



# KEY PENINSULA NEWS



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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

January 2018 Vol. 45 No. 1

## Property Crime on the Rise Across Key Peninsula

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Most crime on the Key Peninsula is not dangerous or violent, but its impact on individuals is significant, said Pierce County Prosecutor Mark Lindquist. "I understand the impact of property crime; it is a total violation," he said.

Neighborhoods, the Pierce County Sheriff's Department and Lindquist are all working to address crime on the KP.

RoxAnne Simon of Safe Streets described the importance of neighborhoods as a first line of defense. "We are the eyes and ears," she said. "The best crime deterrent is a nosy neighbor."

Simon also serves on the KP Community Council and co-advises the KP Youth Council. She moved to the Key Peninsula in 2005 and has worked for Safe Streets for three months. She is in the KP Community Council office in Key Center Wednesday mornings to meet with residents who have questions or want to organize their neighborhoods.

Simon has information to help communities mobilize, including warning signs to post and a house watch form for residents to provide information needed to effectively report an incident to law enforcement. She has met with residents from Lake of the Woods, Palmer Lake and Wauna, among others. She also meets regularly with the sheriff's department to share information.

Lt. Rusty Wilder, the sheriff's detachment commander overseeing the peninsula, mountain and foothills detachments, said that over the last five years there have been significant increases in identity theft, motor vehicle theft and theft from vehicles.

"We have experienced some increases in property crimes on the Key Peninsula," he said. "The increases may be the result of a multitude of reasons, but we have recognized a connection between the overall

population growth, the opioid epidemic and 'serial' criminals."

"I'm very proud of the recent arrests by our peninsula deputies that have resulted in several career criminals being arrested for burglaries, car prowls and thefts," he said. "I'm also very proud of our recent proactive efforts to address alcohol-related traffic violations, drug possession and property crimes."

Some community members have complained that even when an arrest is made, the suspect is back within days. Lindquist said that people have a constitutional right to bail. After an arrest, the person is taken into custody and arraigned; a judge sets bail based on danger to the community and risk of flight. Because these are both usually low for property theft, offenders can be released on bail relatively easily.

"We want to hold repeat offenders accountable and get early offenders into treatment if root causes like drug use or mental health issues are an issue," he said.

Lindquist also described the High Priority Offenders Program established in Pierce County in 2016, based on a successful program in New York City.

Using data, intelligence and modern technology, the program identifies repeat offenders. The prosecutor then seeks a higher bail and longer sentences. According to Lindquist, they are seeing positive results: 70 percent of high-priority offenders have remained in custody following arrest, as compared to roughly 20 percent of non-high-priority offenders. More than 85 percent have been sentenced to prison, compared to a state average of 37 percent. The average length of felony sentences for these repeat offenders is nearly four times the state average.

Wilder said the HPO program may not have a big impact on the cycle of arrest and nearly immediate return of offenders to our area because the program focuses on felonies, and most of the crime on the Key Peninsula is at a misdemeanor level. According to the Pierce County website, theft of property valued up to \$250 is a misdemeanor.

Simon acknowledged that reducing property crime is a slow process. "The sheriff's department is working hard and we need to work hard, too," she said. "If you experi-

CONTINUED PAGE 3



Winter sun rises behind Mt. Rainier, as seen from Emerald Shores. Photo: Martha Arneson

## Wishing You a Bright New Year

ANNA BRONES, KP NEWS

A new year always feels like a blank slate. Every day, no matter the month or the season, is a chance for renewal, a chance to do better. But the beginning of a year always feels like an official reset. A new year brings new opportunity, new potential, new experiences. There's a concrete marker between this year and the last, and we shake off what we left behind as we move forward.

It's no surprise that this emphasis on renewal has us making resolutions, promises to ourselves of what we will accomplish, and what we will do to live better lives. This year, I challenge you to skip the resolutions and focus on intentions instead.

Resolutions and intentions are different. Resolutions are individual acts that we can check off a list. Intentions are ways in which we approach the world, an attitude or an idea that we incorporate into our daily actions.

Why opt for intentions instead of resolutions? Resolutions are easy to fail at, easy to leave behind. Intentions are always a work in progress, never completed and always evolving. "I will lose 10 pounds" is different than "I intend to focus on health." Losing 10 pounds is just a check box; either you reach the goal or you don't. "I intend to focus on health" provides a platform for assessing our choices, from what we eat, to

how we move, to whom we interact with.

A life well lived isn't necessarily a life of checked boxes. A life well lived is one that's in balance, one that's in harmony. We are mindful. We are present.

For many of us, 2017 was a dark year. But somehow, we carried on. We have not succumbed to darkness. We have cared for each other. We have—as is the popular phrase of the year—persisted. We have carried light within us.

A friend told me of a New Year's tradition to share with a few friends. Every year when they gather for their New Year's celebration, they choose a word that will guide them in the year to come. And at the end of the year, they go over their words and see how their word played out.

I like this idea, because it creates an intention. Choosing a word causes us to be mindful, bringing that word into everything that we do.

I have thought a lot about the word "light," both the light that I seek and the light that I bring. "How can I cultivate light?" is a question we could ask today, tomorrow and the rest of the year. Bringing a little light to your family, your friends, a neighbor, a stranger—all lead to something larger, no matter how small it feels in the moment.

We each have the power to add light to everything that we do, every day.



## Key Pen News Welcomes New Editor Lisa Bryan

STAFF REPORT

Lisa Bryan, who has reported for the Key Peninsula News for the last year and a half, will officially take over the role of executive editor on Jan. 1.

Bryan stepped into the editor's role in November and December on an interim basis. She found she enjoyed the challenges of the position, the writing staff has appreciated her enthusiasm and feedback, and production has run smoothly.

"Lisa's deep ties and commitment to the Key Peninsula community made her a perfect choice for this job. She has been a valuable reporter, and she has proven she can work with the staff to publish a newspaper that is of the quality we have come to expect," said Bruce Macdonald, member of the publishing board and former president and current treasurer of the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association (KPCCA).

Bryan was raised in Lakewood and had an early career in finance. She and her husband, George, moved to Longbranch 15 years ago.

"There's something special about the Key Peninsula. Any number of things attracted us to it: an affordable place to retire; remarkably fresh air; access to beaches, water and mountain views; an abundance of meandering country roads through forests and fields teeming with wildlife. But perhaps the biggest attraction was the people who live here and make this place special." Lisa added, "It didn't take long to get involved with the community and many of its organizations."

Bryan began by joining the nearby Longbranch Improvement Club, where she used her financial background to serve as treasurer. From that board position, she was introduced to the Key Peninsula Community Fair, Two Waters Arts Alliance, The Mustard Seed, Fresh Food Revolution and, eventually, the Key Peninsula News. Either as a board member, team player or volunteer running the coffee urns, Bryan made more friends and connections with a broad collection of locals.

When Ted Olinger approached her to write for the KP News, she saw an opportunity to fulfill her life-long ambition to write. It was not a dream to write fantastical stories from her imagination; it was, and is, her desire to fairly, accurately report the news and tell the stories that knit the community together. Her proven writing abilities, coupled with her love of and engagement with the community, led her to apply for the position of editor.

The Key Peninsula News Publishing Board, which operates the paper independently under the umbrella of the KPCCA, recommended that Bryan be hired as editor and that recommendation was approved by the KPCCA in December.



## Publishing Board Commends Ted Olinger

The Key Peninsula News Publishing Board extends sincere appreciation to Ted Olinger for his excellent work as executive editor of the paper for nearly two years. His writing and editing skills, combined with solid administrative judgment, have given us a talented team. The volunteers and staff members consistently deliver a newspaper enjoyed and valued by the entire community. The new website, interactive community calendar and 40-year archive represent enduring gifts of Olinger's talent and ability to inspire the same from others.

Even though his focus is now on other writing projects, he continues work on the archives and provides stories and editorial support.

"His guidance during the transition to our new editor is another testament to his commitment to our community, and our newspaper," wrote Keith Axelsen, board vice president. "Thank you again, Ted, for a job extremely well done."



## Lakebay Marina Application for Historical Designation Withdrawn

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Lakebay Marina owner Mark Scott withdrew his application to the Pierce County Landmarks and Historical Preservation Commission for the Lakebay Marina, once known as the Washington Co-Operative Egg & Poultry Association Lakebay Station, just prior to the scheduled Nov. 21 hearing, which had been fast-tracked for approval before the New Year.

"Mr. Scott pursued this application for quite a while," said Ty Booth, Pierce County planning and land use senior planner. "The current staff has not seen an application such as this pulled in recent memory."

The distinction of this landmark designation was pursued by Scott with the assistance of local volunteer Catherine Williams, who authored the application. Approval would have potentially qualified the marina for grant funding to offset the additional costs of work to specific historical preservation standards, which usually increases the overall expense of a project.

"We were disappointed to see the completed application tabled; however, it is certainly conceivable for Mr. Scott to move forward with the historic designation for the Poultry & Egg Co-Operative should his current plans to permanently close the Lakebay Marina change tacks," said Pierce County Councilman Derek Young, whose office supported the application.

Scott could not be reached for comment.



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**PROPERTY CRIMES FROM PAGE 1**

ence or witness a crime, call it in, even if it is not an emergency and no one will come out immediately. If it doesn't get recorded, it is like it never happened.

"What works best to prevent these crimes is just being out there," she said. "If you see someone who you think is suspicious, don't be confrontational. If you do speak to them, just ask if they are lost or if you can help them."

Safe Streets is planning a town hall meeting with representatives from the sheriff's department in January. The time and place will be posted in the Key Center office once finalized and flyers will be distributed.

Simon welcomes calls, texts or emails from those seeking help or advice. Her Tacoma office phone number is 253-272-6824; her cellphone number is 253-226-4285; and her email is [rsimon@safest.org](mailto:rsimon@safest.org).



Take charge, make CHANGE

Safe Streets was launched as a grassroots campaign in Tacoma in 1989 in response to rising gang-related crime. Its mission is to unite and inspire neighbors, youth and businesses to build safe, healthy, thriving communities. It receives both private and public funding.

Safe Streets now serves Tacoma and Pierce county and has a network of at least 125 neighborhood groups.

Safe Streets community mobilizers help these neighborhood groups define and address their own needs by utilizing organized block watches, youth leadership teams, graffiti removal teams, safe routes to school, and substance abuse and violence prevention education initiatives.

Some services provided by Safe Streets:

- Neighborhood patrol training
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design workshops: Learn how to adjust the environmental design of a residence or business by using lighting, landscaping and overall design. These adjustments then make the business or residence undesirable to opportunistic criminals.

- Child-ID: A program that provides simple, laminated identification cards for parents and guardians. Each card includes contact and medical information for first responders; critical information about the child for relatives, neighbors, babysitters or daycare; current photograph (according to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, a picture is the single most important thing in the search for a missing child).

**Several neighborhoods are taking action.**

Kristen Augustziny, a member of the KP Community Council, moved to the Tiedeman neighborhood in 2015. She began to organize after someone broke into her car and yard. She used Facebook and an app, Next Door, to establish a neighborhood watch group in spring 2016. She said they meet once or twice a year, but post on Facebook if unknown people or cars are in the area. Neighbors don't directly confront intruders, but make it clear they are aware of their presence. They may take pictures with their phones or go up to let the interlopers know they are part of a neighborhood watch group and ask if they need help.

"We may not be able to eliminate crime, but we can at least move it out of our neighborhood," Augustziny said. "One of the known thieves in the area no longer prowls cars in our area. The last time he was arrested was in Gig Harbor."

She said there has also been an added benefit. "We all know each other much better. We know who might be especially vulnerable and it has made a big difference to the neighborhood, not just in terms of crime but when there is an emergency, like a power outage," Augustziny said.

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View from Stratford Farm looking over the recently approved geoduck operation on Case Inlet. Photo courtesy: Erin Ewald, Taylor Shellfish environmental compliance officer

## Geoduck Farm Approved on Case Inlet; Permit Pending for Burley Lagoon

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

On Nov. 14, the Pierce County hearing examiner approved a permit for a geoduck farm to be operated by Taylor Shellfish Co. on the west side of the Key Peninsula between Dutcher Cove and Vaughn Bay.

The farm, just over 4 acres, is comprised of three private and separately owned tideland parcels that will abut an existing 3-acre farm.

The Key Peninsula Advisory Committee (KPAC) reviewed the initial proposal in May 2016. The advisory vote was 4-3 opposed. Two KPAC members voted against because they felt a county environmental review of the project was necessary for KPAC members to make an informed decision. Another member voted no because of concerns about how the county regulates the industry, rather than any issues with the application.

In May 2017, the county completed its environmental review and issued a Determination of Nonsignificance, meaning the farm would not create any probable significant adverse environ-

mental impacts.

Planting should begin this spring, according to Diane Cooper, regulatory director at Taylor.

A second permit application filed by Taylor to establish a geoduck farm in Burley Lagoon is significantly larger and in a location very different from other area farms (“Large-Scale Geoduck Farm Possible in Burley Lagoon,” KP News, December 2016). An environmental impact statement (EIS) will be required and Cooper said Taylor expects a draft in early 2018. It will be available to the public for additional comment and, once a final EIS is written, will be presented at public hearings and to KPAC, which will make its recommendation on the proposal to the Pierce County Department of Planning and Land Services (PALS).

A final EIS, along with the PALS recommendation, will then be presented to the Pierce County hearing examiner, whose decision will be forwarded to the Washington State Department of Ecology for review.

Ty Booth, senior planner for PALS, said there are no other geoduck farm permits pending at this time.

## Fed Up with Crime, Palmer Lake Residents Work Together to Stop It

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

The uptick in prowlers began the first week of September 2017. A rash of car break-ins and thefts in the residential community of Palmer Lake left residents angry, frustrated and eager to find real solutions to protect the peaceful tranquility of the neighborhood they call home.

It’s not about vigilante justice; on the contrary, it is exactly vigilantism that these residents wish to avoid, they say.

The informal group has done its homework. One neighbor developed a “cheat sheet” for neighbors as a handy reference to keep near the telephone, as a reminder to ensure 911 calls are effective in unfolding situations. Residents have thoroughly mapped the subdivision, noting all lots and corresponding addresses of concern, including nearly a dozen abandoned or bank-owned properties that tend to attract squatters and drug crimes.

The group also maintains photographic records, video surveillance footage and lists of suspicious vehicles throughout the area; cars with expired tabs, out-of-state license plates or no plates at all. In some cases, the group has obtained the names of registered owners and known operators, and records the various locations where they park within the subdivision.

“We compile all this information and provide it to law enforcement; we endeavor to work with law enforcement,” one resident said. Like all of the community members interviewed for this article, this person asked to remain anonymous.

“I have vetted my actions to sheriff’s deputies to ensure I’m not violating anyone’s civil rights and have been told I am OK,” the resident said. “If at any point I’m in danger of going too far, they will let me know.”

Other details gathered from public records form the basis of a neighborhood database—a growing matrix filled with names, dates, addresses, arrest records and suspected criminal activity. Altogether, the matrix represents a picture of crime in Palmer Lake that indicates some coordination between theft and drug crimes.

Group members frequently report

watching young adults wearing hoodies and backpacks at night and in the small hours of the morning, equipped with flashlights, either on foot or walking alongside a bicycle.

“One by one, we see young adults wearing backpacks going down a driveway or inside a house, often quickly coming out wearing a different backpack,” another resident said, “It’s hard not to assume stolen property is going in and drugs are coming back out.”

“They are all over social media,” a third resident said. “They know they are being watched. They know their pictures have been taken. They make a concerted effort to avoid having their faces seen. That’s why they wear these hoodies pulled over their heads.”

The informal neighborhood watch group uses Facebook to communicate with each other as well, something that has come to the attention of Pierce County Councilman Derek Young.

“We’re frankly concerned about the use of Facebook, as some of the stuff we see openly posted crosses the line,” he said. “Facebook used as means to harass private citizens is a real problem. Reporting crime on Facebook doesn’t help. Nothing shows up as a crime if it isn’t reported to the sheriff’s office.”

Young said that some crime is being fueled by the opioid epidemic. Residents have phoned 911 numerous times after finding residue-laden bags and hypodermic needles used for injecting heroin and other substances.

“The biggest problem we are facing here is a lack of police officers,” a fourth resident said. To these neighbors, sheriff’s deputies seem stretched so thin they don’t have time to investigate.

“With cuts in shared revenue with the state, we have law enforcement staffing issues county-wide,” Young said, adding that problems such as this aren’t new to Palmer Lake or anywhere in Pierce county. He said approximately 80 percent of the county budget already goes to criminal justice. He also said the recently passed budget allocates funds for additional staffing and makes some administrative changes within the Pierce County Sheriff’s Office.

“These people are brazen; my fear is that somebody is going to get hurt,” said a fifth resident. “I fear some residents out here are so angry and so fed up that somebody is going to catch a person going through a car, a truck or a shed and somebody is going to get hurt.”

Another resident said, “That’s exactly what we don’t want. We don’t want vigilante justice, but I am afraid it’s going to happen; it’s going to come to a head.”

# KP Voter Ballots Missed in August 2017 Primary Election

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

“Election errors are highly unusual,” said Pierce County Auditor Julie Anderson. “However, we want to report that 152 ballots collected from the Pierce County Elections drop box at the Gig Harbor Fire Station in Purdy were not included in the final tabulation of votes in the Aug. 1 primary election as certified by the Washington Secretary of State Office.” Anderson’s office had no authority or ability to change those certified results.

The error was discovered on Nov. 3, as election personnel prepared for the Nov. 7 general election. Anderson said the problem was reported to the Washington Secretary of State and the Canvassing Board within minutes of the discovery.

“We analyzed how the error happened and took swift corrective action,” said Anderson. “New procedures were immediately put into place for the Nov. 7 general election, procedures that will be followed from that point forward.”

On the night of Aug. 1, everything proceeded normally. A ballot drop box team retrieved ballots from the Purdy fire station drop box and “did exactly as they were trained to do: They collected the ballots; they locked the box at 8 p.m.; they sealed the box; they sealed the ballots; they collected and transported them back to the election center, nice and secure,”

said Anderson. “Unfortunately, when they brought the ballots into the check-in station at the election central, those 152 ballots were put into a storage tub and the check-in table did not receive them.”

Had the 152 uncounted primary ballots from Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor voters been counted, they would have had no impact on the recently certified general election. A total of nine ballots would have included votes for Gig Harbor Council Position #3 and the remaining 143 were votes for Port of Tacoma Commissioner Position #1, according to information from the Auditor’s Office. Those two races were both decided by large margins.

“There was no evidence whatsoever of fraud or tampering,” Anderson said. “The ballots simply did not make it to the ballot counting floor.”

The Auditor’s Office has attributed credit for voting to those who participated in the election but whose votes were not counted and therefore went without credit for participation on their voter registration record.

“We deeply regret the error; we take it very seriously,” Anderson said. “In our office, we all take an oath that every vote counts. It was a serious mistake.”



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- Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund..... \$4,000



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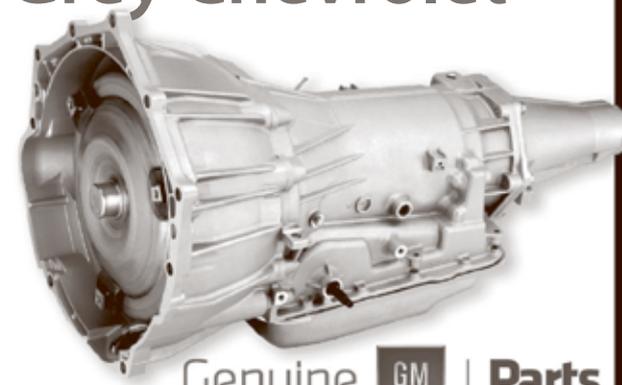
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## Cathy Warner

KEY PEN & INK



### Live Like the Mountain Is Out

I received a mug emblazoned with the words “Live Like the Mountain Is Out” and an outline of Mt. Rainier a few months ago. I filled it with tea and looked out at the rain.

It rained, grayed and drizzled the first six weeks I lived in Washington, and the morning the sun broke free, I was on a ferry from Bainbridge Island to Seattle. When the boat turned out of Eagle Harbor, a massive, snow-covered mountain seemed to rise from the waters of the Sound itself, growing larger and dominating the horizon until it disappeared behind West Seattle.

I had no idea what mountain I’d seen, but seeing it filled me with reverence for that looming majesty and left me wanting another glimpse as I trudged uphill to Seattle University.

Author David Guterson (“Snow Falling on Cedars”) began his presentation with something like, “Wasn’t our mountain beautiful from the ferry this morning?” If a life-long resident was impressed, it was, indeed, something special.

It didn’t take long to discover that “our mountain” is Rainier and in my six years in Washington, I’ve delighted in glimpses of it again, along with the Olympics and Cascades, which do their share of hiding, too.

The day my husband and I moved to our home near the Purdy Spit in July 2015 and discovered that Mt. Rainier—which was visible from our 4-foot-high office window—glowed pink at sunset with reflected light, we did what anyone would do when confronted with such a spectacle: We climbed onto the roof and gazed until the mountain faded from sight.

We climbed out again and again that summer and fall, luring guests through our narrow window with sunset cocktails. The mountain made our contortions worthwhile, but when spring came, we installed a sliding door and rooftop deck.

Most stunning is the view from my bed before sunrise, as I wake to find Rainier back-lit in sharp relief behind the trees that obscure its presence in full sun. Slowly the glaciers and striations color then fade and shadows recede as nautical twilight gives way to civil twilight and the sun finally rises—sometimes straight into clouds.

Just what does it mean to “Live Like the Mountain Is Out?”

I’m in a better mood when I rouse to Rainier instead of my alarm, so does it

mean smile and be happy, generous and expansive?

Does it mean drop everything, chores and work alike, and run (or climb) outside to gaze in wonder?

Does it mean live big and bold, calling attention to our presence—the way we can’t help but gasp when Rainier looms into view from that particular crest on Highway 16?

Does it mean set our sights on the horizon, the big picture, and ignore the little things? Or does it mean pay close attention to everything large and small, finding inherent beauty?

Does it mean we shouldn’t take for granted what appears permanent and immovable (a 14,411-foot mountain, for example), that we should offer appreciation and thanks for those solid and sturdy people and circumstances in our lives since even the everlasting can be fleeting, there but unseen?

Perhaps “live like the mountain is out” means all of this and more. What does it mean to you? Let’s fill our mugs and ponder.

*Cathy Warner keeps her mug in Wauna.*

## Derek Young

COUNCIL UPDATE



### 2018 Budget Adopted

Last month, the Pierce County Council unanimously passed the 2018 budget, which was signed into law by County Executive Bruce Dammeier. This is the third budget I’ve been part of since joining the council (my 19th in local government) and I’m particularly proud of the way this one turned out. We’ve made some fiscal reforms that should leave the county in a much better financial position going forward. These changes also result in a more equitable distribution of our tax dollars to each community, particularly more rural areas.

I am pleased by the increased investments we’ve made to essential services such as public safety and behavioral health. In addition, I sponsored the creation of a Veterans’ Therapeutic Court.

Here are some appropriations that are important to Key Peninsula residents:

- Four new positions for the Sheriff’s Office (the Peninsula Detachment will no longer have to share a lieutenant with the Foothills Detachment, located in Lakewood).

- Funding for The Red Barn, Communities In Schools of Peninsula, the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, Safe Streets, Key Peninsula Senior Center and the Peninsula Youth Suicide Prevention.

- Double the support to Key Pen Parks.

- Though not on the Key Peninsula, folks driving to Peninsula High School will soon have a new traffic signal and turn lanes at the intersection of 144th Street NW and 62nd Avenue NW above the baseball fields. (See “Transportation Improvements Drive Forward on the KP,” Key Peninsula News, October 2017.)

### Attacking the Opioid Epidemic

On Dec. 15, the council authorized the county prosecutor to initiate litigation against Purdue Pharmaceutical and other major pharmaceutical companies for their role in the opioid epidemic. The vote came after months of research and a recommendation by the prosecutor, Mark Lindquist. The purpose of the lawsuit is to seek injunctive relief, meaning court orders seeking specific policy changes that will help reduce the occurrence of addiction, injury and deaths from opioid abuse.

We’ll also be seeking monetary awards for the impacts to the county’s justice, health and human services systems, as well as the cost of treatment necessary to reverse those effects.

Opioid manufacturers profited from business practices that have done enormous damage to our community. We intend to make them pay for it.

### Addressing Changes for Next-Generation 911

The Pierce County Council approved changes Dec. 12 to street addresses on the Key Peninsula, Fox Island and Anderson Island that will bring the addresses into compliance with federal Next-Generation 911 standards.

The changes will also make it easier for first responders, including those from outside of area who assist during disasters or major emergencies, to find properties.

Addresses on Key Peninsula with a “KPN” directional will use “NW,” while those with a “KPS” directional will use “SW.” Approximately 365 addresses on Key Peninsula and Anderson Island that are considered problematic will also be corrected.

More than 16,000 property owners will receive a notice in January with their new official address. The changes will go into effect April 1, although the new addresses should be used for emergency services calls starting in January. USPS will honor old addresses through April 1, 2019, to give property owners time to update their addresses with their contacts.

Starting in January, we’re partnering with the Key Peninsula Community Council to have office hours in Key Center at the Key Center Corral, 9021 Key Peninsula Hwy N, Suite D. My assistant or I will be there at least one day a week to meet with residents.

As always, you can also contact my Tacoma office with your questions, suggestions or concerns at 253-798-6654 or by email at derek.young@co.pierce.wa.us.

*Derek Young (D-Gig Harbor) represents the 7th District, including the Key Peninsula, on the Pierce County Council.*

## Brook Hurst Stephens

LIVING FARAWAY



### New Year? Piece of Cake!

Like many people, I start to think about what I’ll be making and doing to celebrate the holidays not long after Halloween. It’s hard not to think about Thanksgiving and Christmas when reminders are everywhere. The Christmas decorations are already in the big-box stores, the free turkey coupons are in the newspapers, and Black Friday ads are everywhere. The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas flies by, full of parties and school events and, for some, difficult emotions, too.

We have a little lull before we ring in the New Year, thank goodness, and that’s when I breathe a sigh of relief. I can still enjoy my holiday decorations but I don’t feel the stress sometimes associated with the business of the holiday season.

Some people have grand ways to ring in the New Year, whether by hosting parties or traveling someplace special to watch fireworks. Not me. I dislike fireworks, crowds and, most of all, I can’t stay up until midnight. I’m an early bird and I love mornings, especially being up before the sun comes up. Blame it on my childhood.

When I was very small, my grandmother owned a doughnut shop, which meant when I spent the night with her, we would be getting up while it was still dark for the 10-minute ride into downtown Yakima. She had strategically opened up next door to a successful stock brokerage firm. Their employees welcomed and loved it; since they had to be on East Coast time, they came to see us bright and early.

I was so little, literally and age-wise, I had to stand on a stool to run the cash register, but was big enough that my grandmother put me in charge of dipping the tops of the doughnuts in pretty pastel-colored icings, then topping with coconut or chopped nuts, or even better, adding sprinkles. Lots of sprinkles. Best childhood ever.

In many cultures, it is a tradition to eat ring-shaped foods, such as doughnuts, bagels or cakes on New Year’s Eve or New Year’s Day. It represents the past year coming full circle and is thought to

bring good luck in the New Year.

In Poland and Hungary, many people eat doughnuts to mark the New Year.

Bakers in Denmark celebrate this custom of ring-shaped baked goods with kransekake, a towering confection made with stacked rings of marzipan cake.

At the stroke of midnight, some families in Greece cut into a specially prepared lemon cake called vasilopita, in which the baker has placed a coin before baking. Right before cutting into the cake, the sign of a cross is etched with a knife across the top. Whoever finds the coin in their slice of cake gets one year of good luck.

I might be busier than usual this year, with the horses finally coming home to Faraway in time for Christmas and so many restoration projects in the works, but I do have a favorite go-to recipe for those times when I want to serve cake but don't have time to bake and stack layer upon layer or whip up Seven Minute Frosting.

This quick and easy recipe is adapted from Ina Gerten's Chocolate Ganache Cake recipe. It's a small, single-layer cake but rich enough that a sliver is plenty. If you're lucky enough to have access to duck eggs, use them. They're richer than chicken eggs and provide more loft when baking cakes, quiches and soufflés.

Here's to another great year here on the Key Peninsula. Cake or no cake, I already feel lucky just being part of this wonderful community.

#### Hershey's Syrup Cake

- 1 stick butter, room temperature
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 duck eggs (or 4 chicken eggs), room temperature
- 1 16-ounce can (or 2 cups) Hershey's chocolate syrup
- 1 tbsp pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour

#### Chocolate Icing:

- ½ cup heavy cream (more for whipping, if desired)
- 8 ounces semisweet or milk chocolate chips
- Whipped cream (optional)

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Butter and flour an 8-inch round cake pan. Line with round of parchment, if you have it.

Cream the butter and sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment until light and fluffy. Add the eggs, one at a time. Mix in the chocolate syrup and vanilla. Add the flour and mix until just combined. Don't overbeat or the cake will be tough.

Pour the batter into the pan and bake for 40 to 45 minutes, until just set in the middle. Do not over-bake! Let cool thoroughly in the pan.

For the icing, cook the heavy cream and chocolate chips in the top of a double boiler over simmering water until smooth and warm, stirring occasionally.

Place the cake upside down on a wire rack and pour the glaze evenly over the top, making sure to cover the entire cake and sides, using a spatula if needed. Do not refrigerate.

*Brook Hurst Stephens lives in Longbranch. She can be reached at HistoricFaraway@gmail.com. Follow the restoration progress at Historic Faraway on Facebook.*

### Ted Olinger

ANOTHER LAST WORD



#### Blood and Soil

In December 1990, I was riding in a car along the coast of the Adriatic Sea near the medieval fortress city of Dubrovnik in Croatia, when the engine coughed, sputtered and died. The driver was an engineer I'd met the week before in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. He had been there on business; I was there to report on that state's imminent secession from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Between his grade-school English and my high-school French, we'd struck up a conversation on an overnight train and, as was so common in the East in those days, he invited me to stay with his family and see the countryside.

We were on one of those excursions when the engine stopped. My host popped the hood and diagnosed the problem as a failed distributor. He somehow repurposed the foil lining from our cigarette packs to reinforce or replace the wiring, and the engine sparked, barely, back to life.

The car limped a few miles to a community of small, tidy homes on high ground where his in-laws lived in a quaint villa overlooking the walled city.

My host's father-in-law was a retired general of the Yugoslav people's army. He and his wife were somewhere in their 70s. Neither spoke a word of English, but she was very gracious and welcoming, and immediately poured all of us a round of the national drink, a plum brandy called slivovitz.

The General was a bit shorter than me—and I am not tall—but he was powerfully built. He crushed my hand in his while looking me in the eye and then dismissed me from his thoughts.

There followed some animated conversation I could not comprehend, but I gathered another crisis was unfolding that required the General's wife to accompany my host somewhere while he sought assistance from a nearby mechanic. He asked that I remain behind.

The General could not have been less pleased. He motioned me to follow him into his den, a small room full of military memorabilia, and directed me to sit with the kind of abrupt gesture one

CONTINUED PAGE 8



## CIVIC CENTER

## CORNER



# Crab Feed!

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**Join your friends and neighbors** for the food, the fun and a very delicious way to support your civic center.

**Happy New Years to you all.** I wish you the best for this coming year. As this year's president of the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association I look forward to helping keep our beautiful building & grounds available for everyone to enjoy. I encourage you take part in the many events that occur throughout the year. If you have any interest in being a part of the management of our center, we encourage you to attend one of our monthly board meetings and meet the other community members that make the Civic Center what it is today. Feel free to contact me or call our office if you have any questions or concerns.

Tim Kezele 253-225-3702 (c) 253-884-3456 (o)

**BLOOD AND SOIL FROM PAGE 7**

might employ tossing away a piece of trash. He asked me a few things I could not interpret. He tried again in Italian and then Russian. I responded with my high-school French. He shrugged. I tried my phrasebook German. He glared.

The General was a career soldier of an Eastern Bloc army involuntarily hosting a representative of the enemy he had spent his professional life training to fight. I felt for him.

I pulled out my travel notebook and sketched a map of Europe, marked Paris and said "Septembre." He nodded. I drew a line to Berlin, then across Germany to Poland and the Soviet Union, then back through Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Austria, and finally to Yugoslavia, mentioning what highlights I could.

After watching the Berlin Wall come down on television during a meeting at work the year before, I had determined to quit my publishing job in New York City and travel behind the newly fallen Iron Curtain to report on what I saw as a freelance writer. I'd been pursuing that goal, unsuccessfully, for three months, following street demonstrations, conversing in crowded bars and churches, and trying to sleep on trains. I met Romanians sneaking into Poland, Russians with bags full of dollars, and men like my host—the engineer—caught up in the holiday atmosphere of sudden social and political changes, never dreaming of what might follow.

The General refilled our glasses. He was losing interest in my monosyllabic monologue when some disturbance outside interrupted us. A group of teenage boys were marching down the street singing and waving the national flag together with bottles of beer. Neighbors streamed out of their houses, sending their sons to join the march while singing along from porches and sidewalks. The General burst into song himself and clapped me on the back to get me to join in, which, well into my second or third brandy by then, I did with gusto.

I learned later this was a bit of local tradition for boys the night before induction into the army for their obligatory national service. They march down the streets of their neighborhoods, calling out their friends to join them, singing and drinking late into the night to ensure they look and feel their best the next morning when they report for basic training.

No one watching this joyful spectacle could imagine that, in less than a

year, the soldiers who boys like these became would be firing mortars into this very neighborhood to support an attack on Dubrovnik; that snipers and artillery would target civilians trapped and starving in cities across their own country; or that ad hoc militias would sweep through their own neighborhoods to evict, arrest and murder their own people by the thousands in a bloody orgy of ethnic and political hatred not seen in Europe for 50 years.

But the singing cheered up the General.

He began to enthusiastically describe his own career, in his own tongue, gesturing to the many military citations and souvenirs decorating his den. I could not decipher any of them, but I understood he was somehow attached to an armored division, judging by photos of him being saluted by phalanxes of tank crews.

I drew another map of Europe in my notebook, this time trying to tell the General about my Uncle Edward, for whom I am named, and who drove a tank in Patton's Third Army. "Normandy," I said, pointing at the map and writing 1944 on it. Then, "Battle of the Bulge," and "Crossing the Rhine," all places and events where my uncle fought. I even sketched a family tree, with my stick-figure uncle in a tank crushing a swastika.

The General may or may not have understood who Uncle Ed was, but he recognized the other names I spoke. He put down his glass and pulled up the right sleeve of his sweater. On his outer forearm was tattooed a long, jagged number. I had met people with these numbers before, but no one with a tattoo so sloppy and haphazard. I later realized it must have been done to him when he was a small boy and that the tattoo had stretched and distorted as his arm grew and he survived to maturity.

I did not know what to say but found myself instinctively standing at attention, so I put my hand over my heart, as if I were about to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The General picked up his glass. "Normandy," he said, and we drank.

*Ted Olinger lives in Vaughn.*

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

**Letter to the Editor****Concerned About Local Growth**

As a recent peninsula arrival and 70-year-old Seattle-area native, I took note of the statement in the Dec. "Shop Local" feature that shopping locally would "drive property values up" and "bolster the growth of our community."

Having observed what has happened in Seattle (loss of middle class affordability and transportation paralysis), it has always perplexed me why towns/cities/regions so consistently worship the god of "growth."

Does the Key Peninsula really want to become an area where people can't afford to live and getting around becomes a headache? Despite growth boosters' arguments to the contrary, that is what happens when growth for the sake of growth (and profit) becomes the objective. People might say it could never happen here, but they would have said the same thing about Seattle in 1960. Seattle developers already have their sights set on Bremerton as the next growth center. The growth beast is insatiable and extends its tentacles in all directions if it is not resisted.

*Richard Schwartz, Longbranch*



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## Well Water Testing Basics

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

*Editor's note: In November, there was a series of comments about wells and water testing posted in the Key Peninsula Facebook Group. KP News checked with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to provide accurate information for our readers.*

Although water system owners may balk at rules for testing, there is a history to the requirements. "Think of us as a quasi-insurance policy. Risk and water go hand in hand. We are there to help you minimize risk," said Brad Harp, program manager for Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) Water Resources and Hazardous Waste.

Testing for water quality goes back to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) enacted by Congress in 1974. The drinking water standards only apply to public water systems, not individual private wells.

The SDWA is the main federal law that ensures the quality of drinking water and it authorized the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set national standards for drinking water to protect against health effects from exposure to naturally occurring and man-made contaminants. Rules were set at the federal level, but states and local governments, if they adhered to those standards, were given the right to administer water systems.

There are three types of wells or systems:

private wells, serving a single home; Group B wells, serving between two and 14 homes; and Group A wells, serving 15 or more. Harp said that there are at least 515 private wells, 321 Group B systems and 97 Group A systems on the Key Peninsula. The number of private wells is likely at least double that, as the TPCHD records don't go back beyond the mid-1970s.

When a private well is completed, the owner is required to test for 26 chemicals and for coliforms (bacteria). No further testing is required, although the TPCHD recommends testing each year for coliforms and every three years for nitrates.

Group B systems are usually managed by one of the household owners. Testing is required every year for coliforms and every three years for nitrates. More frequent testing may be required if test results indicate a problem.

Group A system requirements vary widely, depending on the size of the system and prior testing results. Harp said, for instance, that the city of Tacoma system requires daily testing at multiple sites, but that a system with a small number of households might require testing that is similar to that for Group B systems. These systems may be managed by a company, an individual or co-owners.

*For those who must test or would like to test their drinking water, bottles to collect samples and instructions are available at the Key Center Fire Station.*

January 2018  
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### KEY PEN PARKS FUN for 2018

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April 28 **Parks Appreciation Day**

May 12 **Mom and Me Tea**

July 4 **Community Hot Dog Social**

Fridays in August **Cinema Under the Stars**

October 20 **All Hallows Eve Celebration**

December 1 **Breakfast with Santa**

Dates to be announced: **Poker Pedal and Popsicles in the Park.**

Thank you to the many volunteers who made our 6th annual **Breakfast with Santa**, put on by Key Pen Parks and the Key Center Fire Station, an extra special and festive event for all the families and children who attended! Anne Nesbit, John Mohn, Hal Wolverton, Bill & Claudia Jones, Chad, Tracey, Robert & Jane Oliveira, Jeff Barnaby, Ashleigh Martin, Marilyn & Jerry Hartley, Holly & Amanda Verret, Rylee Brown, Camryn Beckman, Nora Kilcup, Sami & Shawn Jensen, Nathaniel Griffin, Jade Hoskins, Aidyn Caskin, Bobbi Worden, Kaden Etherington and Troy Lange

**CONTRACTOR, CONSULTANT OR VENDOR?** If you are interested in doing business with Key Pen Parks, contact Scott at [scottg@keypenparks.com](mailto:scottg@keypenparks.com).

#### NOW ACCEPTING MAINTENANCE JOB APPLICATIONS

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For the latest news see [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com) or Facebook page

# Thank You

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Bob and Patty Van Valkenburg

Blush Skin Spa

Renee Smith

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Kristen Augusziny

Paige Schulte

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Posters promoting Patriot Front, a white nationalist group, were seen along Borgen Avenue roundabouts and the north Gig Harbor area. Photo: Meredith Brownand

## Locals Respond to Threat of Hate Crimes

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The meeting room at the Gig Harbor Round Table Pizza was full on Nov. 28 as people met to discuss the apparent rise of alt-right and white nationalist hate groups on the Gig Harbor peninsula. The Gig Harbor Democrats Social Club sponsored the meeting; former state representative Larry Seaquist moderated. Attendees came from Bremerton, Port Orchard, Olalla, Fox Island, Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula.

Two incidents prompted the meeting. In September, graffiti appeared at Peninsula High School saying “Black Lives Don’t Matter.” It was removed immediately, a single student was identified as responsible, and the district started a diversity committee at PHS.

In November, a banner was suspended over State Route 16 at the Wollochet

overpass promoting “Blood and Soil,” a phrase associated with Patriot Front, a white nationalist organization with groups in the area. Posters also appeared in Gig Harbor North. All were posted illegally and were removed by Gig Harbor police.

Meeting attendees grappled both with what has led to these incidents and what to do about them. Three themes were identified.

First, Gig Harbor and the surrounding communities are predominantly white. One former real estate agent in the audience said that when he was working, some potential clients looking for homes in Gig Harbor specifically wanted assurance that the neighborhood was white. Others in the room, having moved from other cities, said that they missed their experience of a more diverse population.

Second, those attending the meeting

wanted to welcome diversity to the community and to find ways to expose local residents who live here to people from other races and cultures. One participant noted the Gig Harbor City Council is all white; he felt that considering diversity at a high level is important. Others talked about stepping out of their comfort zones—attending events or churches in Tacoma or Seattle that are majority nonwhite, for example.

Third, although racism and fear of those who are different does exist, young people in particular may be more open to accepting those who are from other races and cultures. “You have to be taught to hate,” said longtime KP community volunteer Hugh McMillan, who was in the audience.

Joy Stanford, who is black and lives in Gig Harbor and whose son attends Peninsula High School, said she is looking forward to working with the school’s diversity committee. Others recalled valuable experiences in pairing with sister schools in Tacoma to expose students to other cultures or unfamiliar parts of their own society. Students became pen pals and then met in person. While 80 percent of students in the Peninsula School District are white, statewide that number is 55 percent and in Tacoma, it is 40 percent.

“We want to both be more inclusive and to change the perception of our community,” said Robyn Denson, a founding member of Open Hearts, an organization working in Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula to promote equity and dignity for all.

Open Hearts, with a membership that includes parents, grandparents and retirees, is focusing on young people for now, Denson said. It is working with PSD to sponsor an event Jan. 16 to talk about how to support the community and young people to become more welcoming and open to diversity. PHS Principal David Goodwin, Superintendent Rob Manahan and students from Peninsula and Gig Harbor high schools will share their experiences and plans. The public is welcome to attend the event at the Gig Harbor Library community room from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The Gig Harbor Democrats Social Club will reconvene Jan. 23 at Round Table Pizza from 7 to 8:30 p.m. to further discuss possible avenues of action.

*Current groups active in addressing diversity in our area include:*

*Kitsap Showing Up for Racial Justice meets monthly in Poulsbo and Bremerton. [www.showingupforracialjustice.org](http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org) Email: [kitsapsurj@gmail.com](mailto:kitsapsurj@gmail.com)*

*Open Hearts meets regularly at the Gig Harbor Library. [peninsulaopenhearts.weebly.com](http://peninsulaopenhearts.weebly.com). Email: [peninsulaopenhearts@gmail.com](mailto:peninsulaopenhearts@gmail.com)*

## Local Liquor Store Carries On

STAFF REPORT

Every shop owner wants attention for a new location, but not this way. On Nov. 26, Buzz liquor store employee Virginia Voltz, 59, was found dead behind the counter, from what appeared to be a massive cardiac event. Surveillance cameras recorded the very moment of her collapse. Also captured on video was a male customer who entered the store shortly afterward and appeared to help himself to some liquor.

“It is difficult to imagine he didn’t see her, but the video showed him putting something in his pocket and walking out the door without even calling for help,” said store owner Mavi Macfarlane.

“Whatever caused her death, we can be grateful she didn’t suffer. She died very quickly,” Macfarlane said. “Virginia was very popular with our regulars and had just been promoted to manager. She was a wonder; I just loved her and will miss her very much.”

While the tragic death of Voltz was a sad closing to 2017, the year included major positive changes for the business.

There was a time when Key Peninsula Liquor Store had the lock on hard liquor sales as the only state-licensed liquor store this side of Wauna. Macfarlane and her business partner, Josh Comstock, moved the store in October, to a new location on the highway across from Charboneau, renaming it Buzz.

“We wanted to stay on the KP but increased competition at our old location made this a logical move for us,” Macfarlane said. “The Buzz spot is easy for people to swing in on their way home from work.” Macfarlane has owned this space since 2005, housing a number of businesses, some that went on to success elsewhere, others that failed.

Working as a real estate broker at neighboring Better Homes and Land, the new location was ideal. With her home a few miles away, Macfarlane has an enviable commute.

“We love our new location; it’s smaller but cozy. It’s a great location with lots of traffic plus there is a new burger grill called B’s Spot next door,” Macfarlane said.

“We really just want to be the local neighborhood liquor store. We have a lot of nice customers who love the location because it’s handy,” she said. “We carry a wide range of specialty liquors, plus minis, half-pints, pints; we sell half-gallons too. We do special orders and we also keep a close eye on prices to stay competitive.”

# OBITUARIES



**Terecia Jean Smith** was born Feb. 1, 1952, and died Nov. 13, 2017. She liked to cook and create signature wedding cakes, and worked at Winchell's Donuts and later for SPA, a demonstration company that frequently introduced products at Safeway. She was a Christian who loved her family, and who enjoyed country music and flying kites on the beach. She delighted in renaissance fairs and participated in the Society for Creative Anachronism. She adored her pets, Oceana the pit bull, along with her cats, Rascal and Skitzi.

Smith is survived by her husband, Leland; daughter, Jeanie; son, Donald; and grandsons, Steven and Josh. She is missed by all who knew her. A memorial service will be held Feb. 1, 2018, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Community Services located at 17015 9th Street in Lakebay.



**William Elroy Wilson**, resident of Lakebay for 24 years, passed away Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017, one day short of his 60th birthday. Bill was born in Anchorage, Alaska, but lived much of his life in the Spokane area. He was a man of faith, connecting with many good friends at several churches on the Key Peninsula. He was a proud handyman, gardener, mechanic who loved fishing and an avid rock hound. He enjoyed camping and walking the beach.

Bill met the love of his life, Kelli, while earning his master's degree at Central Washington University. Even in the hospital, he lit up when Kelli entered the room or he heard her voice. They completed their family with son Martin and daughter Sara. Wilson is survived as well by his sister, Valda; and his brother, David. He joins in heaven, his mother and father, Helen and Fred; brother, Michael; and sister, Selma.

A celebration of his life was held at Lakebay Community Church Dec. 16, when friends and family reminisced about special times and shared big-fish stories.



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The day I called—August 24, 2016—I was at my wit's end. I had endured two hard days and was treated horribly. I took a chance and called your number on my way home from work. You answered and listened to my story, and when I hung up *I actually had hope that this nightmare might end.* I am so glad you were able to understand and sympathize and see this "strange illness" for what it was. It was scary to have no income for a year—but in the end it worked out and I am grateful!

Please continue to run your ad — it saved my life and my hope is that it will help others who may be suffering in silence.

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DB, Vancouver, WA  
November 16, 2017

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### KEYPENNEW.COM ONLINE CALENDAR

The online calendar is one of the most popular features at keypennews.com. It's easy to display events in month, week, day or list format; search for specific events; and filter events by venue, organizer and more. You can also export events to the calendar app on your computer.

### DON'T SEE YOUR EVENT LISTED HERE?

Enter your event or regular meeting schedule on our website calendar at keypennews.com. Click on "Submit an Event" and fill out the form, including venue and contact information for verification. Everything posted by the 15th of the month will be printed in the following month's edition. **Need help?** There's a link on the left side of the page to Calendar Tips, or email questions to [editor@keypennews.com](mailto:editor@keypennews.com) or call 253-884-4699.

### CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Please submit your nominations for KP Citizens of the Year 2017-18 to KP Lions to [hughmcm26@gmail.com](mailto:hughmcm26@gmail.com). Call 253-884-3319 for details

### JAN. 2 & 16

#### SENIOR SHOPPING

Seniors may grocery shop at various stores with a "Dutch" lunch on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Transportation provided. KP Community Services: 253-884-4440

### JAN. 5

#### SKATE NIGHT

Skate night at the Key Peninsula Civic Center from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5. 253-884-3456 or [kpciviccenter.org/skate](http://kpciviccenter.org/skate).

### JAN. 6 & 20

#### DEPRESSION & BI-POLAR SUPPORT

The Lakebay Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group meets 11:15 a.m. to noon at KP Lutheran Church. Kimberly, 253-753-4270 or [DBSALakebay@gmail.com](mailto:DBSALakebay@gmail.com)

### JAN. 9

#### 3D PRINT SHOP

3D print shop class at the Key Center Library from 2 to 8 p.m. Bring a file ready to print, take a quick 3D design lesson or just watch and learn about the process. 253-548-3511

### JAN. 12

#### IPAD BASICS FOR 50+

Struggling with a new iPad tablet? Get to know your device at the Key Center Library from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Register at [piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar](http://piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar) or call 253-548-3309.

#### SKATE NIGHT AND DODGEBALL

Skate night and games at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Skate 6 to 9 p.m.; dodgeball (middle school only) 9 to 10:30 p.m. 253-884-3456 or [kpciviccenter.org/skate](http://kpciviccenter.org/skate)

### JAN. 13

#### ALCOHOL INK PAINTING

Create a piece of art with the vivid colors of alcohol ink at the Key Center Library from 11 a.m. to noon. Register at [piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar](http://piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar) or call 253-548-3309.

#### GREENHOUSE GARDENING

Maximize your greenhouse and get a jump on your spring garden with Lisa Taylor at the Key Center Library from 2 to 3 p.m.

### JAN. 9 & 23

#### CROCHET OR KNIT

The Loving Hearts group meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations welcomed. [Lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com](mailto:Lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com) or Virginia, 253-884-9619

### JAN. 18

#### EMERGENCY PREP

Meetings on emergency prep, third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. Contact Peggy at 253-686-7904 or at [gablehousep@aol.com](mailto:gablehousep@aol.com) (Put E Prep in the subject line).

### JAN. 19

#### SASQUATCH: MAN-APE OR MYTH?

Author David George Gordon evaluates the data on this legendary NW icon at the Key Center Library from 2 to 3 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to tell their tales and share their experiences with this mysterious creature. Presented by Washington Humanities. 253-548-3511

### JAN. 20

#### ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

KP Alzheimer's Association caregiver support group monthly meeting 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Crandall Center, 9016 154th Avenue Court KPN. 253-820-2213

### JAN. 25

#### BOOK DISCUSSION

Friends of the Library book group will discuss "Turner House" by Angela Flournoy from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. All are welcome. Ask for a copy at the help desk. 253-548-3309

### JAN. 27

#### STEM SATURDAY

Explore basic principles of chemical experimentation at the Key Center Library from 11 a.m. to noon. Ages 5 to 8. Register at [piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar](http://piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar) or call 253-548-3309.



## Looking at a great picture?

They say a picture is worth 1,000 words. We're looking for more worthy photos. Call 253 884-4699 and get seen.

## OFF THE KEY

### JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

#### TOBACCO-FREE SUPPORT

The Freedom from Tobacco Support Group meets Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital. 253-223-7538

### JAN. 3

#### DEMOCRATS MEET

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

### JAN. 13

#### OLALLA CLUB CONCERT

Dan Weber will be playing at Olalla Community Club, 12970 Olalla Valley Road SE, Olalla. Suggested donation is \$20. Potluck starts at 6 p.m.; concert starts at 7 p.m. [www.olallahouse.org](http://www.olallahouse.org)

### JAN. 16

#### OPEN HEARTS COALITION

In response to recent events at Peninsula High School and around the country, Open Hearts is sponsoring a community event to talk about how we can support our community and young people in becoming welcoming and open to all people. Speakers will include representatives from the Peninsula School District, parents and students. All are welcome to share their experiences and ideas. Gig Harbor Library from 6 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, email [Peninsulaopenhearts@gmail.com](mailto:Peninsulaopenhearts@gmail.com).

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### MON, WED & FRI

#### SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES

The S.A.I.L. senior exercise class meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Register with Marilyn Perks at 253-884-4440.

### MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

#### PLAY TO LEARN

Play to Learn 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Provided by Children's Museum of Tacoma. This is a free drop-in program for preschoolers age 5 and under and their adult caregivers. 253-884-3456

### TUESDAYS

#### SENIOR COMPUTER CLASS

An open forum class for beginners meets 10 to 11 a.m. at KP Community Services. Walk-ins welcome. 253-884-4440

**SENIOR TAI CHI**

Senior tai chi meets 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. 253-884-4440

**STORYTIMES**

Discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the Key Center Library. Music and 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

**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

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN KEY CENTER**

The Key Center Community Council office is open for questions, concerns, complaints and referrals about your septic system, your water, etc. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. 253-432-4948

**WEDNESDAYS**

**READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS**

The Children's Home Society of Washington sponsors this free cooperative preschool class for 3- and 4-year-olds at KP Civic Center. Parents or caretakers participate with the children, playing learning games, 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

**LAKEBAY WRITERS**

Lakebay Writers is a workshop for people who love stories. Share yours. Hear others'. From 1 to 4 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Loren, 253-884-2785

**BLEND HOOKERS AND TINKERS**

Does your fiber diet include skeins of yarn? Join in every week 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 of Key Penners. All skill levels and fiber interests welcome, but must be 21+ due to location. Hannah, hannah8ball@gmail.com

**WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS**

**SENIOR MEALS**

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

**THURSDAYS**

**TOASTMASTERS**

Have fun improving your public speaking ability and leadership skills at the Key Center Library 8 to 9 a.m. 253-858-5761 or 253-548-3511

**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 Jan. 23 at 10 a.m. to noon in the community council office, Suite D at the Key Center Corral. 253-884-6455

**PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**Jan. 3 & 17, KP Lions**, 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

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

**Jan. 9 & 23, KP Fire Commissioners**, 5 p.m., Key Center fire station. keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

**Jan. 10, Bayshore Garden Club**, 11 a.m., fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 253-332-4883

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

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

**Jan. 11, KP Civic Center Assn. board**, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 253-884-3456

**Jan. 12, Peninsula School District board**, 6 p.m.; call for location. 253-530-1000

**Jan. 15, KP Democrats**, 7 p.m., Home fire station. johnpatkelly@aol.com

**Jan. 17, Longbranch Improvement Club**, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting. 253-884-6022

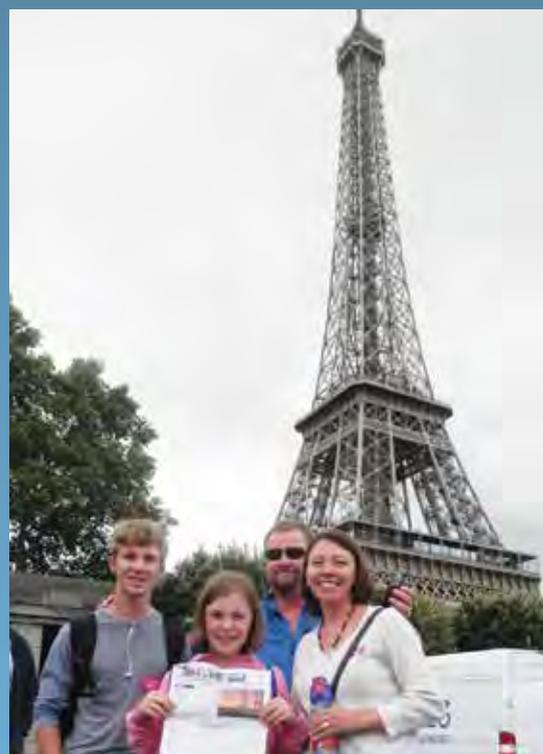
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*Where in the world*

The Rossons traveled to Europe last summer and ate bonbons at the Eiffel Tower, among other places, while reading the Key Peninsula News.

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## More Seniors Take Up Martial Arts

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

In late November, at age 62, Chris Holts became the oldest female black belt currently studying at the Korean Martial Arts Family Center in Gig Harbor. Holts is a big fan of taekwondo in general, and her Gig Harbor dojang specifically. Holts said, “Taekwondo is flexible and accommodating. It is one of the best things you can do for your mind and body.”

Taekwondo is a type of martial art created from elements of karate as well as traditional Korean martial arts. Developed in the 1940s and '50s, the sport has gained popularity in the United States in recent decades.

Holts, who works as the office manager at Minter Creek Elementary School, became interested in taekwondo about six years ago. She had been working out at the YMCA, but found that without a workout partner, exercise was tedious and boring. “Sometimes I would get as far as the roundabout and just keep driving back around and go home,” Holts said.

When a friend suggested she look into martial arts training as an alternative,

Holts was initially skeptical, but decided it was worth a try. She found the dojang master warm and friendly. Having worked extensively with children, Holts paid close attention to how the master interacted with the little ones. She approved.

“I made it known I wasn’t going to become a black belt. I was just going to keep my body in shape,” Holts said. It wasn’t until later that Holts learned testing for and progressing through the belt levels is required.

A few months into her training, Holts brought along her grandson, Bennett Small, who was 6 years old at the time. After observing one taekwondo session, Bennett was also hooked. His interest inspired Holts to keep going, despite the requirement to attend two to three practice sessions a week and practice at home too. “I wanted

to set a good example,” Holts said.

Now 11, Bennett earned his black belt alongside his grandmother this fall. “It was a family affair. To be up there



Top: Chris Holts bows to her grandson, Bennett Small, before a practice match. Above: They both proudly wear black belts. Photos: Don Tjossem, KP News

getting our black belt at the same time was very special,” Holts said. Holts’s granddaughter Kimmy Small, 10, is currently a brown belt.

Taekwondo does not focus solely on physical fitness. Part of Holts’s black

belt examination included an extensive research paper on the history of taekwondo. Her grandson had a similar written requirement. Minors studying taekwondo at the Gig Harbor dojang also need to memorize and follow 14 rules governing their behavior at home and school. These include instructions on showing respect to elders, helping with household chores, getting homework done, keeping their bedrooms clean and maintaining personal hygiene. Children who do not obey their parents may receive a reduction in rank.

Holts is far from finished with taekwondo. “I look forward to the time I retire so I can focus on it. I could be better if I practiced more,” she said. Within the practice of taekwondo, “moves” are known as “forms.” While she has earned her first black belt, Holts plans to keep practicing the forms she has learned, progressing with new combinations in pursuit of higher degrees of black belt.

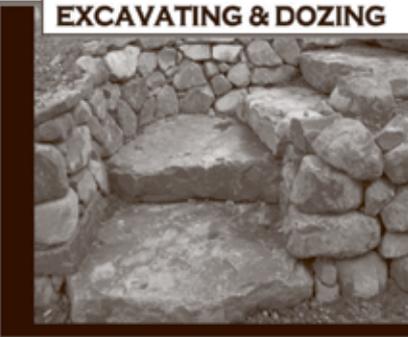
Holts believes people of all ages and fitness levels would benefit from learning taekwondo. “It’s fun, it’s a lot of work but I don’t regret it,” Holts said. Explaining that a shoulder injury kept her from practicing her punching forms, she was permitted to practice kicking only for a time and skipped sparring sessions until it healed.

Seniors up to age 70 are currently studying taekwondo at the same dojang. “Physically, she’s really benefited from participating in martial arts,” said the dojang master of Holts. “Martial arts benefits people of any age. A young person needs life skills, but a senior is more concerned about their health, keeping a range of flexibility and so on.” Master Charnley recalled the early days of taekwondo when the sport was more geared toward competition. “Back then, 40 years old was old,” he said. “Today’s taekwondo is different. More and more seniors are recognizing the benefits of taekwondo. Health issues can actually be addressed through martial arts.”

For Master Charnley, Holts’s experience of coming to enjoy exercise through martial arts is a familiar one. “You can go to the gym, but then you have to motivate yourself,” he said. “Learning taekwondo, you have a teacher who motivates you. If you miss class, you get a phone call. When someone is actually working with you, that’s a great motivator. You have to find a teacher you can connect with.”

Holts has come a long way from her days of turning back home before making it to the gym. “When you’re there, it’s like you are part of another family,” she said.

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There's a club recruiting kids from the Key Peninsula to learn the fine art of wrestling. Shown here are three local kids, Sawyer Johnson, Joaquin Azorit and Elenor Nimrick, members of the Harbor Youth Wrestling Wolverines. The group participated in a recent tournament against five other clubs from Gig Harbor and beyond, to Silverdale and Arlington. Wrestlers can be of any age, from 3 years to 13 years, after which they generally graduate into high school wrestling. Boys and girls are both invited to participate and opponents are selected by weight, rather than gender. *Photo and text: Ed Johnson, KP News*



## Most Likely, You Would Write a Better Headline

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The Key Peninsula News is made possible by volunteer talent and commitment. Every month, each word is crafted by people who share their love of this community with a willingness to give an hour here, an afternoon there, to write.

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Oberts enjoys being back home on the peninsula with her family. *Photo courtesy: Cathy Oberts*

## Savana Oberts: Transplant Pioneer One Year Out

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Savana Oberts, 27, who became the first adult in the Pacific Northwest to receive a liver/pancreas/small intestine transplant in August 2016, is now almost fully recovered. She will complete her degree in education soon and hopes to student-teach next fall.

Although the last year has had its challenges, Oberts has no regrets. “Would I want to do it again?” she said. “No. It is the hardest thing I have ever done. But when I look at life before and after the transplant, there is no comparison.”

Oberts was born with malrotation of the intestine, a congenital condition in which the intestine is not well affixed within the abdomen, so at any point it can twist and cut off its own blood supply. She had no symptoms until she was in college, when her small intestine became twisted and was removed during an emergency surgery. Although the surgery was life-saving, it also meant that Oberts was

not able to absorb any nutrition by eating. She depended on intravenous nutrition delivered directly into her blood stream.

The intravenous nutrition led to liver damage. Oberts’ only long-term chance for survival was a transplant (“Savana Oberts, Pioneer,” KP News, Sept. 2016). She remembers waking up, still on a ventilator after the surgery, and writing a question on her mom’s palm, “Did it work?”

“I cried when she answered, ‘Yes,’” Oberts said.

Her recovery had its ups and downs. She spent a long time in the hospital before the transplant and her postoperative recovery took nearly two months. Oberts was diagnosed with mild depression and said that the time was stressful. “I got really, really sick of doctors,” she said.

Then, less than a month after she went home, Oberts was readmitted for signs of rejection of her new organs. “It happens to just about everyone who has had a transplant,” she said. “I was treated with

massive steroids and was in the hospital for over a month. It was scary.”

She was in and out with other complications for a few weeks at a time, but she went home for good Dec. 21.

Oberts said she continues to get stronger day by day. When she first went home, she was so deconditioned by her long hospitalization, she couldn’t stand up for 10 minutes. She worked with physical therapists for six months to regain strength. Now her main complaint is that she has overdone some activities, leading to some knee and ankle sprains.

Oberts will be on medications to prevent her body from rejecting her new organs for the rest of her life, and because they suppress the immune system, they may increase her risk of infection. She’s on fewer drugs now than when she first went home, but still takes five pills every morning and five in the afternoon. She needs blood tests every two weeks for now, and she sees her medical team every three months.

She’s eating just about everything (pomegranates, grapefruit and alcohol are forbidden because they interact with her medications), but must ensure meat and eggs are fully cooked and fruits and vegetables are washed. And she’s not allowed to eat at buffets or potlucks.

Oberts has continued her education online through Western Governor’s University. She knew she couldn’t carry a full load after she first got sick, but continued to take courses and will be ready to student-teach next fall. She’s working as a substitute paraeducator now. When asked about her risk of infections when working with children, she said, “I just need to be a bit more careful. I’ll get my flu shot each year and keep my classroom clean.”

## Triple Organ Transplant Makes History

*(Excerpted from Oct. 2016 issue, KP News)*

*In 2011, when Savana was a junior at Western Washington State University, an undetected birth defect caused a sudden, painful kink in her small intestine, cutting off its blood supply. The intestine was removed and although the surgery saved her life, Savana could no longer absorb any nutrition by eating. She had to depend on nutrient and calorie-rich fluid delivered directly into her blood stream.*

*That technology kept Savana alive but tethered to an IV—a situation fraught with medical complications. The intravenous nutrition led to liver damage. Her only long-term chance for survival was a liver and small intestine transplant.*

*Savana’s medical team, led by Dr. Jorge Reyes, UW chief of transplant surgery, had her undergo preoperative testing, confirmed her fluid balance was good and performed critical tests to match donor tissue. When a donor was found, Dr. Reyes went to Harborview Medical Center to harvest the organs, and Savana was taken to the operating room at UW to be prepped and wait for the next news: Would the donated organs be viable?*

*Dr. Reyes removed the liver, pancreas and small intestine from the donor. They were healthy. Although Savana did not need a pancreas, the three organs are so closely interconnected with blood supply and drainage systems, they came as a unit. Savana’s damaged organs were removed and replaced with the donor’s organs after a four-hour surgery.*

*Her mother, Cathy, expressed deep gratitude to the Key Peninsula community. Multiple local fundraisers have provided help both with Savana’s uncovered medical expenses and assistance as her family stayed with her in Seattle. “We would like to thank the community for the generosity and support during this time. It means the world to us,” she said.*

Oberts recovering from surgery in Sept. 2016.

*Photo courtesy: UW Medical Center*



## New Year's Resolutions

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

New Year's Day is a time to reflect. Events in the past year are beginning to fade (or are already forgotten), and the great unknowns of the future loom into the foreground.

Janus, the mythological Roman god for whom January was named, was depicted with two faces, one looking forward and one backward. Wouldn't that be a great gift to have? He was also known as the god of portals, apt for the month on the edge of the old and new years.

New Year's Day is the traditional time to make life-changing resolutions, even when most won't last more than a few hours or days. Resolutions tend to be wise and healthy "starts" or "stops" that truly would be positive, but most times we don't have the determination and perseverance to carry it through. How many times have you resolved to lose weight...stop smoking...save money...get organized...volunteer more (or less)...read more...get a new job...exercise...write a novel? The list is endless and, for the most part, unachievable.

Setting a reachable goal is the first step toward attaining it. Breaking a change into small steps will improve the chances of success. Specific actions tend to endure

longer than general statements and being accountable to another, whether spouse, sibling or friend, increases the likelihood of success. "I resolve to walk 30 minutes every other day, with my friend Susie." "I resolve to read a chapter a day of 'War and Peace,' beginning today, and send a synopsis to my best friend." These goals sound reachable.

Skipping a day or eating chocolate cake when you're losing weight is often the excuse for breaking a resolution. "See? I just can't stick to a diet." Better to say, "I messed up, but that's not what I want to do. I'll just do an extra set of sit-ups and behave better tomorrow."

The good feelings from reaching a goal can become addictive. When goals are unrealistic, there's no reward to keep you going. That is why so many New Year's resolutions get tossed out: The person making them is carried away by dreams, but forgets reality. Like Janus, look back with a critical eye, evaluate attitudes and behaviors as well as events. Then, before you project too far into the future, consider how you have improved in the last year. After that, build reasonable, attainable resolutions within your ability.

As for me, I'll face 2018 with a positive attitude. I can make a difference in my own life and the lives of others.

## The Mustard Seed Project Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula

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Office Hours Mon – Fri, 10 am to 4 pm 253 - 884 – 9814  
[www.themustardseedproject.org](http://www.themustardseedproject.org) "Like" us on Facebook!



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**It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we share the passing of our Board President Carl Tucker.**

Please join us on January 19th at Key Peninsula Community Services for a *Celebration of Life for our dear friend Carl.*

[www.keypeninsulacommunityservices.org](http://www.keypeninsulacommunityservices.org) and [www.facebook.com/KeyPenCS](http://www.facebook.com/KeyPenCS)

# KP SCHOOL BUS CONNECTS

## FREE Community Transportation for All Ages

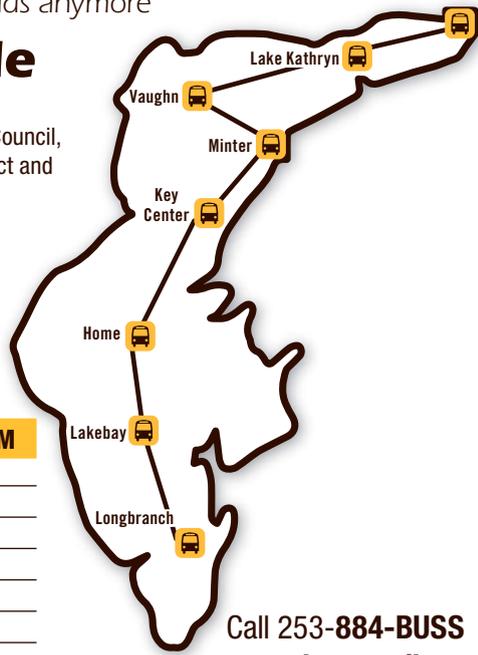
KP Bus Connects Key Center, Lake Kathryn, Volunteer Park, KPCS & Food Bank, local stops, Peninsula High School and Purdy Park & Ride

School buses aren't just for kids anymore

## 2018 Schedule

Service resumes Jan 3

A partnership with the KP Community Council, Puget Sound Educational Service District and the Peninsula School District.



Call 253-884-BUSS  
or [www.kp.council.org](http://www.kp.council.org)

### 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

PLEASE ALLOW ±10 MINUTES YOUTH UNDER 12 ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT NO BIKES



Jordan Givot intently works on a draft of her first novel. Photo: Alice Kinerk, KP News

## National Novel Writing Month Inspires Student Writers

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

Last November, fourth- and fifth-graders in Alice Kinerk's Minter Creek Elementary School class embarked on a daunting project: writing their own novel in 30 days.

National Novel Writing Month, commonly abbreviated as NaNoWriMo, is an annual event that encourages participants to write a 50,000-word novel in the month of November. Even for seasoned writers, 50,000 words in a single month is difficult; however, the event also has a Young Writers Program that allows students to set their own word-count goals. Many of Kinerk's students were still aiming for several thousand words by the end of the month.

Before the beginning of the month, Kinerk's class focused on several pre-writing topics, such as how to structure a story and create interesting characters. This also allowed the students time to develop ideas for their projects: topics in Kinerk's class ranged from undersea disasters, to fantasy adventures, to a fictionalized account of the Apollo 13 space mission. "If we didn't plan a bit before in October, I would have spent the first day just thinking about what to write," said student Riley Oltmann.

Kinerk's students took on the project happily, with an enthusiasm that surprised even her. "The first day of November, I thought we can try 15 minutes of writing, maybe we can build up to half an hour by the end of the month," said Kinerk. "I stopped at 15 minutes and they said 'NO!' So I went 20 minutes, and every day after it's been 45 minutes."

Writing time began with a brief piece of instruction or encouragement, followed by 45 minutes of quiet typing. Some students listened to music while others took short walking breaks or used unrelated writing

exercises to stimulate their creativity. After the day's writing was complete, a few students were chosen to read excerpts from their project, while others and Kinerk offered comments and suggestions. Students could also mark off progress toward their word goals on a poster.

Despite the daunting task before them, midway through November, most students were very positive about the project. "I've always thought writing was an amazing thing, and I've always wanted to write, but I never had any idea of how to start," said student Kendall Powers. Several students mentioned that the program had given them a consistent reason to write, and that they had improved just by having to write every day. "I used to hate to write, but now I go home and I want to write more," said Jordan Givot. "After doing NaNoWriMo, I actually enjoy it. It's helping me get better at writing."

NaNoWriMo is promoted and organized by a nonprofit of the same name, which provides the framework for the event and gives students an opportunity to write online. The website's writing space allows participants to track their progress and make sure they meet their daily goals, with badges and awards for extra advancement. The group also provides resources, worksheets and packets of information for participating classrooms. According to NaNoWriMo's website, more than 100,000 students per year in classrooms around the world participate in the Young Writers Program.

By the end of the month, most students had emerged with hundreds or thousands of words of creative writing. They all agreed that the project had given them a new perspective on writing. "It really helped; it was just perfect for us," said Kinerk, who also volunteers as a staff writer for the Key Peninsula News.



The LIC frequently hosts free family entertainment. *Photo: Longbranch Chronicles, dmontesino.wordpress.com*

## The Longbranch Foundation: A New Resource for the Key Peninsula

### STAFF REPORT

Just entering its second year, The Longbranch Foundation is one of the newest charitable organizations in the Key Peninsula community. It was formed as a 501(c)(3) charitable extension of the nonprofit Longbranch Improvement Club, known for its historic, timber A-frame clubhouse and revitalized marina on Filucy Bay. Formed almost 100 years ago, the LIC mission is “to encourage any activity for the betterment of schools, homemaking, roads, marketing, dairy, poultry and all its branches.”

The organization began by donating a large plot of land for a school, ball field and, years later, a WPA-built gymnasium that is the current clubhouse. Over the years, the LIC became an important influence on the southern end of the Key Peninsula, offering social, recreational, educational and philanthropic opportunities for locals. From wartime bandage rolling to spirited holiday dances, the clubhouse has been at the core of the Longbranch community. The club has

used its resources to support scholarships for local students and popular children’s events like “Trunk or Treat” and “Kids and Christmas.”

According to its charter, the goals of The Longbranch Foundation are fivefold: To preserve and maintain historic properties; to maintain and improve local area recreational grounds and trails; to support scholarship programs, student camps and other public school activities that assist underprivileged children; to enhance and protect the environment of Filucy Bay, including protection and public safety at the Longbranch Marina; and finally, to support other community service organizations through grants and activities that benefit the community.

The Longbranch Foundation achieves this mission through partnerships with the Longbranch Improvement Club and other community service organizations with the help of its partners—from individuals and government to local nonprofits and businesses—and by using a community-oriented, collaborative approach.

Contributions to the foundation are tax-deductible. visit [longbranchfoundation.org](http://longbranchfoundation.org), email [info@longbranchfoundation.org](mailto:info@longbranchfoundation.org) or call 206-920-3273.



**OPEN HOUSE**  
Saturday, Feb. 17  
4 to 6 p.m.  
Blend Wine Shop  
in Key Center

**Your voice on KP matters.**  
**Join us and share your ideas on:**  
Historic building preservation  
Recreational opportunities  
Filucy Bay ecology  
Scholarships and student programs  
Support for community organizations

*Editor's note: This profile was the first-place prize awarded in our recent Community Support fundraising appeal. Winners Barb Doat and Barb Floyd chose to feature The Longbranch Foundation, not surprisingly since Barb Floyd serves as its president.*

# Key Peninsula News Online Archives Near Completion

STAFF REPORT

The Key Peninsula News has been published more or less continuously, in one form or another, by the KP Civic Center since 1974. Only now, following the launch of our new website in August, will the complete history of the KP News—and the Key Peninsula over the last 44 years or

so—be available to the public.

Since early last year, Ted Olinger and Joseph Pentheroudakis have spent hundreds of hours working to collect, scan and archive every article, photograph, advertisement and edition published in the KP News since its inception. The result can be viewed at [www.keypennews](http://www.keypennews); just click

through to annual archives to take a trip into the peninsula's recent past to places and people you may well recognize.

Indexing this wealth of information is the next challenge. A searchable directory of the archives will add another layer of value to this resource.

The earliest entry so far dates from the Key Peninsula Newsletter of May 1976, but staff continue to search library archives, attics and garages for missing editions. If you have any, please consider loaning them to us to copy.

JANUARY 1984

## SURVIVAL UNDER WATER

By Hugh J. Mc Millan

On November 11, 1983, a tragic accident took the life of one of our citizens. His vehicle plunged into the lagoon adjacent the Home bridge. The vehicle sank under several feet of water and, trapped inside he succumbed.

When this awful story was related to me by firefighters who were at the scene vainly attempting to rescue the

### KEY PENINSULA NEWSLETTER

man, I was saddened not only by the loss of one of us but by the realization that the tragedy might well have been avoided.

I remembered that some years ago Jack Paar, then on black and white TV presented a week-long series on the Tonight Show- which he then headed. The series was the out growth of a vacation he'd taken that summer in the Netherlands. Because that country is honey-combed with canals, there is a fairly high incidence of accidents involving vehicles which plunge and sink into the waterways. Paar attended and recreated on U. S. national television, a first-aid type

PAGE 15

training program sponsored by the Dutch government demonstrating a virtually fail-proof technique for self-rescue from submerged vehicles.

To illustrate this, Paar and his staff and members of the audience drove vehicles off the edge into a large swimming pool. The action was covered by video-cameras both above and under the surface of the water. It was evident as the vehicles sank to the bottom that the occupants were not "having fun" They were there to learn and to prove a point.

The point was well demonstrated. First, as the vehicles sank beneath the surface, it was absolutely essential that its occupants NOT panic. They waited for the vehicles to descend to and land on the bottom. In so doing, they kept the window closed. There was enough air in the vehicle to more than adequately sustain life.

Once on the bottom, they did not fight to open the doors; this would have been a fruitless effort which would waste oxygen and energy because, the pressure of the water on the doors was so enormous that the doors could not possibly be opened even by a very strong man. Instead, they opened the windows and allowed water to fill the interior. As the water level reached their heads, the interior and exterior water pressure were equalized and the doors could then be opened with ease. With the doors thus opened, the occupants simply swam to the surface and made their way to shore.

I can assure you that the system works because technique was made a part of a training program in which I was involved.

The most important advice in this respect, of course is; When you drive, do so intelligently, responsibly, carefully, and caringly. Remember that you are responsible for the control of a moving, deadly weapon and that, like any weapon, it can main or kill anyone including you.

To the ignorant, wisdom looks like magic.

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Sunday 10:00-4:00

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR!





These crews are under contract from Peninsula Light to replace older high-power electrical cables with what they call "tree wire." They will be doing this all over the Key Peninsula for some time to come. While not quite as effective as burying the cables, it's far less expensive. "Tree wire" is a lot stronger and insulated better to withstand the Northwest's winter storm extremes. The new wires are strung out on temporary red and yellow extensions before the wires presently in use are disconnected and removed. The new wires will then be moved to the poles permanently. All this will provide more reliable electrical service from our Peninsula Light Company. *Photo and text: Don Tjossem, KP News*

## Plan for a year of fun in 2018 at Key Peninsula Civic Center

February 10 Crab Feed  
 TBD Big Band Dance  
 May 5 Livable Community Fair  
 May 26 Garage Sale  
 June July 4th Fireworks  
 October 13 Flavor of Fall  
 November 10 Winter Warm-Up



Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road 253/884-3456 www.kpciviccenter.org The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, fosters and promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community.

## SKATE & DODGEBALL FUN!



**Friday Nights**

6 to 9 pm at the Civic Center

**Skate Jan. 5 & 19**

**Skate + Dodgeball Jan. 12 & 26**

**Kids \$5 / Parents free**

*Kid-friendly burgers, pizza, snacks and drinks*

A fun family night for elementary and middle school kids

Check out [www.facebook.com/KPCC.SkateNight](http://www.facebook.com/KPCC.SkateNight)

Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road 253/884-3456 www.kpciviccenter.org The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, fosters and promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community.

# Facebook Is Big on the Key Peninsula

DON TJSSEM, KP NEWS

The use of Facebook by Key Peninsula residents and how it affects them may be overlooked if one has not checked it out lately. When one considers that just a single Facebook page on the Key Peninsula has over 6,500 members, it's worth asking, "Am I missing something?" The fact is that you may be. It's free, there are a few noninvasive questions to answer, and you're in. No information is posted about you unless you allow it.

The main administrator and a moderator for one popular Key Peninsula site is Susan Freiler Mendenhall, a longtime KP resident. "Our Key Peninsula Washington group is the largest and it's the only one that tries to be a family-friendly resource for the KP and beyond," she said. The forum includes topics such as reuniting pets and livestock with their owners, supporting local fundraisers and sharing information or assistance with group members.

"We're extremely lucky to have a member like Pierce County Rep. Derek Young, who regularly chimes in with answers to county-related questions," Mendenhall said. "Our 26th district representative, Michelle Caldier, also participates and is so genuine with her offers of personal assistance. The Key Peninsula fire chief, Guy Allen, completes the trio of officials who participate regularly in our group."

Chief Allen also posts a column on the Key Peninsula Fire Facebook page summarizing the week's activities of the department and any changes that are taking place. There are also timely postings on accidents, road closures and fires.

The Facebook page Gig Harbor Buy Sell Trade has over 21,000 members, with over 20,000 items listed for sale, all the way from bottle stoppers to automobiles. A smaller Key Peninsula Buy and Sell page has over 4,000 members. All purchase arrangements are between buyer and seller.

There is also a Facebook page for the Peninsula School District Class of 2030, intended to support the parents and guardians. It is a place to ask questions and share information. Membership is limited to parents and guardians of the class of 2030 and there are nearly 300 members already.

The same security issues relevant to the internet at large apply equally to Facebook. There is one basic rule for privacy: Don't post anything on Facebook you don't want to see on television or in the newspaper. Facebook offers its own guidelines for parents of children using the site (minimum user age is 13). Go to [newsroom.fb.com/news/2017/12/hard-questions-kids-online](http://newsroom.fb.com/news/2017/12/hard-questions-kids-online).

Facebook is here to stay, with over 2 billion monthly users around the world. For more information, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

The Key Peninsula News has its own Facebook page with over 2,500 followers and posts are regularly updated on important events on the Key Peninsula even before they appear in the paper. Go to [www.facebook.com/KeyPenNews](http://www.facebook.com/KeyPenNews).

## Following Things on Facebook? Facebook Is Following You, Too

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Every website and computer application online—or off—gathers information on its users to send back to its programmers at some point, ostensibly for feedback to improve the program. However, far more information is gleaned by social media platforms to create a profile of each user in order to target them with advertising and information tailor-made to appeal to that user and to appeal to companies and organizations that may have an interest in that user.

Facebook is upfront about this practice in the interest of serving its customers, though it keeps secret the algorithms that make it possible, and it's important to remember that Facebook's customers include other internet companies with things to sell to third parties, including personal information. By compiling data from user profiles and preferences based on "likes" and "shares" and following

users to other web pages, Facebook creates a substantial picture of its individual users.

Ever "like" a recipe a friend posted, only to be bombarded with similar food ads on nearly every other website you visit for a month? There's a reason for that.

Whether an unwarranted intrusion or the price of convenience ("Siri, what good restaurants are near me right now?"), Facebook and other social media companies make it possible to limit the amount of personal data they collect from individuals and provide guides on how to do so.

If someone doesn't want a company in Silicon Valley or Beijing, for that matter, to collect and trade on their habits, like what you like to drink, where and with whom, locations and preferences, it is possible to reduce the flow of that information. Web browsers and smart phones likewise allow users to customize their search options. Third-party so-called "stealth" programs can further reduce a user's digital footprint by somewhat obscuring the trail.

But, for the average person, the only way to stop being followed is not to log on.

A PARTIAL LIST OF KP FACEBOOK PAGES

Organizations:

- Fresh Food Revolution
- Key Peninsula Civic Center
- Key Free Clinic
- Key Peninsula Crime Watch
- Key Peninsula Fire
- Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center
- Key Peninsula Historical Society
- Key Peninsula Little League
- Key Peninsula News
- Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation Foundation
- Key Peninsula Swap Meet
- Key Peninsula Veterans of Washington
- KP Cares
- Lake Holiday, WA
- The Longbranch Foundation
- Longbranch Improvement Club
- Peninsula School District
- Peninsula Light Company
- Pierce County Sheriff's Office

- PSD Class of 2018 Parents and Guardians
- PSD Class of 2030
- Taylor Bay Beach Club
- Two Waters Arts Alliance
- WayPoint Church
- YMCA Camp Seymour
- YMCA Camp Colman

Businesses:

- Buck's Steakhouse and Sports Bar
- El Sombrero Mexican Restaurant
- Gnosh
- Key Center Chiropractic
- Key Center Food Market
- Key Medical Center
- Local Boys Fruit and Produce
- The Snack Shack
- Sweet Jane

Online Groups:

- Buy Nothing Key Peninsula
- Key Peninsula Birding
- Key Peninsula Buy and Sell
- Key Peninsula Farm and Garden—Buy Sell Trade
- Key Peninsula Net
- Key Peninsula WA

- There are over 2 billion active users on Facebook worldwide. Facebook has over 20,000 employees.
- The net worth of Facebook is over \$1.5 trillion. Shares of Facebook are traded daily on the NASDAQ.
- Facebook may be accessed by desktops, laptops, tablet computers and smart phones over the internet and mobile networks.
- Users may join common-interest groups organized by workplace, school, hobby or others.
- Facebook earns most of its revenue from advertisers.
- Facebook is translated into over 100 languages.
- Eighty-eight percent of all adults between the ages of 18 and 29 who go online use Facebook.
- Sixty-two percent of all adults 65 and older who go online use Facebook.
- Facebook is the most popular social media platform, with 79 percent of all adults online (68 percent of all Americans) using Facebook, compared to:
  - Instagram with 32 percent;
  - Pinterest with 31 percent;
  - LinkedIn with 29 percent;
  - Twitter with 24 percent.
- Three-quarters of Facebook users check the site at least once a day.

Source: Facebook

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TOP: Harbor seals bask on Eagle Island. *Photo: Richard Hildahl* LEFT: Coast Guard cutter patrols the waters of Filucy Bay. *Photo: Richard Hildahl* CENTER: Native Great Blue Heron wades near Purdy Spit. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* RIGHT: "Random Acts of Caroling" volunteers warm up before visiting elders in the community. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News.*