



KEY PENINSULA NEWS



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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

October 2017 Vol.44 No. 10

Rabid Bat Discovered in Gig Harbor Home

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

A family of four made the right call after finding a big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) near the bedroom areas of their Gig Harbor home Aug. 22. After phoning the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department for advice, the family isolated the bat and followed proper handling procedures to safely capture it for state laboratory testing. Three days later, the results confirmed the second case of a rabid bat found in Pierce County this year.

The family, a married couple in their 30s with two children under age 10, underwent a series of post-exposure-prophylaxis (PEP) treatment for rabies. PEP vaccination requires a series of four carefully timed intramuscular injections administered over a period of two weeks. Because the bat was found near the sleeping areas of the house, any of them could have been exposed while they slept, even without evidence of scratches or bite marks.

The most common way for rabies to be transmitted from an infected bat to a human is with a bite; bats have very small teeth and a bite mark may be hard to detect. Rabies can also be passed to humans from bat saliva; if the bat comes in contact with a person's eyes, mouth, nose or even a fresh scratch, the human will become infected.

Human deaths from rabies are extremely rare in the United States.

Washington state went over five decades without a single case of human rabies until 1995 when a 4-year-old Centralia girl was taken to a local emergency room with flu-like symptoms. Her condition worsened and she was airlifted to Children's Hospital in Seattle.

Family members later recalled, during an interview with doctors, having discovered a bat in the room where the girl had slept at a relative's home the month before. Based on that information, diagnostic testing for rabies on the girl was initiated and confirmed. Seeing no marks on the child at the time of exposure, the incident went unreported and was nearly forgotten. The family explained they removed the bat from the house, killed it and buried the remains

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Peninsula Seahawks faced off against the Gig Harbor Tides Sept. 15. Photo: Anna Dworsky

More Than a Score— Behind the Scenes at Fish Bowl 39

LILLIAN ROBERTS, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

Thick crowds of people standing on their toes to see the field. Food trucks competing for attention with flashy lights and unique menus. All around are people wearing team jerseys, tutus, or who have painted their bodies in school colors.

It's Fish Bowl, an annual tradition, pitting crosstown rivals against each other: the Gig Harbor Tides and Peninsula Seahawks varsity football teams. It's a chance for students, alumni, families and anyone else to come together and have a fun, exciting night. It doesn't matter what team you support; Fish Bowl is for everyone and almost 5,000 fans show up every year.

"We play for honor and tradition," said Peninsula JV player Isaac Hermsen.

Fish Bowl got its name because of the salmon dinner that fishermen used to provide before the game to raise money. The game isn't the only competition between Gig Harbor and Peninsula; there's also Food Bowl. For the week leading up to the game, the schools compete in a canned food drive for Backpacks 4 Kids. The goal is to bring in the most food and beat the other school, not to mention helping families and children in need.

I guess we just like to compete. And win.

CONTINUED PAGE 2

Atlantic Salmon, Net Pens and Risks to Native Salmon

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

In August, an estimated 140,000 farmed Atlantic salmon escaped into Puget Sound when their net pen collapsed near Cypress Island in the San Juan Islands. Exactly what the risks will be to native salmon are not clear, but the incident has increased public awareness and scrutiny of the salmon farming industry.

Salmon farms have operated in Puget Sound for 35 years. There are currently eight net pens in Washington in four locations: near Cypress Island, near Bainbridge Island, at the mouth of the Skagit River and in Port Angeles Harbor near the mouth of the Elwha River. One company, Canada-based Cooke Aquaculture, purchased all the farms in Washington from Icicle, a Washington state company, in 2016.

At least 10 million pounds of salmon are raised annually in Washington, the only state on the West Coast that has commercial salmon farms; 100 million pounds are raised in British Columbia. The United States is a net importer of farmed salmon.

Opponents of salmon farming worry that escaped salmon might threaten native species by settling into habitat, competing for food or even preying on young chinook feeding along the shoreline, pollution at the fish pen sites and introducing infections such as viruses or sea lice.

At the time of the net pen failure, the Lummi Nation declared a state of emergency and Kurt Beardslee, the director of Wild Fish Conservancy Northwest, called the escape an "environmental nightmare."

According to evidence cited on the websites for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Ecology, the risk of the escaped salmon successfully competing with the native species is low. The SeaDoc Society, a nonprofit organization founded in 1999 to "protect the health of marine wildlife and their ecosystems through science and education," published an article that concurred with this assessment. (www.seadocsociety.org/salmon-escape-what-does-the-science-say/)

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Students, family and fans cheer on the winning Peninsula Seahawks team. *Photo: Anna Dworsky*

FISH BOWL FROM PAGE 1

in line for drinks, the people in the PHS bleachers stood up and started screaming. Despite that, I didn't think that we'd have more than doubled our score when I got back. Still, Gig Harbor wasn't giving up. The game was long and hard fought, but Peninsula ended up winning 31-21, our second straight Fish Bowl victory.

Everyone was screaming and running onto the field, surrounding the football team, all of who were shouting and jumping. It was a frenzy of joyful, sweaty, slightly dazed people.

"It was a surreal experience, the crowd and everything that played a role in that



Crosstown rival cheer teams posing together during Fish Bowl halftime. *Photo: Lillian Roberts*

game," said JV player Ben Goins. "No game is more important than any other game for us, but winning a game like that, where the whole community is involved, is the best feeling in the world."

This year was only my second Fish Bowl, but I know it's something I will go to every year. It's a tense, stressful night, yet it still manages to make me smile and laugh. Whatever it is I'm doing, I'm enjoying it. Screaming and cheering and bouncing around like an overexcited kangaroo, laughing and joking with my friends, or waiting in line to get a smoothie, there are new sights and smells and experiences waiting to happen. It doesn't matter that I see Peninsula High five days a week—there's something different about it at Fish Bowl.

The record now stands at 21 wins for the Tides and 18 for the Seahawks since the first Fish Bowl in 1979.

See you next year.

Lillian Roberts is a sophomore at Peninsula High School.



PHS cheer leaders Lily Varney and Haylie Gallacher. *Photo: Kathy Crowley*



Tides wide receiver Marcel Alexander brings down a catch. *Photo: Anna Dworsky*



Seahawks quarterback Burke Griffin sends up a prayer despite Tides linebacker C.P. Loughren. *Photo: Julie Saltvick Photography*



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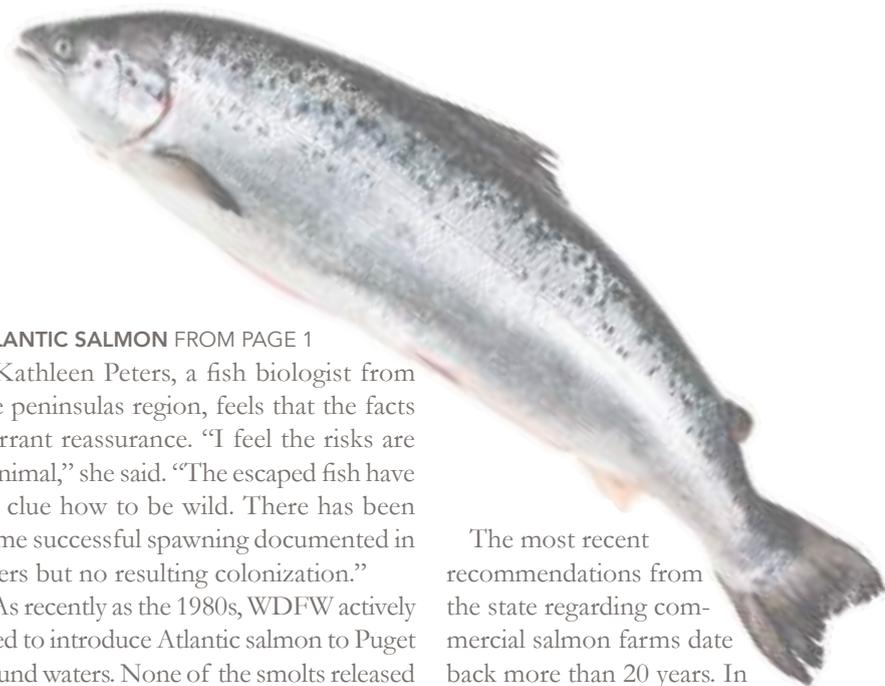
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ATLANTIC SALMON FROM PAGE 1

Kathleen Peters, a fish biologist from the peninsulas region, feels that the facts warrant reassurance. “I feel the risks are minimal,” she said. “The escaped fish have no clue how to be wild. There has been some successful spawning documented in rivers but no resulting colonization.”

As recently as the 1980s, WDFW actively tried to introduce Atlantic salmon to Puget Sound waters. None of the smolts released returned as adults. Between 1987 and 1996, over 250,000 salmon escaped from pens in Washington and British Columbia. Nearly 11,000 Atlantic salmon were caught as far away as Alaska in that time span, indicating that they could survive and swim long distances. Studies of streams in British Columbia have shown colonization by Atlantic salmon in small numbers but they are not considered “established.” There are no known self-sustaining, wild populations of Atlantic salmon in Washington waters.

The risk of Atlantic salmon eating native fish or competing for food is low, according to WDFW—all the escaped Cypress Island fish that were caught and examined had empty stomachs.

Sea lice and viral infections are potential problems but have not been significant to date. Peters said, “When I was a fish pathologist, I found a virus that had never been found in North America. We suspected and tested the Atlantics in net pens, but they were not the source. Eventually, we found the virus in marine fish species.”

Sea lice naturally exist in the wild populations of native Pacific salmon. According to Ecology, aquaculture practices disrupt the sea lice life cycle and commercial net pens in Washington do not have significant sea lice problems.

The Monterey Bay Aquarium’s Seafood Watch program upgraded its rating of British Columbia farmed Atlantic salmon from “avoid” to “good alternative” in September. The Seafood Watch report said: “There is currently insufficient evidence to conclude that population-level impacts to wild salmon are occurring due to pathogen and/or parasite transfer from salmon farms.”

But the report also added: “Overall, there is clearly a pathogen and parasite concern with regard to the location of salmon farms along migration routes of wild salmon.”

The most recent recommendations from the state regarding commercial salmon farms date back more than 20 years. In the spring of 2016, Ecology took the lead in a project to update those recommendations in Puget Sound, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor. The departments of agriculture and fish and wildlife are partners in the project; technical assistance is provided by the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science. Staff of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission are advising the effort. A final report is due in the fall of 2019, including a geospatial analysis tool to help with evaluation of any new permits. Curt Hart, communications manager for Ecology, said the impetus for the project came from local governments that issue permits for aquaculture and need updated information for shoreline management programs. Pierce County prohibits net pens south and west of the Narrows Bridge.

A Quick Guide to Salmon Farming

Young salmon are raised in closed ponds, much as they are in state hatcheries.

After about a year, the young salmonids are transferred to net pens, where they are fed daily with pellets. Sixteen to 20 months later, they are pumped into a ship and taken alive to a processing facility.

Net pens are formed by joining cages together. (At Cypress Island, there are three net pens, each consisting of eight to 12 cages. The cages are 15 meters deep, 24 meters wide and 24 meters long.) Cages are held under water by weighting systems and moored with anchors. Structures are expected to last for about 15 years.

The site for a pen must have water that is of appropriate depth and has current and tide motion that will provide good oxygenation but is not too rough on equipment. It can’t interfere with navigation or current shoreline uses.

KP SCHOOL BUS CONNECTS

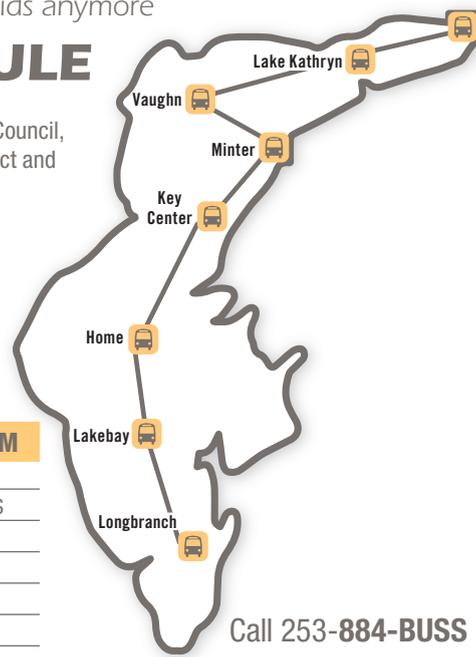
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FALL SCHEDULE

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EVERGREEN TUES & THURS AM

- 8:50 Evergreen Elementary School
- 8:59 Palmer Lake public access 24th St KPS
- 9:00 Palmer Lake 21st St KPS @ 193rd Ave
- 9:05 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 9:06 Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
- 9:10 67th Ave Ct KPN @ KP Hwy N
- 9:14 Food Market in Key Center
- 9:15 KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr KN
- 9:21 Lake Kathryn Village SR 302 & 92nd Ave NW
- 9:26 Purdy Park & Ride

EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY AM

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

VAUGHN TUES & THURS AM

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

VAUGHN WEDNESDAY AM

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

TUESDAY & THURSDAY MIDDAY

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

TUES, WED & THURS PM

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

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School Board Leadership up for Change: What You Need to Know About the November School Board Elections

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Each of Washington's 295 local school districts has its own elected board. Every local school district is part of a statewide system. School districts are "subdivisions" of the state; as such, each school district board of directors derives its authority from state law.

Under state law, "each common school district board of directors shall be vested with the final responsibility for the setting of policies ensuring quality in the content and extent of its educational program and that such program provides students with the opportunity to achieve those skills which are generally recognized as requisite to learning."

In most districts, about 67 percent of households don't have children. On the Key Peninsula, it's 80 percent.

The Peninsula School District is divided into five districts. Each of the five board directors is elected to a four-year term. Voters cast votes for all directors, but each director represents a specific district.

District 1 covers most of the Key Peninsula. District 2 includes the northernmost KP from the Minter area to Purdy and Canterwood. District 3 includes Rosedale and Maplewood. District 4 encompasses Wollochet. District 5 covers Artondale and Fox Island.

Two director positions are open this year: Districts 2 and 5.

Incumbent Deborah Krishnadasan is running unopposed for her position in District 2.

Incumbent David Olson and challenger Noelle Balliett are competing for the position in District 5.



Noelle Balliett is running for the PSD board to represent District 5. *Courtesy Noelle Balliett*

Challenger Balliett Running for School Board Director

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

"Gratitude fuels my decision to run for the school board," said Noelle Balliett. She is running against incumbent David Olson to represent District 5 on the Peninsula School District board of directors.

Balliett's biological mother was only 15 when she gave birth and, knowing that her situation would not be the best for her newborn, she gave her up for adoption. Balliett was raised by a family of teachers and saw firsthand the opportunities that education could provide. She grew up in Florida, earned a doctorate in psychology in Oklahoma, and continued her training in several other states before moving to Gig Harbor with her husband and son in 2013. She works with veterans at the American Lake Veterans Administration Medical Center, specializing in post-traumatic stress disorder and its associated sleep disorders.

Balliett volunteers at Harbor Heights Elementary School, where her son is in fourth grade. She began attending school board meetings after the school had its third principal in four years and she wanted to better understand the problem.

The main issues facing PSD schools, Balliett said, are facility needs and enhancing the two-way connection between the community and the district. She said she has door-knocked thousands of homes over the course of the campaign and thinks there are opportunities to harness the support of the community. "We need to build new bridges," she said. "We need everyone at the table."

As a psychologist, Balliett said she is particularly interested in the emotional

and social well-being of both students and staff. She endorses a curriculum that will provide viable options for all students no matter what their career choices might be. She also said the role of the board is "charting the course for the district, not to dictate how it is done. Day-to-day decisions must be done by staff."

Balliett is looking forward to hearing recommendations from the architectural firm hired to determine whether existing schools can be remodeled to accommodate growth or if a new school is necessary. She expects that the board will make a decision based on those recommendations and about how to raise necessary funds prior to the election, and she will support that decision. She thinks the state budget will not adequately fund education and worries that population growth and mandated class sizes for 2019 will be problematic.

Balliett's educational experience also includes fund development. "I am passionate to find untapped resources, both outside the district and within our region," she said. As a graduate student, she worked with at-risk students to connect them with community resources. She has a strong research background in statistics, curriculum development and testing. "I am good at asking questions to make sure our investment in time and resources makes sense," she said.



PSD board member Deborah Krishnadasan *Courtesy Deborah Krishnadasan*

Krishnadasan Seeks Re-election to School Board Unopposed

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

Peninsula School District board member Deborah Krishnadasan is seeking re-election in November.

Krishnadasan was elected to the school board following the midterm departure of another board member, and served

the remaining two years of that member's term. She is now seeking re-election to serve a full four-year term as director of PSD's District 2. District 2 encompasses the northern edge of the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor.

Some of Krishnadasan's accomplishments from her first term include the board's decision to hire the new superintendent, one of the board's primary responsibilities. "The other thing that I think the district did very well is we passed the maintenance and operations levy in 2016," she said. "That was a very critical levy for our district; it funded 24 percent of basic education."

Although her 2015 election to the school board was also her first public office, Krishnadasan had been active in education as a parent volunteer. "I was very involved in the schools for about nine years before [being elected], did various volunteer roles, held PTA offices, and worked in the community with athletics," she said.

As her children grew busier, Krishnadasan considered returning to the workforce, but didn't want to give up her involvement in education. "I learned the school director position was going to be open and my husband and I thought this would be a great opportunity for me [to] couple my past career experience with my passion for education," she said. Krishnadasan previously held management positions at Microsoft and Visio, and earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Western Washington University in 1990.

One of Krishnadasan's main concerns as a board member is the population growth in the Peninsula School District and the problems that can accompany it. Some of this growth is occurring in northern Gig Harbor but, according to Krishnadasan, enrollment is also increasing on the Key Peninsula. "Even though you're not seeing more housing developments, there's people moving out there," she said of the KP. "For instance, Minter Creek Elementary had one of the highest kindergarten enrollments they've had in many years, so that was a surprise."

More enrollment means more children in the same space and one of Krishnadasan's other priorities is to keep class sizes down. Reductions in class size are popular with some educators and parents, because a smaller class allows more individual attention for each student. There is also a legal requirement: The 2012 state Supreme Court case *McCleary v. State of Washington*, commonly called the *McCleary* decision, determined that state government was not fully funding basic education. The state's new basic educa-

tion funding plan in response to McCleary includes reduced class sizes.

“The current McCleary solution doesn’t address facilities, so while it may say to have lower class sizes, it doesn’t tell you how to house one classroom [split into] two classrooms,” Krishnadasan said. She noted several ideas that have been used to increase space at local schools, such as bringing in so-called portable classroom units and moving science equipment out of labs. “Five of our elementary schools now have repurposed their science rooms into classrooms, but we’re losing our science space,” she said. “We’re putting our science education on a cart and the science teacher is pushing the cart around from room to room.”

Another focus for Krishnadasan is maintenance and facility upgrades, including both general repairs and updates for systems like ventilation. “Because our schools are 40-plus years old—some older than that—HVAC systems are so out of date that we can’t even get parts for them,” she said.

Krishnadasan would also like to see more technology making its way into the classroom. “Technology in our classrooms could be the tools to help a student prepare to enter a trades career such as welding...technology could also look like the proper science equipment to engage our students and prepare them for a higher level science degree,” she said. “Investing in our educational systems is an investment in our community as a whole.”



David Olson is the incumbent PSD board director for District 5. *Courtesy David Olson*

Incumbent Olson Seeks Re-election in Contested School Board Race

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

David Olson is seeking re-election to the Peninsula School District board of directors, representing District 5. He said

he “caught the community service bug working in schools” when he was stationed on Whidbey Island as a U.S. Navy officer. He was in charge of the base’s program for school volunteers and helped set up a drug education program for youth.

Olson moved to Gig Harbor in 2005 when he retired from the Navy and now works as a commercial banker. Three of his four children attended Gig Harbor schools. He became involved in their sports activities, but also started attending school board meetings. When he noticed that the director from his district was often absent from meetings, he decided to run.

Olson is proud of what has been accomplished in the district over the last few years. “We hired a great new superintendent, got a 70 percent ‘yes’ vote on our operating levy, and the academics get better every year,” he said, pointing out that PSD ranks 29 out of 295 districts in the state academically.

Olson said the most pressing problem in the district is overcrowding and believes a capital levy is needed to cover the cost of building a new school in Gig Harbor North. But such a measure would have to be for more than just one school, he said: “We need to do a careful assessment of the needs across the district and be sure that other schools get the improvements necessary to make them safe for our students.”

The other issues important to Olson are state school funding and vocational education. He said he is watching to see how the recent legislation to satisfy the state Supreme Court McCleary decision “shakes out.” He thinks it is still too early to know whether health-benefits costs to school employees will increase or not, but he is encouraged that the starting minimum salary will be higher.

Olson is a strong proponent of vocational education. He notes that a four-year college and STEM degree may not be for everyone and that the curriculum needs to prepare students for their next step after high school no matter what that might be. His own family is a case in point, he said: Olson joined the Navy out of high school, his oldest son is a welder, his daughter is a chemist, another son is pursuing a career in video production and his youngest is a teacher.

“Even if I live to be 100 and when I stop working for money, I don’t think I will ever really retire,” Olson said. In addition to his position on the school board, he serves on the boards of the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation and the City Club of Tacoma. He is also a member of the Key Peninsula Business Association.

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Derek Young COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE



Budget Season

Budget season always sneaks up on me. While local governments typically pass their ordinances around Thanksgiving or early December, the process actually starts in the dog days of summer.

County Executive Bruce Dammeier has been meeting with his staff since July to begin developing his proposal. Although he was a budget writer as a senator in the Legislature and proposed a supplemental on his arrival to the county, this is his first crack at the county budget. The executive will present his recommendation at a televised council meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 3 p.m.

At that point, the council takes over and begins making its way through the proposal page by page, first in informal budget retreats where we can generate questions about the executive's proposal and have conversations about our own priorities.

On Oct. 18, we begin formal hearings on the budget that we call committee of the whole. Although made up of the entire council, the committee process gives us an opportunity to hold hearings with each department and potentially offer amendments that can be rolled into a substitute proposal to the council.

Unlike other ordinances, the council then holds two readings of the ordinance. The first is on Tuesday, Nov. 8, with final passage scheduled for Friday, Nov. 21, both at 3 p.m. I encourage people interested in testifying to do so at the first meeting, as it will give us a chance to prepare amendments responsive to what we hear from the public.

This year will be slightly different thanks to the Budget Ad Hoc Committee that Chair Doug Richardson and I proposed late last year. The idea was to meet a couple of times a month to take an even deeper dive into the budget and question all of our practices. I think we have slayed a few sacred cows along the way as well. Because of that process, we'll be changing the way we distribute certain capital dollars, make intrafund loans and prioritize spending. All told, I think people on the Key Peninsula will get a better deal out of the process.

Some of my priorities for this year will be:

- Continued increase in staffing for the Sheriff's Department.
- An additional Superior Court judge.
- Creation of a veterans court diversion program
- Creation of a new behavioral health diversion center.

- Increased support for the park districts on the peninsula.
- Increased funding for cleaning up properties that threaten public health and safety.

For more details on the process and to follow along, go to the budget website at www.co.pierce.wa.us/5391/2018-Budget.

In-district meeting. I have scheduled the council to pay a visit to District 7 on Oct. 3 at the Gig Harbor Civic Center at 6 p.m. We've alternated between the Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas to give each community a chance to have one closer to home. We also scheduled it during the budget process to maximize the impact residents of our district can have on the council as we enter negotiations. It worked great last year and helped me get some things passed.

While the meeting agenda will have some presentations on issues of interest to the peninsulas, this is our best opportunity to hear from you. Please stop in for a chance to testify before the council.

Derek Young represents the 7th District, including the Key Peninsula, on the Pierce County Council.

Brook Hurst Stephens LIVING FARAWAY



Deer-Free on the Key

Of all the things we've discovered here at Faraway, those I was least prepared for were the garden marauders—they come in all shapes and sizes and their food preferences change as often as the tides.

My dad visited a week after we bought Faraway and he brought along a set of trail cameras as a housewarming gift. In one memorable photo series, we captured five different animals in one hour, but to be fair there was a bird feeder involved. At 1:30 a.m. on a brisk fall morning, there



was a gray squirrel and a fat rat atop my birdfeeder that appeared to be duking it out with a pair of agile raccoons clinging to the pergola post the birdfeeder was hanging from. To make matters worse, in one frame, a deer sauntered by in the background. Mind you, all of this was taking place 10 feet from my kitchen door.

I attached bird spikes to the pergola posts, and when that didn't work, I attached more bird spikes. I finally gave up and brought the birdfeeder in at night. I also set a variety of rodent traps and gradually the nightly birdfeeder hootenanny came to an end. It wasn't lost on us that since Faraway had been mostly unoccupied for many years, the animals probably thought we were the intruders.

The biggest pests have been the deer. The hundreds of rose bushes around the 6-plus-acres provided them with sweet and easily accessible rewards for many years, no doubt, though when we took possession, I could count the total rose blooms on one hand. I say "easily accessible" because most of the old fencing had fallen down and there was no longer a border collie named Buddy to scare them away.

I have had deer issues in the past in Mason County, so I am familiar with a variety of methods for combating them.

Here is a list of things I've tried to discourage deer:

- Gathering bags of hair clippings from hairdresser friends and scattering the clippings in the garden. Not fun when you're weeding and it sticks to your gloves. Handy hint: Use soil-colored hair unless you like to see random chunks of hair in your garden.
- Making a homemade concoction of eggs, jalapeño peppers and garlic, aged until stinky and applied with a sprayer. All that did was create a craving in the deer. I swear they never ate my jalapeños before I used this DIY solution.
- Putting a bar of soap into a knee-high pantyhose and tying it from the rose bush. Really unattractive and asking people for used pantyhose brings weird looks.
- Filling small muslin bags with Deer Scram, which is basically dried blood, white pepper and garlic powder, and hanging them on the bushes. The deer simply eat around it and the dogs seem to love it.
- Spraying Liquid Fence on the branches and leaves. Smells horrible and tastes even worse if you get it on your strawberries.
- Motion-sensing deer sprinklers. Turn them on at night and be sure to turn them off in the morning or you will get sprayed, guaranteed. Only works on the bush it's next to, so at \$60 a pop it's an expensive solution.

However, I have noticed a decrease in deer activity the past couple of weeks. Perhaps they know hunting season is right around the corner. Or maybe it's that brand-new livestock fence with an extra row of hot wire along the top.

I'm happy to hear what's worked for you; email me at Historicfaraway@gmail.com.

Brook Hurst Stephens lives at Historic Faraway in Longbranch.

Rachel V. Berry KP DAY TRIPPER



Cider Tasting Just a Drive Away

Fall and apple cider are almost synonymous. In fact, this year's Cider Swig in Gig Harbor saw 24 Northwest cider makers offering over 90 ciders to the public, ranging from applejack to pear nectar. Surprised by the variety? It's just one indicator of the rapid national growth of the cider industry.

If you missed the Cider Swig, you can still experience the pleasures of handcrafted cider on a short day trip. Hop in the car and head north toward Port Townsend to begin the Olympic Peninsula Cider Route, where you'll find three cideries—Alpenfire, Eaglemount Wine and Cider and Finnriver Farm and Cidery—that offer different tasting experiences. All are open on Saturdays and Sundays (Finnriver is open daily).



Finnriver Farm & Cidery
124 Center Road, Chimacum
Open daily, 12 to 6 p.m.
360-732-4337

Begin your tour at Finnriver, an 80-acre organic farm and orchard. While not the oldest cidery on the peninsula, it was one of the first to capitalize on increased consumer interest in a fruit-based alcoholic beverage other than wine. In 2012, Finnriver expanded its operation to include the historic Chimacum Dairy Farm, which now houses an expanded tasting room, an event space, food vendors on weekends (such as Hama Hama Oysters), live music and more.

It charges a \$5 tasting fee for a flight of ciders that ranges from the traditional to the seasonal. A few examples of its products: Farmstead Cider, Pear Cider, Black Currant Sparkling Cider and Lavender Black Currant Cider. Finnriver also offers brandy- and port-style wines distilled from a variety of fruits.



Eaglemount Wine and Cider
1893 S Jacob Miller Rd, Port Townsend
Friday-Sunday, 12 to 5 p.m.
360-385-1992

The next stop on the tour is Eaglemount, a 20-year veteran of making ciders and wines. Eaglemount was established on land that was one of the original homesteads in the area (1883); it still had surviving antique apple varieties such as winter banana, winesap and Gravenstein in its orchard. This gave the Davis family a head start toward the business of creating ciders and meads from heirloom varieties of fruit, sourced from the farm's orchard and other homestead orchards in the area. All fruit is certified organic and sustainably grown.

The tasting room is located adjacent to the historic Arcadia Inn, being restored to its original purpose as a hostelry after serving as a private residence, boarding house, vaudeville circus base camp and brothel/speakeasy in its 100-plus year history. Rooms are currently available via AirB&B.

The tasting fee is \$7 per person. In addition to its original recipe for Ginger Cider, a few other offerings include Perry (pear), Cyser (sparkling) and Rhubarb (surprisingly popular).

Before you head to the third and final stop, be sure to call ahead. Alpenfire is well worth a visit, but it is revamping its operation and the line of ciders it offers. Some of the new products have been appearing at special events throughout the summer, and the tasting room is generally open Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Alpenfire
220 Pocket Lane, Port Townsend
Saturday and Sunday, 12 to 5 p.m.
360-379-8915

Alpenfire takes its back-to-nature mission seriously. All of its cider is made from organically certified fruit that is picked right there or in nearby orchards. The Alpenfire orchard is comprised of 800 trees, with more than 10 varieties of apples specifically grown for cider, capitalizing on the tannins and bitters not found in dessert apples. As an added bonus, the grounds are operated as a wildlife sanctuary; no pets allowed.

There is a \$7 per person tasting fee. Pirates Plank is one of its award-winning ciders. Two that made their appearance at this year's Seattle Cider Summit were Apple Pear Quince and Royal Pomme.

For more information, go to: *The Olympic Peninsula Cider Route*: www.opciderroute.com; *Washington State Department of Transportation*: www.wsdot.com/traffic/hoodcanal/

Rachel V. Berry lives in Port Orchard.



Alice Kinerk
LIVIN' LA VIDA LOCAL

There's No Place Like the KP for Halloween

Deep, dark woods. Tall trees wrapped in fog. A silence that seems to settle inside your bones. Locals know there's no place like the Key Peninsula for Halloween.

Those of us raising young children on the Key like to kick off the season each year at the All Hallows Eve festivities at Volunteer Park. Scheduled this year for the evening of Saturday, Oct. 21, the long-running event features a bonfire with s'mores for roasting, hot apple cider and cocoa, a pumpkin-carving contest, a costume contest with multiple categories and prizes, a haunted hay ride and more. In the picnic shelter, pint-size princesses and superheroes show off their best moves as the DJ spins "Monster Mash" and strobe lights flash.

For many children, the highlight is the candy hunt on the ball field. Before the event, park employees lay out bags of candy on the grass. Once the festivities are ending and darkness has settled in full, kids line up at the gate for their chance to run in and grab a bag. "Her favorite part about the Volunteer Park event is looking for the candy bags on the dark field," said Nikki Menchaca-Riddle about her 10-year-old daughter, Mallory.

When the night ends, bag in hand, weary parents shepherd kids toward the parking lot. Squinting at candy labels as the family car rumbles home is a rite of passage for many Key Peninsula kids.

Parents of teens and older children now have their own way to celebrate the spooky season. The Haunted Forest at Grand Farms, which opened last year, is back for the 2017 season, now bigger and better than ever. While owner Mark Dodson was unwilling to reveal specific details about new scares, "anyone who visited last year will be pleasantly surprised," he said.

Grand Farms, located on South Vaughn Road about a mile from the Key Peninsula Civic Center, is a 27-acre property primarily used for equestrian training and events. Once owned by Easter Seals, Dodson's in-laws purchased it 17 years ago and passed it on to Dodson and his wife, Anni Grandia, a few years back.

For Dodson and Grandia, diversifying the activities that take place on their farm is a way of keeping the land economically viable. When the transfer was made,

CONTINUED PAGE 8



CIVIC CENTER

CORNER

Join the KP Civic Center board

Key Peninsula Civic Center Association is looking for board members who have a passion for our community, are eager to participate in meetings, and are willing to serve on committees and assist in fundraising efforts or events. Previous board experience is desirable but not necessary. Nominations for the 2018 calendar year are now being accepted.

The civic center provides a vital meeting place for events and nonprofit organizations operating on the Key Peninsula. We help non-profit organizations meet and maintain their operations at the civic center by discounting rents in amounts that exceed \$11,000 monthly. This support to our community is only possible through the ongoing dedication and vision of our board and staff.

We are looking to maintain an enthusiastic board who is committed to the Key Peninsula and the civic center's place in the future of our great community. To share your expertise, knowledge and passion, contact the Key Peninsula Civic Center @ 253-884-3456 or kpciviccenter@centurytel.net for more information.

to benefit Key Peninsula Civic Center FOOD, FUN & DANCING

Oct 7 DOORS OPEN **6:30** MUSIC STARTS **7:30**

BLUES & BREWS

Dinner optional for \$10

\$15/advance \$20/door

Tickets at Sunnycrest; Blend Wine Shop; KP Civic Center Office and online at Brown Paper Tickets



FEATURING LOCAL FAVORITES

Tacoma's **Blues Redemption Band**
Belfair's **Bent Bine Brew Company**
Key Pen's **R.N.J. Smoked Meats**

KP HALLOWEEN FROM PAGE 7

Dodson promised his in-laws he would never cut the trees down to make ends meet. “We have a unique niche here,” he said. “We’re trying to maximize the facility; we don’t want to log it.” In 2016, 680 brave souls entered the Haunted Forest. Dodson expects more this year once doors open Oct. 6. (Dodson’s pro tip: To avoid crowds, plan to visit in the first half of the month.)

As Key Center is too often experienced through a windshield at 30 mph, the annual Scarecrow Festival event helps keep harried commuters in the holiday spirit. As soon as the leaves start falling in earnest, there’s bound to be funny, funky scarecrows cropping up in front of the Food Market, Sunnycrest Nursery, Sound Credit Union and more. The library is always good for a wonderful reading-related creation. Remember when Cutter Bug took itself literally, displaying an enormous ladybug with dino-sized blow dryer hovering over its floppy-haired scarecrow?

The rain is back; the long, dark nights are growing longer; and that very special time of year is once again upon us. Happy Halloween, Key Peninsula.

For more information about the All Hallows Eve event at Volunteer Park, visit the event page at keypenparks.com.

For more information about The Haunted Forest at Grand Farms, visit theeventcenteratgrandfarms.com.

Alice Kinerk teaches at Minter Creek Elementary School. She lives in Longbranch.

Rob Vajko KEYTHOUGHTS



We Don’t Care Anymore

We have a real problem with President Trump’s presidency and it isn’t what you think it is. It isn’t the problem of whether or not Russia meddled in the election and it isn’t the problem of the repeal and replacement of Obamacare. It isn’t about the wall between the United States and Mexico and it isn’t about the travel ban.

No, the problem that I’m talking about is the apathy that is setting in. Most of us are reaching that point where we just don’t care anymore.

Take a look at Facebook, the barometer of our times. I have a wide variety of friends and acquaintances on Facebook and they cover a broad spectrum regarding their views on Trump and politics in general. Before, during and right after the election, it seemed that

Trump was all that anyone was talking about and every post solicited a plethora of comments, likes and outrage. Now it seems far less people are talking about him and if someone does post something, no one is commenting anymore.

And I blame the media.

It is one thing to report the news; it’s another to launch a full-on assault against the president in order to make him look ridiculous. I for one don’t care if his wife doesn’t want to hold his hand in public. I also don’t care who apparently snubbed him or with what world leader he exchanged an awkward handshake.

A perfect example of this attempt to ridicule everything the president says came after he made a comment during a visit last March by Ireland’s Prime Minister Edna Kenny on St. Patrick’s Day. Trump said: “As we stand together with our Irish friends, I’m reminded of that proverb—and this is a good one, this is one I like. I’ve heard it for many, many years and I love it. ‘Always remember to forget the friends that proved untrue. But never forget to remember those that have stuck by you.’”

Turns out that line came from Albasheer Adam Alhassan, a business manager at First Bank of Nigeria, who wrote the poem in college. “I posted those things when I was back in school, over 10 years ago. I never thought it would get to this level,” he told CNN at the time.

Stephen Colbert spent three minutes trying to make Trump out to be an idiot for not knowing that the quote was Nigerian, not Irish. If you reread what he said, however, you will notice that the president never actually states that the “proverb” is Irish, just that it’s one of his favorites. Did anyone catch the apology from Colbert on his show the following night? Me neither.

The way the media is constantly and consistently nitpicking about anything and everything Trump does is causing an overexposure that makes it so we just don’t care to hear it anymore. We tune out the reports telling us what the White House is or isn’t doing. It’s like a kid constantly trying to make fun of a classmate. It was kind of humorous at first, but after a while it just gets pathetic and sad and we all feel uncomfortable listening to it, so we go play dodgeball instead.

Rob Vajko lives in Purdy.

The opinions expressed by columnists 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 only.

Dan Whitmarsh WRITING BY FAITH



The Least of These

Shortly after President Trump announced his plan to overturn DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), many Christians voiced their support by saying “Jesus says we have to follow the laws of the land.” They pointed to Jesus’ words, “Give to Caesar that which is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” It became the trump card in the discussion, if you will.

Unfortunately, they misunderstand the point of the story.

Jesus was not giving a lesson on civic responsibility. He wasn’t saying that his followers owe equal allegiance to Caesar and to God. This verse doesn’t say what some Christians want it to say.

The passage is a setup. Some religious leaders were trying to trap Jesus with a seemingly innocent question about paying taxes to Rome. If he said, “No, don’t pay taxes,” they could charge him with insurrection. If he said, “Yes, pay taxes,” they could label him a supporter of Rome, the foreign government occupying their land. It was a trick question and he knew it.

Instead, he turned the tables on them. He had a coin brought to them, noted it had Caesar’s likeness on it, and said, “So give this to Caesar. It’s his, anyway. Then give to God what is God’s.”

Pay attention: Jesus isn’t saying these two lines, “give to Caesar . . . give to God,” as if they are of equal import. He’s not saying, “Here are two things you should do.” The first part, “Give to Caesar,” is the setup and the second, “But give to God,” is the trap swinging shut.

He knew they were already giving Caesar his due, but they weren’t giving God his due. They were playing the game by Caesar’s rules, collaborating with Rome to maintain their authority. However, they were neglecting God.

These religious leaders were so intent on partnering with the Roman government that they were neglecting God’s higher law, a law that included things like caring for the poor and the outcast, protecting the alien in their midst, and providing for widows, orphans and the lame. In giving Caesar his due, they were withholding from God their humble servant leadership that lifted the downtrodden and made room for all who came seeking to follow their Lord.

“Give to Caesar” is a rhetorical device that essentially says, “Look, friends, since

you’re so concerned about giving to Caesar his due, why don’t you stop this nonsense and start giving God his due?”

When Christians use Jesus’ words to defend unjust laws, they cast themselves in the role of the religious leaders who tried to trap Jesus. When people use “Give to Caesar” as a justification for supporting government at all costs, they fall into the same trap Jesus used to condemn his adversaries. To that end, the story is doing the opposite of what many people think it does: It condemns them, rather than supports their cause.

Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church. Contact him at dan@lakebaycovenant.net.

Letters to the Editor

Special Thanks

On behalf of the Key Peninsula Community Council, we wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who is involved in the development of the restoration project in the KC Corral. As you may well know, the timing of the project is impeccable.

First of all, just last month the deck boards felt a bit soft underfoot while walking to businesses in the corral. Thanks to the skills and abilities of the men from Chuck West Construction, patrons now have access to local businesses in the “heart of Key Center” on a stable boardwalk.

Special thanks to Jay Schwenka, Marty Johnson and Pete Beimford for all the work they have done in the restoration so far. Also, thanks to the co-owners, David Krympec, DC, and John Olsson, DDS, for funding the much-needed project.

Thank you to all the people involved in making this transformation possible.

Lisa Larson, Volunteer
Key Peninsula Community Council

Letters to the Editor Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers or staff. Letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published. Letters are used on a space-available basis and will be edited for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to editor@keypennews.com.

Three-Day Sel-Fest Celebrates Beloved Teacher's Retirement

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

Rick Selfors, the Key Peninsula Middle School shop teacher and wrestling coach since the school opened in 1981, retired at the end of the term last year after an accident severely damaged his left hand. He was feted by former students, colleagues, family and friends at a three-day Sel-Fest celebration in August.

Hosted by former student John Jaggi, the main event had lots of food, a band, fire pit chats and fireworks in celebration of a much-loved teacher.

Close to 400 guests attended.

KPMS librarian Patty Van Valkenburg said Selfors was "the best thing that could happen to a kid."

Her daughter Christie remembered that when the session on power tools came up in shop class, all the girls in class headed for the end of the line. Selfors said, "Girls need power tools, too!" and told them to move up.

One of bus driver Muriel Manolovitz's favorite memories of Selfors was of his crazy costumes. On Friday mornings, he'd show up in a big pink wig and cowboy hat, and play guitar as the kids came into school. A few teachers and students once presented a show for the school and dressed as hillbillies. They called themselves the Sawdust Bottom Boys, with Selfors as headliner, singing "Man of Constant Sorrow" with "slightly different lyrics," said KPMS teacher Chris Bronstad.

"His heart was open to all kids, especially problem kids," said Marita Tarabochia, whose three daughters all had Selfors as a teacher.

"He was the first old guy I thought was cool," said Lance Leary, although a friend pointed out that "Sel" (as teachers, students and friends call him) was only 27 at the time.

Jeff Keenan called him his favorite teacher, as well as "the best wrestling coach this side of Purdy."

Jason McWhirter, former student and wrestler, and later a colleague at KPMS, wrote a book called "Life of Ely," with the teacher and wrestling coach character based on Selfors.

McWhirter said "Sel" put the kids first, taught about real life and how to make the right decisions. "He was a father figure to a lot of kids," said Colleen Carrigan.

When reporters sought him out at KPMS for articles about himself, Selfors would say, "This is my story," and wave his hands around the classroom full of students.



Rick Selfors plays on despite all. "He's never done anything halfway—it's all or none," said his wife, Debbie. Photo: Chris Bronstad

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October 2017
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Key Pen Parks

The key to your next adventure.



All Hallows Eve Celebration

Saturday, October 21, 2017
6-8 pm at Volunteer Park

Live DJ Haunted hay ride
S'mores Flashlight hunt
Lots-o-fun! Costume contest

Goulish details: www.keypenparks.com

Free FireWood!



**Saturday, Oct. 14
9am to 4pm**

Key Central Forest,
10527 Wright Bliss Rd, KPN

You must obtain a firewood permit before Oct. 13 at Key Pen Parks office in Volunteer Park, 5514 Key Pen Hwy N, open Mon-Fri from 8am to 4pm.

BIG Thanks to Peninsula Light Company
for their 2017 support of Cinema Under the Stars and the Fourth of July Community Hot Dog Social.

CARETAKER NEEDED AT GATEWAY PARK. Now taking applications for a caretaker at the Gateway Park residence. 10215 State Route 302, Gig Harbor, WA 98329. For details and more information, please go to www.keypenparks.com

Key Pen Parks 2018 Budget Hearings

You're welcome to be part of the budget process for next year at 7:30pm on **October 9** and **November 13** at the Volunteer Park Key Pen Parks office. These public meetings are required per State of Washington RCW84.52.020.

Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 2, 2017
Key Center Fire Station

Crafts, breakfast, time with Santa and Mrs. Claus!

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



RABID BAT FROM PAGE 1

in the backyard. Health officials ultimately exhumed what was left of the bat. Analysis confirmed the strain was identical and most likely responsible for the girl's death.

Rabies was entirely unsuspected before autopsy results confirmed the death of a 64-year-old Mason County man in 1997 in what the Centers for Disease Control reported as the first-ever case of human rabies in the United States involving a big brown bat. The man lived in a wooded area near a lake where bats were common, but no bat infestation was found in or around his home. His relatives had no knowledge of him having any contact with bats.

Insectivorous bats are the only reservoir for rabies in Washington, with less than 1-percent of healthy bats carrying the virus. Rabies reservoirs in raccoons, skunks and foxes are predominant in other regions of the country. Of the sick and injured bats submitted by local health departments, Washington State Department of Health reports 3 -to 5-percent of bats tested positive for rabies.

Bat in the House?

Should you encounter a bat inside your living space, the first step is isolation. Close all the doors and windows. Turn on the lights if necessary and wait for the bat to land. Contact the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department at 253-798-6410 to see if it recommends testing in your circumstances.

If instructed to capture the bat, always wear heavy-leather or thick rubber gloves. Never handle a bat, dead or alive, with bare hands.

Place a plastic food container over the bat, then slide the lid under the container and tape the top. Punch small air holes in the lid of the container using a nail or small screwdriver. Place the bat in a cool, quiet area away from children and contact the TPCHD for further instructions. Learn more at www.tpchd.org/bats.

Why You Should Love Bats

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Bats occupy an essential niche in the ecosystem. Taking over for swallows and swifts that feed during daylight hours, bats scour the night skies for flying insects. Bats use their hand-like wings to efficiently scoop bugs into their hungry mouths on the fly, which accounts for their seemingly erratic flight pattern.

The two most commonly seen on the Key Peninsula are little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) and big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*). These winged mammals rid neighborhoods of many bugs humans tend to dislike: mosquitoes, termites, beetles, moths and flies.

Contrary to wild tales told around campfires, bats don't get caught in people's hair nor do any of the 15 species of bats in Washington feed on blood, according to the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Big brown bats are the most common bats found throughout America. Weighing approximately a half-ounce with bodies up to 5 inches long, these bats boast an impressive wingspan from 13 to 16 inches long. They can live up to 20 years.

Little brown bats weigh under half an ounce with wingspans from 8 to 11 inches. Nursing mothers of this species may consume more than their own body weight in insects daily. They typically have a life span of six or seven years but have been known to live up to 30 years.



Peninsula Light Co. has spent months recently upgrading power lines along the KP Highway to withstand high winds and tree strikes. *Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News*

Disaster Preparation Education Programs Available to KP Residents

DON TJOSSEM, KP NEWS

Pierce County Emergency Neighborhood Team (PC-NET) is available to educate and prepare neighborhood organizations and homeowners associations, numbering up to 20 or 30 homes, about how to prepare for a disaster.

The free program is produced by the Pierce County Department of Emergency Preparedness for neighborhoods all over the county and consists of a number of educational sessions conducted by professionals in disaster preparedness. The program covers events that could involve neighborhoods, such as earthquakes, floods, storms, wildland fires, tornadoes, windstorms and acts of terrorism, as well as general emergency preparedness. These professionals will come to the neighborhood to teach courses, as well as to help with a neighborhood assessment of emergency methods for preparedness for the specific area.

PC-NET teaches neighbors to work as a team during or after an emergency to help each other. Each participating member has a specific function, depending on the type of emergency. Basic emergency equipment (hardhat, flashlight, batteries, whistle, protective eyeglasses and other items) are distributed to attendees at the meetings. All ages from teenagers to senior citizens are able to participate to the level of their ability.

The Preparedness Academy provides

instruction in three areas of general disaster assistance: psychological first aid, use of family emergency radios and disaster first aid/triage. These are free classes available in the Gig Harbor and Tacoma area.

Contact Peggy LovellFord at 253-798-2209 to arrange a class or go to www.co.pierce.wa.us/2297/Pierce-County-Neighborhood-Emergency-Team for information.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is an individual emergency preparedness training program. The focus of a CERT program is to provide assistance in the workplace or neighborhood when professional responders are not immediately available to help. The classes run two evenings a week for three weeks; the next one starts Oct. 3.

Contact Josh Shelton of the Tacoma Fire Department at 253-591-5955 or register at tacomawacert.samariteam.com. Although intended for Tacoma residents, they take residents from other areas on a space available basis.

In the immediate Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor area, the Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee (PEP-C) organization helps residents prepare for disaster. PEP-C meets at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at the Gig Harbor Fire Department headquarters, 10222 Bujacich Road NW. All are welcome to attend the free meeting. For more information, go to www.pep-c.org.

Key Center Water System Adds Connections

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Peninsula Light Co. announced plans to add over 30 new shares to the Key Center water system at presentation to the Key Peninsula Community Council Sept. 13.

Water shares are defined as equivalent residential units (ERUs) and take into account water use and fire flow. Jacqueline Goodwill, communications and public relations director for PenLight, said the number of ERUs in Key Center had been set years ago at 70, and over the last 10 years there were only three new requests. When The Mustard Seed Project began planning to build assisted living in Key Center, the water required for three 10-bedroom homes meant that there were no more shares to offer.

“We think that housing project is really important to the community,” Goodwill said. “But we also know that there are others who need water.” PenLight staff investigated both water rights and the capacity of the system and determined they can expand available connections to 100. The expansion will not require any major infrastructure changes. PenLight

will submit a new small water system plan to the state, with the expectation of approval by the end of 2017.

There are three types of water systems on the Key Peninsula. Many residents have individual wells. Class B systems, licensed and regulated by the Pierce County Health Department, can serve from two to 14 homes. Some class B systems are self-managed and others are managed by PenLight or Washington Water. Class A systems, licensed by the state, serve systems with more than 14 connections. PenLight owns and manages the Key Center system.

Dr. William Roes remembers when the well was drilled more than 20 years ago and he was building his office. The system was built for 100 homes, he said. The holding tank holds about 100,000 gallons. PenLight bought the system in 1998.

Jonathan White, PenLight director of member services and marketing, said that should Key Center grow significantly in the future, increasing capacity beyond the proposed plan would require an additional evaluation of the well, pump and storage capacity. The planning and implementation of those changes will require several years of notice to consider a capital plan.



Peninsula Light Co. Director of Member Services and Marketing Jonathan White addresses the KP Community Council Sept. 13. Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News



ReElect

David Olson

Peninsula School Board

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It has been an honor serving as a Peninsula School Board member. I look forward to continuing to serve our outstanding students, teachers and the community as I seek re-election. I would greatly appreciate your vote.

David Olson

Improving Education, Together

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Paid for by Committee to Re-elect David Olson for School Board, PO Box 2772, Gig Harbor, WA 96335

USING NEW ONLINE CALENDAR

Click on "Submit an Event" and fill out the form at keypennews.com. Update with new information as needed. Everything posted by the 15th of the month will be printed in the following month's edition. Send questions to editor@keypennews.com, or call 253-884-4699.

OCT. 2

LEGO MINDSTORMS

Ages 8 to 18 build Lego robots and learn the basics of programming 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Register up to six at a time at piercescountylibrary.org/calendar or 253-548-3309.

OCT. 2 & 16

VETERANS MEET

KP Veterans meet 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church; membership is for veterans and military service members and families with children over 16 years old. 253-225-5130 or keypenveterans@outlook.com

OCT. 3

PSD FACILITIES FORUM

The Peninsula School District Facilities Committee wants your feedback 6:30 to 8 p.m. Key Peninsula Middle School, 5510 Key Peninsula Hwy, KPN. PSD office: 253-530-1000

OCT. 4 & 18

SENIOR SHOPPING

Seniors may grocery shop at various stores with a "Dutch" lunch. Transportation provided. Key Peninsula Community Services. 253-884-4440

OCT. 5

LAKEBAY FUCHSIA SOCIETY

Please join in at the Key Peninsula Civic Center at 7 p.m. This month's program will be on pruning and cutting back your fuchsias for the winter. Bring your own plant and get firsthand instruction. Peggy Gablehouse, 253-686-7904.

OCT. 6, 13, 20 & 27

SKATE NIGHT

Skate Night at the KP Civic Center 7 to 9 p.m. Admission \$5. 253-884-3456

OCT. 7

KP FARM TOUR

Get ready to celebrate: "100 Years of Farming" is the theme for this year's Key Peninsula Farm Tour, the oldest in Pierce County. For a map and schedule of events go to kpfarmtour.com.

OCT. 7

BLUES & BREWS

KP Civic Center's fall fundraiser. Doors open 6:30 p.m.; music starts at 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets \$15; \$20 at the door. Food available for purchase.

OCT. 7 & 21

DEPRESSION & BI-POLAR SUPPORT

The Lakebay Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group meets 11:15 a.m. to noon at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN. Kimberly, 753-4270 or DBSALakebay@gmail.com

OCT. 10

KP CANDIDATES FORUM

This annual community event is a collaborative project presented by the KP News, the KP Business Association, the KP Civic Center and the KP Community Council. Voice your concerns to candidates that will be on the KP ballot in November. 7 to 9 p.m. at KP Civic Center.

OCT. 10 & 24

CROCHET OR KNIT

The Loving Hearts group meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations welcomed and appreciated. Lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com or Virginia, 253-884-9619

OCT. 14

AWARENESS & SAFETY CLASS

Awareness and Safety Training three-hour class by law enforcement and emergency professionals teaching residents how to safely report any issues in their neighborhood and be alerted to local crime trends. Free and all residents welcome. Light snacks, coffee and tea. WayPoint Community Church, 12719 134th Ave. KPN. 253-853-7878

LIBRARY PUMPKIN DECORATION

Decorate your very own pumpkin to take home. Small pumpkin and decorations provided. All ages. Register up to six at a time. KC Library, 2 to 3:30 p.m. 253-548-3309

OCT. 14, 18 & 23

FLU SHOTS FOR SENIORS

The Key Medical Center and Key Peninsula Health Center will be providing flu vaccine to seniors of the Key Peninsula Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Key Medical Center; Oct. 18 at noon at Key Peninsula Community Services; Oct. 23 midafternoon at the fire station on Herron Island. Medicare accepted or \$10 donation. 253-884-9221

OCT. 18

MAXIMIZE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY

Options for achieving maximum Social Security benefits will be discussed as well as the impact of life events—divorce, death and marriage—at this free seminar. Light refreshments. 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. 253-548-3309

OCT. 19

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

When disaster strikes, will you and yours be ready? KPFD Battalion Chief Chuck West will be speaking about the Key Peninsula when we get "The Big One." 7 p.m., KP Civic Center, Whitmore Room. Peggy Gablehouse, 253-686-7904

OCT. 21

"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS"

Learn how to effectively assert your constitutional rights. Presented by Blake Kremer, criminal defense attorney. Key Center Library, 11 a.m. to noon. 253-548-3309

OCT. 22

BLUEGRASS GOSPEL JAM

Longbranch Community Church 6 to 8:30 p.m. for all acoustic instruments, ages and skill levels. Everyone is welcome to play, sing or simply listen. Bring music stand and finger food to share; music and beverages are provided. 253-884-9339

OCT. 26

LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION

Friends of the Library Book Discussion Group discuss "Macbeth" by William Shakespeare. Pick up a copy at the help desk. Key Center Library, 11 a.m. to noon. 253-548-3309

OCT. 28

STEM LEGO BUILDING

Build something cool with LEGOs, Straws & Connectors, blocks and more. All ages; under 6 with an adult. KC Library, 11 a.m. to noon. 253-548-3309

OCT. 31

CANDY CARNIVAL

Come to WayPoint Church for the annual candy carnival with new games, a funhouse maze and a toddler bouncy house. Admission is one bag of wrapped candy per child and a donation for Backpacks4Kids. Free chili and cornbread. No scary costumes allowed. 6:30 to 8 p.m., WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Ave. KPN. 253-853-7878

OFF THE KEY

OCT. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

TOBACCO-FREE SUPPORT

Free Support Group meets on Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital. The meetings are free. 253-223-7538

OCT. 6

DEMOCRATS MEET

26th Legislative District Democrats meet 7 to 9 p.m. at Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard.

OCT. 7 & 14

MULTICARE HOSPICE TRAINING

Training includes end of life topics presented by the Hospice Team. All materials, snacks and beverages provided, bring your own sack lunch. Carpool possible. Preregistration interviews required. Apply online on event page at multicare.org. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 3901 S. Fife Street, Tacoma. For more, call Vicki Biggs at 253-301-6464.

OCT. 12 & 26

DRUG ADDICTION PANEL

Part one: Pierce County Councilman Derek Young and Jeremiah Saucier, director of Crossroads Treatment Center, will lead a panel on drug addiction, costs, availability and options for treatment, Gig Harbor Civic Center, 3510 Grandview, Gig Harbor. Part two: Oct. 26 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Admission is free. Donations are encouraged.

OCT. 14

OLALLA CLUB CONCERT

Potluck dinner starts at 6 p.m. Concerts start at 7 p.m. Community Club is located at 12970 Olalla Valley Road, Olalla. Suggested donation \$20. olallahouse.org

LEADERSHIP COURAGE

UWT lecturer and career organization development professional Joe Macias, Jr. explores how ordinary individuals can exemplify courageous leadership personally, professionally and even on a global scale. Washington State History Museum, Tacoma. 253-272-3500

OCT. 21

LIGHT OF UNITY FESTIVAL

Celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, founder of the Bahá'í faith, at a community celebration at Canterwood Golf and Country Club from 4 to 7 p.m. Music, refreshments, brief talks on the faith and an exhibition exploring the life of Bahá'u'lláh and its unifying tenets. www.bahai.us. 253-225-2272

HOLIDAY COUNTRY BAZAAR

Jams, jellies, preserves, fruits, baked goods. Soup mixes, gift ideas, fall and Christmas arrangements. Silent auction, Seahawks lap quilt raffle and much more. St. Hugh Episcopal Church, 280 E. Wheelwright, Allyn, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Linda Niles, 253-884-2437 or www.sthughchurch.org.

UFO NIGHT

Mark the 70th anniversary of the first flying saucer sightings in Washington with a night of film, activities and specialty brew. See a special screening with the filmmakers of the award-winning film "The Maury Island Incident." Grab a beer from local Three Magnets Brewing. Tickets in advance. Washington State History Museum, Tacoma. 253-727-3500.

OCT. 27 & 28

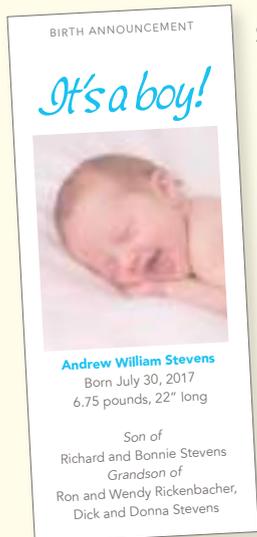
DEMOCRACY SCHOOL

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund classes explore the limits of conventional organizing and offer a new model. Learn about the origins of the U.S. system of laws and governance and keys to lasting change. Friday 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Subway meeting room in Gig Harbor North near Albertson's: 11430 51st Avenue. Cost \$67. Register at mychestnuttree@gmail.com.

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Rates: 3 lines of text, no photo \$30
 1/16 page b&w announcement \$75
 1/8 page color announcement \$175
 Deadline: 15th of month before publication

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

PLAY TO LEARN

Free drop-in program 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Provided by Children's Museum of Tacoma for preschoolers under age 6 and their adult caregivers.

MON, WED & FRIDAYS

SENIOR EXERCISE

The S.A.I.L. senior exercise class meets 10 to 11 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Participants must register with Marilyn Perks, 253-884-4440.

TUESDAYS

BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible study 11 a.m. every week at Grace Church, 2406 McEwan Road KPN in Home. Bring a Bible and sack lunch. 253-884-4854

STORY TIMES

Discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the KC Library. Music/motion story time (0-2 years old with an adult) at 10 a.m. and preschool story time at 11 a.m. 253-548-3309

SENIOR TAI CHI

Meets 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. 253-884-4440

MARRIAGE CLASS

Marriage will not last forever but will have eternal effects. These sessions are designed to help us glorify God with our marriages. Class materials \$15 per couple (scholarships available); 6 to 8 p.m. Register at goo.gl/forms/QPQzri28cwEaCPEg1. Sponsored by WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Ave. KPN. 253-853-7878

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME

The Children's Home Society/KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. Caregivers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. Tami, 253-884-5433.

SENIOR COMPUTER CLASS

Computer class for ages 55+ at 10 a.m. at KP Community Services. This is an open forum directed by your questions and needs, great for beginners or moderate users. 253-884-4440

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

KP MUSEUM OPEN

The Key Peninsula Historical Society features "Then and Now" exhibit with special focus on the Vaughn Library Hall and artifacts, pictures and stories from the whole Key Peninsula. Located at the KP Civic Center. Free admission. 253-888-3246

WEDNESDAYS

READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS

The Children's Home Society of Washington is sponsoring a free cooperative preschool class for 3- and 4-year-olds at KP Civic Center. Parents or caretakers participate with the children, playing learning games, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. 253-884-5433

KP YOUTH COUNCIL

Meets every week 2:30 to 5 p.m. at the Key Center fire station. Keypercouncil@gmail.com

BLEND HOOKERS AND TINKERS

Does your fiber diet include skeins of yarn? Join in from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Blend Wine Shop for a rollicking good time. Bring projects to work on, questions, show-and-tell, or just hang out with a fabulous group. All skill levels and fiber interests welcome, but must be 21+ due to location. Hannah, hannah8ball@gmail.com

LAKEBAY WRITERS

Lakebay Writers is a workshop for people who love stories. Share yours; hear others. 1 to 4 p.m. at the KC Library. Loren Aikins, 253-884-2785

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

SENIOR MEALS

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

THURSDAYS

SENIORS LUNCH

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

SATURDAYS

WRITERS GUILD

The Writers Guild meets the first and third Saturday 10 a.m. to noon in the Community Council Office, Suite D at the KC Corral. 253-884-6455

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Oct. 4 & 18, KP Lions, 7 p.m., KC fire station; 253-853-2721

Oct. 9, KP Parks, 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office; 253-884-9240

Oct. 10 & 24, KP Fire Commissioners, 5 p.m., KC fire station; keypeninsulafire.org

Oct. 11, Bayshore Garden Club, 11 a.m., fire station in Longbranch; Wendy at 253-332-4883

Oct. 11, KP Community Council, 7 p.m., KC fire station

Oct. 12, Ashes support group for FD#16, 10:30 a.m., KC fire station, 253-884-3771

Oct. 12, KP Civic Center Assn. Board, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; 253-884-3456

Oct. 13, Peninsula School District Board, 6 p.m., call for location: 253-530-1000

Oct. 16, KP Democrats, 7 p.m., Home fire station; johnpatkelly@aol.com

Oct. 18, Longbranch Improvement Club, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting; 253-884-6022

Oct. 18, KP Advisory Commission, 6:30 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; co.pierce.wa.us for agenda or call Toni Fairbanks at 253-798-7156

Oct. 19, KP Citizens Against Crime, 7 p.m., KC fire station

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



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CISP staff Kathy Hayfield, volunteer coordinator; Colleen Speer, executive director; Cheri Johnson, resource development committee chair; Laurel Shultz, program director; and Cathy Rich, volunteer coordinator and staff assistant, strike a pose for CISP. Photo: Colleen Slater, KP News

CISP Celebrates with Gilligan and Friends

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

Communities In Schools of Peninsula threw a birthday bash for itself with a "Gilligan's Island" theme as its fourth "celebrity fundraiser" at the end of August. Guests were encouraged to dress for the occasion and a Maryanne, a couple of Gilligans and several Captains were seen among the crowd of over 190.

Brett and Kathy Hayfield, owners of The Boat Shed in Bremerton, provided a variety of unique "island foods," Heritage Distillery of Gig Harbor served specialty beverages, and mini cupcakes and candies came from a Key Peninsula caterer known as The Cake Shop.

The Wounded Mic Band provided music for the outdoor setting, which overlooked Vashon Island and Point Defiance.

The mission of CISP is to surround public school students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. The focus is on those at risk of dropping out, but the program assists the whole school and all of its students.

Regular donors Chuck and Charlie Meacham attended the fundraiser. "When homes are not conducive to learning, school is difficult for students," said Charlie, a former special education

teacher. "CISP provides a link between students and learning."

State Rep. Jesse Young (R-Gig Harbor), also attended with his wife, Jennie, a math tutor for CISP at Kopachuck Middle School. "Kids ask questions and the mentors provide resources," he said.

CISP board member Dick Vanberg said, "The site coordinators are outgoing and enthusiastic (and) tend to be teachers, but not all of them." Vanberg is also a volunteer mentor at Vaughn Elementary School. Vaughn was the first in the district to become involved with CISP and he's been there since the beginning.

"It began here [on the KP] in 2000, although the national organization just celebrated 40 years," said CISP Program Director Laurel Schultz.

Peninsula School District board candidate Noelle Balliett said her first experiences with CISP was seeing a first-grader in her son's class celebrating his own birthday at the first party he'd ever had—courtesy of CISP. "A great community supporting schools makes a great school," Balliett said.

This year's event raised over \$40,000 for CISP.

For more information, go to peninsula.ciswa.org.

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Tacoma Power workers installed bird deterrents on the towers on Purdy Spit in September in preparation for the removal of the towers later this year. Tacoma Power does not want birds living in nests when it is time to remove the towers in the future. The four existing towers, straddling Purdy Spit and in the Burley Lagoon, are over 90 years old and have exceeded their life expectancy. An additional tower will be built in the lagoon with a platform for a raptor nest. Cranes will be mounted on barges to remove the towers and avoid disrupting traffic on the Purdy Spit. There are no planned lane reductions or road closures anticipated. Construction on the new, taller single-pole towers should start in late 2017 and be completed in the summer of 2018. *Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News*

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**Oct 7
KP Farm Tour**
Pumpkin Painting 11-1pm
Biggest Pumpkin
Awards 12 noon
CHECK IN BEFORE NOON
Drummer's Circle
3-4 pm

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Transportation Improvements Drive Forward on the KP

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Paving crews were a common summer sight on the Key Peninsula, but that was just one of many projects underway or being planned.

Chip Sealing

Pierce County chip-sealed 44-lane miles on the KP in 2017. The \$900,000 chip sealing is a cost-effective treatment that typically extends the life of pavement by seven to 10 years, said Brian Stacy, county engineer for Pierce County Planning and Public Works.

The county also completed a 1.6-mile asphalt overlay at 134th Avenue Northwest and the KP Highway at a cost of approximately \$250,000. A \$50,000 traffic study to improve safety at that intersection, north of the Shell station near Marnie Farmer's antique shop, is one of nine transportation improvement projects the county plans for Key Peninsula.

Shoulder Widening

The installation of sidewalks through Key Center was completed in 2016. Additional sidewalks, fully funded by a state grant, will be designed for Olson Drive KPN and 92nd Street KPN in Key Center. The design process begins in 2018. The

country also plans to continue widening the KP Highway shoulder for pedestrian use between Key Center and Volunteer Park to the south.

The Apple Sign Intersection

The county was awarded a state grant to plan an improvement for the intersection of Lackey Road, Jackson Lake Road and the KP Highway. A traffic study is already underway.

"We've heard lots of complaints over the years of fender benders and close calls," Stacy said. "Obviously, the configuration of the intersection is awkward at best."

One solution could be a reconfiguration of the current alignment to form a 90-degree intersection at Lackey Road and KP Highway. Jackson Lake Road would curve to enter Lackey at 90 degrees, well away from the highway to allow for safe starting and stopping distances. The combined traffic would enter the highway at a single 90-degree intersection.

This plan would require some property acquisition. "We want to minimize impacts to adjacent properties, but intersections that come to 90 degrees function safer and better," Stacy said.

The second option is a roundabout. The county is communicating with the heirs of

Doc Chapman's 5-acre triangular parcel at the intersection, known locally for its landmark apple sign.

"There are all kinds of opinions on roundabouts, but in this case we've got four different legs coming into this intersection at all kinds of weird angles; the very situation where roundabouts work well," Stacy said.

"The advantage of a roundabout is that it will cause drivers to slow down as they approach the intersection, which would make it a safer place for everyone," said KP Fire Chief Guy Allen.

Further south on the KP, also on the drawing board is a plan for drainage enhancement on Whiteman Road KPS between mileposts 2.4 and 2.7. The \$900,000 project would require rebuilding the roadway.

"The project, designed to alleviate repeated sinkholes in the area, will go out to bid in 2018 with the bulk of construction beginning 2019," Stacy said. "The planned work is fully funded with county road funds and grant funds called Rural Arterial Preservation."

A Tale of Two Bridges

The county has also applied for grant funding from the state for two Key Peninsula bridges. Unanticipated environmental constraints quadrupled the cost from the

original estimate to replace the existing bridge on Cramer Road KPN near Glencove. Engineers plan to retrofit the existing bridge to extend its life if the grant application fails.

The second application was made to fund replacement of the bridge on North Herron Road, around the bend just beyond the Herron Island ferry landing. There's no speculation on alternatives to total replacement should that application fail.

Off Key: Improved PHS and Purdy Elementary Access

Baseline construction is scheduled in 2018 on a multimillion-dollar revision to the intersection of 144th Street NW and 62nd Avenue NW in Purdy, along the northern boundary of Peninsula High School.

The reconfiguration is expected to significantly improve traffic safety near the school bus entrance to PHS and main entrance to Purdy Elementary School. In addition to installing a stoplight, the plan includes a new dedicated right-turn lane on 144th to 62nd for vehicles headed toward the schools and a new right-turn lane on 62nd for vehicles headed uphill on 144th.

"This intersection has been a problem for nearly 20 years, but there was never the money available to address it before now," Stacy said. "We will be providing westbound

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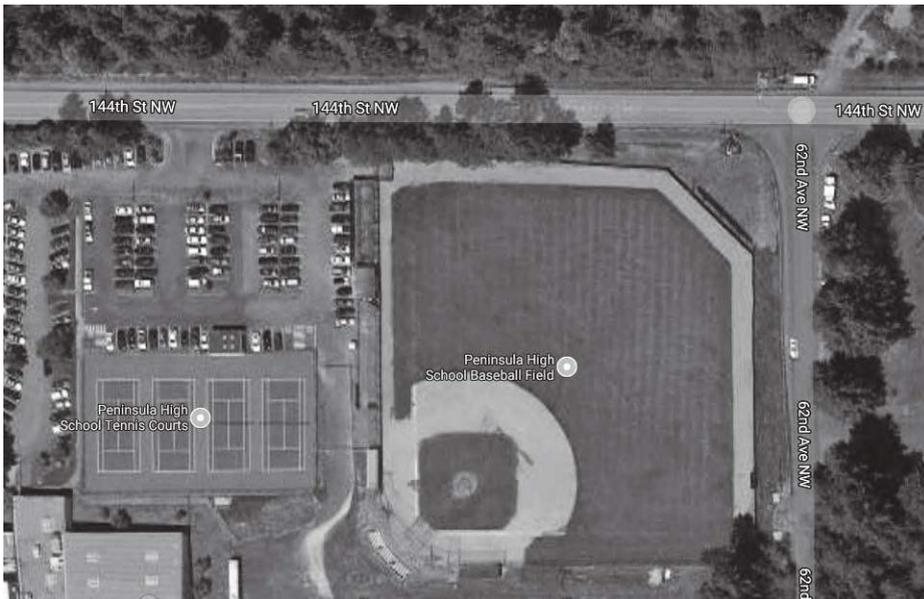
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left-lane turn protection on 144th east of 62nd all the way west to the tennis courts beyond the ball field to keep westbound through traffic flowing. We realized our intersection revision would be partially negated when students attempted unprotected left turns into the parking lot adjacent to the tennis courts. Property acquisition required from neighboring parcels are naturally unlikely to be welcomed, but we have every confidence we'll work through those challenges.

"The community is going to be very pleased; it will be a tremendous improvement," he said.

On the Horizon

"Our staff is looking into traffic flow in Vaughn at the intersection of Hall Road and Van Slyke Road KPN near Vaughn Elementary School," Stacy said. "A second stop sign may be added to calm traffic there."

The 2018 budget also includes \$1 million for fish passage improvements. The county wants to proactively remove culverts inhibiting salmon from reaching their native streams.

The Pierce County Council anticipates voting on the draft of the 2018-2023 transportation improvement projects budget in November.



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Meet the Candidates

Tuesday Oct. 10 at 7 p.m.

Whitmore Room at Key Pen Civic Center

A candidate panel discussion and reception

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Director Dist. 2

Deborah Krishnadasan

Director Dist. 5

Noelle Balliett

David Olson

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 16

Commissioner Pos. 3

Shawn Jensen

Commissioner Pos. 5

Keith Davies

KEY PENINSULA METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT

Commissioner Pos. 5

RoxAnne Simon

Kip Clinton

PORT OF TACOMA

Commissioner Pos. 1

Eric Holdeman

John McCarthy

Commissioner Pos. 2

Noah Davis

Dick Marzano

Commissioner Pos. 4

Kristin Ang

Don Meyer

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The Mustard Seed Project

Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula

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Tuesdays beginning October 3rd, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

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Presented in partnership with Two Waters Arts Alliance

Our October Third Thursday Community Forum:

Annual Medicare Update

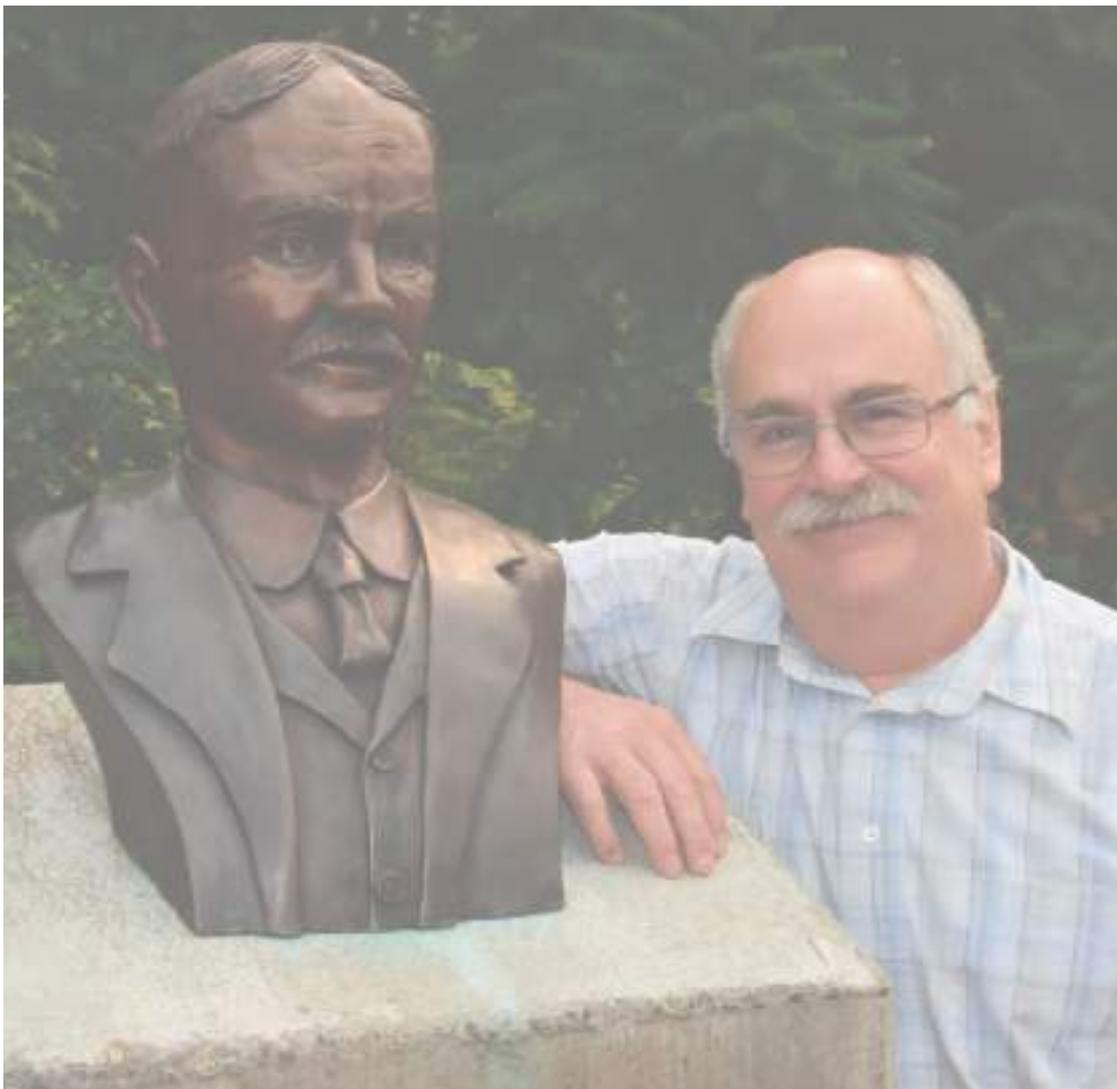
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William R. Rust with the sculptor, Paul Michaels. Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News

Meet Local Artist Paul Michaels

DON TJOSSEM, KP NEWS

"I was surrounded by creative people as I grew up," said Key Peninsula sculptor Paul Michaels. "Dad was an artist who did watercolor painting and enameling. Both of my grandfathers liked to find creative solutions to mechanical projects around their homes."

Michaels was born in Tacoma, grew up in Fircrest and moved to the KP in 1999 with his wife, Elise, a fourth-grade teacher at Vaughn Elementary School. They have two sons, Paul and David.

Michaels attended Wilson High School, focusing on fine arts and graduating in 1972, then attended Tacoma Community College, where his dad taught art. Michaels' initial training in bronze work was at TCC.

"I had no idea then that bronze sculpture would be my career," he said.

Michaels completed his studies at Washington State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in art in 1976. He could finally enjoy the creative part of his professional career after working in Tacoma for 17 years, eventually moving

to the Key Peninsula. He started sculpting carousel figures and restoring antique ones. Currently he likes to create human bronze sculptures that capture the personality and likeness of his subjects.

After Michaels carves the pattern for a bronze sculpture, it is cast by a foundry using the sand-casting method. When the sculpture is just right, molds are made and the object is completed using the traditional lost-wax method. The molds are made of a clay sculpture and are then duplicated in wax. After he puts the finishing touches on the wax, the metal work is finally done at the foundry.

When Michaels starts a project, he enjoys learning the subject's history to help capture their personality in his work. His first sculpture was Ben B. Cheney, which can be seen at Cheney Stadium.

"I had been thinking of pursuing the idea of creating a public sculpture," Michaels said. "Ben Cheney had an interesting story and the stadium seemed a good place to site the sculpture."

He made a maquette (a small-scale sculp-

ture of the proposal) and met with Brad Cheney. "He welcomed me back to discuss the idea several times," Michaels said. Eventually, the Cheney Foundation decided to back the statue and hired him to do the job in 1995.

"Brad Cheney provided many photos and shared his memories," Michaels said. "He loaned me his dad's 'Cheney Studs' baseball jacket, which happened to fit my dad, who I used as a model for the statue."

The final sculpture includes details about Ben Cheney's personality: his watch worn on the inside of his wrist and the No. 24 on the back of his seat. The No. 24 was special to Ben Cheney because that was Willie Mays' number, Cheney was born March 24 and he manufactured 2-by-4s.

After completing sculptures of Alan C. Mason, a Tacoma pioneer in the Proctor business district; William Rust, in the City of Ruston; and several other bronze plaques and signs, his latest work is of Harry Bridges, Longshoremen organizer. This full-size bronze sculpture is on display at the ILWU Local 23 Longshoremen's meeting hall in Fife until a permanent site is found.

Michaels is presently heading up the renovation of the Vaughn Library Hall for the Key Peninsula Historical Society. He has taken over 50 truckloads of trash to the landfill so far. Some of the material resulted in income for KPHS, such as a recent load that netted \$750 from a scrap metal dealer.

This project has been taking up much of Michaels' time over the past year, getting it ready for more serious renovation in the future, but he's still been involved in designing markers and plaques for both KPHS and the Tacoma Historical Society. His bronze markers, signs and plaques can be seen in many places in the Tacoma area.

Contact Paul Michaels at treekpn@comcast.net or visit his website at www.michaelsbronze.com.

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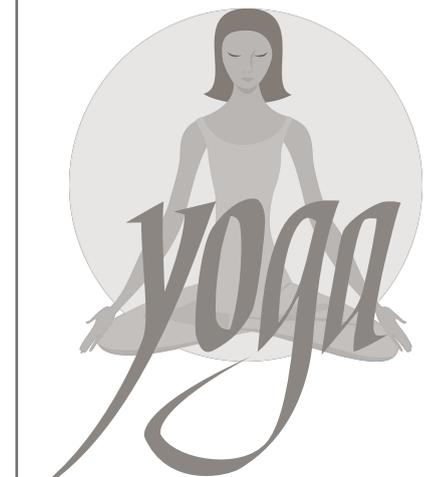


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Three winners will receive \$50 gift certificates from local businesses:

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Communities In Schools of Peninsula board member and volunteer mentor Dick Vanberg of Gig Harbor (center) received the sixth annual Hugh McMillan Award Aug. 24 during the Peninsula School District's Partners in Learning event hosted by the Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce. Vanberg has served as a volunteer mentor at Vaughn Elementary School for 14 years. "Dick is one of those volunteers that the kids just gravitate toward because he is respectful, kind and has a great sense of humor," said CISP Volunteer Coordinator Cathy Rich. *Photo courtesy CISP*



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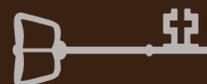
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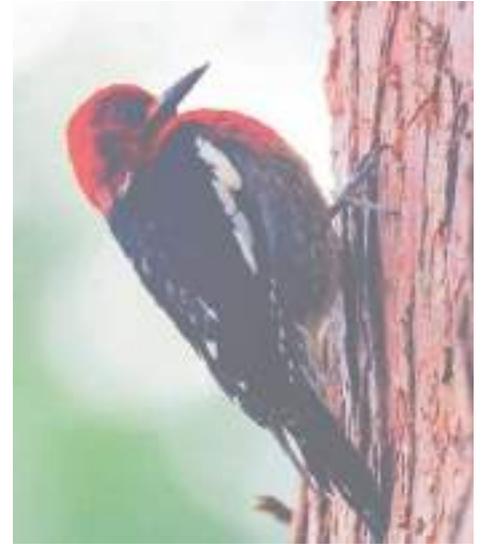
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Top left: A foggy morning on Filucy Bay heralds the change of seasons. *Photo: Richard Hildahl* **Top right:** A red-breasted sapsucker at work as moisture retreats into the trunk with the approach of autumn. *Photo: Richard Hildahl* **Middle left:** The corn moon, last full moon of summer, casts an eerie glow in a cloudy sky. *Photo: Richard Hildahl* **Middle right:** Local big band The Night Gig at The Blend's backyard in Key Center for its first public performance Aug. 25. *Photo: Kathy Bauer* **Above:** Smoke over Case Inlet and the rest of the area came from fires in the Cascades to the east and south, but the KP also had its share of wildfires this summer. The KP Fire Department sent an engine company to join strike teams fighting the Rochester fire and received assistance from the Department of Natural Resources and other agencies to fight local fires. *Photo: Joseph Pentheroudakis*