informed and engaged.

There is so much good that happens on the KP and it's all because of you.

Big regional and national newspapers serve their role in society well but they can never replace what comes from a hyperlocal paper.

We believe that every community deserves to read a newspaper entirely devoted to them because local journalism builds genuine community — made up of the kind of people you meet in the hospital and feel comforted by in the middle of a pandemic.

There is no way to express the pride and admiration I feel for the individuals who make and deliver the award-winning newspaper you hold in your hands today without becoming teary-eyed. The awards from journalism organizations, from people we don't know and who don't live here, confirm we are doing good work.

We make community better together. We make it real. Your support keeps us going strong. Thank you. ■



THERE IS SO MUCH GOOD THAT
HAPPENS ON THE KP AND
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU.



MUSTARD SEED FROM PAGE 1

KP News contributor.) “We began looking for an appropriate site.”

And raising money.

“When I started in December of 2016 this was going to be a \$7.5 million project,” said Fund Development Director Marion Sharp. “Now the whole project is \$13.4 million,” although the plan was scaled down as construction prices went up.

“We started going after private foundations, major sources of money from the county, the state, and the feds, and that’s what brought us to the point where we are now,” Garratt said. “It never goes the way you think. The experts tell you it’s never going to happen until it does.”

The project is financed by a \$7.8 million construction loan to be assumed by a USDA rural development loan upon completion. “The \$5.6 million balance we raised from individuals, from foundations, from the state, from the county, over three years of really detailed applications,” Sharp said.

“Completing the project will mean over 25 new jobs, making Mustard Seed the KP’s fourth largest employer,” Garratt said. “Along with Community Health Care, which will take over Dr. Roes’ practice at KP Medical, the project will result in more comprehensive health care and programs not only for KP elders but also for the entire community.”

“A lot of credit goes to Sara — and Eric and Marion just did an incredible job,” he said.

“Without Norm McLoughlin (on the capital campaign committee) we would never have looked at public money — the state capital budget, low-income housing funding through the county,” Thompson said. “And without those connections we would never have been able to go to (county council Chair) Derek Young for the final grant that let us close our funding gap.”

Thirty percent of the beds will be for low-income residents, in accordance with the Mustard Seed’s mission and requirements for some county funding; the rest will cost the market rate.

“In the first decade most of the excess revenue that we have projected will go into reserve funds — long-term maintenance, debt reserve. Once that is done, it will start generating revenue each year, which will come back to the Mustard Seed,” Blegen said.

“We’re not relying on that money, but one of the big things we’ve talked about doing is starting a fund to help folks who start as residents able to pay the full fee but spend down their assets. What happens to those people if all our lower income beds are full at that point? We want to be able to help people transition from private pay to Medicaid.”

“ASSISTED LIVING IS GOING TO BE PART OF WHAT WE DO, BUT WE’VE GOT A TRACK RECORD NOW OF 15 YEARS OF HELPING PEOPLE AGE IN PLACE PRIOR TO THIS.”

the Mustard Seed’s mission and requirements for some county funding; the rest will cost the market rate.

“In the first decade

“This is probably the most difficult area in our society because aging is becoming a huge issue,” said Ray Steiner, a Mustard Seed volunteer for six years. “But (the residents) will be part of our community, they can participate in the programs the Mustard Seed provides here; that’s for their families and for them both. I just know there needs to be loving people who are care providers and I know that’s what we’ll have.”

“That original mission that Edie started with of keeping people on the KP — I am really grateful for the audacious vision she had,” Blegen said. “The way we take care of our elders is not adequate in our society and this is an opportunity to maybe inspire others to do similar things. I’m pretty excited about that.” ■

“It’s like a grain of mustard seed, which though less than all the seeds of the Earth, when it is sown it grows up and becomes greater than all the herbs and puts out great branches, so that the birds of the sky can lodge under its shadow.” Mark 4:30-32

Edie Morgan, Founder of The Mustard Seed Project

KP News interview edited for length and clarity.

I met Tom, my husband, back in ‘81, and he already had this piece of property out here, and I came out here right away. I was a social worker in long-term care in Tacoma, and here would come these elders from the Key Peninsula, or I would meet people who had been living in one of those places but had grown up out here and lived out here. I could relate to their sorrow over ending up in town after a life lived in this community.

Then people started hearing about my profession and would call me looking for answers to their concerns about aging, resources, that kind of thing.

That was kind of the very beginning of it. We started with a questionnaire and a booth at the Livable Community Fair about what people felt was needed to live here through the end of their lives.

What came up very quickly was the need for local residential care, so you don’t have to leave your community even if you can’t stay in your home.

There was this new model, the Green House Project, which spoke to me because it was person-centered and small-scale, and I felt that was the only kind of housing that would work for our community. Person-centered means instead of being institutional, it was home and everything in that model

revolves around the individual. In the big facilities they don’t have choice. A person can’t decide whether they want to get up at 6 a.m. to wait in the hallway for a shower, or not, or to be in the dining room by 7 a.m. for a breakfast they don’t really like.

But here they can decide what they want.

And the word “facility” was outlawed when talking about the Green House Project. The word “home” evolved to mean “facility” in the past, but we’re taking it back and embracing the real meaning. It’s never going to be exactly like a person’s very own home, but the concept of care revolves around each individual and their preferences and their needs, their lifestyle, their skills and abilities, their memories.

In 2007 we got that little office in the clinic next to the library and got started. Incredible partnerships started falling into place. It just got bigger and bigger almost immediately.

We had to put a name to this, and I kept thinking of “silver” something or “gray” something, like the Gray Panthers, and it wasn’t working.

The parable of the mustard seed came up and the wording that got me is that the mustard seed is the tiniest of seeds and yet it grows to be the huge, sheltering bush for all the birds of the air. And there’s another quote that says if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can move mountains. Somehow between the two of those, that was the answer because the vision was huge, and it would take every bit of faith to make it happen. And things were happening.

But then people were thinking you had to be Catholic, and it was totally non-denominational.

We served thousands of people over the years in a lot of different ways. Building this place is the other end of the spectrum of services. It begins a whole new era, but it also completes the vision I had.

It’s kind of unreal. We were so deep into this project, and then my time was finished (2018). I really didn’t know what would happen.

I always think of this one lady at Lakebay Community Church who, every time I saw her anywhere, would say “I’m going to be the first one to move in.” The original people who I knew and cared for and wanted to take care of there, most of them are gone. But there are many more coming along who will hopefully live there and make it their home. I hope so. I really do hope so. ■



Rendering and plan view. Courtesy Rice Fergus Miller



28 **OUT & ABOUT** www.keypennews.org August 2020

TOP A paddleboarder sets course for Eagle Island. Photo: Caleb Galbreath, KP News. **MIDDLE LEFT** A scaled-back Fourth of July Parade in Home, where roughly a third of the participants wore masks. Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News. **MIDDLE RIGHT** A young girl named Cypriy explores her new world. Photo: Tina McKail. **LOWER LEFT** A gorgeous roadster tours the parade route. Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News. **LOWER RIGHT** A dahlia appears to float on air at Historic Fairway. Photo: Caleb Galbreath, KP News.



Krisa Bruemmer was awarded a third place/B&W Portrait for "Dance Party." It's like the celebration got started months ago. *Krisa Bruemmer, KP News*

AWARDS FROM PAGE 1

"KP Students Win First Place for Writing and Art" (Dec. 2020), and second place in sports personality feature for her story "Jonah Derrick — Proud Unified Athlete, Leader and Friend" (June 2020). "This is the kind of story that can be overlooked if reporters (and editors) aren't paying attention," the judges wrote in their comments. "The topic is great, the interview with Jonah and his parents hit on more than just sports and brought out the boy's dreams. Solid writing."

Bruemmer also won third place for her black-and-white portrait "Dance Party" at the KP Co-op Preschool (April 2020).

Chris Rurik won first place in environmental reporting for "On Foot, Deep in Rocky Creek Preserve" (Feb. 2021), and first place for an animal feature story for "When the Silver Salmon Return" (Nov. 2020). About the latter, the judges wrote: "Both lyrical and informative; the writer didn't get in the way but left (us) wanting more."

Caleb Galbreath took third place for lifestyle feature "Chicken Whisperer" (April 2020).

Ted Olinger's "Another Last Word" earned second place for a topical column with his three-part series "Journal of the Plague Year." He also won third place in sports features for "Seahawks Notch Historic Win in (Empty)

The Chinook Jargon Pocket Dictionary

DAN CLOUSE

When you look up a word in the dictionary, do you end up spending half an hour looking up 20 other words? Psychologists have a clinical term for this. You could look it up.

If you forage for words in dictionaries, here's a little vade mecum you should have while you endure a long telephone hold with smarmy "Your call is very important to us" while fees and Kenny G loopee.

It's just six pages long and printed small enough to fit in your pocket. The little dictionary's 32-word title is almost bigger than the book. I'll shorten it to the Chinook Jargon Pocket Dictionary.

Ed Jones, a longtime editor at the Post-Intelligencer, overheard phone conversations among Seattle old-timers in the 1970s. "Klischee, Arctic Club, o'clock. Ah, kishka." Translated as "Friday Clavpeninsula English, Arctic Club, 12 o'clock. Later, pal," was confirming a lunch date.

The time Jones wrote "The Lost of Seattle" in the 1970s, the then-nostalgic for the Chinook Jargon they used in those days of yore in the Yukon.

The elderly ex-prospectors were some of the last to keep alive the trade language that had been used up and down the Pacific Coast by French-speaking voyageurs, English-speaking traders, and Native Americans throughout the 1800s. During the Gold Rush of the 1850s there were 100,000 gold hunters and indigenous peoples speaking it.

Chinook Jargon is technically a pidgin. Professors of linguistics use the term pidgin to refer to a grammatically simple, mixed language used by people who need to communicate but do not share a common language. There have been hundreds of pidgins.

Chinook Jargon is not just rich in toponyms, but also in sponyms. A Boston is an American, and a King George is Canadian or English. The adjective pelton means "crazy" and refers to poor Archibald Pelton, a trader who was well known for succumbing to insanity at old Fort Vancouver in the 1840s.

The beginning of the Our Father translated by the Methodist missionary Myron Ellis, one of the great authorities on Chinook Jargon:

Nevda Papa kishka mirite kopa sagh-alle, kishke nika nem kopa konoway kah. Kishke spose mika chaco delate tyeer kopa konoway tilikum.

Our Father who lives in heaven, good is your name everywhere. Good if you become true chief over all people.

When dealing with Europeans along the Gulf Coast, the now extinct Northwest trade language was developed to solve the business problem faced by Hudson Bay Company traders, who spoke French and English, and by indigenous traders of mutually unintelligible Native American languages.

When the Wilkes Expedition explored the South Sound in the spring and early summer of 1841 and built a base just south of present-day Shelkton, American explorers learned the local lingua franca from their guides and food suppliers among the Nisqually and the Squaxin. The expedition's philologist, 20-year-old polyglot Hale, mastered what his informants called "Chiwok Wawa" in an afternoon. His tour de force report on the lessons of published in 1846 with a long chapter on Chinook Jargon. While Capt. Wilkes was mapping the South Sound and naming geographical features and waterways after expedition members, he honored young Hale with the name Hale's Passage.

The Chinook Jargon Pocket Dictionary was printed for prospectors heading for the Yukon. Surviving copies are occasionally listed for sale in auctions, and collectors bid hundreds of dollars for them. The rest of us access the book online.

High school girls in Western Washington like boys to talk dances — or at least did before COVID-19. Talk about dances.

Important person is a "high muck-ety-muck" and a good-for-nothing is a "cultus." A sturdy structure is "skookum, tight" and I remember affectionately my father-in-law George Lundberg all three expressions.

You'll discover nearby place names based on words in the little dictionary. Just for a start: Aki "sooner or later," Iyak "swift," Kopachuk "warrior," Okalla "berries," Skookumchuck "strong water," Talakwa "hazelnut," and Tumwater "boozing water."

The venerable watering hole in Gig Harbor called the He-Ho-Hee-Hee is pure heechee is "fun." The state ferries Tilkam "friend" and Kaleetan "arrow" are still Kalalala "bird" and Hlabece "land" are long gone.

Borrowed from the Nootka verb "give," potlatch became the word for the wide-spread Native American ceremony of gift-giving and ritual feasting.

When retro-of-the-century idealists in Europe hoped a new international language would bring peace to people separated by their languages, Horatio Hale, at the end of his life, called Chinook Jargon a worthy precursor of Volapuk and Esperanto.

One hundred and thirty years later and once again there are tribes of people in America who do not share a common language.



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Summer picnic (1931/32) at Horseshoe Lake: Photo courtesy Key Peninsula Historical Museum

Dewey Rodman loading brush into his truck: Photo courtesy Key Peninsula Historical Museum

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Again this year, NewsMatch will match donations in our year-end campaign. It's money we depend on, especially with newly increased printing and postage costs.

This year, there's extra NewsMatch funding for new monthly givers— they'll match the full year donation! Consider the advantages of dividing your generosity into monthly installments.

NewsMatch magnifies the impact of your support of independent local news. Through matching, it supports our mission of providing *free, unbiased and independent news* to everyone living on the Key Peninsula.

Enclosed in this edition is our familiar green envelope. Mail your donation or go online at keypennews.org and choose a plan that fits your budget. Each and every donation ensures more of the joys of the newspaper that's made possible by its readers. Thank you.



Richard Gelinas
EMPIRICALLY YOURS



Milkmaids, George Washington and the End of the Pandemic

Two remarkable events in the 18th century that were a consequence of the viral disease smallpox have lessons for us today: How a simple method for vaccination was reduced to practice and presented to the medical community and how a mandate to vaccinate the Continental Army was key to winning the Revolutionary War.

But we are still enduring the COVID-19 pandemic. Some observers are now suggesting that the pandemic may decline substantially by the end of next year, 2022. How can this be?

Smallpox outbreaks were once a dreadful fact of life in Europe. Back then, in a rural area hit hard by the virus, 10% of the population would die and the death toll might be as high as 20% in towns or cities where the virus could spread more easily.

Edward Jenner (1749-1823), who trained as a physician in rural England, noticed that milkmaids never seemed to get smallpox although the cows they worked with had a similar disease: cowpox. He wondered if this resistance to smallpox might be transferable and tested the idea by inserting or rubbing powdered cowpox (and eventually smallpox) scabs or fluid from pustules into superficial scratches on the skin of a susceptible person. Most of the time this led to a mild infection in the recipient, but it also induced immunity to the smallpox virus. He described his work publicly; others readily repeated his general vaccination method; his fame and his method spread widely in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Jenner may have been aware of reports that similar methods had been practiced in China, India, the Middle East and Africa long before the 1700s. People have been successfully preventing some infectious diseases for hundreds of years with these general methods. Word also spread to England's colonies in North America, and then Lt. Gen. George Washington was paying attention.

Early during the Revolutionary War, American forces were sent north to drive the British Army out of the area around Quebec. Despite some early successes in this campaign, the Continental Army was defeated by winter weather, lack of supplies, and casualties, many of which were due to smallpox. Some historians have speculated that when the Continental Army was pinned down, laying siege to Quebec

City, Gov. Carleton sent prostitutes from the city infected with the virus to visit the American troops. If true, this could be an early example of biological warfare.

The Continental Army was defeated there and its remnants retreated south early in 1776. Washington was keenly aware of how smallpox was devastating the Army, prompting him to quietly order (so the British would not learn how sick his troops were) that all American troops be vaccinated. The program was successful, infection rates plummeted, and vaccinated troops fought at the Battles of Saratoga and Trenton, early victories for America.

In Washington's view the scourge of smallpox was worse than the British enemy and this mandate has been described "as important as any military measure Washington adopted during the war..."

Then, as now, a minority of Americans resisted vaccinations, and this is not a surprise since we prize individual freedoms so highly. But our courts have made it clear that citizens do not have a constitutionally protected right to harm their colleagues, their friends and people in their communities: One individual's right to a healthy life is greater than another individual's right to decline a vaccination.

The Supreme Court held in the landmark 1905 case *Jacobson v. Massachusetts* that states have the authority to order compulsory vaccination when there is a threat of epidemic. Justice John Harlan declared that nothing in the Constitution permits people to behave however they choose and "... real liberty for all could not exist ..." if people could act "... regardless of the injury that may be done to others."

So, where does that leave us regarding the current pandemic if some people will never be vaccinated? Over 700,000 Americans have died due to COVID-19 as of this writing, and many people who were hospitalized because of the virus have lingering health problems. When will this end?

The CEO of Moderna, Stéphane Bancel, recently said the pandemic will end "as of today, I assume in one year" in a recent interview. He pointed out that since the durability of COVID-19 vaccines depends on the age of the recipient, seniors will need annual boosters, while everyone else will benefit from boosters every three years. He referred to the activity of OC43, a less dangerous cousin of SARS-CoV-2, as an example.

OC43 tends to infect older people each year while younger people are infected once every three years. Bancel believes COVID-19 will follow the same path. He said that Moderna is testing a combination vaccine for the flu and COVID-19 as well

as a flu vaccine that has activity against four flu variants (rather than a single variant).

Happily, right now cases of COVID-19, hospitalizations and deaths are all starting to decline, and this may be due to increased vaccination and mask mandates. A former head of the Food and Drug Administration, Scott Gottlieb, believes that "this is the last major wave of infection."

Let us hope they are both correct.

Richard Gelinas, Ph.D., whose early work earned a Nobel prize, is a senior research scientist at the Institute for Systems Biology. He lives in Lakebay. Suggestions for further reading are at keypennews.org.

Phyllis Henry
COAST TO COAST



Saturday Night

Colleen was sitting on the steps in front of her brick house when my dad parked our green Dodge, and I rushed to see her. Her house was the biggest and nicest one in Lincoln, Iowa, very grand when compared to our wooden farmhouse.

We exchanged stories about our schools. She went to the town school while I attended a one-room rural school. We kept on chatting while we combed and brushed each other's hair, trying out hairstyles that would make us look older and more glamorous than our 13-year-old selves.

Saturday night was movie night, so we went to the center of town, passing in front of her dad's Allis-Chalmers farm equipment lot. My dad had bought a tractor from him. The big DX sign at my Uncle Harry's gas station lighted the middle of the one-block street. We looked through the big glass window and saw Aunt Lilly and Aunt Selma sitting on the cracked black sofa in the office. My mom was still buying groceries at Skare's Grocery next door, but soon she would be joining her sisters.

Farther down the street was the dance hall where weddings and anniversaries and other events were celebrated. Colleen's Uncle Sylvan was in a band there that played bouncy German music. Her grandma owned the building and she lived in an apartment on the second floor. Colleen and I often visited her but decided we didn't have time that night because the movie would start soon.

Across the street was the general merchandise store where almost everything was for sale: groceries, clothes, magazines, cold pop, dishes, appliances, overshoes, fabric and patterns. Colleen and I sat on the short sofa just inside the door where we could quietly reach the movie magazines in the magazine rack. Almost immediately the

store owner, Jake, asked us to leave because "some adults might want to use the bench to try on shoes."

When we left, we watched the Movie Man as he finished hanging the second huge canvas curtain on the wire suspended between the general merchandise store and Annie's restaurant-bar next door. With canvas curtains at the front and back of the lot, and the sides of the next-door buildings forming the other walls, the empty lot became the movie theater.

Usually, an old man came with the Movie Man to help with the curtains and run the projector, but tonight a young man was helping. He wore black high-top tennis shoes, and a pack of cigarettes was rolled up in the sleeve of his white T-shirt. A curl from his black pompadour dangled over his eyes. Did he look like Errol Flynn or Clark Gable or Cary Grant? We giggled and sneaked looks at him, wondering how we would ever be able to watch the movie if we had to get close to someone so cool.

Colleen dared me to speak to this matinee idol and I did. I bravely asked, "How old are you?" He answered with a wink, "Sweet 16 and never been kissed. Wanna kiss me?"

Shocked by our own daring, we rushed back to the general merchandise store and waited until the Movie Man was ready to take our dimes for admission. The gorgeous boy was running the projector, so we giggled and peeked at him but tried not to let him know we were looking.

Inside the "theater" rows of two-by-eight planks rested on cement blocks, creating backless benches for the movie. Roy Rogers fought the bad guys that night, and when one of the bad guys was about to shoot Roy, his dog, Bullet, leaped onto the back of the bad guy so Roy could ride away on Trigger.

Colleen's mom wanted her home immediately after the movie, so she left. I crossed the street to join my mom and her sisters in the garage waiting room, and in a few minutes my dad had finished his game of cards at the restaurant-bar. Annie rented a deck of cards to the farmers for 25 cents so they could play cards in one of the booths. The winner bought everyone a cigar or a beer or a candy bar. I asked my dad how he had done, and as usual he replied, "Came out about even."

On the ride home I imagined being Roy Rogers' wife, Dale Evans, wearing cream leather pants and jacket, galloping on my horse, Buttermilk, with the long fringes on my clothes flapping in the wind and my white cowboy hat framing my lovely smile. Saturday night was over but I'd had so much fun.

Award-winning columnist Phyllis Henry lives in Gig Harbor.

Bob Perry

TO MY WAY OF THINKING



What Are Americans Like?

Living on the Key Peninsula, growing older and more reflective, I have been reminded how life seems to be a circle — we often end up right where we started. For me, that's small-town America. I grew up in a town in northern Pennsylvania, much more rural than the KP. Graduating class of 15. Walked seven miles to school, uphill both ways in blinding snow (perhaps a slight exaggeration). We always joked our town was 300 miles from nowhere, and everyone knew where the highway was (since there was only one).

Over the years, living or spending significant time in 15 states and more than 15 countries, in some of the largest and smallest cities, it's funny how my wife, Tanya, and I now call the KP home, and Lakebay seems perfect on the Goldilocks scale. Over the years while in the Army and later working in corporate life, it's been an amazing range of experiences, and we have been blessed with so many friends and the opportunity to learn about different cultures and practices. I have now lived in Washington for over eight years — longer than I have ever lived anywhere else, and it is home.

It's good to be home.

In every country where I have lived, at some point in my relationships with the locals I have been asked the same question: What are Americans like? It's the most difficult cultural question I've ever been asked because there is no simple answer.

We are one of the most diverse countries that has ever existed. In addition to being a true melting pot of peoples, we are also a mosaic of strong political sentiments, quite often highly polarized. But over the years I have come to my answer that seems most accurate about “who we

are,” collectively speaking.

Simply put, Americans are a construct and a belief, an understanding that while we are not perfect, we should be more perfect. We hold ourselves to an unrelenting standard. Our national debate among our citizens, which sometimes seems tribal and mean, at its core is a great debate about how to be more perfect. A more perfect union.

When I share this concept of Americans, most non-Americans find it interesting, and it seems to fit with the historical view of our country and people. But in recent years, some of my friends have questioned this concept, pointing out where it may ring hollow. And my friends are right — the America we were 30 years ago is different from the America of today.

Some of my non-American friends also wonder why we so strongly dislike our government. It's a weird thought at first, but logical when you think about it. Our founders, as imperfect as they were, strongly believed that government and government power should be subservient to the individual. That the structure and power of government should be set up to ensure it is controlled by the individual, to protect individual liberty and freedom. During my elementary and secondary school years, most of my textbooks spoke clearly and directly about this founding principle, and it became part of me and I'm sure many of you.

This is quite different in most other cultures. When you attend school in other countries, you are not taught that a big, powerful government that controls individuals is evil — a construct to be avoided. Their education systems speak to a benevolent government, where the power to control individuals ensures a common good for everyone. So it's not unusual that they find us weird. And quite often weirdly attractive.

Moving forward, I plan to address some of these points where others see us differently from the way we perceive ourselves, as well as how our views and values seem to be shifting over time. Our educational system, economics, participation, equality,

discrimination, belief in institutions, immigration, political process — just to name a few of the topics we all probably find worthy of discussion.

Bob Perry lives in Lakebay.

Vicki Husted Biggs

A SHIFT IN PERSPECTIVE



Balance

The pile of books at my bedside grew taller each week. A new book might appear almost daily, increasing the height of the pile by a couple of inches. My lifelong love of reading is not restrained by space or reason.

Book lovers know the thrill of staying up late to finish a story, and the “book hangover” of feeling yourself still in the story hours after turning the last page. Many people who love to read have converted to reading solely through digital or audio sources. I also use those devices, but nothing satisfies like the feel and smell of a book, printed on paper, bound, and covered in a dust jacket.

The Pile contained cookbooks, novels, nonfiction, a detective series, work-related publications, and more. I scored these books online, at the thrift store, in tiny libraries and as trades with other book lovers. The Pile grew to the height of a chair seat, which is where the trouble began.

A migration of books began over to the adjacent chair, and a delicate balance evolved. Leaning on the back of the chair, the Pile continued to grow up to the window ledge. The day came when I attempted to raise the window shade, ever so slightly bumping into the Pile. The resulting crash was stupendous. Books flung open, upside down and sideways, inserting themselves into other books where they did not belong. Dust covers were ripped carelessly from the books they were supposed to protect, leaving the cookbooks defenseless and vulnerable.

Oh dear! My book obsession had run amuck, and the day of reckoning had arrived — the day when the things I was emotion-

ally attached to became too much to handle, took a tumble and lay in a chaotic heap. The slow work of recovery began; examination, sorting and decision-making. It became apparent that some introspection was called for.

While sorting through the contents of the former Pile, now simply the Mess, I was reminded of homeostasis. Homeostasis is the term used to describe balance in the human body or other living organisms. It is the self-regulating ability of an organism to maintain internal stability to compensate for environmental changes.

Wow. That was something to chew on.

For humans, some examples of homeostasis are the regulation of temperature, blood pressure, or hydration. If our bodies are not able to maintain a healthy balance of our life-sustaining systems, we will not survive.

It occurred to me that the incident of the Pile might signify another example of homeostasis. The creation, and eventual destruction, of the Pile was a result not of poor structural engineering on my part, but of an imbalance in my ability to self-regulate. I was the one out of balance, not my beloved books. Perhaps I needed to take a moment, count to 10, step back, give it a rest, or call a friend the next time I was tempted to begin another Pile.

Further reflection led me to think about our moment in history right now. Many of us are feeling assaulted by societal changes, environmental changes and health challenges. People are angry and upset, and we often feel unbalanced. Taken to the extreme, we see that murder rates are up across the country. Our piles of unbalanced concerns, worries, obsessions and irritations seem to grow by the day.

There are many issues that need attention and action for people to maintain their health individually and as a society. However, it may be time for us collectively to practice some self-regulation, and count to 10 before we respond in a manner that adds to the unbalance of our pile.

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

José Alaniz

WE LIVE HERE: BAT ROOST



Letters to the Editor

IN SUPPORT OF CANDIDATES

I support Juanita Beard for election to the Peninsula School Board Nov. 2. Her experience as a mental health professional and a parent with children in our schools makes her very qualified for the position.

Last spring the state Legislature passed a bill including a new hotline for mental health emergencies. We know the stress of the coronavirus has led to depression among students as well as school staff.

The Legislature also passed a bill requiring teacher training for diversity, equality and inclusion, important to the relevant teaching of American history and kindness in the classroom.

Whether it is mental health, our educational curricula, or safety from COVID-19, Juanita Beard believes what's best for children comes first. Getting vaccinated or wearing masks should not be a political issue during a pandemic that has taken more than 700,000 American lives.

Vote for Juanita Beard by Nov. 2.

Bob Anderson, Gig Harbor

As I count down my days as a school board director for the Peninsula School District, I reflect on the six years I served our students and community. I am proud to know in my heart that every decision and action I made as a board director was for the benefit of our children. Despite the disruption of Covid, I am pleased with where we have come as a district and, more importantly, where we are now prepared to go.

As my term ends, please stand with me to elect Jennifer Butler to take over my position. She will provide the same honest, reasonable and caring leadership I have provided, while bringing a new set of skills and background to build on the work that has been done.

I have watched Jennifer volunteer for our children and community, and I am in awe of her intellect, creativity, integrity and sense of humor. She will be the best advocate for all children, a strong voice for our community and a positive leader who will contribute to the growth and improvement of our district.

Please vote for Jennifer Butler and return your ballot by Nov. 2.

Deborah Krishnadasan, Gig Harbor

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

EYES ON SAFETY FOR KIDS

I live on the Key Peninsula and something that concerns me is the lack of color or any reflective material on the knapsacks and coats of little kids. We spend hundreds of dollars to make sure our people who work for the county or state out on the road are seen. We've got kids out on the roads, and you go by and say, "Ooh, I thought that was a post."

I drive in the early morning to go golfing and see kids out there, and sure there are sometimes adults with them, but at least half of those kids you can't see. And it doesn't take much for those little goofballs to run out into the street after something.

I remember the ill-fated time change in 1973 that was supposedly for the purpose of energy conservation and made daylight saving time run all year. It created a situation where kids were walking to school or waiting on the side of the road for their morning school bus ride in the dark. Proactive school districts made reflective tags for them to wear on their coats for safety.

Roger Iverson, Vice Principal of Peninsula High School 1977-89, Minter

The opinions expressed by columnists and letter writers are not necessarily those of the KP News. We neither endorse nor oppose issues or proposals discussed on these pages and present these views for public information.

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Co-Executive Directors Ben and Susan Paganelli. Via LLC

KP Partnership for a Healthy Community Goes Independent

Once a committee of the KP Council, the partnership has left the nest.

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

As the Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community approaches its 6-year anniversary under the leadership of executive directors Ben and Susan Paganelli, the organization has filed for its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. The partnership, sponsored by the KP Community Council in 2015 with funding from the Milgard Family Foundation, formerly fell under the fiscal umbrella of the community council.

The partnership's work primarily involves facilitating effective communication, collaboration, and resource sharing among existing local organizations with the goal of improving accessibility to health care on the KP. "We say that broadly in terms of dental, mental, substance, physical — to improve access to the point where anyone can get it," Ben Paganelli said. "We have a community action plan which is organic, and it grows and changes."

The partnership has identified hunger, transportation, and health and wellness as primary issues that affect well-being on the KP, and the results of their efforts typically spread throughout the community via

service providers such as Bischoff Food Bank, the Mustard Seed Project and Food Backpacks 4 Kids (See "One Year In: KP Partnership for a Healthy Community Celebrates and Faces a Challenge," KP News, March 2017).

The partnership played a role in recruiting two new health centers to the KP, as well as collaboratively coordinating free dental clinics. "The dental situation is actively improving, but it ain't done yet.

It ain't fixed," Ben said. "It's one step at a time. All these problems have multiple aspects to them and that's why

it requires teamwork to address them."

"We do so much cross-organizational work. We have talked to, over the five years, hundreds of people and organizations," said Susan Paganelli, a former teacher who came to the partnership with a master's degree in international human rights and extensive volunteer and nonprofit experience. She and Ben also own Via LLC, a consulting business that focuses on cross-organizational and cross-cultural consulting. "We can make steps towards long-term solutions because we can help pull together the people who are in positions to make changes."

"To take an asset-based approach is

"ALL THESE PROBLEMS HAVE MULTIPLE ASPECTS TO THEM AND THAT'S WHY IT REQUIRES TEAMWORK TO ADDRESS THEM."

important because it's what we have versus what we need," she said. "What does the community have and how do we best use those assets to full advantage?"

Partnership board president Frank DiBiase, who met the Paganellis while working for the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and later became involved with the partnership as a member of its steering committee, said their work focuses on supporting longstanding, existing service providers on the peninsula. "It's really an active listening role, that then feeds into seeking resources to help address challenges in the community," he said.

Before the partnership was formed, the Milgard Family Foundation, longstanding, philanthropic donors on the KP, had been approached by local nonprofits with requests for support every year that "seemed redundant because they were by different organizations but trying to address the same problem on the Key Peninsula," Ben said. "Milgard expressed that they felt that the money they were giving was not necessarily moving the needle significantly enough in a coordinated way on the Key Peninsula."

The goal of moving that needle more systematically, more sustainably, long-term, was what led to the original idea behind the partnership, its formation, and its work today.

"A big part of what I see the partnership doing is trying to improve communication in the community itself to better understand what the strengths of the community are, but also what some of the challenges are," DiBiase said.

"The KP is such a phenomenal community," said Ben, who grew up in New York, has lived and worked all over the world, had an operational career in the Air Force and was a strategic planner for NATO before landing here. "Our mission is to try to support as many of the organizations as we can."

The partnership recently received a \$100,000 grant from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates on the KP. Some of those funds have been distributed to various community organizations, including the Children's Home Society of Washington-Key Peninsula Family Resource Center and KP Community Services, for things like vaccination clinics, outreach, education and training.

"The partnership has shown that there is a way for people to cooperate and collaborate with each other and it can be of additional benefit, not to the detriment of their own organizations or to the detriment of the community," DiBiase said. "I think there's

almost inherent in the process of what's happening, a sustainability mechanism to doing this work in the community."

"By the partnership becoming its own 501(c)(3), it made it easier to apply for grants to organizations because now the partnership can serve as its own fiscal agent and manage its own finances," he said. "It just kind of simplifies things in terms of administration."

For more information, go to kphealthy-community.org ■

"WHAT DOES THE COMMUNITY HAVE AND HOW DO WE BEST USE THOSE ASSETS TO FULL ADVANTAGE?"



Community Council KC Corral office may close. *Tim Heitzman, KP News*

KP Community Council Faces Funding Crisis

Unable to afford its only part-time employee, KPC pivots to a fully volunteer staffing model.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula Community Council, established in 2004, is undergoing a transition. For the first time since 2017 it will no longer have a paid office manager and will depend on volunteers to keep the office in the Key Center Corral open.

Lisa Larson, the sole employee, was told that funding for her job would end Sept. 30. "My heart is with the council," she said, but when offered a job with Safe Streets she could not pass it up.

"We plan to keep moving forward the way we are," KPC Board President Chuck West said. "Our priorities are the broadband, continue with the Farm Tour, and keep the office open. We'll do it through volunteers."

Expenses for the office and utilities are currently covered by sub-renting space to others, including the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and County Council Chair Derek Young.

The KPC 2021 strategic plan called for a continued focus on broadband, public safety and expansion of beautification projects. Additional plans included reevaluation of the office manager position and salary, identifying funding and increasing the number of entities with a presence at the office. At its monthly meeting Oct. 13, West said that any updates will be delayed until new directors are appointed.

The KPC was established following a two-year planning process in response to frustration with lack of attention from Pierce County and a desire to encourage civic involvement. Jeff Harris was one of the early planners. "My focus was on providing a peninsula-wide forum that, while having no formal authority, could provide a forum or vehicle to articulate issues of concern and important goals to share with the Pierce County Council and

Executive and the departments of Pierce County," he said.

The KPC was designed to be apolitical with 14 directors from each of the four census tracts that comprise the Key Peninsula. The two districts with larger populations have four directors and the others have three. Initially directors were selected by an election process, but the cost of outreach was high and voter turnout was poor. In 2015 bylaws were amended — candidates were invited to apply, interviewed and appointed by the board to two-year terms. Sami Jensen, who attended the KPC Oct. 13 meeting via Zoom, said that the board is electing itself and thus is not truly representative. She suggested returning to an elective process.

KPC has programs that operate relatively independently under the KPC nonprofit umbrella, each managing their own budgets with approval by and tax filings through the KPC. Those programs include the Farm Council, KP School Bus Connects, and the KP Youth Council. The KP Partnership for a Healthy Community and the Gig Harbor & Key Peninsula Suicide Prevention Coalition started as KPC programs but are now independent nonprofits. Two KPC directors serve on the Key Peninsula Advisory Commission, and KPC works with several other local organizations to sponsor candidate forums.

Danna Webster joined the KPC in 2004 and remained a director until 2019. She said that the level of involvement in community actions has varied over the years, and she has valued the flexibility of the KPC to identify priorities, depending in part on the interests of the directors.

In 2011, after a young man was killed in a car accident on State Route 302, his mother came to speak to the KPC. Following her

plea for safer roads, Webster said that KPC developed a relationship with the county and state that resulted in work on SR-302 ("State Route 302 Corridor Construction Work in Progress," KP News, Sept. 2014), and that the stoplight and sidewalks in Key Center were also a result of that relationship.

The impact of the broadband work that Mark Cockerill is doing, Webster said, is due in part to his position as a KPC director, ("The Big Push for Broadband Equality on the KP," KP News, Sept. 2021).

Pierce County offered financial support to help cover basic costs for KPC operations in its early years but that ended in 2008, according to Webster. Since that time fundraising for operations has been problematic. Its current income consists of office rental fees and a grant for KP School Bus Connects. In the past, as the fiscal sponsor of the Key Peninsula & Gig Harbor Suicide Prevention Coalition and the Key Peninsula Partnership, KPC has received a 5% fee from those grants. At the October meeting West said they hope to apply for an operating grant.

Webster said the KPC could survive with the rental income, volunteer-based model that West outlined for a year, but simply maintaining the space without a more substantial infrastructure and paid staff is not a long-term solution.

"I always believed and still do that the council would continue, but there would be times where not enough people would step up to participate. Even with problems it was, is and will always be a vital and needed organization," Harris said.

At least six candidates submitted applications to become new KPC directors. Appointments to the two-year terms will be made at the November meeting. ■

"EVEN WITH PROBLEMS IT WAS, IS AND WILL ALWAYS BE A VITAL AND NEEDED ORGANIZATION."



A "Einstein" by Jack Magano. **B** "Slim Pickins and Lady Debbie are Key-Pen-It-Clean" by Lisa Monnejahn won a \$50 gift certificate to Key Center Food Market from the TPCHD for the "healthiest scare crow." **C** "Ghost Fire Hat" by KPF Station 46. **D** "Eye Got This" by Debbie Cassidy and Diana Nole at Sunnycrest Nursery won third place and \$50. **E** "Little Heroes" by Ronan and Rayden Collins. **F** Second-place honors and \$75 went to Stephanie Brooks at Gnosh for "SamWitches of Key Center." **G** "Head in the Flowers" by Kamryn Minch. **H** "Elon-Bot" by Karen Carlson. **I** "Goodbye Summer" by Madrona Café. All scarecrow photos: *Tina McKail, KP News*



100 Years of Recreation.

Addressing local community needs, the Longbranch Improvement Club purchased a 10-acre parcel in October 1921 for “a consolidated school and a people’s park and athletic field.”

Land was cleared in the new park and a grandstand and bleachers were constructed. Baseball was very popular in the community and Longbranch now had its own successful ball club. Our 100-year history of civic engagement and brotherhood in the South

Key Peninsula includes sponsoring countless dances, picnics, social events and recreational activities.

The LIC’s commitment to the community continues today.



Photos courtesy of KP Historical Society
For more information on our history and how to join, visit us at licweb.org



The Longbranch Improvement Club | 2021 CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE



Bound to the earth, this moss-covered bigleaf maple reaches for the sky. *Chris Rurik, KP News*

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The view from the shore of Filucy Bay Preserve. *Chris Rurik, KP News*

Into the
WILD
EXPLORING WITH THE
KP NATURE GUIDE

Chasing Silence and Sound in Filucy Bay Preserve

CHRIS RURIK, KP NEWS

As I work my way down a forested draw in Filucy Bay Preserve, tree frogs call. Ferns and logs guide me through a series of pinch points where deer have squeezed before me.

This preserve near Longbranch is best approached by kayak, but I'm a crazy coot of a naturalist. I want the experience of emerging through a thicket onto untouched shoreline. I am entering from above.

I detour to the base of a maple that has four trunks spreading into a cirque of light it has carved for itself. The air smells of autumn at last. I'm here just two days after the rainstorm that ended one of the driest summers on record. I plunge my fingers into deep moss that clothes the maple. It's not dripping but it is fully rehydrated and back to its usual self. I wiggle a finger into the soil: not saturated but damp as deep as I can dig.

There is a soft tapping high above, slightly syncopated. Based on sound alone, I'm certain it's a sapsucker, our most gentle woodpecker. I tramp around the tree to get an angle on it and instead scare up a small beast that pauses on rotting wood: a red-legged frog, a species in decline across the Pacific Northwest. These frogs require long-established habitat like this.

The silhouetted woodpecker above, when I finally spy it, surprises me. It's not a sapsucker at all. Large and dark, it leans back to inspect its progress. Light illuminates its crest. Pileated woodpecker. Maybe the return of moisture has softened more than just the moss. Maybe I'm no longer

accustomed to the way the deep woods, properly wet, mute sounds. This is usually our most resounding woodpecker.

Farther down the draw, between inspections of wild ginger patches and one of the best collections of vine maples I have yet seen on the Key Peninsula, I'm thinking about how interesting it would be to rig up a few moisture probes to remotely record how quickly soil loses and regains moisture at different depths. Then you could put out sound recorders and correlate them to see if a forest's moisture level impacts its soundscape.

Maybe in the next life I'll have time to test all my hypotheses. Maybe as a frog.

To approach a shoreline from forest is to sense space before you can really see it. I cross a flat, its far edge lined with the biggest cedars and firs yet, and suddenly feel I am in a tree fort looking out. Around me, trees lean over mud. Below, their lowest branches are pickled with salt, twisted into a barricade. Filucy Bay Preserve protects both sides of this, the bay's narrow north cove. The far bank is just as draped with forest as mine. Where else in Puget Sound can you look across water without seeing a single bulkhead or clearing?

And where else is a place so quiet? I'm hearing a soft grunt. Two mergansers have slipped into the water and are checking up on ripples that look like fish. I've been around thousands of mergansers. I did not know they grunt. Coming south on the Key Peninsula always feels like entering a quieter, slower realm, but this has to be one of the most tranquil places here. I am

far from the main road and cut off from boat noise in Carr Inlet's main channel. At the moment, no airplanes are flying over. The incessantness of engine noise, ever increasing on the peninsula, is hard to recognize until it is gone. What effect does it have?

Just west, Olympic National Park has become famous for holding "One Square Inch of Silence," a spot in the Hoh Rainforest designated as possibly the quietest place in America by acoustic ecologist and chaser of rare nature sounds Gordon Hempton. And Olympic and Mount Rainier are two of the first four national parks to be tasked with crafting plans for how many sightseeing flights are appropriate, measuring the impacts of flight noise on wildlife and hikers. And in Puget Sound — an unintentionally accurate name — much research has recently been done on the interference created by boat engine noise and naval sonar for marine mammals like orcas and harbor seals, which communicate through underwater sound.

A landscape is, in large part, a soundscape. When friends from the city come to stay a night at our place, they emerge late in the morning to describe how they fell into such a sleep that they exited time for a while.

It's not just vocalizations but wavelets and the rush of wings. I hear the eagle fly in before I see it. Saying nothing, it banks and takes up a post in a waterfront tree.

Then, higher, comes an osprey on thin canted wings. It wheels out of sight. Soon I hear its agitated call, a piercing key-key-

key-key. The osprey reappears in a shallow dive, still calling, aimed straight for the eagle's head.

At the last moment the eagle bails from its perch and rustles out of sight. The osprey comes back around. It gains altitude and puts its attention on the water. Smart bird, I think. No point in fishing if a bully's around.

For a while I crouch with my eyes unfocused, listening to the lapping around me. Later I find a way onto the muddy shoreline. It turns to rock as I go. Archaeological sites have been found here. Cracked and blackened rocks and buried clamshells speak of smoked shellfish. I think of what it must have been like. A quiet place is not a place that lacks human noise. But the human noises that would have been here — talk, laughter, the crackle of fire, the soft pop of a clam opening — would have fit right in with the sounds of nature. They would have had the same syncopation and unpredictability, the same ability to interact. Unlike engines, which in their heedless droning are dumping a form of waste on others, these cove-side human noises would have been capable of stopping to listen. They would have been capable of conversation.

Sound still has power. Despite our best efforts, we're not immune to it yet. As I push my way back through ferns and huckleberry, deep into the forested preserve, I'm scared out of my boots by a dinosaur bellow just behind me. I spin around. Ah. Only a great blue heron clattering onto a perch in the trees. ■



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An idyllic scene from Burley Lagoon at high tide. *Ed Johnson, KP News*

Burley Lagoon Geoduck Battle Enters Next Phase

Taylor Shellfish Company submitted a draft environmental impact statement that opponents said failed to consider significant impacts on biodiversity.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The Taylor Shellfish Co. moved one step closer in its quest to replace part of its existing Manila clam and oyster beds in Burley Lagoon with geoducks when it submitted a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) to the Pierce County Planning and Land Services Department (PALS) Oct. 4.

Burley Lagoon was first farmed in the 1930s by Tye Oyster Company. The tidelands were purchased by Western Oyster Properties in 1952; Taylor Shellfish has leased the 300-acre farm from Western since 2012. Since that time, depending on conditions and demand, between 80 and 200 acres of oysters and Manila clams have been under active cultivation.

In 2014 Taylor Shellfish submitted a permit request that would allow them to convert 25.5 acres to geoduck farming. PALS reviewed the proposal and because it was different from other permitted projects — more acreage, a relatively enclosed location, and denser population — it required an environmental impact statement.

At a public hearing held in 2016 most

public comments focused on concerns about loose plastic from the geoduck gear, noise, and the deleterious effects on other wildlife (“Large-Scale Geoduck Farming Possible in Burley Lagoon,” KP News, Dec. 2016). At the time it was anticipated that a DEIS would be submitted within a year.

PALS reviewed an early draft and said the scope of work should include effects on sediments, water quality, aquatic vegetation, invertebrates and forage fish, fish and wildlife, noise, recreation and aesthetics. Bill Dewey, Taylor Shellfish Co. public affairs director, said that required additional studies; the pandemic caused further delay.

The DEIS, available on the PALS

website and as a hard copy in the Key Center Library, outlines the environmental impact of three scenarios. The first, Taylor Shellfish’s preferred plan, would be to replace 25.5 acres of existing clam and oyster beds with geoducks, planted in phases. Nursery tubes, either solid plastic or mesh, would be used to protect young clams as well as predator exclusion netting. The second scenario would allow geoduck



Two sites proposed for growing geoducks commercially. *Pierce County Planning and Land Use*

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Davidson Logging truck at Collins Grocery. Don Janess (sp?) and Ralph Collins: Photo courtesy Key Peninsula Historical Museum

aquaculture throughout the proposed 25.5 acres but limit use to 17 acres at a time. The final alternative would be to take no action and to maintain current clam and oyster aquaculture.

In the cover memo, PALS Planning Manager Sean Gaffney stated that conversion to geoducks would not significantly impact biological resources or ecological functions and that the primary effects of interest to Burley Lagoon residents would be aesthetics when gear was visible, nighttime noise, lights during farming activities and potential recreational conflicts with protective tubes and netting.

“We are excited to finally have the DEIS out and are pleased with how comprehensive it is. We are really looking forward to hearing what people think,” Dewey said. “From our experience growing shellfish all over the state there are areas in the lagoon that are ideal for growing geoduck. Geoduck is an iconic Washington state product, and we have strong demand locally as well as other domestic and international customers. We built our success offering customers a variety of shellfish options. The pandemic reinforced the importance of diversity.”

He added that geoducks are not necessarily more profitable than other shellfish, especially oysters, which are the primary crop at Burley Lagoon. Planting and harvesting one clam at a time is expensive, geoduck seed is hard to grow, and the time between planting and maturity is five to seven years.

Laura Hendricks, executive director of the Coalition to Save Puget Sound, said that after reviewing the DEIS she did not think the studies cited reflected the most recent science. Most early studies on the impact of shellfish aquaculture, she said, were done by Sea Grant and funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with a bias favoring aquaculture. She is concerned that the science has focused on short-term impacts of shellfish farming and has not addressed its cumulative effects. There are, she said, significant impacts on biodiversity. In addition, she said that the emphasis on plastics has been on debris and not microplastics. “There is enough missing that I think the DEIS should be redone or not approved,” she said.

“If Pierce County approves the permit, cumulative impacts of industrial aquaculture practices could threaten the Burley estuary’s ecosystem and continue to interfere with the natural food web of Puget Sound,” Friends of Burley Lagoon posted on their website.

Public comment will be accepted until

Nov. 17. No dates have been set for the steps that follow. Those steps are writing a final DEIS, public meetings at the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor Advisory Commissions, public hearings before the Pierce County Hearing Examiner, a decision by the hearing examiner on permits and an appeal if filed, transmittal of that decision to the Washington State Department of Ecology followed by its decision, and public hearings if an appeal is filed. Ecology makes the final decision.

Hendricks said that the Coalition to Save Puget Sound plans to appeal if the permit is approved. ■

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Look for the Calendar's return to these pages soon.

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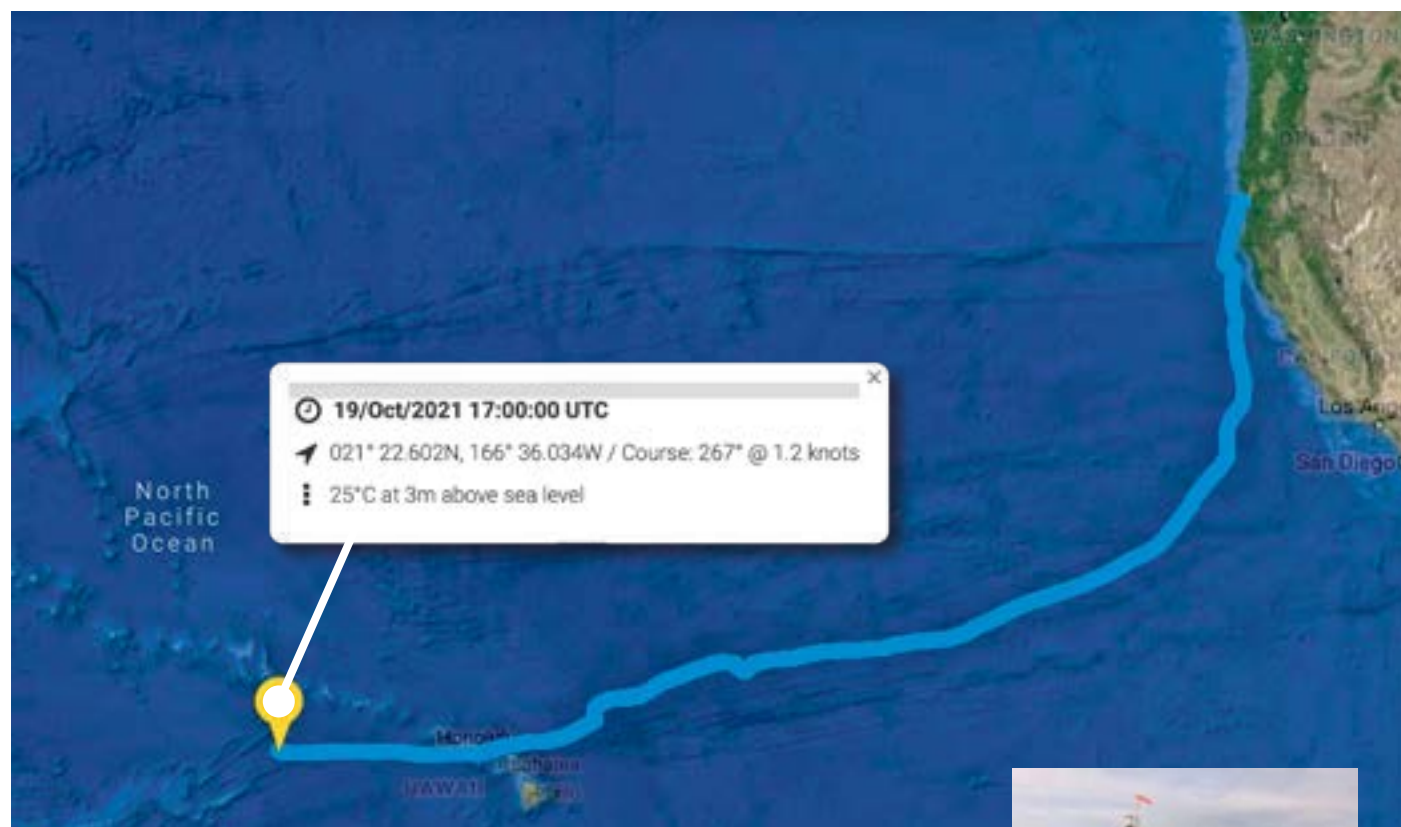
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Erden Eruç was approximately 500 miles west of Waikiki Oct. 19. *Around-n-Over*

Inset portrait by Chris Bronstad, from Key Peninsula News Mon 2021

Wauna Man Resumes Solo Row From U.S. to Asia

No one has ever rowed across the Pacific mainland-to-mainland, but that's just the beginning.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Solo circumnavigator Erden Eruç, 60, of Wauna, resumed his second solo row across the Pacific Oct. 7 when he relaunched from Waikiki, Oahu, where he arrived Sept. 10 after an 80-day crossing from Crescent City, Calif.

"I covered a lot of ground with 25 knot gusting winds the first few days," Eruç wrote in his blog. "The seas were cross in the lee of Oahu and Kauai Channel. Driving waves would catch up with my rowboat then slam, splashing me in the process. When I could, I rinsed and hid in the cabin to read. Time in the sweltering cabin over the last few days had me itching with salt."

Eruç spent his brief time in Hawaii repairing his desalinator, replacing navigational equipment, and reinforcing deck scuppers to prevent his boat from taking on so much water in high seas. He also packed in 150 freeze-dried breakfasts and tried again to get permission to enter China.

He expects to reach Hong Kong in March 2022 but was denied a tourist visa due to

the pandemic. He has a backup plan to land in Da Nang, Vietnam, though that country is also closed to foreigners now.

Once he reaches Asia, Eruç will bicycle to Mount Everest, which he plans to summit in the fall of 2022, then bike west across Asia Minor to Mount Elbrus, the highest mountain in Europe, which he will summit before cycling the rest of the continent to rejoin his boat in Portugal. From there he will row to Brazil, then bike southwest

ERUÇ COMPLETED THAT CIRCUMNAVIGATION IN 2012 AFTER FIVE YEARS AND 41,153 MILES. ... HE HOLDS 15 GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS.

across the continent to Argentina and summit Aconcagua, the tallest mountain in South America. He will then bike and kayak north back to Crescent City, completing his second human-powered circumnavigation and having summited the last of the highest peaks on six continents, part of his goal on the first go-round.

Eruç completed that circumnavigation in 2012 after five years and 41,153 miles. He became the first person to row across three oceans; the first to row from Australia to Africa; the first to cross any ocean from the southern to northern hemisphere; and he also rowed the longest distance ever



attempted across the Atlantic. In all, he holds 15 Guinness World Records.

As an ambassador for Ocean Recovery Alliance on this journey, Eruç is raising awareness about plastic pollution in the ocean, he said. He is producing educational content on the environment, climate change and survival at sea that he transmits to classrooms around the world. His nonprofit, *Around-n-Over*, has already donated over \$100,000 to rural schools in his homeland, Turkey. He is also recording the sounds of beaked whales on this trip for research the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is conducting to track their movements.

This is the second row across the Pacific for Eruç but the first attempt by anyone to go from mainland-to-mainland in a human-powered craft.

"This leg of my Pacific crossing, which I estimate will last well into March, will be even more challenging than the 80 days from Crescent City to Waikiki," he wrote. "Navigating the large eddies and strong currents on my westerly course will take guidance ... Winter storms, which form in the western Pacific, will travel east, passing north of my course, threatening to draw me



Erden Eruç rowing out of Waikiki Harbor Oct. 7. *Around-n-Over*

north. The same storms will bring northerly winds in January trying to press me south when I am west of the Marianas. These challenges will not be trivial.

“Please keep me in your thoughts,” he

wrote.

Follow Erden Eruç’s progress at www.erdeneruc.com/tracking

For more information on Eruç’s educational work, go to www.around-n-over.org ■

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- 8:55 Vaughn Elementary School
- 9:01 Wright Bliss Rd NW @Olson Dr NW
- 9:02 Wright Bliss Road @104th St Ct NW
- 9:03 Union 76 @SR 302/4 Corners
- 9:06 SR 302 @150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 9:08 SR 302 @140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 9:10 SR 302 @Charboneau Construction
- 9:13 Lake Kathryn Village
- 9:19 Purdy Park & Ride

VAUGHN WEDNESDAY MORNING

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

EVERGREEN TUE/THUR MORNING

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

EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY MORNING

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

TUE/WED/THUR AFTERNOON

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



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The KP and the Chronically Homeless

Lack of services and growing needs are slowly putting the squeeze on the KP.

TED OLINGER
AND SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The number of people experiencing homelessness in Pierce County increased 37% between 2015 and 2021, according to the county's Homeless Point-in-Time Count survey conducted last January.

The one-day, in-person survey found 1,762 adults and children living unsheltered. Of these, 24% were chronically homeless, often suffering from mental health or substance abuse issues.

According to the Pierce County Homeless Management Information System, which records anyone who has experienced and received aid for homelessness, whether for a day or a year, the number is closer to 11,000.

The total is thought to be higher in rural communities, like the Key Peninsula, where it can be more difficult to find people or convince them to utilize services.

"We have a larger population than people realize, but we have just a few individuals that are more in the limelight," said

KP Fire District 16 Public Information Officer Anne Nesbit. Calls to the department related to the chronically homeless have not significantly increased in the last year, she said.

"They come out here because they want to be left alone and there's more space to live under the radar. I can think of four or five camps that are active in the area and there's probably more, and they hike into Home or Key Center or Lake Kathryn Village because that's where the resources are," she said.

"EVERY HOMELESS PERSON HAS A DIFFERENT STORY AND A DIFFERENT NEED."

"At the library, people come in to use the bathroom, but the impact

isn't above or beyond how anyone else uses them," said Tim Sage, the Key Center Library manager. "There are a few regulars we know, and I have had two or three conversations reminding them of the rules, sort of a 'wellness check,' but nothing that we could not handle ourselves."

"It's gotten worse," said Lisa Larson, who until Sept. 30 was manager of the KP Community Council office in the Key Center Corral. She cited incidents of



vandalism and littering, people injecting drugs, or sleeping out overnight on the property.

“We were trying to help (one person) for a while, we got her a room in a motel in Port Orchard,” Larson said. “We were waiting for Kitsap County to do their thing because Pierce County wanted her to move to Tacoma to get services, and she didn’t want to. Then she got tired of waiting and left, so she’s back in the woods again.”

“I see some that are regulars,” said Carla Parkhurst,

who has been coordinator at the Angel Guild thrift shop in the corral for 11 years. “There’s one in particular who doesn’t bother us at all. He’ll come in and look through the books, do his shopping, and I see him walking on the highway. He’s a very nice man; he’s just homeless.”

But Parkhurst and others have called 911 when people get agitated or are arguing or fighting.

Sgt. Darren Moss, the Pierce County Sheriff Department public information officer, said they receive one or two calls a week from the KP related to homelessness, slightly up from last year.

Deputies can deal with trespassing or criminal behavior, assess the need for mental health evaluation, and call a designated crisis responder to evaluate and provide transportation to a shelter. If a business owner or employee identifies a person who has been a problem, the deputy can serve them with a trespass

notification, informing them they can be arrested if they come to that property again.

Some of the businesses in Lake Kathryn Village in Wauna told the KP News about people living in the nearby woods or in cars in the parking lot.

Anita Fjermedal, a manager at the Food Market, said she thought the number of

homeless there had increased slightly in the last year. She called the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department a few times, but often the individuals have left by the time a deputy arrives. Sometimes

there are panhandlers and shoplifting has been a problem, she said.

A manager at Cost Less Pharmacy said they have had some issues, and the focus is keeping customers and employees safe. She worried about the safety of the homeless people, who are mostly familiar faces. “Every homeless person has a different story and a different need.”

“It is really hard,” said Dan Whitmarsh, pastor of Lakebay Community Church. “We had a lady living in her car in our parking lot and we offered three or four times to help her get out of living in her car, get to a shelter, and she made excuses every time. She moved to another parking lot.”

Church members also found two men camped out in the woods on its property. One accepted a ride to the Tacoma Rescue Mission; the other just moved his camp.

“I don’t know if they don’t want the hassle,” Whitmarsh said. “The KP has a lot of dark corners where you can hide

while Tacoma doesn’t. It might feel safer.”

Whitmarsh and his congregation do help where they can, he said, and he has referred people to agencies that provide transitional shelter, but that usually means Gig Harbor or somewhere further afield.

The KP has a few services for people in need (see sidebar).

“When I first came out here, I joined this new group, the Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula Homeless Coalition,” said Pastor Anna Bonaro of KP Lutheran Church. “A lot of what we’re doing is bring different resources together, so it’s not just one (group) trying to tackle homelessness on the KP, but it’s a group of people saying we’ve got these resources that can help.”

“There are so many little things that this church does to meet those needs,” she said, “but a lot of the hardship is just reaching those people who need it, especially the chronic homeless. Transportation is a huge roadblock. And then you see the ripple effect: it’s hard to put resources out here, then it’s hard for people to get to the resources. You start to see how much of a spider web this is; we have all these different things that we’re trying to work on.”

“There are agencies that have resources, but we can’t get them to come out here,” said Nesbit, the KPFD public information officer. “We get a lot of walk-ins who are really sick; we transport them to a hospital or refer them to a clinic in Tacoma. We’ve got somebody that needs housing, the agency says ‘OK, get them to Tacoma.’ Our overarching issue is that we don’t have the resources. Even if the county has them, people will not cross the Purdy spit, either way.” ■

SERVICES FOR PEOPLE IN NEED ON THE KP

- In an **emergency**, always call 911.
- Call **Pierce County Crisis Line** at 800-576-7764 for the Mobile Outreach Crisis Team, which provides services for anyone 18 and over, to determine if the individual in crisis will accept a less restrictive alternative to hospitalization. If the individual is a danger to self or others, or gravely disabled, they will refer to an emergency service.
- Call **211 for local resources** — help paying bills, finding food, shelter or medical treatment.
- **KP Community Services** provides emergency food supplies, hot meals and senior services. 17015 9th Street CT NW. 253-884-4440
- **KP Bischoff Food Bank** is a food pantry for anyone in need. 12402 134th Ave NW. 253-884-1997
- **Harbor Hope Center** provides transitional housing and support services for high school and middle school students experiencing homelessness, including on the KP. 3781 Rosedale Street NW. 844-841-1954
- **Children’s Home Society of Washington-Key Peninsula Family Resource Center** has in-person appointments for referral services (financial aid, health care, employment) and basic needs (diapers, school supplies, clothing). 17010 S. Vaughn Road. 253-884-5433
- **KP Bus Connects Program** provides free rides for all ages on designated routes. Call 253-884-BUSS for more information.
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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN — TIME TO STOCK UP ON STOCK



The Secret to Great Stock

The soup is on, but not without this winning stock. *Lori Deacon*

LORI DEACON

When I was young, growing up here on the Key Peninsula, I loved to spend hours in the farm kitchen with my mother. By sixth grade I helped almost every evening with dinner. Mom was a fantastic cook and soon I learned her tricks and recipes for every delicious meal.

It was the beginning of my lifelong passion for food and farming — cooking and eating.

Somewhere along the way I discovered not just many new recipes but some tasty tricks of my own. I would like to share my ideas for making delicious stocks and broths that can be incorporated into soups, gravies and maybe even a risotto.

Almost everyone knows that you can just boil a chicken and end up with some version of stock. Usually gray, and very unappealing to look at or cook with. My version goes like this:

ROAST IT FIRST!

Seriously, anything can be made into stock but for the sake of argument let's use a chicken.

Whether you start with a whole raw

chicken, chicken parts or even a famous Costco rotisserie bird, you have what you need to start. I usually get a fully roasted chicken when I go to the market just because it's easy and fast. The drumsticks are a nice snack, and I like to cut out the white breast meat to add to other dishes. What I'm left with is a pile of bones and skin and odd bits of meat and juices.

Place all the scraps in a large (at least 4 quart) stock pot that will fit in your oven. Re-roast at around 400 degrees, stirring from time to time to make sure everything turns a nice golden, crispy brown. Do not let it burn so keep an eye on it. This can take up to 1 hour.

Or you can try this step on the stove top. Add 3 quarts of hot tap water to what you've got in the pot and place it on the stove top, uncovered at a very low simmer. You do not want it to boil. Boiling homogenizes the fats and liquid so the stock gets cloudy. I simmer mine all day. Make sure it stays at a hot food safe temperature of at least 175 degrees.

When finished, just pour through a fine

mesh sieve into a container that will easily fit in the fridge. Store it uncovered until it cools, maybe overnight. You'll notice a small layer of fat on the surface, which is easily removed before using. What's left is a delicious, golden, clear stock. It will have reduced to about 2 quarts while cooking.

Try roasting vegetables for vegetarian stock, or beef bones, onions or whatever you have left over or need to use up. Around the farm it's always waste not, want not. This also works well with the leftover Thanksgiving turkey. You'll just want a larger pot and more water.

Easy Chicken and Kale Soup

(Serves 4 to 6)

- 2 cups shredded chicken or whatever amount you have leftover
- 1 can cooked white beans (like cannellini or navy)
- 4 cups chopped kale (I prefer curly)
- 1 quart of your delicious golden stock
- Salt to taste
- Homemade croutons and fresh parmesan for garnish

Place the first four ingredients in a large pot, bring to a simmer and cook just until the kale is tender. Serve immediately. Do not add salt until you taste. ■

We'd love to feature a dish from your KP kitchen that friends and family ask for. Email the details to editor@keypennews.org with your phone number; we'll be in touch. PS: There's a printable, shareable pdf with the complete recipe on keypennews.org

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In September, Angel Guild awarded \$7,000 to Key Peninsula Community Services and \$5,000 to Children's Home Society.



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'You Don't Belong Here' by Elizabeth Becker

MAUREEN REILLY

As the former spouse of a Vietnam veteran, I did not think I would ever read another book about that war.

For 16 years I absorbed everything I could find to understand the devastation Vietnam did to ordinary American men and women. I knew everything about the war that someone who wasn't there could possibly know. At least, I thought I did. This book revealed much that was new to me.

They didn't belong there? Did the American military or the French before them?

Three women — Kate Webb, Catherine Leroy and Frances Fitzgerald — had nothing in common before they arrived in Southeast Asia. What bound them together in their separate experiences was a determination to bear witness to the effect of the western world's military presence in South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

Kate, Cathy and Frankie faced ferocious resistance to the idea of women journalists in a war zone. Military commanders found the idea of them going to the front lines preposterous and the male journalists in-country were threatened to their core.

At tremendous personal sacrifice to their physical and mental health, all three women told the story of this war from the point of view of the Vietnamese people and the ordinary soldier. They overcame formidable obstacles to focus on real people losing their homes, their innocence, their families and their way of life. While their male counterparts concentrated on statistics, especially those boosting the idea of American victory, Kate, Cathy and Frankie helped the western world see the human cost.

It is difficult to talk about these women without descending into cliché. They shattered the glass ceiling, they were pioneers, they redefined what women were capable of bearing, they demonstrated that women are just as intelligent, courageous, and resourceful as men, they reset the bar for all the women who came after them. It is all true.

I have always prided myself on being tough and independent, on overcoming obstacles and not letting anyone hold me

back. Could I have done what Kate Webb, Catherine Leroy and Frances Fitzgerald did? Did I ever have their raw physical courage and moral righteousness?

Catherine's intense photographs of soldiers at the front show the terror and chaos but also highlight the long stretches of boredom and seemingly meaningless routine. By parachuting into the battle zones, this gutsy French photographer saw and recorded events that few journalists witnessed.

Australian Kate suppressed her femininity to fit in with her male counterparts more easily. She was a phenomenally

successful journalist and eventually became the bureau chief in Phnom Penh for UPI, but the hard drinking, heavy smoking loner

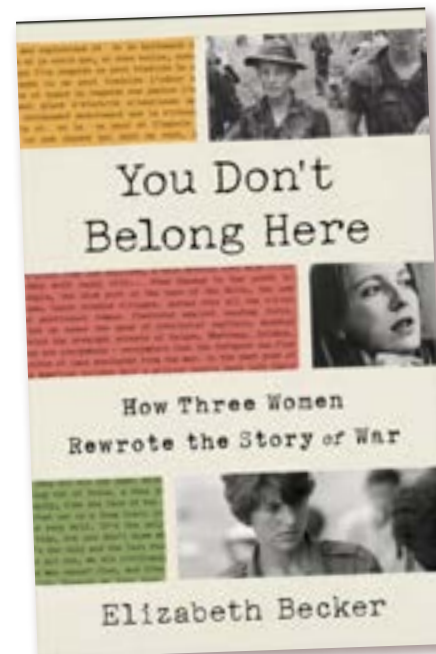
lifestyle necessary to achieve it left her troubled and ill.

Frankie, born into a wealthy American family, never suffered the financial deprivation of Kate and Cathy but was just as ridiculed and reviled by the men she was forced to work alongside. She wrote several award-winning books, including one still regarded as the definitive history of that war: "Fire in the Lake: The Vietnamese and the Americans in Vietnam" (1972). It was a bestseller that won the Pulitzer Prize, Bancroft Prize and National Book Award.

These woman had difficult personal lives due to their professional struggles. Catherine and Kate died young without enjoying a successful personal partnership. Frankie eventually found happiness with writer James Sterba at the age of 50. None had children.

Award-winning journalist and filmmaker Alex Quade could never have been embedded long-term with U.S. Special Forces on contemporary combat missions if Kate, Cathy and Frankie had not faced down all the insults and obstructions thrown at them in the 1960s and '70s to change the way the story of war is told.

In her telling of how these young women forever changed the world's perception of female journalists, Elizabeth Becker gives us a totally new view of what drove the Vietnam War. It is all eerily familiar as we



watch and listen to the consequences of America's long deployment in Afghanistan and the chaotic withdrawal.

Have we learned anything about how we keep women from taking their rightful place in this world? Have we learned how to aid and assist other cultures and countries without interfering in their right and obligation to forge their own destiny? If we have, it is at least in part due to people like Kate Webb, Catherine Leroy and Frances Fitzgerald and to Elizabeth Becker, who told their stories. ■

"You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War" by Elizabeth Becker. Published by Public Affairs, 2021, 320 pages.



Elizabeth Becker began her career as a war correspondent for the Washington Post in Cambodia. She was the senior foreign editor for National Public Radio and a New York Times correspondent and was part of the Times team that won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for its coverage of 9/11.

She is the author of "When the War was Over: Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge Revolution" and "Overbooked: The Exploding Business of Travel and Tourism," an exposé of the travel industry.

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Jennifer was a major force in bringing 4 new elementary and 2 modernized middle schools to our district, including Evergreen and KPMS. She has two children in PSD and is an active volunteer in the community and our classrooms.

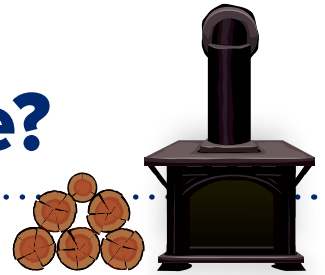
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HUMANITY'S BEEN SAVING SEEDS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF AGRICULTURE



Seed Saver

How a retired college English teacher brings hope, order and bygone flavor to a Lakebay garden.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Diane Grant, who lives in Lakebay, harvested a tomato this year that she had never seen before. She loved the flavor and was afraid she might never find it again. Could she save the seeds and rest easy next season? She knew just who to ask. Neighbor Jerry McCourt is the go-to person for vegetable garden advice in the neighborhood.

McCourt has been gardening for more than five decades — ever since he bought his first house in Home in 1967 — and is known among friends as an inquisitive do-it-yourselfer.

He grew up in Tacoma and discovered the Key Peninsula when his parents rented a place on Delano Bay in the summer. After completing undergraduate and graduate work in English at the University of Washington, he took a job at Tacoma Community College where he spent the next 43 years teaching English and critical thinking.

“As a teacher I had summers off for the most part so I could spend that time in the garden,” McCourt said. His first garden was modest. He planted lettuce and bought ducks to eat the inevitable slugs. “I put the ducks next to the lettuce because slugs like to eat lettuce and ducks

like to eat slugs. It turns out ducks like to eat lettuce too. So, I ended up collecting all of the slugs to feed the ducks.”

In 1973 he moved to his current home in Lakebay with 4 acres including “a bit of tideland.” He married Jayne in 1983 and they raised their blended family of six — “two, two and two.”

The vegetable garden was on the south side of the two-story house. The previous owner sold produce from the garden at the roadside so the basement included a cold room for storage and an old wood burning cook-stove where all the canning had been done.

By the time they bought the house it was surrounded by big trees. During a 1989 storm, a tree took out their second floor and trapped the girls in their bedroom. Hazardous trees were soon removed and with more sun came a bigger garden.

Jerry now has a greenhouse, grapes, apples, pears and figs. The resident ducks are fenced well away from the lettuce.

McCourt has always grown his vegetables from seeds. Before he built his greenhouse, he grew seedlings in the basement under lights and transferred them to a

cold frame if they couldn't go straight into the garden. He started collecting his own seeds in the mid-80s.

His wife Jayne said, “He couldn't find everything he wanted. Plus, he's really cheap and he doesn't like to pay for anything he can get himself.”

He learned what to do through books and the internet.

“I am a reader. I collected a bunch of information on the internet about seed viability, planting times, and I keep some charts right where I keep my

seeds,” he said. The basement, still dominated by the now decommissioned woodstove, houses racks for drying seeds, boxes containing carefully labeled envelopes with seeds he's collected, along with his wine and cider projects.

Some seeds, he says, are worth saving. Others not so much. Varieties that cross-pollinate won't produce predictable plants. Squashes are one such plant. “If I only grow one variety, I can save the seeds,” he said. Carrots are a problem because there are wild varieties that cross pollinate with what is in the garden.

Jerry saves his pepper seeds, but Jayne

said that comes with risks. “We have Hungarian peppers that are really hot because they crossed with jalapeños. And jalapeños that have no heat,” she said. Jerry simply applies a taste test before he uses them. Their bell peppers, with seeds derived from a grocery purchase, have bred true and improved every year.

Some seeds can be directly removed from mature pods or vegetables and dried, as with beans or peas, or washed and dried, as with squash.

Tomatoes breed true, but saving them takes additional steps, as Grant discovered. The gelatinous sac that surrounds each seed contains substances that inhibit germination and can also serve as a safe haven for diseases, so fermentation is recommended. Seeds are removed along with pulp from ripe, healthy fruit, covered with water, placed in a jar, covered with cheesecloth, and set aside in a warm place for a few days. Bubbles will rise and a mold may form on the top. The seeds are removed — heavy, healthy seeds will sink to the bottom — rinsed and dried.

Grant has her seeds safely stored and is looking forward to eating Old German tomatoes next summer. ■





THE GREATER ALARM

FIRE DISTRICT NO.16 NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As we step into the heart of Fall, the District focuses on closing out 2021 and preparing for 2022. Staff is working on finalizing third-quarter reports in preparation for understanding the end of year financials, incident volume, and more. Work is underway to make sure our fleet and facilities are prepared for the weather that comes with the season. Numerous hours are being consumed on recruitment efforts and budget preparation for the following year. Fall is a busy time of year here at District 16, but all of the work and activity is for a good reason.

The 2022 budget will allow the District to hire more Firefighters. These additional Firefighters will enable the District to backfill an upcoming retirement, and continue inching its way towards having adequate staffing to support the incident volume and incident complexity we experience within our community. Having additional staffing will also reduce overtime and decrease the number of consecutive hours that some women and men are currently working.

The Board of Fire Commissioners will continue to have Staff engaged in the numerous longer-term planning processes underway, including understanding the District's property and capital facilities needs, fleet needs, and any cooperative opportunities that may be available now or into the future. The Board will also continue to provide the necessary policy oversight to manage the various state and federal mandates that impact the fire service.

Yes, it is busy, but Fall is a beautiful time of year, and I hope that you take just a moment to experience it firsthand right here in our backyard.

Chief Morrow
Stay safe!
Chief Morrow

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION: STAYING AHEAD OF THE 911 CALLS

Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic focus of resources (emergency response and prevention) to reduce their occurrence and impact. You may be wondering what does this mean? It means that the District has targeted specific areas of focus which are guided and directed by our District's Strategic Goals. The areas are: Fall and Slip Reduction, Increase Bystander CPR Training, Smoke Alarm, and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Support and Education. We are excited about this direction and the enhancement of community relationships that will help us achieve these very important goals.



Are you aware that **YOU** are a link to survival should someone near you experience cardiac arrest? Knowing how to perform high quality CPR and use an AED is a skill that can save a life. If you are interested and would like to be CPR certified or if you just need a refresher, contact the District. Due to COVID precautions classes are small and weather permitting may be held outdoors.

HOLIDAY COOKING FIRE SAFETY

The Holidays are fast approaching and the District would like to remind you that cooking is the number one cause of home fires. We have a few reminders to share:

- Most importantly make sure that you have installed a smoke alarm near your kitchen, on each level of your home, near sleeping areas, and inside and outside bedrooms. Use the test button to check it each month. Replace all batteries at least once a year-good time is when you change your clocks.
- Don't wear loose clothing or sleeves that dangle while cooking.
- If you are frying, grilling or broiling food, never leave it unattended.
- Use a timer to remind yourself that the stove or oven is on.
- Keep kids and pets away from the cooking area.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stove, oven or any other appliance in the kitchen that generates heat.
- Never use water to put out a grease fire.
- Clean cooking surfaces on a regular basis to prevent grease buildup.
- Always check the kitchen before going to bed or leaving the home to make sure all appliances are turned off.
- Consider purchasing a fire extinguisher to keep in your kitchen. Contact the District on the proper use of extinguishers.

For additional information contact the District via info@keypeninsulafire.org, or call 253-884-2222 and ask for Anne.

HELP US HELP YOU THROUGH COMMUNITY CONNECT

www.communityconnect.io/info/wa-keypeninsula



Vote for Juanita Beard Peninsula School District Board, Position 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"My kids love Harbor Heights and

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

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

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



Winning is a team sport.

Meet three more winners on our team.

When awards for the 2021 Newspaper of Excellence were given, one judge admitted we deserved an almost-first place because it was so close. "Enjoyed your paper, keep up the good work."

That good work comes from contributors like Carolyn, Chris and Tina. We count on them to step up with what's "best for the paper," knowing their contributions

help give our little newspaper the consistent success we continue to enjoy.

We all love getting recognition (and prizes). Producing this newspaper is always a combination of love, sweat and a few tears. What makes it worthwhile, every page, every month, is the appreciation and applause we hear from our loyal and generous readers. Thank you.



Lisa Bryan, KP News

Carolyn Wiley

A native Texan, Carolyn came to the Pacific Northwest in 1962 to see the World's Fair. A University of Texas graduate, she started in pre-med but switched to education for the assured time off each summer. She earned advanced degrees at Seattle Pacific University and moved to the Key Peninsula in 1998 after a career in education.

A passionate educator and advocate for the arts, Wiley discovered that she had more talent as a grant writer than a visual artist. Grant-writing sessions require less cleanup than painting or printmaking. For a number of years, she was active as a citizen lobbyist for the arts and presided over the Washington State Arts Alliance that funded a full-time arts lobbyist in Olympia.

Wiley has spent her retirement years vying for the title of "Best Grandma Ever," designing quilts and jewelry, writing poetry and explaining how the world works to fans of "Devil's Head Diary," her KP News column. Over the past five years, feedback from readers and numerous awards continue to pump up an already-inflated ego.

When not writing or raising funds for community causes, Wiley spends her idle hours teaching Tai Chi Sword Form and pulling scotch broom with David — her one and only — who has been a reliable source of amusement and delight for 60 years.



Tina McKail, KP News

Chris Rurik

Since being asked to adapt a chapter of a book he wrote on his great-grandfather's farm into an article on how newts see the world, his "Into the Wild" columns have been a KP News mainstay.

Chris and his family live on that very farm. In addition to freelance writing and helping manage farm operations, he is a community naturalist-at-large. He cut his teeth at Stanford's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve and Hopkins Marine Station and for six years worked with students as an environmental educator at Bluff Lake Nature Center in Denver.

A hardcore birder and casual cyclist, he loves the thrill of finding a rare bird on the KP, especially when he finds it carbon-free. Writing projects have taken him from the Oregon Coast's new marine reserves to Nunivak Island in Alaska. He is on the board of the Prince William Sound Science Center.

The daily discipline of paying attention to wild creatures and how they move through the landscape is Chris's meditation and inspiration. He loves to tromp around the KP — its crown jewel parks as well as its roadside thickets — and think about how habitats connect through all types of land. He thinks the KP has all the ingredients needed to grow its reputation as one of the Puget Sound's iconic landscapes.



Tina McKail, KP News

Tina McKail

Tina was born and raised in Pensacola, Fla. She followed her Navy husband 20 years ago, settled in Port Orchard, and fell in love with the PNW — after a three-year weather adjustment. They settled in Vaughn to raise two sons, currently attending Peninsula High School.

"My kids absolutely love their community, their schools and their lifestyle," Tina said. "Every time I cross the cursed Purdy bridge, there is a great sense of relief and calm heading back home."

A self-taught photographer, she is constantly learning new techniques. Her specialty is nature: "Nature is everywhere and you just have to take a moment to look for it."

A lifelong animal lover, she has a horse, multiple dogs, cats and two crazy goats (and said she would have more if her husband wouldn't divorce her).

When not working part-time in healthcare, Tina is out shooting her boys' sports and events or nature and animals. She appreciates the chance to share her photography with the community she loves. "If I can give one person a smile or joy when they look at my photos, that's a win for me," she said.

She hopes to take photography into her retirement years. "I don't ever see myself putting my camera away."

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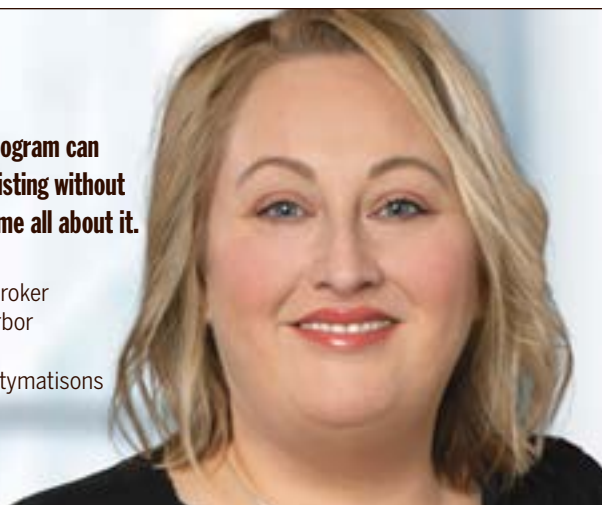


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Key Pen Parks 2nd Budget Hearing

You are welcome to be part of the budget process for 2022 on November 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM. For more information go to www.keypenparks.com

*These public meetings are required per State of Washington RCW84.52.020

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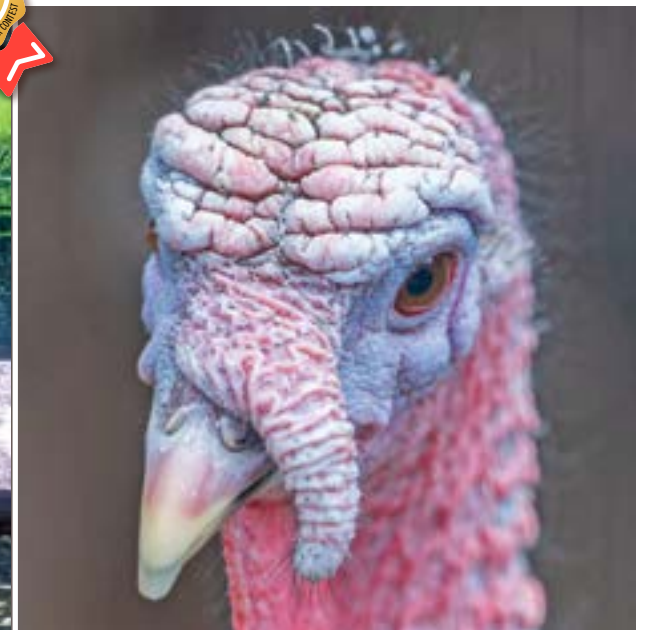
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TOP LEFT Farm Tour visitors enjoy the dock at Kaukiki Farm. Ed Johnson, KP News **TOP RIGHT** Farm Tour turkey Tina McKail, KP News **MID RIGHT** Found squatting in the new Filucy Bay preserve. Chris Rurik, KP News **LOWER LEFT** Farm Tour friendship. Tina McKail, KP News **LOWER RIGHT** Fall holdout. Tina McKail, KP News