



# KEY PENINSULA NEWS



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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

March 2017 Vol.44 No. 03

## New Fire Ratings Affect KP Home Insurance Rates

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula Fire Department received new fire protection class ratings May 1, 2016, resulting in insurance cost savings for most KP homeowners, no changes for others and substantial increases for residents of Longbranch and Herron Island.

The Washington Survey and Rating Bureau examines the efficiency of fire districts statewide every four years for insurance and other purposes. For the first time in 25 years, the WSRB approved a fire protection class rating increase for KPFD from Class 6 to Class 5, according to Fire Chief Guy Allen.

“You get the class 5 rating for your home if you live within 5 miles of a staffed fire station and have a hydrant within 1,000 feet of your home,” Allen said. “If you don’t have the hydrant, you automatically get penalized one grade and go to a 6.”

The fire stations in Longbranch and on Herron Island are considered unstaffed because fewer than six career or volunteer firefighters can respond from them.

“I’ve talked to folks over the last few months wanting to know why their insurance premiums went up,” Allen said. “We could not demonstrate that we had a response capability out of the Longbranch or Herron Island stations. Longbranch is classified now as a fire protection class 9 and Herron Island is a 9A, and that is about as close as you can get to having zero protection.”

Longbranch resident Richard Scharf lives in the house he built for his mother 50 years ago. He received a large increase in his annual insurance bill in January.

“Basically, it doubled almost,” going from \$540 to \$940, he said. He lives 2 miles south of the Longbranch station.

“If they had enough volunteers out here, they could probably make it work,” Scharf said. “All these retired people out here, it’s going to make it tough on them.”

There are four of the six needed department members who live close enough to the Longbranch station, including one new volunteer.

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Firefighters from four departments battled the fire for almost six hours.

Photo: Pierce County Fire Marshal Patrick Young

## Vaughn Home Lost to Fire

STAFF REPORT

A family of five lost their home on Wright-Bliss Road just north of Hall Road to fire the night of Feb. 9. No one was at home at the time and there were no injuries.

A Key Peninsula Fire Department engine responded within four minutes of dispatch at 5:57 p.m., but the fire had already been burning inside the four bedroom, two-story house for some time. An investigation by Pierce County Fire Marshal Warner Web did not find the cause, though firefighters on the scene reported the kitchen to be heavily involved when they arrived.

Additional crews from Gig Harbor and Mason and Kitsap counties also responded to bring water to the scene because there was no hydrant nearby. Engines rotated back to a nearby fire station to refill, a process that takes about five minutes for a 1,500-gallon capacity engine, according to KPFD Assistant Chief Hal Wolverton.

The fire burned “unusually hot,” Wolverton said. The house “was a timber and stone structure with a metal roof that acted like an oven,” he said.

Originally built as a small cabin in the 1920s, the home belonged to Irene Torres, who had lived there since 2001. Torres was a founding member of the KP Community Council in 2003 and joined the staff of the newly restarted KP News that same year. She went on to serve as president of the KP News publishing board for six years and remains a frequent contributor.

“Some of the losses from this fire are permanent,” Torres said. “My keepsakes are gone. Recovering from the financial loss is only possible with fire protection insurance, so my advice is to pay the premium and make sure coverage is adequate.”

Torres said the house was insured. Donations for the family can be made at Sound Credit Union in a fund called “fresh start.”



Deputies were called to resolve an impromptu roadblock that prevented logging equipment from starting work at Camp Colman in early February. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

## Property Rights Stall Logging at YMCA Camp Colman

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Pierce County Sheriff’s deputies responded to the scene of an unarmed standoff in Longbranch on the morning of Jan. 25 to settle a dispute over private road use by Boehme and Sons Logging Co.

With logging permit in hand from the Department of Natural Resources, owner-operator J.D. Boehme said he had no idea his truck would be blocked from continuing down Whiteman Cove Road on route to his new job site at YMCA Camp Colman. Neighboring property owner Terry Cook used his own truck to block the road and informed Boehme the YMCA “is not welcome to use the private portions of Whiteman Cove Road for their logging operation.”

Boehme argued that Whiteman Cove Road is a public road and suggested Cook move his truck out of the way. Cook flatly refused. Armed with cellphones, both men dialed 911. In the end, it took two deputies and the eventual arrival of Sgt. Tom Seymour to negotiate an end to the nearly two-hour-long standoff.

The YMCA of Greater Seattle owns and operates Camp Colman on the shores of Case Inlet, where staff have noticed trees in distress in the forest over the last several years. The YMCA consulted Northwest Natural Resource Group (NNRG), a

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Bikers pass the starting line of the Feb. 12 race at 360 Trails. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

## Mountain Bike Race at Key Pen Parks

STAFF REPORT

On a sunny day in February, 256 mountain bike riders from all over Western Washington rode a combined 468 laps on a 6½-mile track through 360 Trails for a combined 3,000 miles of riding in a single day. The Feb. 12 event start and finish lines were at Gateway Park on State Route 302 near Wauna.

“What’s lost in the data are the countless hours of volunteer trail building, maintenance and event coordination,” said Mark Michel, Key Pen Parks board president. “Riders praised the trails as some of the best in Washington. Our volunteers and park staff deserve limitless recognition for an outstanding network of trails.”

The sun was out for Sunday’s event following two weeks of heavy rain, snow and wind. “It was amazing the weather and trails were perfect for the race,” Michel said.

Great conditions did not mean it was an easy race. With over 600 feet of climbing on each lap, it was a tremendous test of fitness, Michel said. Category 1 riders completed three laps; category 2 rode two laps; category 3 did a single loop. Ride times per lap ranged from 30 minutes to over an hour.

Sunday’s event was the first in a series of seven mountain bike races at different venues around Puget Sound organized by BuDu Racing.

The next mountain bike event at 360 Trails will be the April 2 Poker Pedal, but trails are open every day. For more information, go to [www.keypenparks.com/360-trails.html](http://www.keypenparks.com/360-trails.html).



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COVER: Osprey photo courtesy NASA



The entrance to YMCA Camp Colman is on Bay Road KPS, which runs along the north side of Whiteman Cove. The YMCA intended to use roads on the south side of the cove where the bulk of its property is located and that are closer to its harvest area. *KP News graphic*

#### PROPERTY RIGHTS FROM PAGE 1

nonprofit forestry management company that works with smaller woodland owners to develop ecologically based plans to sustainably manage their private forests.

“We want to be good stewards of our forest and of our environment as a whole,” said Meredith Cambre, executive director of the YMCA of Greater Seattle.

Cook and his wife, Pam, own a 5-acre parcel adjacent to Camp Colman and have been questioning the YMCA forest plans since Jan. 10, 2016, when Cook discovered an uninvited truck parked in his driveway and later found the driver, Rick Helman, a forestry planner for NNRG. The encounter was the first time Cook had heard about intended logging at Camp Colman.

“That was also the first time I was aware of willful trespassing on my private property by the YMCA and their contractors, but it would not be the last,” Cook said.

Cambre sent an email to Cook Dec. 7, 2016, which said, in part:

“We believe, upon recent inspection, that the driveway you are using to access your property is on YMCA property. We are doing a survey to verify the exact location of our property line. In the meantime, our CEO, Bob Gilbertson, is willing to work out an interim use agreement so that you can cross our property to access yours. Until we can enter such an agreement with you, we need to deny you access to use our property, and we will be securing the gate across the driveway to protect our property rights. Please contact Bob or myself to discuss the next steps.”

The next day Cook returned home to find a local YMCA staff member posting a no trespassing sign from inside Cook’s closed gate. The sign read: “Property of

YMCA Camp Colman—No Trespassing.”

Cook used his cellphone to record video of the scene. He is confident the final property line boundary survey ordered by the YMCA will confirm his driveway does not encroach on land belonging to Camp Colman.

After studying the original YMCA application filed with the DNR, Cook said he spotted numerous red flags. “For starters, the haul route noted in the application included planned use of privately owned and maintained roads,” he said. He went on to question how NNRG could have claimed there were no unstable soils in the harvest area, no mention of high risk for erosion and no mention of the presence of an aquifer recharge zone, and he began to suspect an overestimate of the level of decay within the 100-year-old forest.

“By law, DNR does not have jurisdiction over other agencies’ roads or private roads,” said Aileen Nichols, the DNR forest practices forester who issued approval of an amended YMCA forest plan. “The DNR is still able to approve those applications because it is the responsibility of the landowner to know their legal access roads.”

“During the review of the initial forest plan for Camp Colman, some concerns were discovered with potentially unstable slopes. That permit was disapproved. The landowner hired a geologist and the areas of concern were eliminated from the project application,” Nichols said. She stated the harvest permit issued is to remove dead, dying and damaged trees to increase safety around the camp and improve the health of the surrounding forest. The harvest plan includes a 33-acre unit where up to 30 percent of the volume

will be removed by thinning out dangerous and diseased trees. The second unit of 7½ acres may have up to 25 percent of the volume removed.

Ingress and egress to Camp Colman is located on Bay Road, which runs along the north side of Whiteman Cove. The YMCA intended to utilize existing roads closest to its harvest area on the south side of the cove, where the bulk of its property is located.

A private meeting of the Whiteman

Cove Homeowners Association, closed to the press, was held Feb. 9 to discuss the issue of easements and mitigation opportunities for any damage to the private roads that may be used by logging trucks. The association narrowly voted against granting the YMCA its desired road access by a vote of 6-5, according to multiple attendees who declined to be identified for this article. They said continued negotiation between the YMCA and the association is anticipated in coming weeks.



Lt. Gary Way backs up firefighter/paramedic Paul Pavolka on the nozzle during a car fire drill.

*Photo: Anne Nesbit, KPFD*

#### NEW FIRE RATINGS FROM PAGE 1

“On Herron, there’s nobody,” Allen said. “We have tried for two years to recruit folks on Herron Island and I thought I had eight or nine that were going to step forward this last time, but we still didn’t get a very good response.”

Allen planned to train those volunteers as tender operators, not full-fledged firefighters who would go into burning buildings. “They’d get all the training and safety gear they need to fight fires from windows and doors and prevent it from spreading to neighboring property, and buy us time until we get other crews out there to do the interior,” he said.

“What has happened since that time is we had a house fire on Herron Island that burned to the ground, and now there’s more interest,” he said.

There were no injuries during the Nov. 10 fire but the single-family home was destroyed.

“There was a problem with the dispatching,” Allen said. “The fire dispatching system was

upgraded Nov. 1 and the paging system wasn’t working properly. Ordinarily that would’ve been caught almost immediately, but it was just one of those odd things that had everything lined up perfectly to fail.”

The resulting delay added about 25 minutes to getting the ferry over to the mainland to meet the responding fire crew. “It’s already a 20-, 25-minute response just to get to Herron Island. So we were pushing a 45- or 50-minute response time, which was just awful,” Allen said.

Allen intends to continue encouraging KP residents to volunteer.

“The alternative to that is to hire more folks to staff those buildings and people cost us the most,” he said. “Eighty-three percent of our budget is people, and we just don’t have the tax base to support getting paid firefighters in every building. That’s just not going to happen.”

*Applications for volunteer enrollment are accepted from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31. For more information, call 884-2222.*

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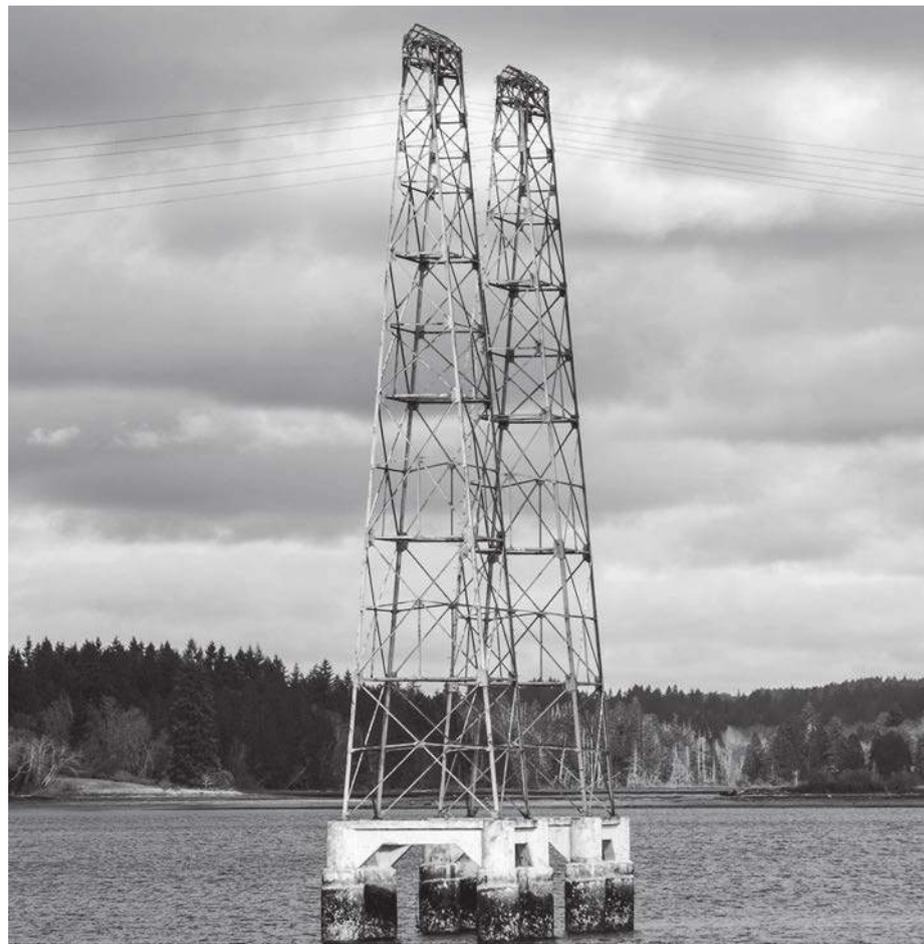
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The Burley Lagoon towers have been in service for over 90 years. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

## Burley Lagoon Power Towers to be Replaced; New Osprey Pole Added

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

Tacoma Power will replace the transmission towers in Henderson Bay and Burley Lagoon in late 2017, if the required permitting is approved. The four steel-lattice towers in the water and on the Purdy Spit will be replaced with a single, taller pole in the lagoon. The four towers on land on both sides of the lagoon will be replaced with four single-pole transmission towers. Tacoma Power will also create a new nesting site for the ospreys that have used the lagoon towers for decades.

The towers were part of the original Cushman Hydroelectric Project dedicated by President Calvin Coolidge in 1926 and have far exceeded their expected life span.

According to James Blessing, the lead engineer on the new Cushman Hydro Project, which also includes the replacement of the towers along State Route 302, the first visible phase of the work will be when the Pierce County Parks and Recreation crews begin clearing the small county-owned property on the west end of the Purdy Spit. A Tacoma Power biologist has identified this site as having the best chance for attracting ospreys. Ospreys will likely return to build a new nest after the towers are replaced, but the chances are greater

if the site is tall, near a previous nesting site and on or very near water.

A second Tacoma Power crew will investigate the area to take soil samples and figure out the logistics of getting equipment on site to install a separate pole for an osprey nest. The final design approval is expected early next fall and the pole is expected to be installed in the first quarter of 2018.

If the park site proves to be unsuitable, upland sites will be considered. The construction schedule depends on the migratory patterns of the ospreys.

According to master birder Diane Yorgason-Quinn, ospreys are loyal to previous nests rather than to mates, so they return to the nesting sites where they fledged. Yorgason-Quinn has been studying the Burley Lagoon ospreys for 28 years.

Birds from our area winter in Southern California, Mexico and Central America, she said, following the growing seasons. They usually arrive in the Puget Sound Basin shortly after the vernal equinox and nest around the first of April. Eggs hatch in early June and the birds fledge in late July to begin their southern migration at the autumnal equinox.

Bald eagles compete with ospreys when their territories overlap and will periodically take over osprey nests for part or all of a season.

## KP Food Banks Work to Feed Community

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula has multiple food banks, each with its own history and style of community support.

The Bischoff Food Bank, located in Home, is one of the more recent, founded in 2006 at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church and moved to an independent facility in 2014. The Key Peninsula Community Services (KPCS) food bank began operating out of the Key Peninsula Civic Center in 1982, before eventually settling in its current location in the KPCS building, also in Home. In recent years, the KP has also received visits from mobile FISH food banks operating in Lake Kathryn Village and at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints near Key Peninsula Highway North and State Route 302.

The number of people served varies from place to place and depends heavily on the year and season. "It fluctuates in the summertime, when kids are out of school and no longer receiving free breakfast and lunch," said Kimberly Miller, vice president of Bischoff. "Those kids that were getting some food aren't getting anything during summer, so our numbers increase dramatically." Miller estimates that Bischoff serves about 2,000 people per year including repeat visits.

KPCS quoted similar figures. "We're comparable to most communities in Tacoma and Kitsap and we serve at least 2,000 people at least once a year," said Executive Director Penny Gazabat. "Duplicated services usually reach at least 9,000 a year, especially during the (2008) economic crisis."

Angela Saretis, director of development at FISH Food Banks of Pierce County, also cited the 2008 economic crisis as a time of increased usage for food banks. "From 2008, there was a 132 percent increase in food bank usage. We're seeing minimal decreases but nowhere near the levels we were at prior to the 2008 downturn. The need is still there," she said.

Changing demographics have also played a role on the KP, with an increasing need among seniors and youth.

"Even though the economy is being revitalized, the people that we serve typically

are seniors, people with disabilities and young families, and that's never going to go away," Gazabat said. "So we do have a difficult time meeting their needs and having the public understand who our population truly is."

Food banks acquire their goods through community donations, food-providing organizations like Emergency Food Network or Northwest Harvest and fundraising events. Government grants and assistance are available, but require demographic information and extensive paperwork. Even food banks with no parent organization, like Bischoff, still try to collect data about their visitors to prepare for future grants. "If and when we get more funding, we would be ready to supply them the information that they need," Miller said.

In addition to direct funding or donations, local food banks depend on volunteer labor to stay open and supplied.

Both Saretis and Miller emphasized the impact of their initial volunteer experience and how it changed their perspective on food banks and their clients. "I would call on people to actually come by or sit in the lobby, maybe volunteer for an hour, and see the people who come through those doors, and it would change their life forever," Miller said.

Staff member Robert Gordon unloads incoming supplies for the food bank at Key Peninsula Community Services. *Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News*



Local food banks strive to accept as many people as possible, regardless of outside factors. "No one is ever turned away," Saretis said. "Our main tenets are compassion, dignity and respect."

In addition to products like canned goods, peanut butter and quality cereal, most food banks are usually in need of household supplies such as soap, paper products and even pet food.

The **Bischoff Food Bank** in Home is open afternoons, Tuesday through Saturday, with extended hours Wednesdays. For more information, go to [www.kpbischofffoodbank.org](http://www.kpbischofffoodbank.org) or call 425-444-2374.

The **KPCS Food Bank** is open for food basket distribution mornings and afternoons, during which their walk-in bread closet is also available. Go to [www.keypeninsula-communityservices.org](http://www.keypeninsula-communityservices.org) or call 884-4440.

The mobile **FISH Bank** can be accessed on Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m. at Purdy Cost Less Pharmacy in Wauna and from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 12521 134th Avenue KPN. Go to [www.fishfoodbanks.org](http://www.fishfoodbanks.org) or call 383-3164.



Parents and children learn together in preschool. *Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News*

## New Free Cooperative Preschool Offered at KPCC

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

A free preschool learning program for children 3 and 4 years old and their parents or guardians got underway Jan. 25 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. The cooperative class is sponsored by the Children's Home Society of Washington-Key Peninsula Family Resource Center.

"The goal is for the children to be fully prepared for kindergarten," said Debby Fisher, CHS director of cooperative learning programs and the class teacher.

"We want them to know their ABCs, start to read, know their shapes and develop some socialization skills," Fisher said.

Fisher operated a day care that included some preschool education and has been in social work for seven years. She also trains students for public speaking in the CHS Little Toaster programs at Minter Creek and Evergreen elementary schools.

"This new class is a cooperative program where we use parents as the first teachers," said Jud Morris, executive director of CHS. "We're getting the parents into the idea that their child's lifelong learning is something they have to be involved with."

The class is paid for by a grant to CHS from the United Way of Pierce County. "It's been funded for one year with two year-long renewals, so it's a three-year program," Morris said. "There are programs at Vaughn and at Evergreen (elementary schools) but they are both maxed out. There are lots of fee-based preschools in the school district, but there are very few free ones and the demand is much greater than the supply."

The class will meet Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., year-round. The hour goes by fast with a variety of activities focused on a simple thing each week, like

tracing, coloring and reading about a single letter in the alphabet.

"Circle things that start with B," Fisher said to a recent class. Children and their parents or guardians leaned over a preschool workbook with pictures of butterflies and bunnies to copy and color. Then came story time, all about bunnies and finding the letter B on the page, followed by a little singing and dancing "to get the wiggles out," Fisher said. The class ended with children and adults working together to make a bunny-face shaker out of paper plates and popcorn kernels, followed by another song to try them out.

"Every week, I give the parents one thing to learn," Fisher said. "I know it's difficult to sit down and do a lesson, but you can count steps from the car to the grocery store and ask what color different foods are. Those teachable moments are huge."

The class has a maximum of 10 students and 10 adults. "It's a good cross-section of what goes on in today's world," Morris said. "You have new parents, not-new parents and grandparents who are raising their grandchildren."

"This isn't necessarily true of the parents we have, but there are parents who are very uncomfortable about being involved in education or school because of their own experiences as a child," Morris said. "By getting them involved in this very safe environment no matter what their backgrounds, we're getting these parents up to speed so they feel they are capable and want to be involved in their child's education. The reality is, as a child progresses educationally, if the parents aren't involved, more likely than not the kid will fall behind."

For more information or to register for the class, call CHS at 884-5433.

(R-26) STATE SEN. **Jan Angel**  
FROM THE LEGISLATURE



## A New School Funding Idea

By this point, you likely have heard about the issues Washington is having with funding education. Central to this issue is the state Supreme Court's 2012 McCleary decision, which determined that the state was not meeting its own standards for full funding of schools.

After 30 years of letting other parts of the budget increase by more than 2-1 over education, we accomplished the exact opposite once the Majority Coalition Caucus took control of the Senate. New budget dollars went toward education over other programs at a rate of 3-1, totaling \$4.6 billion of increased education funding. (The Majority Coalition Caucus was formed in 2012 by all 23 Republican and two Democratic senators.)

More than 30 years ago, the state began to allow local school districts to fund more and more of school budgets through local levies, which helped the state avoid its education responsibilities and spend its money elsewhere. This led to each school district (all 295) setting its own levy rates, which can range from 33¢ in one district to as much as \$9.05 in another.

Not only is this unfair for taxpayers and property owners across the state, it is bad for schools too. Each district has very different property values and populations than other districts, which means that one district with a lower levy rate can still raise hundreds or even thousands more than districts with much higher rates.

That's why this year the Majority Coalition Caucus delivered and passed a plan to change the way education is funded. Let me summarize what the plan will do and then I invite you to send me your feedback:

- Funds schools on a per-student basis.
- Guarantees a minimum of \$12,500 per student.
- Sets a statewide flat levy rate of \$1.80 for schools.
- Provides additional funding per student for low income, homeless, English language learner, special education and highly capable children.
- Increases starting teacher pay by \$10,000.
- Rewards excellent teachers and provides accountability for detrimental teachers.
- Sets accountability goals for graduation rates and student learning.
- Sends the plan to voters to give final approval.

Here's what that means for each of our

local school districts in the 26th Legislative District.

**South Kitsap School District:** Right now, property owners are paying a \$3.58 per \$1,000 local levy rate. Our plan reduces that to \$1.80, saving the average taxpayer \$363 on their annual property tax bill. Students last year received \$11,828 per student. Once our plan is implemented, by 2019 they will receive \$915 more per student. Since 2012, that's an increase of \$3,124 per student.

**Peninsula School District:** Right now, property owners are paying a \$2.30 per \$1,000 local levy rate. Our plan reduces that to \$1.80, saving the average taxpayer \$164 on their property tax bill. Students last year received \$11,782 per student. Once our plan is implemented, by 2019 they will receive \$718 more per student. Since 2012, that's an increase of \$3,005 per student.

**Bremerton School District:** Right now, property owners are paying a \$3.63 per \$1,000 local levy rate. Our plan reduces that to \$1.80, saving the average taxpayer \$284 on their property tax bill. Students last year received \$12,625 per student. Once our plan is implemented, by 2019 they will receive \$796 more per student. Since 2012, that's an increase of \$2,846 per student.

This is a sweeping change to the way we fund schools and educate our children, so there are bound to be adjustments that need to be made. Your feedback is critical to making this plan work for all. Please visit my website, [www.senatorjanangel.com](http://www.senatorjanangel.com), for more information on the plan and send your ideas, questions and concerns to [jan.angel@leg.wa.gov](mailto:jan.angel@leg.wa.gov).

*Sen. Jan Angel, R-Port Orchard, is in her fourth term representing the 26th District, which includes portions of Pierce and Kitsap counties.*

**Carolyn Wiley**  
DEVIL'S HEAD DIARY



## Our Legislature and Our Schools

The 2017 Legislature is faced with difficult decisions as it tries to comply with the state Supreme Court's 2012 McCleary ruling ordering the state to fully fund basic public school education, but there are several points of agreement between the Republican and Democratic positions.

Both parties recognize the importance of meeting the court's 2018 deadline to fully fund basic education. There is agreement regarding the need to provide competitive salaries for Washington's 62,000 teachers and the requirement to reduce or eliminate reliance upon local tax levies.

In ratings of the 50 states based upon per student investment in education, Washington state ranks in the lowest quartile and ranks even lower in teacher-student class size ratios. Full funding for education means more than teacher salaries. It also includes all school-worker salaries, programs for students with special needs, curriculum materials, transportation costs and building maintenance.

Currently, approximately 20 percent of the average teacher's salary is funded by local levies. Much of this compensation is in the form of TRI pay. TRI stands for Time, Responsibility and Incentive and covers work done beyond the scope of the classroom contract, such as before and after school tutoring, supervising student programs, mentoring, serving as a department chair or on committees focusing on educational goals. Incentive pay also encourages teachers to continue postgraduate studies. Teachers are required to continue earning college-level credits to maintain their certification and their jobs. They receive partial compensation for the personal expense of continuing education through the state approved salary scale.

Each political party has proposed cost projections for funding schools over a four-year period. A comparison between the two four-year estimates shows a difference of \$2 billion, with an annual difference of \$525 million. The Republican plan (Senate Bill 5607) calls for \$5.3 billion, with an annual education budget of \$1.325 billion. The Democratic plan (House Bill 1843) calls for \$7.3 billion or \$185 billion annually. Both plans are close on recommended entry-level teacher salaries—\$45,000 to \$45,500. Both political parties agree that regional property values must be considered in developing an equitable per-student funding formula.

The major point of disagreement is in the way citizen tax obligations will be affected. On Feb. 1, SB 5607 was passed out of the Senate by a 25-24 vote and is currently under consideration by the House Appropriations Committee.

SB 5607 calls for a "tax swap" that will eliminate or reduce local district educational levies. Local levies will be replaced by a statewide-equalized property tax rate of \$1.80 per \$1,000 assessed value (AV). The Republican-led Majority Coalition Caucus describes the tax swap as a tax savings for most property owners. However, levy assessments for education may or may not lead to a savings to property owners living in areas where local school levies are below \$1.80 per \$1,000 AV. The levy rate applicable to the Peninsula School District has been \$1.19 per \$1,000 AV for several years.

The number used by the Majority Coalition Caucus is \$2.30 per \$1,000 AV, but that amount includes all levy support—fire district, public utilities, port district, parks districts, etc., not just schools.

In addition, the nonpartisan analysts who prepared the calculations used in the Republican plan recently confirmed their data contained serious flaws regarding the total amount schools would receive.

Even if both houses act to approve full-funding for basic education as defined in SB 5607, the problem of resolving McCleary might remain since SB 5607 includes a provision requiring a public vote. Should the tax-swap or other provisions not win public support, fully funded basic education will remain a problem for our future.

For more information on SB 5607 or HB 1843, go to [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov).

*Carolyn Wiley lives in Longbranch.*

**Nathan Johnson**  
FROM THE OUTLOOK DESK



## Depression Is Not a Phase

We often play depression off as a joke in society and in high school. We don't see or recognize what can really happen to students who are genuinely depressed. Depression is not a phase; it is a major mental health condition that is becoming more and more common among adolescents.

Many things cause depression, but there are three major factors that contribute to adolescent depression: stress, sleep deprivation and adolescent development (ages 10-19). There are contributing minor factors, like diet and physical activity, but many of these are easily preventable and easily fixable.

Every student is in a different stage of adolescent development, causing the student to deal with stressors differently.

Peninsula High School counselor Allison Hughes said it's important to recognize that everyone deals with stress differently. "If you and I were given the same stressors," she said, "I would maybe crack sooner than you would, but you could handle things that I couldn't."

Stress is not something to joke around about. Not only does that increase the chance of depression, it can cause external problems. Some examples include: weight issues, heart disease, digestive problems and skin conditions.

Jeanne Segal, a psychologist who writes for [Helpguide.org](http://Helpguide.org) on how the body deals with psychological problems such as stress, said, "The body's nervous system often

does a poor job of distinguishing between daily stressors and life-threatening events.”

The human body, though a beautiful instrument, is an unfinished product. The body has its flaws and, in the case of depression, it does not distinguish between worrying about an important test and being thrown into a life-or-death situation.

Insufficient sleep is another of the three major factors contributing to adolescent depression. Most teens sleep an average of six hours a night. It’s been proven that teens need at least nine hours of sleep a night for healthy development.

Lack of sleep may come from an increase in technology usage (screen time), increased homework load and the early start times of school. Whatever the cause, sleep deprivation is a serious problem.

Dr. Jonathan Pletcher, an adolescent medicine specialist at the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and an expert in the mental and physical effects of sleep deprivation, said, “A lack of sleep can increase depression, negative physical health like headaches, poor school performance, school absenteeism and drowsy driving.”

Sleep deprivation and stress often work together to cause adolescents—or anyone—to spiral out of control and lose themselves in depression.

The final and often overlooked factor that is a major player in depression is adolescent development. Lots of people understand that adolescents are in a time of foundational development physically and emotionally, but they don’t realize this decreases the immunity to mental health problems such as depression because of the fluctuating activity in the adolescent brain during maturation.

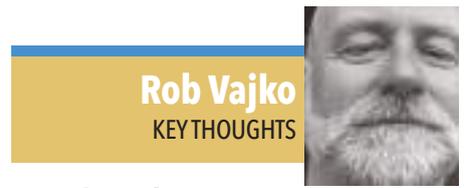
Anita Thapar, a professor at the National Center for Biotechnical Information who researches neurological development and mental health conditions, said, “One circuit connects the amygdala to the hippocampus and ventral expanses of the prefrontal cortex and is linked to hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis activity. Activity in this circuit consistently seems raised in patients with major depression.”

Sex hormones, genetic factors, physical development and stress all play a role in the changing activities of this and many other neural connections.

The chance for developing depression is significantly higher in adolescents than adults. We need to shift our view and get a better understanding of it. Only then can we begin to change and build a society based on helping depressed students and not brushing them off as if they have a minor issue, like a cold. If you or someone you know seems unusually unhappy, withdrawn

or is exhibiting self-destructive behaviors, your high school counselor is a good first stop for help.

*Nathan Johnson is a senior reporter for the Peninsula Outlook. Read more of his work and that of his colleagues at [www.pbsoutlook.com](http://www.pbsoutlook.com).*



**Rob Vajko**  
KEYTHOUGHTS

### March Sadness

Trump being sworn in as the 45th president of the United States of America resulted in one of the largest presidential inauguration protests in the history of America. In Seattle alone, some 175,000 people showed up to march for women’s rights (though exact numbers are hard to come by and often contested). That’s impressive. Although the number of participants was vastly different, one couldn’t help but be reminded of the Seattle Seahawks’ Superbowl victory parade in 2014. There’s always something mesmerizing about thousands of people coming together for a common cause.

I say “common cause” but, to be honest, the commonality of the cause was somewhat hard to find unless we’re talking about a general hatred for Trump. Women’s rights advocates, gay rights activists, Bernie Sanders supporters, Hillary Clinton supporters, abortion rights supporters, Russian hacking denouncers and those who wanted to voice their concern about the nuclear arms race all seemed to find this a fitting platform to make their voices heard. It was somewhat confusing and hard to figure out what the march was really supposed to be about. Here’s a quick sampling of the placards that could be seen at the rally:

“Still Berning for you!” (with a photo of Bernie Sanders)

“Cutting access to reproductive health care would be a Tyrannosaurus wreck.”

“Register to vote.”

“Immigration does not cause job loss!”

“Love is our Trump card!” (painted in the colors of the rainbow)

“Make Russia great again.”

There were also pictures of Trump dressed up to look like Hitler and Stalin, pictures of Trump as a puppet with Putin pulling the strings, and swastikas that were crossed out.

As I watched the march, I had two reactions.

First of all, regardless of where any of us might stand on any of these issues, we should all be excited to see people come

CONTINUED PAGE 8



## CIVIC CENTER

## CORNER

### Crab Feed Thanks

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association would like to thank our community for the record-breaking Crab Feed on January 28. The crab was delish, the pasta wonderful, and our helping hands stellar. Fundraising events would not be successful without community supporters, more than 60 volunteers made this event successful. Many thanks to:

**Boy Scouts Troop 220** — John Bowen, Lillie Bowen, Jacob Buursma, John Buursma, Matthew Mills, Chris Quill, Cian Quill, Robert Quill, Daniel Shurr, Mike Shurr, Isaiah Sniadoski, Travis Wheeler, Dylan Yeisley

**Cub Scouts Troop 222** — Ben Bass, Jon Bass, Christopher Johnson, Joe LeRoy, Joey LeRoy, Andrew Madrid, Meilo Madrid, Dominick Meeker, Pam Meeker, Chese Nunez, Corrie Nunez, Paul Nunez, Estan Seymour, Evan Seymour, Jon Seymour, Elijah Sniadoski, Tara Sniadoski

**Girl Scouts Troop 40956 & 46453** — Alyssa Garcia, Audra Garcia, Kelsey Garcia, Layla Hawkins, Lilly Hawkins, Shea Hawkins, Tiffany Hawkins, Georgia Madrid, Nikki Menchaa, Audrey Morad, Presley Peterson, Mallory Riddle, Tara Sniadoski

**KPCCA Board** — Keith Axelsen, Kris Barton, Ed Brown, Scott Dervaes, Peggy Gablehouse, Tracy Geiss, Claudia Jones, Tim Kezele, Bruce Macdonald, Pat Medveckus, Ted Ralston, Ed Taylor, Kirsten Roberts, Mark Roberts

**Friends of the KPCCA** — Kaylee Geiss, Jena Henak, Bill Jones, PJ Kezele, Carlie Schultz. Special thanks to Bruce Macdonald, Pat Medveckus, Ted Ralston & Tim Kezele who managed all the crab, the kitchen and the bar.

### Coming Events

- May 6** **Livable Community Fair**  
Key Peninsula nonprofit resource fair full of free family fun. *One week earlier than usual*
- May 27** **Garage Sale** *tentative date*
- Jun 28 - Jul 4** **Fireworks Stand** in Key Center
- Jul 29** **Ohana Luau** All things Hawaiian
- Oct 7** **Blues & Brews** Live music & microbrews
- Nov 11** **Winter Warm-up & Chili Competition**  
Featuring the finest crafts from Key Peninsula artisans, Chili Competition, music and more



**MARCH SADNESS FROM PAGE 7** together for change. At a time when almost 42 percent of voters didn't bother to vote, we should be hopeful that we, as Americans, are willing not only to voice our opinion and yell slogans but to actually turn that energy into action. Change shouldn't be something that we leave to government officials. We need to step up and bring about the changes that are needed ourselves.

By the way, lest we forget (and it seems like we have), there were massive protests in all 50 states back when Obama was elected president in 2008, complete with some slogans and placards that were just as mean-spirited as those we are seeing in protests against President Trump.

Secondly, I was saddened as I watched because I suspected that most of the people protesting were there because, at some point, they had experienced some of the discrimination, violence, abuse and hate they were marching against. I saw the faces of women and men in the crowd who live with the scars of having been raped, abused or attacked. I saw the faces of people who had not been able to advance in life because they were the "wrong" sex, the "wrong" religion, the "wrong" nationality, or because their sexual identity didn't meet someone else's standards.

I can understand their anger. They have a right to let the world know that this kind of treatment is not OK. No one has the right to treat any other human with anything less than respect and love.

Unfortunately, I was further saddened as I watched many of these protesters treating those who don't agree with them with the same disrespect they themselves were protesting. Is it OK to protest unfair treatment and discrimination by treating others unfairly and to discriminate against them? We have no right to yell about injustice when we are treating others unjustly; we have no right to push others aside in order to push ourselves to the front. Treating another with disrespect to get them to listen to how you've been treated with disrespect isn't a protest, it's just plain bullying and it's wrong.

*Rob Vajko lives in Purdy.*

**Meredith Browand**  
KEY ISSUES



## March Meaning

On Jan. 21, I gathered with approximately 100,000 other concerned citizens to participate in the Women's March in Seattle. It was a day of camaraderie, energy, peaceful protest and resistance. My best friend and

I went together and each brought along one of our sons. I couldn't have asked for a better day. The spirit was palpable and I felt hopeful that the day's momentum would buoy me as the new administration began to enact policy. Millions of men, women and children had taken to the streets in cities across the globe to prove that our voices were strong and that we would not be silent.

As the high of the day wore off, I was surprised to be confronted with many questions about why I marched. Both social media strangers and real-life friends questioned how the new president's policies could affect my life. Over and over, I felt as though I had to justify my participation. But my voice became stronger and clearer, and helped me take my position in this resistance.

This is why I marched:

I marched so your daughters can have the same opportunities as my sons. I marched to eliminate the wage gap, where a woman's work is worth 80 cents on the dollar compared to a man's. I marched so my two sons can grow up with empowered and equal women in their schools, workplaces and society.

I marched so my gay, lesbian and transgender brothers and sisters are guaranteed the same legal protection as my husband and I. I marched so their love will be honored like mine. I marched so LGBTQ children and teenagers are able to grow up in a world that celebrates the person God intended them to be.

I marched to ensure my neighbors who benefit from the Affordable Care Act and utilize the services of Planned Parenthood have the same access to affordable and safe health care as my family. I marched so women can have control over their bodies and make their own medical and reproductive decisions.

I marched for Mother Earth and the very real threat we face in climate change. I marched for environmental regulations that protect us. I marched to ensure that my children's grandchildren will have a healthy planet to carry out this work.

I marched to end the public-health crisis we face in gun violence. I marched because gun violence is a women's issue. I marched for universal background checks because they are the single best way to reduce domestic violence and law enforcement homicides.

I marched for the refugees and the immigrants. I marched because I understand the blessing of my birthplace and the privilege I've been afforded. I marched because I cannot fully comprehend the reality of escaping a war-torn country and facing resettlement in an unknown nation. I marched to preserve our nation of immi-

grants and to honor the melting pot that makes our country unique.

I marched for my children. I marched so they know their mom worked her hardest for justice and stood up for the rights of others. I marched so they will learn that when our neighbors' lives are improved, we too are better off. I marched to instill in them a patriotic sense of duty to this great nation we call home.

*Meredith Browand  
is a mother and activist living in Purdy.*

**Joseph Pentheroudakis**  
ON THE WING



## Name That Bird

Chick-a-dee-dee-dee! Killdeer, killdeer, killdeer! Tow-heeeeeee! Have you noticed how some birds love their names so much, they can't stop saying them? That's a good thing for human observers, since it saves us the trouble of having to come up with a name for them.

Onomatopoeia is not the only tool in our bird-naming toolkit, however. Appearance, behavior or habitat can also inspire the name of a bird. Spoonbills are named after the shape of their bill. Woodpeckers peck away at trees (although their name may also refer to their habitat). Sapsuckers go after sap in trees to get the insects that come with it. Nuthatches wedge a nut or seed inside a crevice and then hack away at it with their bill to get to the tasty kernel (the dictionary tells us that "hatch" is related to the word "hack").

The descriptive words added to identify a species can themselves further describe appearance, habitat or behavior, or they can be the name of the scientist who identified the species. Townsend's warbler is named after John Kirk Townsend (1809-1851), who first described that warbler; Bonaparte's gull is named after French naturalist Charles Bonaparte (1803-1857), who lived most of his life in the United States and whose uncle was none other than Napoleon Bonaparte. (Incidentally, names of bird species in scientific papers and field guides are normally capitalized; in these essays, we follow The Associated Press Stylebook and only capitalize proper names.)

Most bird names, however, don't seem to describe those birds in any obvious way. What are we to make of names like owl, merganser, hawk, cormorant or sparrow, for example? Those are not words that we can readily take apart.

Language history to the rescue! If you go back in time, you'll find that many of those

words also described the sound, appearance or behavior of that bird. Owl goes back to an ancient word that was imitative of a wail and related to the word "ululate." Merganser combines two Latin words that together mean "diving goose." Hawk is related to an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "to seize" and to the word "havoc" (long story). Cormorant is made up of two Latin words meaning "sea crow." Finally, the Anglo-Saxon word ancestor of sparrow meant "flutterer" and was used to describe any small bird.

There are still many bird names whose origins are unclear. Linguists have several theories about the origin of swallow or heron, for example. Swallow may be related to a word describing the bird's forked tail, and an older form of heron may ultimately be imitative of the heron's croaky call, but linguists cannot say for certain. Word archeology doesn't always unlock the secrets of languages and dialects of the past.

A delightful resource on the subject, if you can find a copy, is Ernest A. Choate's "The Dictionary of American Bird Names," first published in 1973 and revised in 1985 by Raymond Paynter Jr.

Words and birds: Life doesn't get much better than that!

*Joseph Pentheroudakis is an artist and avid birder. He lives on Herron Island.*

**Scott Gallacher**  
BEYOND THE BACKYARD



## Get Ready for Spring

Springtime around the Key Peninsula is always beautiful; nature awakens and rebuilds itself as buds begin to bloom.

Something of a different nature will also be budding on the Key Peninsula: the new Gateway Park. You will soon be seeing construction equipment at the property, located just south of Lake Kathryn Village on State Route 302. Many playground components have already arrived. (You can see photos and a short video of the progress at our website, [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com).)

The Key Pen Parks board of directors voted at their June 2016 meeting to begin Phase 1 construction of Gateway Park right away. As often happens, there was some delay in obtaining permits. Then, the wettest October since 2003 happened. But, we received 10 bids for the Phase 1 improvements and the board voted at the Dec. 12 meeting to award the contract to Bob Peterson Construction Inc. out of Puyallup.

Even with the earlier permit and weather delays—and barring any further delays—we expect to have a grand opening celebration for Phase 1 by the end of September 2017. That is a mere six short months away. Phase 1 includes a playground, pavilion, restrooms, parking, ingress/egress and a new trailhead to 360 Trails. Phase 2 is being done with Phase 1, and calls for moving and regrading native soil in the area to build a large multi-purpose field.

We are grateful to Gig Harbor Rotary for stepping in with \$20,000 and volunteers to assist in building the pavilion. The Key Peninsula Parks & Recreation Foundation is seeking additional businesses, organizations and individuals who may be interested in making tax-deductible contributions toward the pavilion to add unique and artistic building features, like corbels, ironwork or stonework, to enhance the character of the structure.

With the pieces falling into place for Phases 1 and 2, we are moving forward with trying to obtain funding for Gateway Park Phase 3 construction. This includes a grass amphitheater, an additional shelter that can also serve as a stage, and a splash pad. In 2016, we applied for a Wildlife and Recreation Program grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. Our Phase 3 application ranked 44 out of 77 and unfortunately just missed the threshold for funding.

We will continue to press forward with trying to acquire funding for Phase 3 improvements, but we also look forward to some new activities and new attractions to engage the citizens of the Key Peninsula in 2017.

Coming up April 2 is the family-friendly 360 Trails Poker Pedal fundraiser for trail development and maintenance at this popular property. The Pet Easter Treat Hunt is April 8 at Volunteer Park. Be sure to check out our ad in this issue and see more of what is planned this spring and summer.

Parks Appreciation Day is coming up Saturday, April 22, from 9 to noon. This is a time where Key Peninsula families and friends of all ages and abilities can come out to a local park, rain or shine, and do a little something to celebrate Earth Day. Bring your gloves, loppers, rakes and smiles and help our tiny staff get ready for the busy season ahead. More information on locations and needs can be found on our website at [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com).

*Scott Gallacher is the executive director of Key Pen Parks.*

## Letters to the Editor

### A Columnist's Correction

My winter sailing rumination (“Winds, Tides and Weather,” February 2017) contained a grievous misstatement for which I am solely responsible, but about which I was seriously misled.

The mainstream media, pundits, wags and countless others predicted that if a certain event were to occur right here in The Land of the Free, incredible upheavals would result, up to and including that the Earth itself would stop spinning on its axis, and perhaps commence spinning in the other direction.

It didn't happen. We see every morning that, unless the sun now revolves around the Earth, Earth still rotates from west to east, and therein lies my error. I mistakenly stated in my column that the opposite was true.

If we were now spinning in the opposite direction, Earth's rotation would have had to slow to a stop first. If it had, the centrifugal force that causes the oceans to bulge at the equator would have disappeared and all our coastal cities would be under 60 or more feet of sea water.

Additionally, since our air is not anchored to the Earth, it would have continued moving at just over a thousand miles per hour for long enough to blow down every building, wall and tree standing; yes, including that wall, if it had been built.

Since none of this happened, I have been proven incorrect and the Earth must still spin from west to east at about 1,040 miles per hour. If our editor does not fire me (and I hope it is tough to fire a volunteer), I promise to double-check my work for accuracy in the future, as will he, I am sure.

*Capt. Bill Trandum, USN, Retired  
Vaughn*

*Editor's note: A recent visit to planet Earth by staff confirmed that the orb does indeed rotate from west to east on a tilted axis of 23½ degrees with respect to the plane of its orbit around the sun, creating moderate seasons and preventing temperature extremes anywhere on the planet. We plan to spend more time there.*

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

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

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Recent repair work on the Purdy Bridge is coming apart. *Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News*

## Purdy Bridge Repairs Need Repairing

FRANK SLATER, KP NEWS

Recent surface repairs to the Purdy Bridge didn't work.

The Washington State Department of Transportation resurfaced the west approach to the bridge last fall and is uncertain as to why it failed, according to Claudia Bingham-Baker of the WSDOT Olympia Region.

They will try again when it is warmer and drier, she said.

Dennis Engle of the WSDOT planning section said the Legislature authorized about \$5 million for the environmental impact study needed to relocate the Purdy Bridge in 2005, but recalled about half of it in 2008 before the work was completed. WSDOT has identified four alternative routes to improve traffic on State Route 302, but is waiting for the Legislature to allocate enough funds to complete the EIS.

For information, go to [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR302/NewCorridor/FAQ](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR302/NewCorridor/FAQ).

## KP Community Council Opens Office

FRANK SLATER, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula Community Council took possession of the former Mustard Seed Project office in the Key Center Corral Feb. 1. The council office will provide space for Pierce County Health Department and Safe Streets to provide resources on improving water quality, septic management and protection of public health, and to offer guidance on various county permit applications.

The office will also be home to council committees that coordinate the annual KP Farm Tour, the public transportation program School Bus Connects, the Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community, the land use advisory committee and the Key Peninsula Youth Council.

Friends and neighbors are invited to visit at Suite D of the Key Center Corral, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The hours of county personnel will be determined based on need. The council office phone number is 432-4948.

# The Mustard Seed Project

## Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula

**WE'VE MOVED!** Come visit us at our new home:  
**The Crandall Center-9016 - 154th Ave. Ct. KPN**  
 (formerly the Roadhouse Restaurant in *UPTOWN* Key Center)  
**M-F, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 253-884-9814**

### & now: Our 9th Annual Silver Cinema Series!

**Three consecutive Sundays in March** - documentary films that celebrate the art of aging...and defy the stereotypes.

**3/12:** Collection of documentary "shorts" about older adults, including *Charlie Goes to Burning Man* and *Aquadettes*



**3/19: I'll Be Me** – the story of Glen Campbell's last tour

**3/26: Whiskey and Apple Pie** – "a recipe for living a better life and a delicious journey for all generations."

**3 Sundays: March 12th, 19th & 26th ♦ 2 p.m.**  
**Brones Room – Key Center Library – FREE**

## Key Peninsula Community Services

17015 9Th St Ct KPN Lakebay, WA. 98349

### Senior Center & Food Bank

*Helping our citizens to eat and live healthy*

PO Box 392 Lakebay WA. 98349 253-884-4440 Fax: 253-884-6196  
 Email: [KPCSDirector@centurytel.net](mailto:KPCSDirector@centurytel.net)

## Huge Rummage Sale!

Lot's of cool and fun stuff - camping gear, mattresses and toppers - bikes and toys

*Way too much to list!!*

**Saturday March 25th @ 10AM**



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

In December the Angel Guild awarded \$10,000 in grants to

- KP Children's Home Society ..... \$2,000
- KP Historical Society & Museum ..... \$4,000
- Vaughn Elementary School.....\$500
- Evergreen Elementary PTA .....\$1,500
- KP Civic Center..... \$2,000



*Angel Guild Thrift Shop*

Tues-Saturday 10 to 4 Key Center Corral 253 884-9333



### Grace Church, EPC

10:30 am Worship on Sunday  
Ladies Prayer Time Tuesday 10:30am  
Women's Bible Study Tuesday 11:30am

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edL86@gmail.com

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### Pet Easter Treat Hunt



Saturday, April 8 at Volunteer Park

Prizes! Costume contest! • funniest • most original • best overall

Schedule: • 9 am photos with Easter Bunny

A FREE EVENT!

- 9:30 am treat hunt begins
- 10:15 am fun demonstration TBA
- 10:45 am costume contest winners announced

Thank you to our 2017 sponsors: Bayside Animal Lodge; Bed, Bark & Beyond; Brookside Veterinary Hospital; Hampl's Dog Obedience; Lifeline Pet Nutrition; Mud Bay; Paws and Kisses Pet Grooming.



FUN AND PRIZES!

### 360 TRAILS POKER PEDAL

The 3rd annual 360 Trails Poker Pedal will be Sunday, April 2 at 360 Trails on the Key Peninsula. This is a family-friendly, unique bike riding event where riders visit 5-7 checkpoints, drawing a playing card at each point. The object is to have the best poker hand at the end of the ride. This event raises funds for further trail development at 360 Trails through Key Pen Parks. Riders complete a moderately difficult loop of about 8 miles. There's an option to bike to up to two additional checkpoints for up to two additional playing cards. Check-in is from 9 to 10 am. Hands will be played, prizes awarded around 1:30 pm. (Suggested age 10+) Registration is at bikereg.com.

**\$25/RIDER OR \$35 DAY OF EVENT GET DETAILS AND REGISTER AT BIKEREG.COM**

Thanks to our sponsors to date: Bayside Animal Lodge, Defiance Bicycles, Green River Cyclery, Horseshoe Lake Golf Course, The Hub at Gig Harbor, Iron Horse Brewery, Northwest Tech, Old Town Bicycle, The Other Guys, Warfield Masonry, Will Houdeshell.com.

### Nature Photography Class

with local photojournalist



**David Montesino**



8-10 am on Sundays - April 2, 9 and 23

Cost is only \$59 per person for all 3 sessions

David's beautiful scenic photos have been shared on social media and published regionally. Now you can join him for a 3-day, hands-on photography workshop! Learn how he explores an area visually, finds the perfect lighting, configures camera settings, and captures the perfect moment. Two-hour classes; bring a DSLR camera. Details and register at keypenparks.com.



9 am to noon  
Saturday  
April 22

Home Park

Rocky Creek  
Conservation Area

Volunteer Park

Looking for a great, family-friendly Earth Day project? This is it! *Rain or shine!* Bring your gloves, rakes, loppers, clippers, shovels, hand saws and smiles.

### Thank you! Thanks! Thank you! Thanks! Thank you!

A great time was had by all at our first-ever Volunteer Appreciation Night. Thank you to these businesses for the prize donations: Applebees, Bruce Titus Auto Group, Lunchbox Laboratory, McBeckland's, Inc., Panera Bread, Peninsula Light Co., Rainy Day Yarns, Ravensara Drive Thru, The Beach Basket and Tickled Pink. Thank you to a new volunteer, Cindell Stacey, for her help at the check-in/prize table and to Hunter and Matthew Grant for the clean-up help!

**TECH HELP**

Meet with a librarian to receive personal help; register for an appointment online at [getsmart.pcls.us](http://getsmart.pcls.us) or call 548-3309.

**MARCH 2****FUCHSIA SOCIETY**

The Fuchsia Society meets 7 p.m. at KP Civic Center. Peggy, 686-7904

**MARCH 2, 4, 9, 16 & 30****CAT TALES**

The Cat Show is March 4 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Theme is "Heroes and Villains," entry fee is \$18 (limit of three cats) plus \$2 per extra cat. Vet check 9 a.m., show starts at 10 a.m. Regular club meetings 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the VFW Room at the civic center. 884-4182

**MARCH 3, 10, 17 & 24****SKATE NIGHT**

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

**MARCH 4 & 18****SUPPORT GROUP**

The Lakebay Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group meets 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN. Contact Kimberly at 753-4270 or [DBSALakebay@gmail.com](mailto:DBSALakebay@gmail.com).

**MARCH 6, 13 & 20****QUILTERS MEET**

Key Peninsula Quilters meet 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Key Center Library meeting room. Open group with one's own projects, by hand or machine, including quilting, embroidery, general sewing, knitting and crochet. Drop-ins welcome.

**MARCH 6, 13, 20, 27****BLOODMOBILE**

At Albertsons 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**MARCH 7 & 21****SENIOR SHOPPING**

Seniors grocery shop at various stores and enjoy a "Dutch" lunch afterward. Transportation provided. 884-4440

**MARCH 8****ASHES MEET**

The Ashes support group for FD 16 meets 10:30 a.m. at the fire station in Key Center. 884-3771

**GARDEN CLUB MEETS**

The Bayshore Garden Club meets 11 a.m. at the fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 332-4883

**KP COUNCIL**

The KP Council meeting is 7 p.m. at the KC fire station.

**MARCH 11****LUNCH WITH LOCAL AUTHOR**

Local author Leslie Bratspis and local business Vintage and Antiques host a lunch with an author and antiques event 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the store located at 134th and KP Highway North. 253-851-0988

**GARDENING AT THE LIBRARY**

All ages learn how to make a garden in a mason jar 2 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Registration is required at [piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar](http://piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar). This event is sponsored by Friends of the Key Center Library.

**MARCH 14 & 28****CROCHET OR KNIT**

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

**MARCH 15****PET NEUTER PROGRAM**

The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center animal shuttle is at the KP Civic Center 7 to 7:30 a.m. to pick up dogs and cats. Animals returned to the civic center 9 a.m. the next day. Appointments are required. Call 253-627-7729 ext. 217, or email [shuttle@nwspayneuter.org](mailto:shuttle@nwspayneuter.org) for questions or to schedule an appointment. [nwspayneuter.org](http://nwspayneuter.org)

**MARCH 18****ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT**

The Alzheimer's Association family caregiver support group meets 10:30 a.m. to noon at The Mustard Seed Project at the Crandall Center. This group provides a consistent, caring place for people to learn, share and gain emotional support from others also on the unique journey of providing support to a person with memory loss. Contact Ray Steiner, 253-820-2213.

**CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS DINNER**

The Key Peninsula Lions Club presents its 33rd annual Citizen of the Year award 6 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. All are welcome to come celebrate the work performed on behalf of the KP community by all the nominees. Tickets are \$25 and include dinner. Available at Cost Less Pharmacy, Sunnycrest Nursery and at the door.

**KPHS ANNUAL MEETING**

Key Peninsula Historical Society holds its annual membership meeting beginning with lunch at noon in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn. Guest speaker will be Jonathan White from Peninsula Light Co. discussing "Then and Now," the theme of this year's new museum display. Bring a dish to share and needed dishes. 888-3246

**ST. PAT'S PARTY**

Longbranch Improvement Club hosts "Suds and Spuds Family Style" 5 to 8 p.m. This family event features live entertainment, beer and root beer, baked potatoes with toppings, games for adults and children, and raffles. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and \$25 for families. 253-709-0400

**MARCH 20****LEGO MINDSTORM**

Children ages 8 to 18 build and program a robot using Lego Mindstorm kits 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the KC Library. Registration (four at a time) is required at [piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar](http://piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar). 548-3309

**MARCH 23****LIVING ROOTS OF MUSIC**

Lauren Pelon traces the story of music and instruments throughout history and performs music from the first to 21st centuries on a variety of historical instruments at the KC Library at 6 p.m. This event is for teens and adults. 548-3309

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

Discover the 2017 Pierce County Reads title at the Key Center Library at 11 a.m. 548-3309

**MARCH 27****CODING FOR KIDS**

Children ages 8 to 13 learn basic Scratch coding and how to animate a game 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the KC Library. Registration is required at [piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar](http://piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar), or call 548-3309.

**OFF THE KEY****MARCH 1****FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

Learn how to get out of debt, create a budget, make wise spending decisions, save for the future and more in nine easy-to-follow lessons. Every Wednesday for nine weeks starting March 1 in the Milgard Medical Pavilion at St. Anthony

Hospital. Cost: \$93. Childcare is not provided. Register online at [www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1036324](http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1036324).

**MARCH 2****DEMOCRATS MEET**

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

**MARCH 3, 10, 17, 24****SPANISH TALK TIME**

Adults enjoy El Grupo Spanish talk time 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. Please join in a Spanish conversation. 548-3305

**MARCH 3 TO 25 WEEKENDS****PLAY PRESENTED**

Paradise Theatre presents "West Side Story" at 3114 Judson Street in Gig Harbor. Times are 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 to 4 p.m. on Sundays. [Paradisetheatre.org](http://Paradisetheatre.org) or 851-7529

**MARCH 7, 14, 21, & 28****SUPPORT GROUP**

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

**MARCH 9, 16, & 23****CHESS CLUB**

Children in grades K-8 learn how to play chess for 20 minutes, followed by 40 minutes of play at Gig Harbor Library from 6 to 7 p.m. 548-3305

**MARCH 11****CONCERT & POTLUCK**

The Olalla Community Club presents a concert featuring Ira Wolf. A potluck starts at 6 p.m. and the concert is at 7 p.m. Potluck host is Nolan, 253-857-5650. Cost is \$15 to \$20. [Olallahouse.org](http://Olallahouse.org)

**MARCH 15****INTRO TO EXCEL**

Adults learn how to get started with Excel and the basics of using a spreadsheet 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. This event requires registration at [piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar](http://piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar). Sponsored by Friends of the Gig Harbor Library. 548-3305

**MARCH 21****IPAD BASICS FOR SENIORS**

Adults over 50 learn about the iPad from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. Get to know your device with this class designed for new to mobile computing beginners. Please bring your iPad and Apple ID login information to class. 548-3305

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

#### PLAY TO LEARN

Play to Learn, provided by Children's Museum of Tacoma, is at 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. This is a free drop-in program for preschoolers under 6 and their adult caregivers.

### MON, WED & FRIDAYS

#### SENIOR EXERCISE

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

### TUESDAYS

#### SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior tai chi meets 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. 884-4440

#### STORY TIMES

Every Tuesday, discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the KC Library. Music/motion story time (0-2 years old with an adult) is at 10 a.m. and preschool science story time (2-5 years old) is at 11 a.m. 548-3309

#### KEY SINGERS

Key Singers are rehearsing for a May concert. If you like to sing and can carry a tune, you're welcome to join. Annual dues of \$10 help pay for rent, music and PHS scholarships. Meet at 7 p.m. in KP Lutheran Church sanctuary, 4213 Lackey Road, junction of Lackey and KP Highway. 884-5615

### 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, 884-5433

#### SENIOR COMPUTER CLASS

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

### TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

#### KP MUSEUM OPEN

The Key Peninsula Historic Society museum features a new exhibit called

"Then and Now" with special focus on the Vaughn Library Hall. The museum, located at the KP Civic Center, contains artifacts, pictures and stories from the whole Key Peninsula and admission is free. A variety of books on local history are available to buy and each community has albums of information collected by the organization. 888-3246

### WEDNESDAYS

#### READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS

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

#### LAKEBAY WRITERS

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

#### WRITERS WORKSHOP

The Watermark Writers present a free writers workshop 5 to 8 p.m. in Vaughn. 778-6559

### WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

#### SENIOR MEALS

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

### THURSDAYS

#### TOASTMASTERS

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m. at the KC Library. Have fun improving your speaking ability. 858-5761 or 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. 884-4981

### FRIDAYS

#### FAMILY STORY TIME

Families with young children enjoy summer stories 1:30 to 2 p.m. at the KC Library. 548-3309

### SATURDAYS

#### WRITERS GUILD

The Writers Guild meets the first and third Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon at the KC Library. 884-6455

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**March 1 & 15, KP Lions**, 7 p.m., KC fire station; 853-2721

**March 6, McNeil Island meeting**, 6 p.m., Lakebay Marina. markscott@lakebaymarina.com

**March 6, KP Veterans**, 7 p.m., KP Lutheran Church; membership for veterans and military service members and families over 16 yrs. 509-8656 or keypenveterans@outlook.com

**March 7, KP Historic Society Board**, 11 a.m. in museum; 888-3246

**March 7, Artists' Blend**, 4 to 6 p.m., Blend Wine Shop, for all artists; info@twowaters.org

**March 8, KP Community Council**, 7 p.m., KC fire station

**March 9 & 23, Peninsula School District Board**, 6 p.m., Harbor Ridge Middle School Library

**March 9, KP Civic Center Assn. Board**, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; 884-3456

**March 9, TWAA Board**, 7 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; info@twowaters.org

**March 13, KP Parks**, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park office; public is encouraged to attend. 884-9240

**March 14 & 28, KP Fire Dept.**, 5 p.m., KC fire station; keypeninsulafire.org

**March 15, Longbranch Improvement Club**, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting, LIC; 884-6022

**March 15, KP Advisory Commission**, 6:30 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; co.pierce.wa.us for agenda; Toni Fairbanks, 253-798-7156

**March 16, KP Citizens against Crime**, 7 p.m., KC fire station

**March 20, KP Democrats**, 7 p.m., Home fire station; johnpatkelly@aol.com

**March 27, KP Farm Council**, 6:30 p.m., Home fire station; c.wiley@mac.com

*The last issue of the Key Peninsula News was terrific! It has been getting better and better and this was the best yet. Article after interesting article told me about my neighbors and my neighborhood; more useful information than I get from any other newspaper, most done with nice color pictures. Congratulations! Barbara Haugeard /Home*



**Mondays  
& Wednesdays  
8:30 to 9:30 am  
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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.

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Key Center Corral 253 884-9333**

Donations: Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 3:30  
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**Send calendar items to connierenz@hotmail.com before 15th of the month**

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- Call (253) 798-4788

Savings are available for a limited time. Log on today!






Reflective tape applied to guardrails on SR 302 in 2014-15 started peeling off during the cold spell in December 2016. According to sources at WSDOT, the steel might not have been well prepped before the tape was applied, the adhesive might have been bad or it might not be up to the freezing weather, but no one is sure why it's failing. *Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News*

### COME SWIM WITH US!

*Easterseals Washington Camp Stand By Me  
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**We have re-opened our doors to the community!**

Water fitness class MWF 12:30-1:30 pm  
New in March: Preschool swim lessons MW 2-2:30 and 2:30-3pm  
Parent child swim time TTH 11:00am-12:00pm

Call 253.884.2722 or visit [www.easterseals.com/washington/communityswim](http://www.easterseals.com/washington/communityswim)



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## FREE CLASS MARCH 4 at 11am GET THE BUZZ ON BEES!



Learn about the Mason Bee and other pollinators, their habitats, their needs and all of the culture of keeping bees in the orchard and garden. Diane Everson, local expert and bee keeper, will share her knowledge. CLASS SIZE LIMITED, SIGN UP EARLY

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# Mount Everest Veteran to Speak on KP

CAROLYN WILEY  
 AND TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Longtime Mount Everest climbing guide Dan Mazur will speak to students at Evergreen Elementary School and to the public at the Longbranch Improvement Club March 15 for the benefit of the Longbranch Foundation Scholarship Fund. His mother, Mary Mazur, lives in Longbranch.

Mazur has climbed or led climbing expeditions to Mount Everest, K2 and other famous peaks since the early 1990s. Based in Olympia, he organizes and leads Mount Everest ascents and works to further humanitarian efforts in Nepal, the 12th poorest country in the world. The average daily income there is \$1.25 and the need for education, sanitation and health care are major concerns, he said.

Mazur's first ascent of Mount Everest was in 1986. Twenty years later, he received international accolades for saving the life of climber Lincoln Hall, an Australian left for dead on the slopes of the mountain.

He was on Mount Everest April 25, 2015, when a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck. The quake triggered an avalanche that killed 21 people—the deadliest day in the mountain's history. Hundreds of thousands of people became homeless when entire villages collapsed. Approximately 9,000 people died and 22,000 were injured across the country. The devastation was exacerbated by a second 7.3 magnitude quake that struck 17 days later, killing hundreds and injuring thousands more.

Mazur said there was far greater damage in the remote villages than the cities. Houses and schools are built from stacked stone because concrete and rebar to reinforce the buildings are prohibitively expensive.

"There are no roads; you've got to carry everything in," he said. "A bag of cement in Kathmandu might cost a few bucks, but that same bag in a village that's a two-week trek away is \$100."

Mazur and his company, Summit Climb, are supporting reconstruction efforts with treks to affected areas to deliver large rolls of plastic building mesh used to reinforce new buildings. "All the building materials are there," he said. "They're just lying on the ground." Builders include a layer of rock-filled mesh every 3 vertical feet in the walls of new structures to provide lateral stability.



Reconstruction is done in conjunction with efforts to clean up the mountains. “The busy season on Everest is April/May, and there’s no restriction on visitors,” Mazur said. “Usually there’s 1,000 climbers and support people in base camp.” This is when Sherpas make money for their families for a year by assisting climbers, getting supplies up the mountain and hauling trash and human waste back down in large plastic barrels.

The public is welcome to the free Longbranch Improvement Club event, though donations for the LIC community scholarship fund will also be welcomed. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, call 884-6022 or go to licweb.org.

For more information on Mazur’s work in Nepal, go to summitclimb.com.



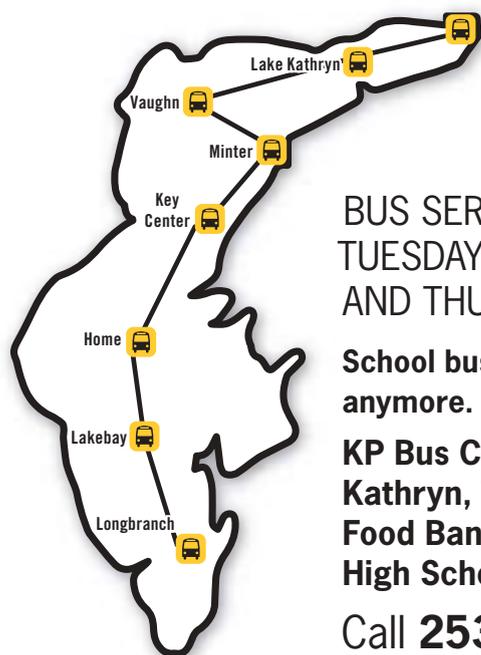
*Left:* Damage was still visible in Kathmandu Durbar Square in 2016. *Above:* A group treks to Annapurna, the 10th highest mountain in the world, 100 kilometers from Mount Everest and out of the earthquake zone. *Photos:* Neal Van Der Voorn

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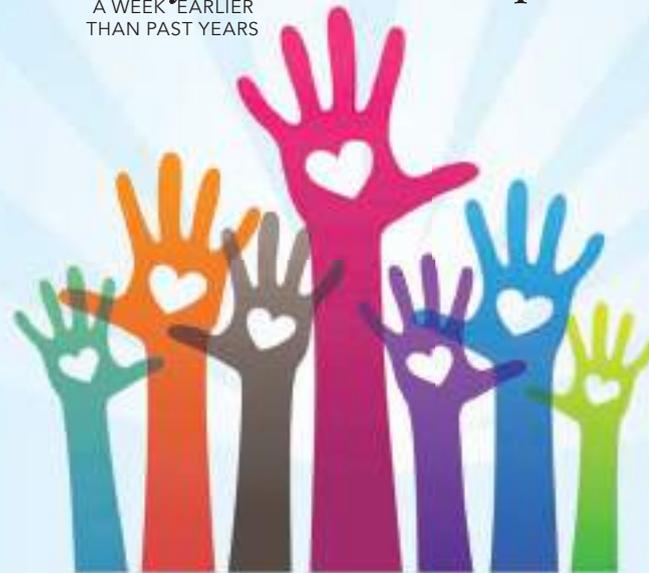
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Reluctant dragons ready for flight after an in-class lesson in conjunction with a live performance of "The Reluctant Dragon." *Courtesy TWAA*

## Tree Farming on the Key Peninsula

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

There are many stories behind the logs being trucked off the Key Peninsula every day. Some come from land owned by neighbors; others come from land owned by people who live elsewhere. Some come from land purchased by companies just to harvest the timber and sell the land immediately, or from companies seeking to develop it themselves.

There is another story landowners of even small parcels can embrace. It is the story of tree farmers.

Tom Van Slyke's family has been on the Key Peninsula since the 1880s. His grandfather had the first sawmill in the area and Tom has been a logger all his life. He and his family own about 400 acres in various parcels.

Coy Eshom grew up in Kingston and bought 40 acres near Longbranch as a young man in 1958 because his mother thought an investment in land was wise.

Martha Konicek came to know the woods when her parents bought land in 1972. She and her husband, Steven, moved to the peninsula in 1995, built a log home and raised their children. They just purchased 20 acres south of their home.

These self-described tree farmers consider themselves stewards of their land and want to keep it healthy. They also want forestland to provide harvestable lumber, whether to pay property taxes or to provide significant income.

"I love growing trees, but there comes a time when, if this is to bring in any income, they must be cut," Eshom said.

Van Slyke grew up as part of the logging industry on the Key Peninsula. His family continues to operate the Vaughn Bay Lumber Co., though most of its work is with a larger company on the Olympic Peninsula that thins forests. He still logs his own land and pays close attention to the health of the trees, harvesting when the family needs money or if there is a risk that the trees will be too large for the mills. Most mills cannot process logs more than 30 inches in diameter at chest height (about 8 feet in circumference), so if he wants to sell trees, he must do that before they are too large.

Eshom inherited \$2,000 when his father died in 1958. He decided to buy some newly logged land on the KP for \$62.50 an acre. When he left the Navy in 1962, one of his first dates with Judy, his future wife, was a picnic in his woods. One spot was dominated by scotch broom, so he and Judy

## Bringing Art to Children in Schools and Homes

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

The Two Waters Arts Alliance has been bringing artistic instruction and experiences to Key Peninsula schools since 2001, and the program continues to expand.

"TWAA's Artists in Schools program has three components, all on the KP," said artist Patty Finnigan. "We work in the three elementary schools, offer classes to home-schooled students and have an after-school program at Key Peninsula Middle School. As curriculums have become tighter and more focused, art has pretty much been dropped from the core subjects taught in public schools. Our goal is to broaden the students' experience and complement their other lessons."

Lesson plans for the elementary schools are prepared in conjunction with an annual puppet theater production by the traveling Tears of Joy theater company, brought to KP schools by TWAA. Art projects reflect the themes and lessons from the performances.

"Artist teachers range in artistic knowledge and specialize in their particular mediums," said Adria Hanson, a participating artist and home school art administrator for TWAA. "Students enjoy creating and being inspired no matter who the teacher is."

"Creating art provides a number of benefits," Finnigan said. "Students develop

hand-eye coordination, improve their fine motor skills, learn about art materials and color, and practice attentive listening. Art projects challenge students to follow detailed instructions, exercise their creative minds, express their individuality, experiment and play."



Anna Bradshaw recently signed on as a grant writer for TWAA. "I've been amazed at how creative our kids can be when an attitude of positivity is interjected in their day," she said. "I make a point of affirming the individual as an actual artist, connecting with the joy of making and encouragement to express one's self."

Last year's offerings included print-making, fabric/tapestry, watercolor landscapes and tin toiling. This year's work includes learning art history from Paleolithic to Greek art in pottery, and learning simple to complex techniques in painting, portraiture from found materials, collage,

cartooning, oil pastel, acrylic, watercolor and mixed materials.

This is the third year of home schooling involvement in AIS.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for home-schoolers to have such a diverse array of artists to teach them artistic approaches every month," Hanson said. "It is not often, except in art schools or art camps, that children are exposed to so many artists throughout the year. Most home-school mothers do not tackle art, and we know art is valuable to a child of any age to learn and focus and expand their mental capacities."

"When I go into the classroom, my goal is to present a no-fail art project," Finnigan said. "I want all students to enjoy the process, have an opportunity to express themselves and feel successful at completion. I want to convey that in art, there is no 'right' answer; each person creates his or her own unique solution. When children are excited to take their artwork home to share with their families, I feel successful."

*TWAA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit supported entirely by donations, memberships, volunteers and grants. Any artists willing to teach may contact Hanson at studioartist1975@yahoo.com. For more information about TWAA, go to www.twowaters.org.*



Managing a forest to produce income while maintaining a healthy ecosystem is possible even for small landowners. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

spent the afternoon pulling it out with a chain attached to his truck.

“I preferred driving the truck to working the chain,” Judy Eshom said. “Coy found out I was a hard worker.”

Eshom has worked with wood all his life, but learning how to manage a forest was a new skill set. He worked with the Department of Natural Resources to draw up his first forest management plan in 1980. The Eshoms have been members of the American Tree Farm Association since 1998. Their certified tree farm is inspected every five years and the management plan is updated regularly to reflect their accomplishments and the changing forest conditions.

“Our original intent when we started intensively managing the property in 1980 was to systematically cut and replant the entire site,” Eshom said. “But the ‘cut the best and leave the rest’ philosophy in most of the neighboring community convinced us to retain our timber through a longer rotation schedule.”

The Eshoms still do much of the work themselves, removing invasive species and

thinning the forest to remove suppressed, defective and diseased trees. Eshom fells and prepares most of their trees for market himself, but works directly with a forester for large harvests. “A forester knows what the best markets and prices are and can also help with the contract if we use a logger,” he said.

When the Koniceks first moved to Longbranch, one of the attractions was the 40 acres of forest surrounding their property. Martha Konicek’s father’s cousin, George Thornton, had managed the forest since the early 1960s. He cut selectively to pay taxes and planted more than he harvested, according to Konicek. When hard times hit the family about six years ago, Thornton began to cut more extensively. The Koniceks lost several firs and 6 feet of shoreline, likely because the loss of trees affected ground and surface water, she said.

When Thornton died, a neighbor purchased the forestland. When the new owners said they ultimately planned to clear-cut, the Koniceks decided it was time to act: They will maintain a large

buffer of trees on the south end of their property. “I’m no longer a passive witness, but will be in active partnership with the forest,” Konicek said. “The forest is a second-generation natural playground. Hopefully, the legacy will continue for generations to come.”

For now, she is getting to know her forest and is looking for a forester to design her management plan. By way of equipment, she will start with goats, a brush hog and a root puller to clear blackberries and scotch broom. Under those plants are some of the trees that Thornton planted and that she now plans to nurture.

The three families of tree farmers agreed that all landowners, including those with 10, 5 or even fewer acres, could be as involved with their forests as they are.

*Editor’s note: This is the last of a three-part series about logging on the Key Peninsula. The first article provided an overview of permitting requirements and an example of what happens when the rules are ignored. The second article described the practice of clear-cutting.*

**Washington State University** has a forestry extension program that offers a rich selection of educational videos, classes and other resources, including a list of consulting Washington state foresters. Go to [www.forestry.wsu.edu](http://www.forestry.wsu.edu). **DNR** has a small-forest landowner program specifically geared to offering financial and technical assistance “to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, reduce fuels, increase recreation opportunities, improve forest health, produce revenue or all of the above.” [www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo).

**The Washington Farm Forestry Association** provides educational programs. [www.wafarmforestry.com](http://www.wafarmforestry.com). **Pierce County Forestry Management** also provides services. [www.co.pierce.wa.us](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us). **The Northwest Natural Resource Group** is a membership organization dedicated to promoting a sustainable, environmentally sound economy in the forestlands of the Pacific Northwest. Its focus is on the smaller woodlands owned and managed by private landowners, smaller forest product companies, government agencies and nonprofit organizations. [www.nnrg.org](http://www.nnrg.org).



Evergreen fifth-graders explore the woods surrounding Camp Seymour. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

## Evergreen Elementary School Goes to Camp

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

Thirty-six fifth-graders from Evergreen Elementary School spent three days and two nights in February in the Outdoor and Environmental Education program at YMCA Camp Seymour on Glen Cove, learning about natural resources, exploring ecosystems and improving their outdoor and group-building skills. The program is designed to supplement and enhance state learning standards.

Their teachers, Denise Ohlson and Jordan Henderson, accompanied the students and nine cabin counselors, including four Evergreen graduates. The volunteer counselors are all part of a leadership class at Peninsula High School.

Two of the counselors, Olivia Whitmarsh and Natalie Pierson, both Evergreen alumnae, put in extra effort to decorate their cabin ceiling with glow-in-the-dark stars arranged to depict relative positions of Polaris and some easily recognized constellations, such as Orion.

Students spent their days hiking and

identifying forest species and processes and studying the shoreline, as well as in more traditional camp activities like canoeing or bussing tables in the mess hall.

During a hike through a forested part of the camp called “the outback,” one student commented that she thought a stump with a hole in the middle “was really interesting.” This led to a discussion about why parts of the forest had been thinned. The camp guide said the cause was laminated root rot fungus. When Ohlson asked the students what trees could be affected, several hands went up; they knew the answer was Douglas fir.

When Ohlson asked whether the students had seen any evidence of decomposers, their answers ranged from “a bunch of termites” to “weird fungi that looked like white powder.” One boy said that an uprooted tree looked like a giant spider. This led to a discussion of nursery logs.

While one group was hiking, another went canoeing. In spite of wind, rain and generally chilled soggy, there were

many smiles. When a counselor asked the canoeists why the water in Glen Cove was so cloudy, one student said, “It’s erosion. My teacher says all the rain washes the dirt into the bay.”



Canoeists Jonathan Christiansen (front) and Kaiden Schisler (rear) come in for a landing after exploring Glen Cove.

*Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

Evergreen fifth-graders have made the class trip to Camp Seymour every year since 2003. The students and teachers raise the funds from community members and organizations to pay for

their three-day experience. Emily Reaney, 10, raised \$5,000 of the needed \$5,700 on her own (KP News, February 2017).

At the end of the trip, Emily said, “Most of the kids want to go back to Camp Seymour.” She said that she hoped she could go back for summer camp and that she would like to try to become a cabin counselor when she is in high school. Emily’s mother, Cathy Reaney, said that one of the cabin counselors had been Emily’s reading buddy when she was in first grade.



Doug Blystone, posing with some of his hand-carved walking sticks. *Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News*

## Doug Blystone: Folk Artist

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

Doug Blystone is a featured folk artist at Marnie Farmer's Vintage and Antiques shop on Key Pen Highway North and 134th Street, where he displays and sells his artwork: bentwood furniture, walking sticks, wind chimes and even a gong.

"Doug was my first consignment artist," owner Marnie Kirk said. "He's sold eight or nine pieces here. Doug has quite a following. It's a pleasure to have his work in my shop."

Blystone, 59, said he worked as a landscaper in San Diego where he collected materials during the time he spent outside. "I'd see something, a feature, and play off that feature of the natural wood." His work was featured in the magazine section of the San Diego Home and Garden Showcase Home of the Year in 1982. He had been working in different media, painting rainbows for a children's hospital and airbrush painting Halloween masks, before moving to Wauna 30 years ago. He now supports himself with his art.

Collecting raw materials from local properties, Blystone first decides on a design. He can spend as long as 48 hours building a single bentwood, fan back chair. He builds the framework using a basic pattern,

bending switches of willow or hazelnut that have been soaked "to keep them springy when the sap's up in the springtime," he said. He uses a pneumatic pin gun followed by Sheetrock nails to assemble the pieces. "When the switches dry, they shrink some, so I tighten them up and treat the chair with Watco oil, which penetrates, binds the wood and brings out the color," he said.

Some of Blystone's pieces in Marnie Farmer's are dog faces inspired by pet photographs and beaded heads inspired by Mayan art. His challenge is "to create art that is recognizable, maybe tell a story or send a message using the natural features I see in the wood," he said.

Blystone works in a small garage shop using "mostly hand tools." In summer, he works outside under a roofed

shelter next to his garage where "there is more room for larger pieces." He said he wants to "to capture the feeling of the animal world." He also draws from fantasy and his personal concept of mermaids.

Blystone is a fan of the sculptor Rodin and said he gets some of his ideas from Impressionist paintings and Native American art. But he is also inspired by folk artists who are not well-known, even those who make carved wood signs that tell a story or identify a business.

Blystone's favorite creation is his large wall hanging, a 4½ foot by 18-inch wooden sculpture of a mermaid swimming with a sea turtle that he sold for \$300. His whimsical walking sticks are priced at \$40. Other pieces range in price from \$20 to \$500. His three-piece furniture sets are \$2,500.

Blystone said he prefers custom work for clients. He likes to collaborate with people who commission his work "to make the art more personable. I'm not afraid to try any medium—wood, metal or clay—if anyone has ideas they want to see brought to life."

*For more information, call Doug Blystone at 857-2432 or send him an email at Wauna-life@hotmail.com.*

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Its work finished for now, the work barge is towed out of Filucy Bay on an overcast February day. *Photo: Richard Hildahl*

# Longbranch Marina Upgrade Begins

STAFF REPORT

Replacement of old creosote-laced wooden pilings at the Longbranch Marina began in early February. The \$40,000 project has been years in the planning, according to Mark Runions, chair of the Longbranch Improvement Club dock committee.

An underwater assessment study completed in 2014 identified seven pilings with between zero and 25 percent service life remaining. More pilings will need to be replaced within the next 10 years, he said, but will be done piecemeal due to the expense.

The new pilings will be made of galvanized steel instead of creosote wood. Creosote has been used as a wood preservative for more than a century but it breaks down over time and can be toxic to marine plants and animals.

The marina has been operated by the LIC since the mosquito fleet ferry service was discontinued in the 1950s. The newest pilings were part of an expansion in the 1980s. A long-range plan has been developed based on the underwater survey and new upgrade requirements published by the Department of Natural Resources, according to Runions.

The LIC owns the dock from the parking lot and the piers and floats, but leases the land under the marina from the DNR. The parking lot is a leased easement from Pierce County (actually known as Wharf Street).

Since the replacement of the old ferry-landing pier several years ago, the LIC has set aside a portion of income from member and visitor moorage in a marina reserve fund. The money generated by the marina covers its operations and funds preservation efforts of the historic clubhouse and LIC-sponsored community programs.



A work barge pulls an old piling from the Longbranch Marina dock. The diver in the water cut off the piling at the mud line using a compressed-air-driven chain saw. *Photo: Lynn Carr*



The Community Transition Program of Peninsula School District presents a talent show Feb. 15 at the KP Civic Center. Thirty students sang, danced, performed magic tricks and did stand-up comedy. CTP supports young adults as they transition to life after high school to achieve the greatest degree of independence and quality of life. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

*Where in the world*

Doug Paterson and Dan Whitmarsh at Churchill Downs in Louisville, KY.

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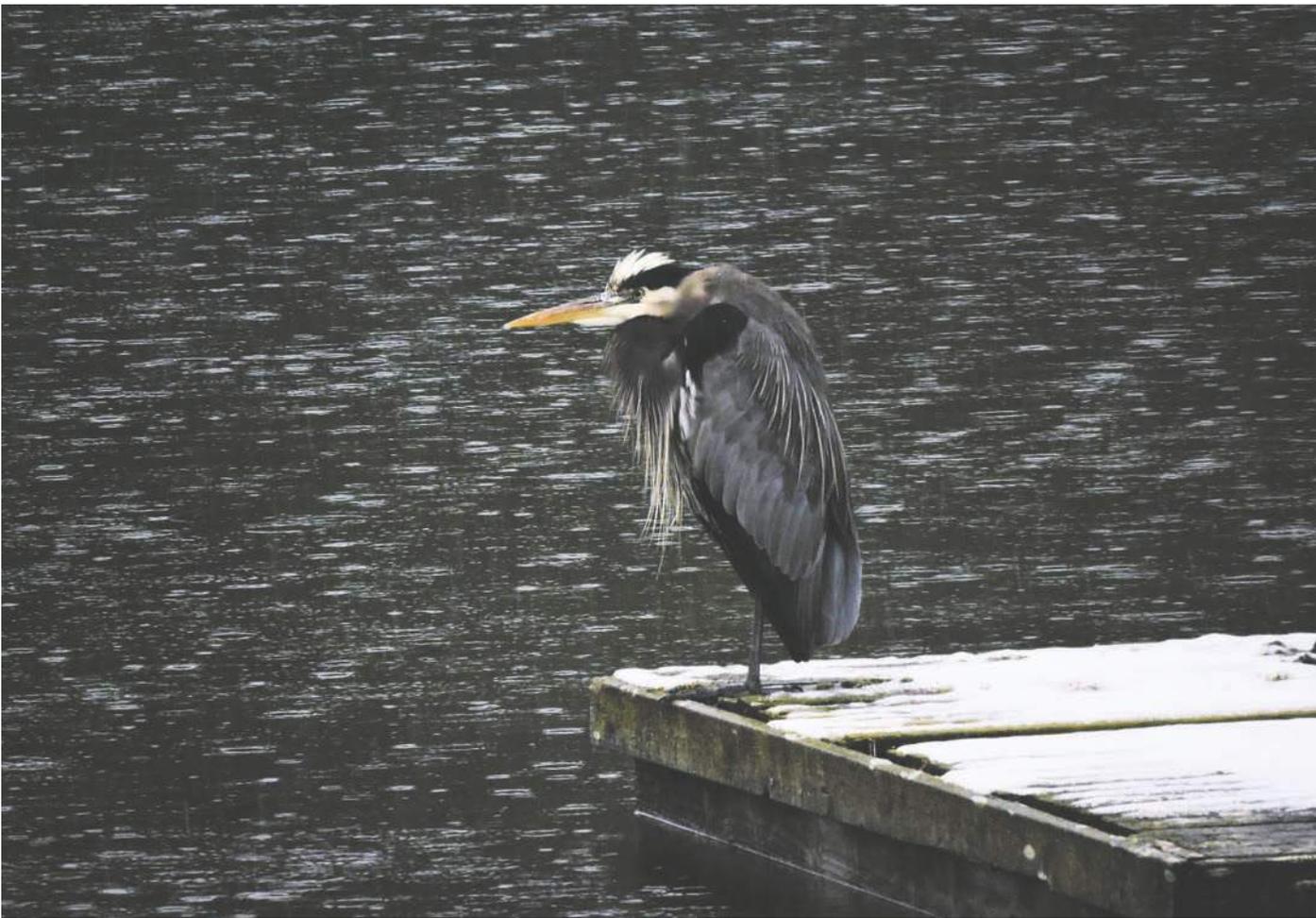
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*Left:* A grumpy-looking heron in Von Geldern Cove seems to barely tolerate the snow that hit the peninsula Feb. 6. *Photo: Ron Cameron*

*Left middle:* Gig Harbor seen on a winter night, taken from the boat ramp on the north end of the harbor. *Ed Johnson, KP News*

*Left bottom:* Three Fingers Mountain in the Cascades seen in an extreme telephoto shot taken in January. The mountain is 6,859 feet tall and located in Snohomish County near Granite Falls. The name refers to the mountain's three summits. *Photo: Ron Cameron*

*Below:* Dale Loy, dedicated percussionist and accomplished horticulturist, celebrates his 70th birthday with 150 friends at a rousing musical performance Feb. 4 at the KP Civic Center, where he once lived and worked as caretaker with his wife, Claudia. "That was a long time ago, but not long enough," Loy said. He and Claudia continue to serve on the civic center's board of directors. *Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News*

