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KP resident Jillian Reese suffers from bone marrow failure; cause unknown. She will be 16 in June. Photo: Trina Flaherty

KP Cares Supports a Family in Need

Sara Thompson, KP News

The Key Peninsula community has a way of wrapping itself around those in need of help. Trina Flaherty has been a part of that support network and now, as her family faces its own crisis, KP Cares has pledged to support her.

Flaherty's daughter, Jillian Reese, who will be 16 in June, was a healthy 3-year-old when she was hospitalized in Omaha with a life-threatening viral lung infection. She recovered, but a year later she was bruising easily and blood tests showed a very low platelet count.

Platelets are an essential part of the body's clotting system and if they are too low, the risk of serious bleeding is very high. For the next decade, Jillian's condition prevented her from activities where she might incur injuries that could cause bleeding. She could swim but not play baseball or run track.

When they moved back to the Key Peninsula in 2009 to be closer to family, Jillian was followed by doctors at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital for her blood disorder. Last winter, Jillian had problems with her

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A young orca breaches in Case Inlet. Photo: Kathy Bauer

Orcas Pay Extended Visit to KP

Ted Olinger, KP News

A pod of eight or more orcas visited the waters surrounding the Key Peninsula at the end of April for more than 10 days, according to local residents and whale researchers.

Ingrid Shumway, who lives on Henderson Bay just south of the Purdy Spit, first spotted orcas outside her window early in the morning of April 29. They had been heading south, she said, but then "I noticed them coming back in along the shore."

The whales stuck close to the shoreline and then entered Burley Lagoon. "They spent hours around here," Shumway said. "It was quite a sight." She said she had never seen orcas so close to shore or in the lagoon in the 25 years she and her husband have lived on the bay.

At least part of the group was identified as the T68 family, a pod of transient orcas (also known as Bigg's orcas), according to the Orca Network, a group of scientists and volunteers who track whales in the Salish Sea.

On April 20, the matriarch of the family, T68, was spotted traveling with her son, T68A, daughters T68Bs and unidentified

whales called Alaska Unknowns off Admiralty Inlet at the northern end of Puget Sound. The AK Unknowns were first spotted near Victoria, B.C., April 15, and had been seen only a few times before near Alaska, according to the BC Killer Whale Research Report group in Sydney, B.C.

T68A was the large male seen entering Burley Lagoon. Orcas live in matrilineal groups, with all offspring usually remaining with their mother until death, even after reproducing. The T68 family was the only one in KP waters positively identified at press time, though other transients were seen with them.

Orcas are identified primarily by the condition of their dorsal fins and the distinct white saddle patches behind them, a technique pioneered by Michael A. Bigg, the late Canadian marine biologist whose research identified them as a distinct population.

Phil and Kathy Bauer, who live on Case Inlet south of Vaughn Bay, spotted half a dozen or more orcas, including calves, just off shore May 4. "They were breaching and tail slapping and just playing around," Phil Bauer said. "We've seen them every once

CONTINUED PAGE 2

KP Community Council Receives Two Major Grants

Lisa Bryan, KP News

There was cause for celebration at the May 10 meeting of the Key Peninsula Community Council when it was announced the council had received two substantial grants to continue its work on behalf of the KP.

Council President Chuck West announced the award of \$153,000 from The Whisper Foundation to fund the next stage of the Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community, to be administered by a KPCC committee, including partnership co-directors Ben and Susan Paganelli.

"We had begun to think we wouldn't receive funding," said council Secretary Danna Webster. She also expressed her gratitude for the Paganellis: "They stuck with us throughout this whole funding drought and remained dedicated to this program."

Mary Williams, a professional grant writer on the steering committee, worked pro bono with Webster and the Paganellis on the successful grant application.

"It's very exciting and new, this idea of building community assets to enhance the community with these programs," Webster said.

The Whisper Foundation, created in 2016, is one of four from a legacy gift of the Gary E. Milgard Family Foundation. Each of the newly formed foundations reflects the philanthropic passions of the Milgard children.

With the ground work for the partnership in place, this new grant is intended for more direct funding of projects within the scope of the three primary target areas of the partnership: transportation, hunger, and health and wellness.

Council member and Transportation Committee Chair Marcia Harris announced KPCC was also awarded a new \$150,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Transportation to provide funding for KP School Bus Connects, an innovative free transportation program that represents a working partnership with KPCC, Peninsula School District, Red Barn Youth Center, Communities In Schools of Peninsula and Puget Sound Educational Service District.



T68A, a male with the tall dorsal fin, heads south with family members in Henderson Bay. Below: One of the T68 family approaches the Purdy Spit. Photos: Ingrid Shumway



ORCAS FROM PAGE 1

in a while over the years, but this was just incredible."

Transient orcas do not have specific territories, but travel long distances in coastal waters to hunt marine mammals and birds close to shore. Their diet, hunting techniques and vocalizations set them apart from open ocean orcas and the local resident populations of the Salish Sea.

The large number of orcas and the length of their stay may be related to the unusual number of sea lions lingering in Home and the Rocky Creek areas. Orca Network confirmed a sea lion kill by transient orcas close to shore near Richmond Beach in north Puget Sound May 8.

About 80 orcas known as J Clan spend most of their lives feeding on salmon around the San Juan Islands and Strait of Georgia, though they occasionally enter Puget Sound proper and have been observed as far south as Monterey, Calif.

fornia. The clan is made up of three families: J, K and L pods. Another resident population of about 200 whales in three clans—A, G and R—lives farther north in the waters around Vancouver Island. The two groups are not known to mix, interbreed or vocalize in the same dialect, according to the Center for Whale Research at Friday Harbor on San Juan Island.

Orcas can travel up to 100 miles a day and in short bursts of speed of 30 miles per hour. They live between 40 and 80 years, though one local matriarch, J2, also known as Granny, was thought to be 105 years old due to the number and age of her known descendants when she was last seen in October 2016.

Necropsies performed on residents and orcas around the world have revealed high levels of industrial toxins accumulating in these apex predators, according to the Center for Whale Research. J Clan has lost about 20 percent of its members over the last two decades and is the only orca population in the world considered an endangered species.

For more information or to report any whale sighting, go to www.orcanetwork.org.

KP CARES FROM PAGE 1

red blood cells (which carry oxygen) and her white cells (which fight infection). Her bone marrow was no longer producing these essential blood cells.

Jillian began to wear a mask to protect her from infections but, in December 2016, her doctor said that her risk was so severe, she should no longer attend classes at Peninsula High School.

She is now a part of the PHS Home to Hospital program, with a tutor coming once a week. Her outings are limited to a weekly trip to the library. Her best friends can visit, but they must wear masks. She has needed weekly transfusions of platelets to prevent life-threatening bleeding for the last four months.

"Jillian is full of life," Flaherty said. "She loves to read, loves anime and is a normal teenager—rambunctious, lively. I want her to be able to run and not worry about falling and bleeding out."

The ultimate treatment is a bone marrow transplant. Jillian will be evaluated for one through the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance this summer. The procedure will involve a long hospital stay and she must be in Seattle during recovery to be close to her medical team.

Flaherty, who has a degree in horticulture and started her own landscaping business, stopped working in December so that she could care for her daughter. She is grateful to have good insurance that will cover all the medical costs. But keeping up with rent on her place has been a challenge. Her landlords and her loyal customers have been supportive and, although housing will be provided in Seattle, living expenses will add up.

That is where KP Cares comes in.

"Mindy Baxter, Sylvia Wilson, Marilyn Hartley and I began publicly organizing fundraisers on the Key Peninsula Facebook group in 2014 for people with financial needs due to personal crisis," said Susan Freiler Mendenhall. "A year later, Marcia

Gibbons joined to guide us through the 501(c)(3) process. In late 2016, Marcia stepped down and Janet Acevedo joined as our treasurer."

As moderator of the Facebook page, Mendenhall hears about people who need help. "This is a tight-knit community and we are pretty connected to one another," she said.

They offer monetary assistance in the range of \$1,000 to \$5,000.

KP Cares plans to establish a fund so that resources will be readily accessible when needed. "Most of our fundraising activities are dependent on good weather," Mendenhall said. "And when a crisis occurs for a family, it could happen at any time. We'd like to have money available when it is needed."

When she is able to return to work, Flaherty said that 10 percent of her earnings will go back to KP Cares. "If everyone on the Key Peninsula could donate just \$5, it would make an incredible difference in people's lives," she said.

Donations to support the Flaherty family or to the KP Cares fund can be mailed to: KP Cares, P.O. Box 1, Vaughn, WA 98394. For more information, Mendenhall can be reached via Facebook at KPCaresWA or text message at 253-549-6766.

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Ham radio operators (left to right) Lynn Neece, Thomas Smith and Mark Yordy will train for emergency-preparedness communication later in June. Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News

Ham Radio Operators Train for Emergencies

Carolyn Wiley, KP News

On the fourth weekend of every June since 1933, amateur (ham) radio operators across the nation have participated in “field day,” the largest ham radio event of the year. Lynn Neece, a member of RF Wireless Amateur Radio Club of Burley, said that while field day is an opportunity for the public to learn about the hobby and how to get started, for members it is also a training exercise for responding to a natural disaster or other emergency.

Members will experience what it is like to operate away from their normal home stations by being part of a simulated emergency that requires setting up under adverse conditions, including the use of emergency power and portable antennas. The exercise will provide a chance to test systems and practice emergency protocols that are necessary when regular communications are disrupted.

Neece said he enjoys the technical side of the hobby and derives satisfaction from knowing that he would be able to help out neighbors in the event of emergency and reach his family in Pennsylvania.

The RF Wireless Amateur Radio Club has been affiliated with the national organization, Amateur Radio Relay League, for a little over 30 years, Neece said. The local club has been active in providing introductory training and classes for members who want to earn entry-level licenses as well as advanced training.

“Some, but not all, of the members are emergency-certified operators and are called up to provide services through the District 5 Emergency Operations Center (EOC),” he

said. They provide communication support for the Red Cross and fire districts. On the Key Peninsula, regular EOC training takes place at fire station 47 in Home.

Mark Yordy, a Wauna resident and ham radio operator, works in the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management and helps coordinate Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) drills in the Western Washington Section, District 5. District 5 serves all Pierce County communities. The Burley group is part of the ARES network. Yordy said that during an emergency, the local EOCs send their information to District 5 ARES and the messages are sorted and prioritized before distribution to the appropriate departments.

Although much of the focus is upon emergency preparedness, other services are fulfilled by ham radio operators, such as on-site coordination of marathon races like the Sea-to-Narrows, long-distance bike races like Seattle-to-Portland and recreational boating activities such as the Vic-Maui International Yacht Race. Thomas Smith, president of the Burley Radio Club, takes pride in having been a crew member who handled communications for his team on the Vic-Maui race in both 2004 and 2006.

Neece is coordinating the local field day at YMCA Camp Seymour this year. He has assembled a team of people who will be on duty throughout the 24-hour period beginning 11 a.m. Saturday, June 24, until 11 a.m. Sunday. The community is invited to visit and learn about the technical side of wireless radio communication.

For more information, go to www.w7jq.com.

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Students take a break during their clinic with former PHS band teacher Rickey Badua, Ph.D., far right with Justin Ehli. Photo: April Agnew

PHS Band Wins Big in Hollywood

Ted Olinger, KP News

Members of the Peninsula High School band took top honors at a contest in Hollywood during a music festival April 27 to 30.

Seventy-eight of the 110 PHS band members went on the trip, according to band teacher Justin Ehli, to compete in a WorldStrides Onstage music festival. Ehli, who has been at PHS for six of his seven years teaching, composed arrangements of "Greensleeves" and the contemporary "African Dreams" by American composer Brant Karrick for the competition, combining his two band classes and percussion class into a single performance group.

That group took home first-place trophies for best band in the AAA category and highest-scoring band, in addition to a special adjudicator's gold-rating award for best overall group. The PHS students were up against two other AAA bands and groups from 10 schools ranging from middle school to college. In all, some 900 students participated.

"Before the trip, I was thinking to myself that this is probably the best-prepared group musically that I've brought on a trip," Ehli said.

PHS senior and Minter area resident Kara Haggard also won an award for her flute solo at the beginning of "African Dreams."

"The awards ceremony at Universal Studios was a huge shocker for all of us," Haggard said. "Usually we'll go to marching competitions after having practiced really hard for months, stand around in the rain all day and get a participation award for our efforts. So you can imagine it was really crazy for us to get three awards in one night, plus my solo award."

Haggard took up the flute in Key Peninsula Middle School band and has been playing for seven years.

Tina Burbridge, of Home, was the trip coordinator and a parent chaperone. She has been in the band booster club for six or seven years. "I'm on my third student going through the band program with another one coming up," she said. Her daughter, junior Haley Burbridge, plays French horn, trumpet and mellophone.

"They did really well," Tina Burbridge said.

The booster club helps raise funds to finance band trips, among other things. This year's efforts included an online fundraiser through Snap-Raise.com, a site most often used by high school sports teams, as

well as more traditional methods such as car washes and local restaurant takeovers. The remaining cost per student for this trip was \$800, Burbridge said.

The band also participated in a clinic with an old friend: Rickey Badua, Ph.D., director of band music at California State University at Pomona. Badua spent four years revitalizing the PHS band program, Ehli said.

"Rickey laid the foundation for the program, which is why we go on trips and we go to festivals and we do a lot of things, because that's what a successful band program does," Ehli said. "So it was

nice for me to be able to bring a bunch of kids down there and show him how the program is doing. He said it was stronger than when he left, which was a nice compliment."

This was the second band trip for PHS junior Sean Doud, of Gig Harbor, who has been playing tuba for six years. "Most of the time we just go to get rid of the seriousness of school and be with the rest of our family, our band family," he said. "But we took home gold trophies and it was really exciting."

"The hardest part was coming back to AP testing the next week," he said.



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Art and Science Work Together at KPMS

Lisa Bryan, KP News

Chris Bronstad and Richard Miller both teach science and art at Key Peninsula Middle School. Both believe the two fields are essential and intertwined, even as state and national standards push students closer to tech-based education.

Miller's academic pursuits began with a photography scholarship. He did a year of photography in a fine arts program and, while he loved the medium, he doubted his chances of earning a good living at it. He changed course and earned a medical degree, went on to work in scientific research and later founded a successful technology consulting business with his wife. In their very brief retirement, both decided to go back to school to pursue a second

career. He earned a master's degree in education and has been teaching at KPMS for the last five years.

Miller teaches science, robotics, 3-D and CAD drawing in addition to providing enrichment classes for advanced students at KPMS. Last year was his first teaching photography and the students responded well. Bobbie Worden, then a seventh-grader, won first place in a Pierce County Library contest out of more than 1,000 entries (KP News, June 2016).

"A huge movement for STEM-focused instruction began about 15 years ago, but now we're hearing more calls for integration of the arts, thus 'STEAM'—bringing in more arts to balance science," Miller said. (STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math.)

"We start with the principles of composition, to the technicalities of the camera and then we go on to shooting images, which includes lots of assignments," Miller said. "In the portraits, students are aiming to see their souls."

Peninsula School District Superintendent Rob Manahan had his official portrait taken by KPMS students this year.



Frankie Kelley shows off her sunset. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

"The kids really like doing portraits, working in teams, adjusting the lighting for differing effects, all working to achieve the kind of photo the subject feels best expresses them," Miller said. "These students are really doing college-level portrait photography."

Seventh-grader Shannon Bundrick took Miller's photography class in the first trimester and loved it. "At the time, my hair was purple and that day it wasn't behaving very well, but Mr. Miller let me mess with the photo color and I noticed it really looked like one of those old photos," she said.

When asked if she thought the photo captured her personality, Shannon said, "I really like helping out here at school and I'm often the moral support for many of my friends so, yeah, I think it turned out pretty well."

Chris Bronstad has been teaching for 28 years. The longtime science and award-winning art teacher believes the two subjects are deeply connected, since both disciplines require natural curiosity, observation and experimentation to achieve results.

"Science is analytical, involving numbers and data, but it's also big-picture stuff, seeing patterns, which is very right brain," he said. "To say that one is exclusive of the other just isn't the case."

One of his students, seventh-grader Francesca "Frankie" Kelley, was working on a portrait based on "Star Wars: Rogue One" characters, using double-ended markers on canvas in a recent class. Bronstad gave feedback on elements of her work, praising her compositional strengths and use of color while suggesting some highlighting techniques to give greater depth to the facial features. Frankie quickly went to the internet to find the exact image she used as her inspiration to better "see" what Bronstad knew from years of experience was there.

"The kids who impress me the most are the ones who are willing to take instruction, but they're also willing to take risks to try something else," he said.

In addition to his KPMS classes, Bronstad teaches



Self-portrait by eighth-grader Shannon Bundrick.

at a district program called Career and Pathway Expo (CAPE), a STEM-focused workshop targeting middle school girls to generate more interest and exposure to careers in science and technology.

"I've taught a workshop the last three years on scientific illustration at CAPE, which is held at Harbor Ridge Middle School in April," he said. "We work on drawing shells, feathers and stuff. The class is always packed and they love it."

"Whether girls or boys, at this age, they love drawing," Bronstad said. "We definitely have KPMS kids bound for SOTA (School of the Arts in Tacoma), and KPMS students headed for careers in science and technology as well."

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Sue Kingsbury-Surratt
INSIGHTS OF AN ISLANDER



Farewell Captain Farris

Seventeen years ago, Herron Island needed a dedicated captain for our ferry, the M/V Charlie Wells. We got that, thankfully, plus a resilient and effective commander and crew leader.

Already seasoned by experience, John Farris arrived in his green Mazda with his wife, Terrill, and dog, Willie, just in time to meet the new millennium in November 1999. His previous 25 years were spent in marine construction and dredging and transportation of varied equipment as a captain of all sorts of vessels. His travels stretched from Southern California to north of the Arctic Circle.

My husband Deckhand Donnie Surratt and Captain John Farris became the first-string team loading, transporting and unloading weekday commuters. They enjoyed or insulted each other with their infamous sarcasm and smirks.

One of their unforgettable shared memories was a water rescue of a fellow islander. They were plugging along at several knots and came across a comical sight. Their friend, Ed, was in the water clinging to the back of his skiff while a fish he had caught was literally swimming inside the boat. On their second pass, they pulled up alongside him, extended a ladder and retrieved him, all while on a scheduled run. Turns out Ed decided to fish from his lawn chair in his skiff, which inevitably lost balance and flung him overboard once he had a fish on.

Throughout his 17 years as senior captain, John was always loyal and steadfast on behalf of his crew. His contributions brought cost-effective ferry maintenance and management decisions that saved Herron Management Co. members hundreds of thousands of dollars. He fought for better benefits for his crew and was willing to swim against the political tide to do so. One such triumph was obtaining beeper pay for the ferry crew on call. He sacrificed for the island as a whole, as did his wife, Terrill, as the top-tier contacts around the clock for emergencies or other random nuisances that came up. As a deckhand's wife, I am thankful for all his efforts.

Some pleasures Captain John enjoyed were watching the children come and go, year after year.

"It is amazing how much they grow

throughout the winter," he said. My girls were 4 and 7 when Captain John became their personal captain, shuttling them to and from school by water every day. Captain John also enjoyed the year-round, serene beauty of the Olympic Mountains, whether from his living room or the pilothouse. He began photographing and blogging about the amazing sunrises and sunsets. He managed to capture some great photos and videos of eagles, ospreys and porpoises, to name a few.



Captain John Farris on his last ferry run, pointing to orcas in the distance. Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News

Now the time has come for Captain John to sail away into his sunset of choice for retirement on the mainland. Neighbors come and go, but here is a man who left his mark making some 40,000 trips toward retirement as he crossed Case Inlet as skipper of the Charlie Wells. With Captain John gone, some of Herron Island's allure has diminished. Time has a way of dissipating like a thick fog and it has done just that here, revealing change and an unpredictable horizon.

After his final run April 29, Captain John walked up the ferry ramp for the last time and nailed his captain's hat to the passenger shed on Herron Island, formally ending his career.

He will be missed.

Sue Kingsbury-Surratt lives on Herron Island.

Anne Nesbit
SIREN'S SONG



Silence is Not Golden

As prom, graduation and summer break draw near, we must remind ourselves how quickly these times of celebration can turn to tragedy. All too often, these benchmarks in life are tinged with the use of drugs, alcohol and, more often than many would like to think, sexual assault. When things go sideways, people are often too afraid to

come forward. Many can look back on their own lives during this time and acknowledge that they got through just fine. What about those who cannot? Sadly, all too often we do not hear about those who were victimized.

Many who have experienced sexual assault are reluctant to disclose the incident out of fear. Negative reactions from professionals have led survivors to question whether future disclosures would be effective; negative reactions from family and friends reinforce feelings of self-blame. A negative reaction from either source reinforces the uncertainty of whether their experience was even rape at all.

Assault survivors are all too often exposed to victim-blaming behaviors or attitudes from others. This experience can seem like a second assault or second rape. Speaking out may even have detrimental consequences for survivors subjected to further trauma by the very people they turn to for help.

Knowledge is power and we must embrace this as an ideal. We must vigilantly teach our children how to protect themselves by being able to analyze situations and safeguard against potential wrongful acts. We must support those who come forward while encouraging everyone to take a stand against harm toward others.

At Stanford University in January 2015, two young men intervened and stopped the rape of a 22-year-old unconscious woman. They were rightfully regarded as heroes. Yet even in this case, the assailant was given a light sentence, once again favoring the privileged and reinforcing the powerlessness of the victim. Do we not have an obligation to speak out against any situation in which an assault on another is marginalized? By not doing so, we become bystanders in a culture that reinforces the silence of victims.

As parents, we need to empower our children and create a culture that protects sexual assault victims. It's important to figure out how our children can confront comments that seem harmless but subtly reinforce a lack of respect and credibility for rape victims. What may seem an off-handed remark about sexuality says, "If you're raped one day, no one will believe you, either."

There are over 293,000 victims (age 12 or older) of rape and sexual assault each year in the United States. Most of the time, the victim knows the attacker. It could be your daughter or your son, since men are also routinely victims of assault and harassment.

Bystanders play an essential role in shifting our culture toward one that condemns rather than condones sexual harassment. It is uncomfortable, even for adults, to confront someone who is

disparaging another. It seems easier and safer to stay silent. But abuse thrives in silence. When we stay quiet, we contribute to a culture that demands that victims stay silent too. We need to teach our kids how to correct these misconceptions and stand up for victims and themselves before a crime occurs.

The best way to do so is to model courageous communication ourselves. We have many opportunities when simply watching TV or listening to the car radio with our kids to model this behavior. The trick is to refute what's been said without directly confronting the person who has said it. "It's never OK to blame a victim who has been attacked sexually," is a great invitation for important dialog. Talking about assault—how it happens and why and how to prevent it—is the most powerful weapon we have to fight it.

Anne Nesbit is a volunteer battalion chief for Key Peninsula Fire Dept. She lives in Lakebay.

Cathy Warner
KEY PEN & INK



Whale Wishing

It's Sunday morning just after 10 and I'm standing in my bathtub fully clothed, scanning the horizon between towering neighborhood firs, binoculars trained on the furthest patch of Henderson Bay I can see. I just received a text message from the Orca Network: Orcas were spotted 20 minutes ago in Carr Inlet headed toward Purdy.

No sign of them from my tub. In two minutes I'm parked alongside the spit, just half a mile from home. The beach is deserted except for a man with a big-lensed camera and a woman with binoculars, their gazes sweeping the water. I've missed the whales. Again.

Just the day before, Orca Network alerted me that orcas had been spotted at 6:30 a.m. traveling south from Minter Creek toward Lakebay. I figured they were long gone when I headed out for a day of errands four hours later. But State Route 302 was backed up well past my road and it took several minutes to ease into the traffic and another 10 to inch along down to the spit. The shoulder was crowded with cars parked on both sides, with dozens of people piling back into those cars with cameras and binoculars in hand.

I learned that those early morning south-bound transient orcas had flipped direction and swam not only back up Henderson Bay

but into Burley Lagoon, under the Purdy Bridge and out again. Such a rare event and I'd been stuck in my car.

Twenty years ago on a summer morning, my daughters and I boarded a bus for a whale-watching excursion in the San Juan Islands while my husband attended a conference. It was our first trip to the Pacific Northwest.

A few minutes outside Friday Harbor, our captain turned off the engine and the boat bobbed as dozens of orcas swam in the near distance. They were huge, sleek, black-and-white bodies slicing through the water with silent grace, dorsal fins disappearing underwater in perfect symmetry.

Then one surfaced so close that I heard its breath before I saw it. That exhale, that vibration, struck a resonant chord in my body and something ancient in my soul leaped in response. Then I saw its eye and my own eyes overflowed. It felt like meeting God.

Most people, I think, would view meeting God or an intimate orca moment as a once-in-a-lifetime event and live content with the memory. I would've been one of those people, if I hadn't moved to the shores of Puget Sound five years ago.

Since then, I've come to realize I've moved to the home of the endangered southern resident orcas (the pods I saw in the San Juans). I've immersed myself in orca education; joined the Center for Whale Research; read "Death at Seaworld;" watched "Blackfish;" and learned the differences between the transient (or Bigg's) mammal-eating orcas and the southern residents and the perils of water pollution, lack of salmon and falling birth-rates they face. Last year, I attended Orca Network volunteer training.

I've dropped everything on a dozen occasions and, prompted by Facebook posts, headed to the nearest viewpoint looking for orcas. (There is always someone else at the lookout as well, so I know I'm not alone in my obsession.) On half of those occasions, I've spotted them—tiny forms in my binoculars, miles from shore, never visible with the naked eye. Never close enough to photograph. Never close enough to hear. But more than some people will ever experience.

Waiting at the water's edge, the demands of daily life evaporate, the outside world shrinks to my field of vision and I absorb the beauty of my surroundings. Emptied of life's usual clatter, I'm filled with peace and thankful for the experience, whether or not the whales appear. So it is with immense gratitude that I will continue this discipline of devotion, scanning our region's shores as I stand alongside kindred spirits, wishing

for whales, hoping, one day, to hear one more orca breathe.

Cathy Warner lives in Wauna.

Brook Hurst Stephens
LIVING FARAWAY



An Ode to Rhubarb

Fewer things conjure up stronger emotions than the word rhubarb. Love it or hate it, it's here for a few weeks and chances are you're going to encounter it before the season is over—if you're lucky. I'm a fan of this mysterious-looking plant that pops up in the springtime, seemingly overnight.



Recipe next page Photo: Adobe Stock

Rhubarb comes from the French word *Rubarbe*, which came from the medieval Latin word *Rhenobarbarum*. *Rha* was a name the Scythians used for what is now the Volga River. *Barbarum* is a term for "foreign" and the Greeks and Romans noted it was only the foreigners who lived around the *Rha* River who grew the strange plant. When you put the two words together, you end up with the word rhubarb. It grew wild along the banks of the *Rha*, because it loves cold, damp climates. Sound familiar?

Rhubarb goes all the way back to 2700 B.C.E., where it was an ingredient in Chinese herbal medicines. In the first century, the Greeks and Romans imported the dried roots, again, for medicinal purposes. Around the 16th century, someone in England finally wised up and started using it for culinary purposes, most likely because it bears a resemblance to its smaller cousin, sorrel, another tart and sometimes maligned delicacy.

Is it a fruit or is it a vegetable? Botanically, rhubarb is a vegetable, but the U.S. Customs Court in Buffalo, New York, ruled in 1947 that it is a fruit, since that is how it is normally treated. Rhubarb is mainly

CONTINUED PAGE 8



CIVIC CENTER CORNER

A Column of Thanks

This month there is so much for which to be thankful—

Livable Community Fair was a huge success thanks in part to many volunteers including: **4-H Cat Tales Club** members Joseph, Marianne, William, Joey, Caitlin, Alexa and Tommy provided exhibitor support and ran food orders. **Boy Scout Troup 220** Scouts Adrian, Mark, Don, Gabe and Daniel assisted with set-up and tear-down. **Friends of the Civic Center** Steve & Rodger Kaffer, Dave, Shane, Caleb, Mark, Luke & Kenna Plummer, Bill Jones and Christian Koehnke. **KPCCA Board** chaired by Tim Kezele supported by Keith Axelsen, Kris Barton, Ed Brown, Scott Dervaes, Peggy Gablehouse, Tracy Geiss, Jena Henak, Claudia Jones, Bruce Macdonald, Pat Medveckus, and Ted Ralston. **Touch a truck exhibitors** KP Firefighters, WA State Patrol, and Archon Tree Service. **Music** provided by Bluegrass Minstrels and KPMS Middle School.

Grateful thanks to **Platinum Sponsors** Peninsula Light, **Silver Sponsors:** Food Market in Key Center & Lake Kathryn, KP School Bus Connects courtesy of Marcia & Jeff Harris, and IAFF KP Firefighters for the Trout Pond, **Bronze Sponsors:** Key Peninsula Community Center, Fresh Food Revolution, and Costco. **In-kind Silver Sponsors:** Key Pen Parks, KGHP Radio aka the Walrus, KP News and balloons supplied by Sunnycrest Nursery & Floral.

Thanks to the sponsors, volunteers and hundreds of community members who enjoyed this year's fair.

Spring Appeal Donations Thank you to those of you who generously responded to our giving campaign last month. We were thrilled to see stacks of golden envelopes in the mail. There's still time to help us meet the spring goal – look for the results in July.

Parks Appreciation Day Over 50 volunteers spent the morning sprucing up Civic Center grounds. Shovels, rakes and hoes driven by 100 hours of dedication made a big difference.

Tennis Courts Norm Brones, with help from Ted Ralston, pressure-washed the winter patina from the tennis courts. After many hours of tedious dedication in rain or shine (mostly rain), we hereby dub him Mr. Tennis Court. Thanks, Norm.

Coming Events

Jun 28 -Jul 4 Fireworks Stand in Key Center
Thanks to Buck's Steakhouse for our spot in your parking lot

October 7 Blues & Brews Live music & microbrews

November 11 Winter Warm-up & Chili Competition
Featuring the finest crafts from Key Peninsula artisans, Chili Competition, music and more

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RHUBARB FROM PAGE 7
eaten in pies and is often referred to as the “pie plant” in this country.

I happen to love rhubarb not just because it's delicious, but it's even fun to say. I remember my high school drama coach, Mrs. Little, telling us to talk among ourselves in a crowd scene. When we asked her what we should say, she said, “Everyone just repeat the word ‘rhubarb’ over and over again and it will sound like a conversation.” It worked.

Several years ago, I organized a small rhubarb festival in Seattle. I asked attendees to bring their favorite rhubarb dishes and we had an eye-opening assortment of both sweet and savory creations, from rhubarb upside-down cake to rhubarb curry. One person even brought something as simple as cut-up raw rhubarb stalks, like you would serve celery sticks on a crudité platter, but instead of a dip they provided a dish of sugar and a dish of salt, because that's how they grew up eating it in their grandmother's kitchen.

If you have rhubarb, enjoy it before the end of June. A good rule of thumb is to never harvest it after the Fourth of July. It allows the plant to grow for the rest of the summer and it will begin to store the sugars and nutrients needed to get through the following winter and produce well the next year. Harvest rhubarb when stalks are about a foot long. Grab the base of the stalk and pull it away from the plant with a gentle twist. Always leave at least two stalks per plant to ensure continued production and you'll have a bountiful harvest for up to 20 years without having to replace your plants.

I'll leave you with a recipe for another delicious way to enjoy rhubarb in a very pretty pink concoction:

Rhubarb Lemonade Makes 8 cups
3 cups sliced rhubarb stalks (about 1 lb.)
1½ cup sugar
1½ cup lemon juice, preferably fresh-squeezed

1. Place 4 cups water in medium saucepan, add rhubarb and simmer for 30 minutes. Remove from heat. 2. Place a fine sieve over a large bowl and strain pulp, gently pressing down on pulp. Discard pulp. 3. Stir sugar into warm rhubarb liquid until dissolved. 4. Add lemon juice and two more cups water or to taste. 5. Transfer to pitcher, chill and serve.

I have vowed to host another rhubarb festival someday. Perhaps Key Peninsula is ready for one?

Brook Hurst Stephens lives at Historic Faraway in Longbranch.

Letters to the Editor

Insights on Lyme Disease

There is one simple reason for Lyme disease (and other vector-borne infections) case numbers remaining low in Washington. We have an amazing number of Lyme-literate physicians here—but they do not report cases, fearing insurance companies will bring charges to medical boards due to the infamous Infectious Diseases Society of America Guidelines that deny chronic Lyme. Patients pay in cash and do what they can to protect treating physicians who take chronic Lyme very seriously.

Does this lead to some doctors taking advantage of the situation to make money? Yes, unfortunately it does. But the Lyme community is close and its many members carefully share information on doctors worldwide. Research and education is also shared. As most chronic patients know, community is what gets us through the roughest times.

We try very hard to educate the public about Lyme prevention in May, Lyme disease awareness month. We work in our communities to prevent others from having to take the difficult journey our family is on.

Your Lyme article (May 2017) left out one very important tip we would like to share with readers. After hiking, gardening or whatever way you choose to enjoy the outdoors, toss your clothes into the dryer on high for 10 to 15 minutes. Ticks cannot survive the dry heat. Please, do not use any old wives' tales to remove ticks—they do not work. Google “tick tool” and carry this device on your key chain.

Enjoy the changing seasons and be safe out there. We care.

Lorraine Hart, Rocky Creek

Lorraine Hart welcomes anyone with questions about Lyme disease to contact her at lorrainehart@gmail.com or consult her Facebook page, Harts of Lyme.

More on Lyme Disease

The information that was in your article is accurate according to the Center for Disease Control but is not accurate as far as what the Lyme disease community is reporting.

The CDC's standard of a positive test only catches about 20 percent of Lyme cases. There are no false positives in the test, but there are plenty of false negatives. The most accurate test these days is not approved by the CDC: It uses a technique called the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) used in molecular biology to amplify a single copy or a few copies of a segment of DNA. It detects the DNA of Lyme disease if present in tissue, blood or urine, while the CDC test just looks for antibodies to the bacteria (some people don't develop antibodies and therefore are even more sick and test negative). There are no false positives with the PCR-DNA test.

Some statistics say as many as 50 percent of ticks carry Lyme disease and it's not isolated to the East Coast by any means. Everyone should be concerned about tick bites. Ticks carry more than 100 different infectious diseases and unfortunately they are in the Pacific Northwest.

For more information, go to www.lyme-disease.org.

Jennifer Guyler, Home

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.

In March, Angel Guild awarded \$8,000 in grants to

YMCA Before-and-After-School Programs	\$2,500
YMCA Camp Colman Scout Reach Program	\$3,500
Henderson Bay High School Scholarships	\$1,000
KP Cat Tales 4-H	\$500
KP Parks and Recreation	\$500

Angel Guild Thrift Shop

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



KP Toastmasters Train for Public Speaking, Participation and Leadership

Ted Olinger, KP News

"It's not about giving toasts; that keeps people away," said Rozina Vertz, the Key Center-Pierce County library branch supervisor and a KP Toastmaster club member. "It kept me away because I thought I would feel so inadequate among people there giving rousing toasts and rousing speeches. But there's more to it."

The KP Toastmasters have been training their members in speech craft and leadership since Frank Shirley expanded the club to the KP from Gig Harbor eight years ago.

"I was always shy and I always had a problem with communicating," said Vertz, who immigrated to the United States from West Germany in 1973. "Thirty years ago, when I first heard about Toastmasters, I knew that I should be in it. I had other things to do, like raising children and working, but of course that was always just an excuse."

"Then I was a supervisor and I had to go to meetings with 20 or 30 people, and the first two years I just participated by listening," she said. "What changed was that eight years ago Frank Shirley came into the library and brought this poster to hang up, and here it was."

Toastmasters began in 1905 as a series of speaking clubs organized by Ralph C. Smedley, director of education at the YMCA in Bloomington, Illinois, to teach young men to speak in public settings and encourage participation in their communities. That approach evolved into a supportive, learn-by-doing method that has been spread by Toastmaster clubs all over the world. Women were not admitted to the clubs until the 1980s.

"Basically, it's about leadership and confidence by learning to speak in public, which is the biggest fear for everybody," said William Michael Paul, a past Toastmaster president.

"You get a manual with 10 speeches in it," he said. "Your first speech is called 'The Ice Breaker' and it's only five minutes long, and then it's built up in blocks. You learn about voice modulation, eye contact, hand gestures, eliminating filler words. You learn how to evaluate with helpful criticism and how to listen. That gives people confidence to come back; we don't want to scare anyone away."

"I took an F in college just to avoid an oral report," said current club president Steve Packer. "I was one of the slower guys to get through my manual. But there are things I want to do with my life and public speaking is one of them. I want to be able to get in front of people and talk about things that I'm passionate about."

"I've been blessed to do about 30 movies, so I didn't think I needed this but they asked me to give a speech about myself," Paul said. "I grabbed the podium and I started shaking. I couldn't look anybody in the eye because in movies, it's just you, and on stage, there's the fourth wall and you don't ever have to look at anybody. And they welcomed me and it took off."

"The hardest thing was the first speech," Vertz said. "It was supposed to be four to five minutes. I would time it and it would turn out to be 21 minutes. The title was 'Reading Is a Waste of Time.' I stood up there, shaking in my boots and with a bad voice, but I got it over with."

"The reason I presented this speech is because reading wasn't encouraged in my family," she said. "There were no books in our house. My parents were farmers and there were seven or eight kids at home, and any time you sat there reading, you did nothing; you weren't working. This was one of my defining experiences growing up because I was the only one who did this. It separated me from my family in many ways."

Vertz has worked in the Pierce County library system for 27 years. She has been the Key Center branch supervisor since 2005.

"I think one of the changes that happened is that I feel more responsible for voicing my opinion, because now I know how," she said.

KP Toastmasters has 12 active members and invites anyone interested to attend one of the weekly meetings. For more information, go to www.toastmasters.org or call Steve Packer at 253-514-1803.

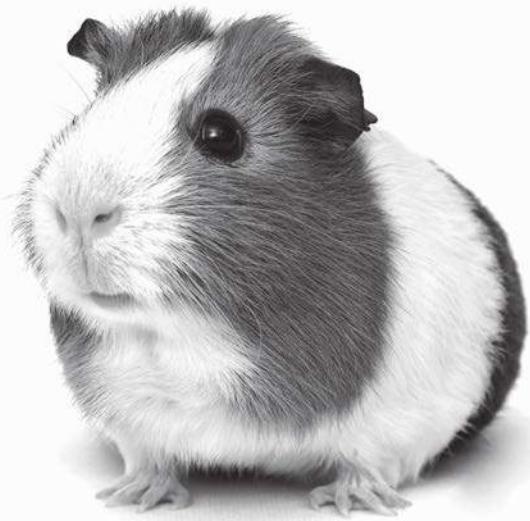


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www.longbranchchurch.net

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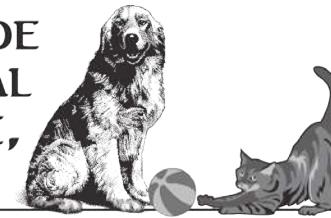
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New County Ordinance Cracks Down on Nuisance Properties

Lisa Bryan, KP News

On May 16, the Pierce County Council passed Ordinance 2017-22 to combat public nuisance properties in unincorporated Pierce County. The new ordinance, effective immediately, declared nuisance properties the highest code enforcement priority for the Department of Planning and Public Works, requiring violations to be resolved within 90 days of the issuance of county notice of complaint, or else be referred to the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office.

Yvonne Reed, code enforcement supervisor for Planning and Public Works, made a presentation to the Key Peninsula Community Council at its meeting May 10, before the ordinance passed, to explain the county's cleanup process.

"If the new ordinance passes, we're going to give solid waste violations, junk vehicle or any property maintenance code violations top priority," Reed said. Other complaints such as illegal businesses or animal complaints "will be lower priority for us," she said.

Earlier this year, the council transferred solid waste enforcement from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to the Planning and Public Works code enforcement arm, Pierce County Responds. Pierce County Responds is a nationally recognized program created in 2002 as a clearing-house for public-nuisance complaints and coordinates multiple agency efforts to resolve those complaints.

Property cleanup, referred to as "abatement," can be cooperative or uncooperative. With cooperation from the property owner, the county can assist by issuing a one-time voucher to help defray proper disposal costs.

Whether cooperative or not, if the county does the cleanup, it uses professional abatement estimators and contractors and keeps disposal costs down through recycling. The county recoups the entire cost of the cleanup by filing a lien on the subject property. Like all property tax liens, it must be paid in full with interest within three years or the property goes up for auction to satisfy the debt.

"When we first started this program, we thought it would work and it's turned out even better than we had hoped," Reed said. "Thanks in part

to interest collected on liens from 2007 to 2015, Pierce County Responds was able to recoup 101 percent of the cost to clean up public-nuisance properties throughout the county."

The county executive and council responded to increased citizen complaints by departmental restructuring and issuing the new ordinance, and authorized Planning and Public Works to hire two additional enforcement employees.

After Chris and Sally Honse of Glide, Oregon, foreclosed on Key Center property they tried to sell in a real estate deal gone bad in 2013, they found the 7-acre property contained 180 junk vehicles, 550 used tires, car batteries, old paint, propane cylinders and other hazardous waste. The Honses could have chosen to have Pierce County perform the abatement, but after spending so much money in legal fees to get their property back, they did not want to incur a lien and

instead felt they had no choice but to call upon family members to help clean up the property.

It took nine months. There were 25 truckloads hauled to the Purdy Transfer Station and seven truckloads of wood waste taken to North Mason Fiber in Belfair, according to Chris Honse.

Pierce County code enforcement officers helped by inventorying and issuing the junk vehicle affidavits necessary to dispose of the vehicles, but the cost of abatement was borne entirely by the Honses.

"We thought we were setting ourselves up for future retirement income," Chris Honse said. Rather than add to it, they depleted their savings to protect their most important asset.

"Pierce County is able to recoup all their expenditures, which is not the same for blameless private property owners," Honse said. "The laws need to change."

KP Groups Receive 'Community Spirit' Grants from GGHF

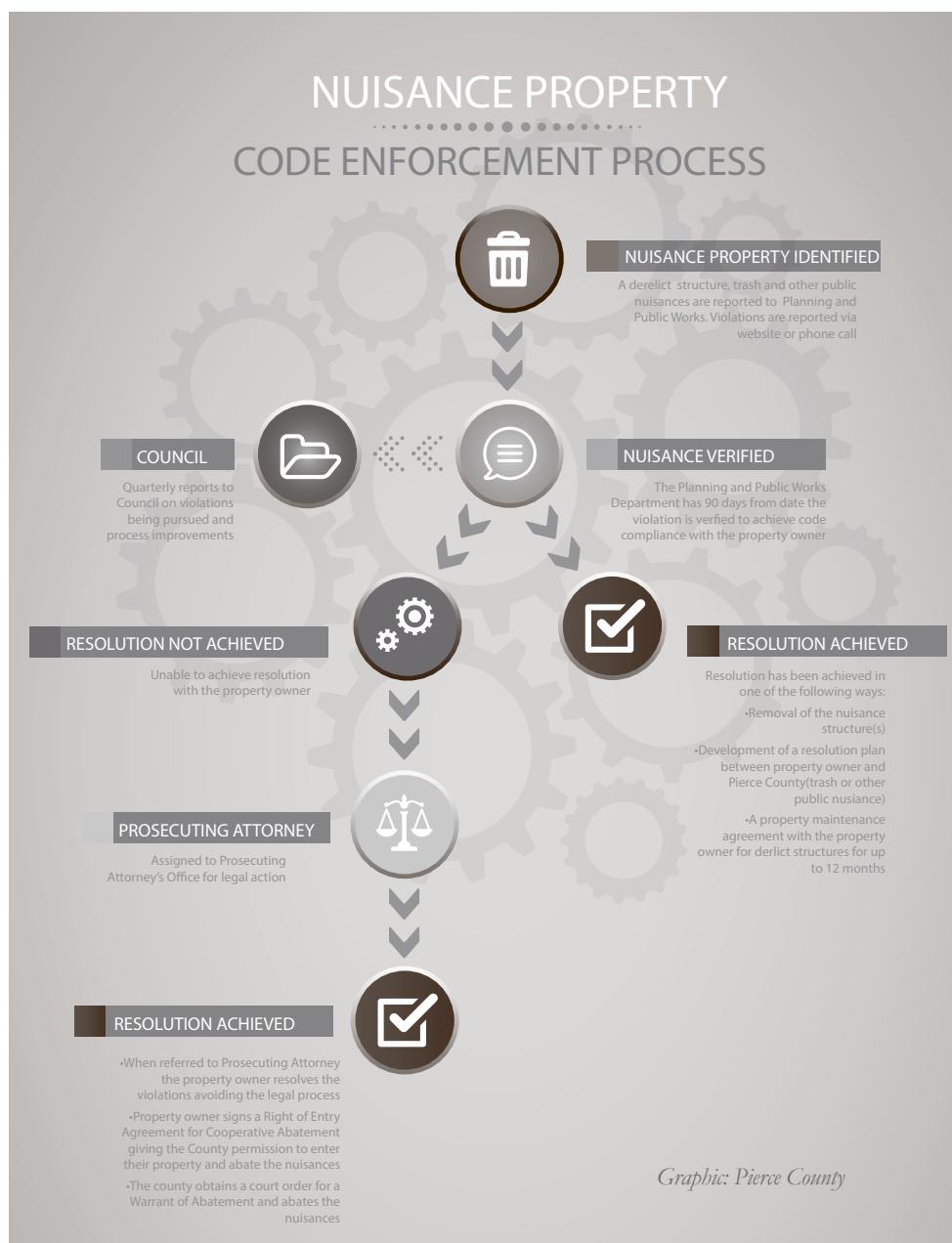
Staff Report

The Greater Gig Harbor Foundation awarded grants of \$500 to four organizations on the Key Peninsula and one for \$250 at its annual celebration May 5. Now in its 11th year, GGHF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has provided over \$4.8 million in funds, land and services to the greater Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula, according to Jud Morris, GGHF board member and vice president-elect.

The 2017 Community Spirit Grant recipient organizations are:

- Lakebay Community Church, for construction of a community garden farm stand in collaboration with Seeds of Change and Food Backpacks 4 Kids. The farm stand will serve as a collection and distribution site for produce from community gardens to area residents in need at no cost.
- Key Pen Parks, to support the third annual Fourth of July community hot dog social. The community event brings together hundreds of people, nonprofit organizations and businesses.
- Peninsula Hands On Art, to support the nearly 16,000 art projects provided free to over 4,000 students in the Peninsula School District during the 2017-18 school year. The program's focus is to educate and engage children in art history, mixed media and the creative process.
- Longbranch Improvement Club, in partnership with Evergreen Elementary School PTA, to support the 2017 "Trunk or Treat" event and provide nutritious take-home snacks. (The LIC received \$250, the amount applied for.)
- Two Waters Art Alliance, in collaboration with The Mustard Seed Project, to support the "So You've Always Wanted To Try..." art program for the Key Peninsula senior community. The program will engage area seniors interested in activities that develop new skills of perception and expression and provide healthy emotional outlets, and connect them with other seniors in their community through the shared experience of learning and making art together.

"Community Spirit Grants are intended as catalysts to help ignite positive community projects and bring people together," Morris said. "This is one of the foundation's smaller grant programs and just one of the many things GGHF does to support our community."





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Food Co-op Serves Local Customers with Local Food

Matthew Dean, KP News

After a winter hiatus, the Fresh Food Revolution Cooperative (FFR) has resumed its operation on the Key Peninsula, distributing fresh produce to 100 local members.

"I don't think there's a co-op like us, and I don't think you can get better, fresher food," said FFR board member Ann-Marie Ugles.

FFR operates like a combination farmers market and membership grocery store. Co-op members contribute \$60 and 12 hours of volunteer help per year and in return can order from a wide selection of locally sourced vegetables, fruit, meat and other food. Farmers from the Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor and Shelton fill the orders, with produce coming from as far away as Orting during slow local months. Customers and producers then meet Wednesday afternoons at the Key Peninsula Civic Center to trade cash and goods.

The co-op was formed about seven years ago by former members of a farmers market that was meeting in Key Center. "Some of the local producers and farmers still wanted to sell things, so they started the co-op," said Junko Jacobsen, FFR's distribution manager. The co-op founders wanted to create a model that would be more efficient for both producers and consumers.

FFR's website allows members to order online, so producers know exactly how much food to bring before distribution day. "With the farmers market, they have to harvest whatever they have and expect to sell out at the market, which sometimes they don't. We have an online system, so they don't have to harvest what they don't sell," Jacobsen said. Meanwhile, customers can ensure that they get exactly what they want instead of browsing tables and booths.

For some, the perks of the co-op system

go beyond time and efficiency. "It's not a large market for me, but it's real local," said Rolf Torgerson, a Longbranch salmon fisherman who offers part of his catch to the co-op.

"We want to know where the produce is coming from and we want to know what the farmers actually look like," said Jacobsen, who also praised the high quality of the local, fresh food.

A typical day's offering includes milk, eggs, beef, lamb, carrots, rhubarb and mushrooms, as well as more vegetables and meats. Other local products make their way to the co-op, too, such as sauerkraut, ice cream and homemade soap. "We have all these artisans that take all these products and make something else with them," Ugles said.

Availability does change seasonally: Local small-scale food production is highest in the summer. "The local producers start to have more produce around the end of May or June and lasts till about September," Jacobsen said. Some of the larger distributors like Terra Organics in Tacoma supplement the food supply in the winter and spring.

FFR is looking toward the future. "We want to grow producers, we want to find the small farmer out there that has a bunch of apples they want to make sure don't rot," Ugles said. Potential producers require a business license and a review from the FFR team before they can sell at the co-op marketplace.

Many members of the co-op consider it not just a way to buy local food, but also a way to celebrate and support the farming community. "It's very important that we all know that once a farm is gone, it's gone for good," Ugles said. "The more we can support our farmers, the more that's going to benefit our community in the long run."



Rolf Torgerson and co-op board president Maxine Halley discuss an order for smoked salmon.
Photo: Matthew Dean, KP News

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

www.keypennews.com June 2017

TECH HELP

Book a librarian to receive one-on-one help. Register for an appointment online. Getsmart.pcls.us or 548-3309

JUNE 1 & 15

CAT TALES

Cat Tales holds regular club meetings 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the VFW Room at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. 884-4182

JUNE 2, 9 & 16

SKATE NIGHT

Skate Night is at the KP Civic Center 7 to 9 p.m. during the school year. Admission is \$5 and includes skate rental. Parents free. Snacks available. 884-3456

JUNE 3 & 17

SUPPORT GROUP

The Lakebay Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group meets 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN. Kimberly, 753-4270 or dbsalakebay@gmail.com.

JUNE 4

FREE CONCERT

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra's five orchestra levels will be performing at the Peninsula High School auditorium at 3 p.m. Come enjoy the talent of these musicians and learn about how you can become a part of supporting arts in our community.

JUNE 5 & 12

QUILTERS MEET

Key Peninsula Quilters meet 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the meeting room at the Key Center Library. This is an open group with one's own projects, by hand or machine, which include quilting, embroidery, general sewing, knitting and crochet. Come for the whole time or drop in.

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26

BLOODMOBILE

The bloodmobile is at Albertsons 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

JUNE 6

FUCHSIA SOCIETY

The Fuchsia Society meets 7 p.m. at the KP Civic Center in the Whitmore Room. Next program will be on orchids. Peggy, 686-7904

JUNE 6 & 20

SENIOR SHOPPING

Seniors grocery shop at various stores with a "Dutch" lunch. Transportation is provided. 884-4440

JUNE 8

CONTAINER GARDENING

Join author Lisa Taylor in a free, family-friendly, hands-on container gardening workshop 7 p.m. at the KC Library. Participants will plant a small container to take home. Dress to get dirty. 548-3309

JUNE 10

FUCHSIA SOCIETY CLINIC

Bring your fuchsia to a clinic at the KP Civic Center on the front lawn or, if raining, in the picnic shelter between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Help with pinching, pruning, shaping, transplanting, fertilizing and any other questions. Fuchsias and other plants will be for sale. Peggy, 686-7904

JUNE 10 & 11

BUILD A PLAYGROUND FOR KP PARKS

Help install playground equipment for Gateway Park at 10415 State Route 302. Volunteers over the age of 18 are needed for 8 a.m. to noon or 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. shifts. Twenty-five volunteers per shift plus community members who can assist making lunches. Contact Scott Gallacher at scottg@keypenparks.com or 253-884-9240.

JUNE 13 & 27

CROCHET OR KNIT

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

JUNE 14

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 meets 7 p.m. at the KC fire station. Christine Anderson, from the KPHS Museum, will share a brief history of the Key Peninsula.

JUNE 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 will be returned to the civic center at 9 a.m. the next day. Appointments are required. Call 253-627-7729 ext. 217, or email shuttle@nwspayneuter.org for questions or to schedule an appointment.

JUNE 17

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Lake Holiday holds the annual community garage sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Check office for map of garage sale locations. Call 884-2292 for information.

JUNE 18

SUNDAY JAM

Bluegrass Gospel Jam session at Longbranch Church, 16518 46th Street KPS, 6 to 8:30 p.m. for all acoustic instruments, ages and skill levels. Everyone is welcome to play, sing or simply listen. Bring music stand and finger food to share; music and beverages provided.

JUNE 22

KPCC EMERGENCY SHELTER MEETING

Be a part of the planning for the KP Civic Center to become a local warming shelter. Volunteers, ideas and grant writers needed. Come and enjoy the guest speakers. Please make a list of all the items you would pack for one day in an emergency bag and bring that list with you. Whitmore Room, 7 p.m.

JUNE 24

SUMMER READING KICKOFF

Children and adults learn about the summer read-a-thon 1 to 3 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Win prizes and earn coupons by reading. 548-3309

JUNE 26

LEGO MINDSTORMS

Children ages 8 to 18 build with Legos 2 to 3:30 at the KC Library. Register at Piercecountylibrary.org/calendar or 548-3309.

JUNE 28 TO JULY 4

FIREWORKS

The KP Civic Center sells fireworks in the parking lot of Buck's Steak House and Sports Bar in Key Center. 884-3456

JUNE 28 TO AUGUST 23

FREE SUMMER LUNCH

All children and their parents are invited to free summer lunch Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 a.m. at Key Peninsula Civic Center. For more information, call Food Backpacks 4 Kids, 857-7401.

JUNE 30

BEEHIVE JIVE

All ages are welcome to dance like bees with urban farmer Lisa Taylor and her Garden Critter Academypuppets with music and movement-filled adventure in a beehive 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the KC Library. 548-3309

OFF THE KEY

JUNE 1

DEMOCRATS MEET

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

JUNE 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

THURSDAY FARMERS MARKET

The Waterfront Farmers Market celebrates opening day 3 p.m. at Skansie Brothers Park. It will be open every Thursday through August.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

GIG HARBOR FARMERS MARKET

The Peninsula Gardens, 5503 Wolloch Drive NW, hosts Gig Harbor Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday. Fresh flowers, produce, plants, baked goods, food, handmade crafts, children's tent, entertainment and advice from master gardeners and more. gigarborfarmersmarket.com

JUNE 3

BURLEY FLEA MARKET

The Burley June Bug Flea Market is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Burley Community Hall and Grounds. The fundraiser features vintage repurposed, recycled and handmade items and benefits Chew Dog Rescue, Harbor Hope Cat Rescue, Rabbit Haven and Sunrise Equine Rescue. Live music, delicious food, face painting and a raffle. Free parking at the Purdy Park & Ride and a free shuttle leaves every 15 minutes. Burleyjunebug.com

FIRST SATURDAY ART WALK

This free event 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. allows art enthusiasts to stroll through nine local galleries featuring artist demonstrations, displays and refreshments. Pick up a passport at the first gallery and drop off at your last stop. 514-0071

JUNE 6 & 21

3D PRINTING

Adults are introduced to 3D printing; what it is and how it works. See a demo of the library's 3D printers 2 to 4 p.m. June 6 or 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. This event requires registration. Piercecountylibrary.org/calendar

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27

SUPPORT GROUP

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

JUNE 6 TO 30**PLAY PRESENTED**

Paradise Theatre presents "Thoroughly Modern Millie" on weekends 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 or 851-7529

JUNE 24**CONCERT & POTLUCK**

The Olalla Community Club presents a concert featuring northwest rooted singer-songwriter Allison Preisinger. A potluck starts at 6 p.m. and the concert is at 7 p.m. Potluck host is Nolan, 857-5650. Donation is \$20. [Olallahhouse.org](http://Olallahouse.org)

JUNE 27**SUMMER SOUNDS**

Summer Sounds at Skansie kicks off the free outdoor concert season with The Dusty 45's. All concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held rain or shine at the newly remodeled Skansie Brothers Park which has expanded restroom facilities and a second floor viewing plaza. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. It is suggested folks ride the Gig Harbor Trolley to the concert. All Gig Harbor parks are nonsmoking and alcohol free.

WEEKLY EVENTS**MONDAYS & FRIDAYS****PLAY TO LEARN**

Play to Learn, provided by Children's Museum of Tacoma, is 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

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 10 a.m. and preschool science story time (3-6 years old) is 11 a.m. 548-3309

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME**

The Children's Home Society KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool and 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+ 10 a.m. at the 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 titled "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 for free admission. 888-3246

WEDNESDAYS**READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS**

The Children's Home Society of Washington sponsors a free cooperative preschool class for 3- and 4-year-olds at KP Civic Center. Parents or caretakers participate, 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

WATERMARK WRITERS WORKSHOP

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. The Toastmasters also meet at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays at the Key Center fire station. 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**KNITTING GROUP**

The "Not Your Mother's Fiber Station" knitting group meets 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Key Center fire station. All knitters are welcome.

SATURDAYS**WRITERS GUILD**

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

PUBLIC MEETINGS

June 5, McNeil Island meeting, 6 p.m., Lakebay Marina. markscott@lakebaymarina.com

June 5 & 19, KP Veterans, 7 p.m., KP Lutheran Church; for veterans and military service members and families with children over 16 yrs. 225-5130 or keypenveterans@outlook.com

June 6, KP Historical Society board, 11 a.m. in museum; 888-3246

June 6, Artists Blend, 4 to 6 p.m., Blend Wine Shop, for all artists; info@twowaters.org

June 7, 14, 21, 28, KP Youth Council, meets 3 to 5:15 p.m., KC fire station; keypencouncil@gmail.com

June 7 & 21, KP Lions, 7 p.m., KC fire station; 853-2721

June 8, TWAA Board, 7 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; info@twowaters.org

June 8, KP Civic Center Assn. Board, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; 884-3456

June 8 & 22, Peninsula School District Board, 6 p.m., District Office

June 12, KP Parks, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park office; public is encouraged to attend. 884-9240

June 13 & 27, KP Fire Dept., 5 p.m., KC fire station; keypeninsulafire.org

June 14, KP Community Council, 7 p.m., KC fire station

June 15, KP Citizens against Crime, 7 p.m., KC fire station

June 19, KP Democrats, 7 p.m., Home fire station; johnpatkelly@aol.com

June 21, Longbranch Improvement Club, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting, LIC; 884-6022

June 21, KP Advisory Commission, 6:30 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; co.pierce.wa.us for agenda; Toni Fairbanks, 253-798-7156

June 26, KP Farm Council, 6:30 p.m., in the community offices, Suite D at the KC Corral: c.wiley@mac.com

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



*Angel Guild
Thrift Shop*

Open 10-4
Tuesday to Saturday in the
Key Center Corral 253 884-9333
Donations: Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 3:30
P.O. Box 703, Vaughn WA 98394

Send calendar items to connierenz@hotmail.com before 15th of the month

TNT Safe & Sane Fireworks Stand
June 28 - July 4 10am to 9pm in Key Center

Celebrate the 4th



Purchases support community programs at the Key Peninsula Civic Center



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.

The 6th Annual Longbranch Bluegrass & BBQ Festival

Saturday July 29th 2-6pm
 Longbranch Improvement Club - 4312 Key Peninsula Hwy S Longbranch, WA

Featuring:
 Coyote Hill Bluegrass from Oklahoma
 with the Day Brothers
 And the Key Peninsula's own
 Bluegrass Minstrels

FREE ADMISSION!



Available for purchase:
BBQ Sandwich Plates

by:
 Chef Oliver Coldeen

*Strawberry Shortcake
 *Drinks

The day also includes:
 Jam Circle
 Vendors
 Silent Auction
 Kids Activities

All proceeds from the festival go to support the ministries of
Longbranch Community Church

Contact Pastor John Day with questions
 425-492-4177

FREE! Ages 4yrs - 6th Grade Register Online at waypoint-church.org/VBS
 12719 134th Ave KPN, Gig Harbor 98329 Questions? Call 853-7878

BLEND

WINE SHOP

Blending friends, neighbors, community and the world... One bottle at a time!

IN CONCERT 7PM JULY 1

ROY BOOK BINDER

TICKETS \$20



Excellent selection of wines for every taste

We can Special Order wines by the bottle or by the case
Quick delivery. No shipping charge

Large selection of Northwest wines plus
Hundreds of wines in stock from all over the world!

Visit us online for info about upcoming events, concerts & activities. blendwineshop.com

ICE COLD DRAUGHT BEER ON TAP



WINE TASTING Fridays 5 to 7pm

Tue-Thu & Sat open 12 to 6pm
Friday 12 to 9pm Closed Sun & Mon

253 **884-9688**

8914 Key Peninsula Hwy N, Lakebay
across from Key Center Fire Station



June 2017

www.keypenparks.com

253 884-9240

THANKS TO

Presidential Sponsors

Angel Guild Thrift Shop

Food Market
at Key Center | Lake Kathrym

Key Peninsula
Business Association

Peninsula Light Co.

Patriotic Sponsor

Purdy Cost Less Pharmacy

OTHER SPONSORS INCLUDE:

KP Bus Connects, Key to Learning
Childcare & Preschool, KP Veterans,
and KP Parks & Rec Foundation.

Key Pen Parks

The key to your next adventure!

3rd annual **FOURTH OF JULY**

11 am to 2pm
Tuesday, July 4
Volunteer Park

COMMUNITY HOT DOG SOCIAL

FREE

Food & fun with your Key Peninsula friends and neighbors. There will be lawn games, group games, carnival games, bounce houses and plenty of hot dogs, cake and goodies. Bring a picnic blanket and have some old-fashioned fun for the whole family. For schedule, click Stuff to Do at www.keypenparks.com

Wednesday Walks with Walter

FREE walk and talks with retired forester Walter Briggs. Learn about the amazing plants, trees and creatures in our area. Family-friendly walks start at 6:30 pm in the park's parking area.

June 21 – Rocky Creek Conservation Area

July 26 – Maple Hollow Park

August 9 – 360 Trails

Popsicles in the Park

Wednesday afternoon family playground fun with a FREE chilly treat courtesy of Key Pen Parks from 5 to 6 pm, or while supplies last.

Home Park June 14 and July 12

KP Civic Center June 28 and July 26

**Thursdays June 29,
July 27 & August 17
4:30 to 5:30**

FREE 360 Freeze

Bring your family and your bikes and explore the riding features at 360 Trails. Then enjoy a chilly treat. New pump track opens June 29, see www.keypenparks.com for details.

Free family fun starts at 7:30 pm, movies at dusk

★ Aug. 4 **Secret Life of Pets** (2016)

★ Aug. 11 **Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory** (1971)

★ Aug. 18 **Finding Dory** (2016)

★ Aug. 25 **The Jungle Book** (2016)

Bring a blanket or chair. Sponsored in part by Peninsula Light Co. with pre-movie crafts sponsored by Shawn & Claudia (Sami) Jensen

Parks Appreciation Day Thank You!

To all the wonderful volunteers who braved the rain to help beautify, repair and clean up our parks this past Earth Day. We THANK YOU!

Gateway Park Playground Installation

Help us **install the new playground at Gateway Park**. Four-hour shifts on June 10 & 11, 8-12 or 12:30-4:30 with noon lunch provided.

We need 25 volunteers, 18 or older, plus volunteers to make lunch. Please RSVP to Scott Gallacher at 253 884-9240 or scottg@keypenparks.com



Swimming Lessons

Bay View Swim School

Children or Adults
Small Groups
Ability Grouped
Private Pool

Red Cross Certified
Water Safety Instructor

Dee Adams
253 884 9167

Beatniks

June 10 7pm



15 Lorenz Road, Lakebay, WA 98349
Mon-Fri 11:30-9, Sat 8-10, Sun 8-9
Live music every Saturday night
253-884-3350

FAMOUS VICTOR FLEA MART

June 17
9am-4pm

Watch for signs on SR302
Bake Sale • Plants Bargains Galore!
360-271-9824



SPORTS CAMP

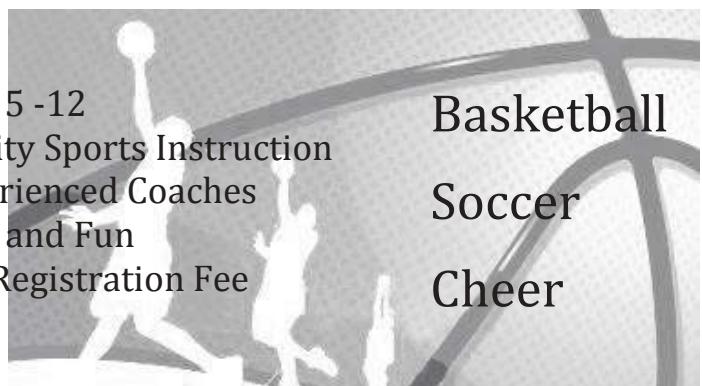
July 24-28, 2017

8:45am – 12:15pm

Key Peninsula Civic Center

Sponsored by Key Peninsula Baptist Fellowship

Thank you to Key Peninsula Civic Center for their support



Ages 5 -12
Quality Sports Instruction
Experienced Coaches
Skits and Fun
\$35 Registration Fee

Basketball
Soccer
Cheer

For more information call: 253-353-2745

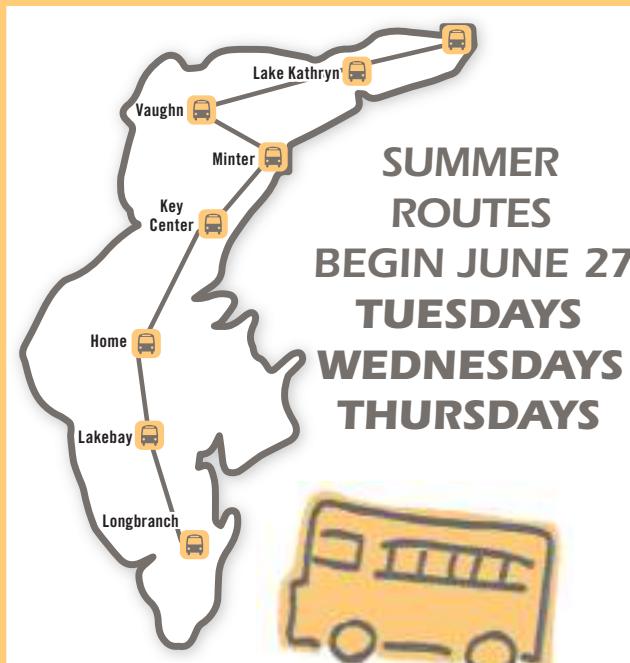
Email: kpbc sportscamp@gmail.com

Registration material available on our website at:

www.kpfellowship.org

KP SCHOOL BUS CONNECTS FREE Community Transportation for All Ages

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



Call 253-884-BUSS

School buses aren't just for kids anymore

Under age 12 accompanied by an adult

MORNING ROUTE

- 10:35 Evergreen Elementary School
- 10:38 Longbranch Improvement Club
- 10:40 Rouse Road @174th Ave
- 10:42 Whiteman Road @ Whiteman Cove Road
- 10:47 Palmer Lake Public Access 24th St, sunny side
- 10:48 Palmer Lake 21st St & 193rd Ave, park shelter
- 10:53 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 10:53 Home Gas Station KP Hwy N
- 10:58 Volunteer Park
- 11:00 Food Market/Key Pen Hwy and Red Barn
- 11:03 Wright Bliss and Olson Dr
- 11:06 4 Corners, Drive Thru Feed, 76 Station
- 11:09 SR302 & 150th Ave, Lake Holiday
- 11:11 SR302 & 140th, Lake of the Woods
- 11:16 Food Market, Key Center
- 11:17 Key Pen Hwy @84th St, Red Barn
- 11:22 Charboneau's 11612 SR 302
- 11:25 Lake Kathryn Center @Costless
- 11:29 Purdy Park & Ride,
connect with Pierce Transit Route 100 at 11:44
- 11:30 Peninsula High School

AFTERNOON ROUTE

- 3:30 Peninsula High School
- 3:32 Purdy Park & Ride, pick up Pierce Transit Route 100
- 3:38 Lake Kathryn Center @ Costless
- 3:41 11615 SR302 @ Windermere Realty
- 3:46 Food Market, Key Center
- 3:47 Key Pen Hwy @84th St, Red Barn
- 3:49 Volunteer Park
- 3:54 Home Gas Station KP Hwy N
- 3:55 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 3:59 Palmer Lake Public Access 24th St, sunny side
- 4:01 Palmer Lake 21st St & 193rd Ave, park shelter
- 4:05 Whiteman Road @ Whiteman Cove Road
- 4:08 Rouse Road @174th Ave
- 4:09 Longbranch Improvement Club
- 4:13 Evergreen Elementary School
- 4:21 Volunteer Park
- 4:23 Key Pen Hwy @84th St, Red Barn
- 4:26 Wright Bliss and Olson Dr
- 4:29 4 Corners, 76 Station
- 4:32 SR302 & 150th Ave, Lake Holiday
- 4:34 SR302 & 140th, Lake of the Woods



Key Pen Highway Roadwork Goes Into Summer

Staff Report

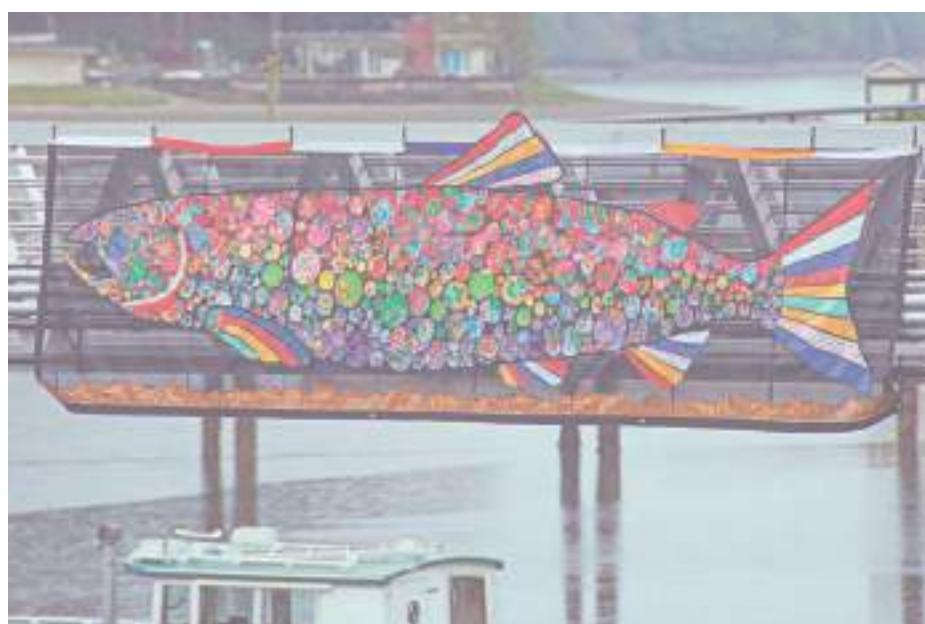
Peninsula Light Co. has been busy along the KP Highway, reducing traffic to a single lane on weekdays in three different locations and stopping cars for a few minutes each way.

Power lines are being buried from Key Center north to Lake Minterwood and underground lines are being replaced from Lake Minterwood up to 134th Avenue KPN. "Tree wire" is being installed north from Cromwell Road to Key Center and will continue for at least two months or more. After that section is complete, the crew will continue installing tree wire from Cromwell south to the end of the line around 80th KPS.

"Tree wire is an insulated coating that helps to prevent outages when smaller branches contact our lines," said Jacqueline Goodwill, communications and public relations manager for PenLight. "It has been installed in areas where undergrounding was more expensive and wouldn't prove to be more effective."

The undergrounding work started about two months ago and, along with the overhead tree wire installation, will extend into the summer, she said.

"On the plus side, over the past 10 years, PenLight has moved our community into the first quartile for reliability, due mainly to projects like these," Goodwill said. "So, be patient with us and know that we're working to keep the lights on."



"Cali-Co-Ho" arrived at Longbranch Marina just in time for Opening Day, May 6. The 18 x 5 foot artwork was created by Maggie Barry and Carolyn Wiley based on a design series by Patty Barry using donated scraps from Donna Daily's tote bag business (Tote-It-Around), with the assistance of Donna Daily, Judy Riggs, Nancy Carr and friends of the Lawless Ladies of Longbranch. Muscle provided by Lynn Carr and Robert Theisen. "It is just about the only thing I ever worked on for nine months that wasn't a human," Wiley said. Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News



Top: Leslie Englund;
Left: Zoe Ewald and friend;
Right: Patricia Ghiossi

The Key Peninsula News put a bright face on its front page during the Livable Community Fair—160 times. Fairgoers at the popular May event at the civic center stopped by the KP News booth to talk shop with staff and went home with a front-page reminder that their local paper wants to tell their stories. You are the voice of the Key Peninsula. Thank you for your support. Photos: Lisa Bryan, KP News

Check out www.facebook.com/KPCC.SkateNight

Have a fun family night with elementary and middle school kids



June 2, 9 and 16
Friday night 6 to 9 pm at the Civic Center
(Dodgeball June 2 & 16)

Kids \$5 / Parents free

*Kid-friendly burgers, pizza, snacks
and drinks served by the Kitchen.*



A white-crested Polish hen strikes a pose in Wauna. Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News

A Labor of Egg Love: Keeping Rare Breeds Alive

Don Tjossem, KP News

Becky and Steve Lodholm have owned and operated the Raregg Ranch near Wauna on the Key Peninsula for five years. Raregg Ranch is a nonprofit poultry-preservation center dedicated to saving particular species of poultry. The focus is on breeds that are nearing extinction due to commercialization and strict regulations for keeping poultry.

Becky Lodholm established Raregg in February 2012 following a trip to Florida, where she saw some interesting chickens and the colorful eggs they produced. She now takes care of approximately 350 breeder chickens, 1,000 chicks and 500 egg layers on a daily basis. There is no time for vacations or extended absences from this operation. She called it "Easter year 'round," as she and her sister do most of the day-to-day management of this biosecure facility. Her husband helps when he returns from Bristol Bay in Alaska between fishing trips.

The ranch is required to be biosecure so that strange diseases are not introduced into any of the 30 different breeds of chickens from all over the world that are being reared in this facility. To prevent the spread of new diseases, new species must be quarantined before being introduced into the main area with the rest of the chickens.

The Norwegian Jaerhons raised at Raregg are the only examples that can be seen anywhere in the world outside of a Norwegian zoo. A number of other species at the ranch are critically endangered, with less than 1,000 birds left worldwide. That is one of the main purposes of Raregg: to maintain specific species and ensure the best of their traits are carried on for



It is "Easter year 'round" at the Raregg Ranch. Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News

future generations to enjoy.

Each species has its own pen and is released separately to be "range fed," to prevent crossbreeding. Pens are moved when necessary to provide new dirt and fresh grass for the chickens to enjoy.

Raregg is not a mass egg or chicken-producing facility. With the daily care these chickens receive, many of them take on personalities and in some cases are named. When eggs are taken from the pens and brought to the incubator, it is not unusual for the caretaker to be pecked in protest by the laying hen. The eggs that are not used to raise chicks are marketed locally at Local Boys in Purdy and Drive-Thru Feed in Vaughn.

Plans for the future include different and new pens that will depict a Key Center theme. The ranch is 27 acres, so there is plenty of room for expansion. Income is generated through egg sales and donations to maintain the viability of the operation. Visits to the facility are by appointment only. For more information, go to www.Raregranch.com or Raregg Ranch on Facebook.



Mr. Donehower teaches Minter Creek Elementary third-graders about traditional Polynesian culture May 12. Photo: Robyn Enders.

Elementary Students Learn About World Cultures

Alice Kinerk, KP News

Ernie Donehower enjoyed teaching cultural enrichment to students at Vaughn Elementary so much for so many years that even after his retirement in 2015, he kept on doing it.

These days, Donehower brings his fun and informative lessons to all three Key Peninsula elementary schools, as well as schools and community organizations across Gig Harbor and the state. Students enjoy a mix of geographical information, cultural artifacts and traditional stories. But what really helps each lesson hit home is a hands-on project based on a traditional craft from the region.

"The best way to have them retain what I teach is to combine different learning styles," Donehower said. "I like to tell stories. But if I can bring the project they're going to do into the story, as well as the artifacts, it just sort of sticks."

Donehower spent a recent Friday afternoon teaching third-graders at Minter Creek Elementary about Polynesian culture. Having lived in Hawaii in the 1970s and '80s, Donehower considers the region among his favorites.

In front of an audience of 75 8- and 9-year-olds and their teachers, Donehower opened with a brief geography lesson. He then impressed his crowd with trivia: "Did you know Hawaii's Mauna Kea mountain peak, when measured from the ocean floor, is taller than Mount Everest? Did you know that due to an active underwater volcano, a new Hawaiian island is currently forming 3,000 feet below the surface?"

Donehower displayed and discussed cultural artifacts such as an ipu, a Hawaiian percussion instrument made from a gourd, as well as tapa, a traditional Polynesian bark cloth stamped and decorated with red and

orange dyes. He pointed out grooves in a traditional ironwood tool that were carved to channel liquid away from the user.

Knowing that many in his audience were familiar with Hawaiian culture primarily through the recent Disney animated film "Moana," which features the god Maui, Donehower selected a traditional tale that also included Maui, telling the students the legend of how the 'alea 'ula bird, a Hawaiian species, got its red beak.

After a break for recess, the students reconvened and Donehower gave instructions for the bark cloth-rubbing project. Lacking the traditional leaves with strong stiff veins, students used paperboard criss-crossed with dried glue. Using the flat side of peeled orange and brown crayons, students rubbed patterns onto the paper. Stencils and freehand drawing made the students' tapas complete.

Both students and teachers found Donehower's visit memorable. "I think it was pretty cool when Mr. Donehower told that story about when the birds were keeping the secret of fire from the Hawaiian people," said third-grader Mikiyas Arnold.

"It was fun," said third-grade teacher Laura Stafki. "The artifacts that he brought to share helped make the experience real."

Learning about the cultures of the world is especially important for children living in rural areas, Donehower said, since they may not get the opportunity to experience the cultural diversity of urban areas.

"I feel deeply the importance of teaching kids about culture, especially in this day and age," he said. "In our shrinking and interconnected world, understanding others and respecting their culture means less problems among people, as well as more opportunities for all our students. We can learn a lot from each other."

OBITUARIES



Maureen "Reni" Moriarity, 1945 to 2017, dedicated her life to art and creating beauty in everyday life.

Her paintings and home are full of beautifully arranged shells, flowers, books and objets d'art. She loved dogs, people, cooking, travel and swimming in Puget Sound. She was proud of her Irish-French heritage and her New Jersey roots. She could fill any room with her presence and loved making people laugh. Her vast circle of friends will remember her generosity, her lively wit, her stories laced with humor and irreverence, and above all, her charm and style. She leaves behind a wealth of work, with her paintings and pottery decorating the homes of her many friends.

Moriarity was born in Trenton, New Jersey, to John and Elizabeth "Betty" Moriarity. After her father's death, she moved to Seattle with her mother, who later married Glen "Dick" Winders. Reni Moriarity married Richard Stern; her only son Jesse, was born in 1973.

In 1979, Moriarity married Mark Runions, a longtime Key Peninsula resident. He built their house in Longbranch, where she enjoyed the rest of her life.

Moriarity graduated from Sealth High School and attended the University of Washington, where she devoured art classes, studying drawing, painting and pottery. A professional potter for 20 years, she then began working full time and studied sumi brush technique with her mentor and friend, Fumiko Kimura.

Her award-winning art can be found in homes and galleries around the world. She was a member of Women Painters of Washington and a founding member

of the Puget Sound Sumi Association.

Moriarity is survived by her loving husband, Mark; son Jesse; daughter-in-law Jeanne; stepfather Dick; sisters Sharon and Coleen; and her dog, Cass.

A celebration of her life will be take place at the Longbranch Improvement Club June 10 at 3 p.m.

A retrospective show of Moriarity's art will be on display at Blend in Key Center in June.



Ananiah Jacob McCarrell died April 5, 2017. Born Sept. 18, 1981, on the Dog Bar of the Bear River in Colfax, California, McCarrell grew up on Lake Tapps and in Home on the Key Peninsula. He was a gifted musician and composer, and a master classical guitarist and lyricist. His five albums and impressive discography are a testimony to his gift. His credits include playing with Mason Williams, Lindsey Buckingham, Stevie Nicks, Tom Moncrieff and Gary "Hoppy" Hodges.

McCarrell graduated from the State University of New York with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering degree and West Texas A & M with a Master of Business Administration degree. He became a certified public accountant in September 2016.

McCarrell made his career as controller/CFO of a Fortune 500 company.

He leaves behind his beloved children, Ellysha Beth, Kieran Elijah and Liam Bennett. He is also survived by his mother, Aubry (Craig), sister Galilee, brothers Saverio and Stashu (Kyra), nephew William and many other friends and loved ones.

The family appreciates your prayers.

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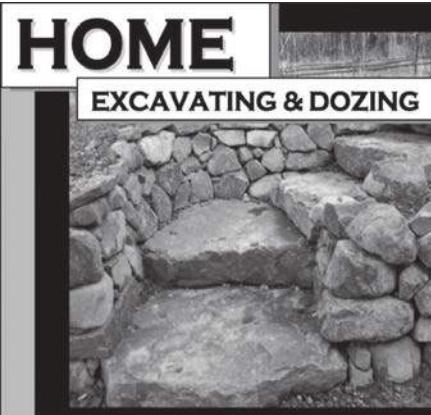
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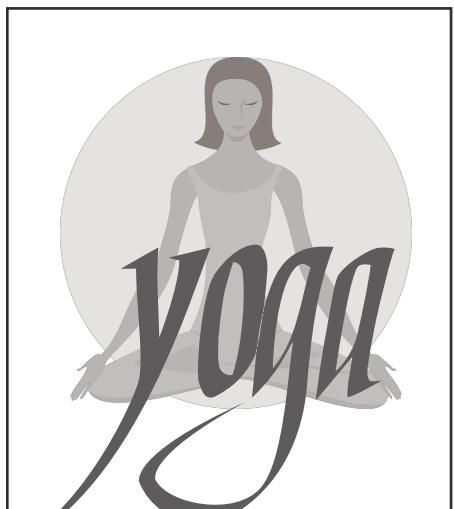
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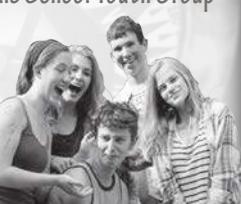
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Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund Awards Record \$322,000 to Graduating Seniors

Sara Thompson, KP News

The Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund gave \$322,000 in grants ranging from \$100 to \$5,000 to nearly 200 graduating seniors May 17 to help pay for their continuing education.

"It's a new record-high for our organization," said Fund Treasurer Deanna Russell.

The fund was started in 1985 by PHS parent Evon Gay to provide a structure for individuals and organizations to make contributions that directly impact students.

Fund President Mary O'Boyle, who works as a paraeducator with high needs students at Vaughn Elementary, said, "The PHS scholarship program is much more than giving PHS seniors money to continue their education, the seniors get experience in following specific requirements, meeting deadlines and interacting with various adults. My favorite part of the program is reading their thank-you notes to the donors and the pride on their faces when they are acknowledged by our community."

Hayley Nichols, fund donor chair, graduated from PHS in 1991 and was a recipient herself. "The scholarship was wonderful and I think that what meant the most to me was not the actual money, but that someone chose me, believed in me," she said.

Nichols attended Central Washington State University, returned to the Gig Harbor area and now runs her own business. Her son is a student at PHS and she was reminded of the fund when she heard about students completing their portfolios to apply. She became a donor and now, three years later, she leads the donor committee.

All PHS graduating students are invited to participate in the program, which is separate from but coordinated with other scholarships managed by the school counseling office. To qualify, students must complete a portfolio, attend the assembly and write a thank-you note to the donor. Each portfolio includes a personal statement; a fact sheet with a summary of such information as schools attended; sports and community activities; two recommendations; and three pages to help add a fuller picture of the student. These may be photos of sports activities or awards, or examples of creative writing or artwork. Scholarships can be used for tuition or

books. A five-member committee evaluates all of the portfolios and tries to ensure that every student who participates gets an award.

Brendan Greetham graduated from PHS in 2014 after attending Evergreen and Minter elementary schools and is now in the mechanical engineering department at the University of Washington. "I received two scholarships through the Hawks Scholarship Fund," he said. "One was through the Longbranch Improvement Club and one through Allovus Inc. These scholarships reminded me of how supportive our community is."

Kevin Pszcszolaf, now at UW, also graduated in 2014 and attended Evergreen, Minter and Vaughn elementary schools and Key Peninsula Middle School. "The Hawks Scholarship gave me the freedom to pursue my academic future how I wanted to," he said. "I have some breathing room—room to make my own choices without fear of immediately needing to pay for college."

O'Boyle is especially proud of the Promise Scholarship, she said. Three students from KPMS and Harbor Ridge Middle School, the two middle schools feeding into PHS, are selected by middle school staff as students with potential but who have academic or behavioral issues to overcome. Each of them is guaranteed a \$1,000 scholarship if they complete a portfolio and graduate. O'Boyle said the program has been successful with about 80 percent receiving the awards, comparable to the overall graduation rate at PHS.

Nichols said the funding sources include Save Thrift Store, located in a building below the high school campus. It is open six days a week and raises about \$60,000 a year. They welcome donations and shoppers. All profits go directly to the general scholarship fund.

Donors may specify the criteria for their scholarship and can select the recipients or have the fund members choose for them.

Many individuals and almost 50 local organizations from the Key Peninsula donate to the fund, including local PTAs, the KP Business Association, KP Lions Club, Angel Guild, Longbranch Improvement Club and the KP Historical Society. For more information, go to www.phsfund.org.

2017 PHS Key Peninsula Scholarship Recipients

Tacoda Anker
 Reece Baker
 Alexis Bennett
 Emily Benoit
 Sky Bressette
 Stephanie Brown
 Trent Bruemmer
 Elizabeth Brunkow
 Cassandra Bundrick
 Sabrina Butorac
 Hailey Carr
 Kimberley Chapman
 Alicia Cornejo
 Garrett Cranford
 Kassidy Crown
 Dorian Cuevas
 Natasha Dinniman
 Destiny Donaldson
 Kenneth Easton
 Kaila Edwards
 Sofia Esteve
 Carly Evanson
 Emilie Everett
 Kara Haggard
 Lilli Harrison
 Madeline Hebert
 Shawna Hettick
 Mikayla Hoover
 Jacob Huffer
 Madeleine Johnson
 Dale Jones
 Megan Judt
 Roger Kaffer
 Kody Kimball
 Jaeden Koyen
 Aiden Krug-Norem
 Thomas Lancaster
 Shelby Lepur-Lawrence
 Zachary Lester
 Kyra-Ann Lindsey
 Jake Lingo
 Kara Madlinger
 Mitchell Maniatopoulos
 Anna Marshall
 Debore'ae McClain
 Brandon Miller
 Sunny Moberg
 Hally O'Neill
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 Trevor Price
 Annie Pszczola
 Jacquelyn Scaduto
 Niall Silberman
 Chloe Slaughter
 Elizabeth Smyth
 Samantha Stevens
 Emma Taylor
 Nathan Thompson
 Stephanie Van der Bank
 Daniel Wallwork
 Mieko Wood
 Riley Wynn



Emily Benoit crosses the stage to receive her share of the \$322,000 distributed at this year's Peninsula Hawks Scholarship assembly May 17.

Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News

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Angel Guild of Key Peninsula	Holmes Chiropractic	Peninsula Principals Association
Asia Wright Scholarship	Hugh & Janice McMillan	Peninsula PSE Clerical Unit
Baker Foundation	Inn at Gig Harbor	Peninsula Recreation Ski School
Ben B. Cheney Foundation	Jeffrey A. Robinson	Peninsula School District Bus Drivers
Beta Sigma Phi	John W. Robinson Memorial	Peninsula Schools Education Foundation
Bob & Beth Lane	Judson H. Morris, Jr.	PHS Alumni
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Class of 1995	Key Peninsula Historical Society	PHS Girls Soccer
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Gig Harbor Eagles #2809 Auxiliary	Minter Creek Elementary PTA	Stanley A. Sather, Jr. Memorial
Gig Harbor Eagles RV Club	New Dimension Technologies, Inc.	Steve Gurr Family
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Gig Harbor Little League	Peninsula Athletic Association	Trula Knudson
Gig Harbor Mid-Day Rotary Club	Peninsula Band Booster Club	US Bank
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A rare lonely spot on the Great Wall near Beijing. Photo: Ashley Farrington

Students Visit China; Learn About Themselves

Ted Olinger, KP News

A group of local high school students spent their spring break in China from April 15 to 23, and came home with a greater appreciation for another culture and their own.

"I wanted to travel the world before I get settled down after college, so this was a good opportunity to experience traveling," said Peninsula High School junior Olivia Whitmarsh of Lakebay.

PHS senior Tiernyn Smith of Gig Harbor said, "The entire, crazy, ancient history was a huge culture shock and the people were surprisingly nice."

Three PHS teachers and one parent chaperone accompanied 15 PHS students and one from Tacoma. Kyle Kendall, who teaches AP U.S. history, world history, speech and debate (and is also the speech and debate team coach) organized and led the trip through Education First, a private travel company whose tours stress learning. Teachers Katharine Hutcheson and Justin Ehli accompanied him.

"I have traveled pretty extensively, both as a backpacker and as a tour guide in Alaska," Kendall said.

The tour started in Beijing, where the group visited Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, and traveled into the countryside to visit a portion of the Great Wall.

"Another cool thing was visiting a school and seeing how their education system worked," Whitmarsh said. "They were very rigid and the students seemed intimidated by their teachers."

Smith said, "It made me appreciate what we have here."

The group also traveled to see the excavated terra cotta army of Xi'an, one of China's ancient capitals and the burial place of the Emperor Qin (pronounced "Chin"), who gave his name to the country.

"Our tour guide described Xi'an as small and it's a modern bustling city with 8 million people," Kendall said. "Then he took us to ride bikes on the ancient city wall."

"The views from the wall were something I will never forget," said PHS junior Ashley Farrington of Wauna. "The bike ride was the point in the trip where it really hit me how amazing the experience has been overall and that I really was in China."

They ended their trip with a few days in Shanghai visiting a silk factory, street markets and the second tallest building in the world in its financial center. It was there especially the group attracted a lot of attention.

"In Shanghai, we were celebrities," Smith said. "We had a couple of blonde girls with us and people would yell 'Taylor Swift! Taylor Swift!' and take pictures of us."

"We would ask why there were so many pictures being taken of us," Kendall said. "In some of the urban centers we visited, most of the other tourists were from rural



Part of the tour group visited the site of the Beijing Olympics. Photo: Kyle Kendall

areas of China and they had never seen a white person.

"We also asked our tour guides some pretty straightforward questions," he said. "How do you feel about Mao? Do you want more freedom of expression? How do the people feel about Facebook being blocked?"

"The answers were pretty vague, but the local tour guides talked about the poverty the nation has despite how big they are, that they are a developing country, and would make the point that most Chinese wished to be more Western," Kendall said.

"The China trip was a turning point for me, as I am not at all an outgoing person," Farrington said. "This made the trip a chal-

lenge for me and something that, at first, was something I was really apprehensive about. The trip turned out to be the best decision and experience I have ever had."

"The exciting part for me was that these 16 kids all got along really great, which says a great deal about their character," Kendall said. "They were literally in tears saying goodbye to Xin, who was our guide the whole time."

Kendall is already organizing a tour to Italy and Greece for summer 2018 through Education First. For more information, contact him at: Kendallk@psd401.net. To see a short video of the China trip, go to: youtu.be/w-8pl3cBl3M



First-grader Wyatt Harding serves up some freshly delivered mulch. Photo: Bette McCord

Wildwoods Outdoor Learning Area Underway at Evergreen Elementary

Frank Slater and Ted Olinger, KP News

A teacher tells her students to put on their science socks. The first-graders dutifully obey, slipping into oversized fuzzy socks, and follow her outside for a walk through the field next to Evergreen Elementary School.

On their return, they pick out seeds that have stuck to the socks and compare them to drawings and written descriptions. Once they match a seed to its parent plant or tree, they discuss how the seed might have traveled from its source to where it was found.

"Children are more interested in things than in ideas," said Evergreen Principal Hugh Maxwell. "Something they have found in the wild, brought in and examined makes ideas interesting." Students who work together to identify things that need to be described and measured get motivated to learn other things, like language and math, he said.

This was the inspiration behind Wildwoods, Evergreen's new 2-1/2 acre outdoor

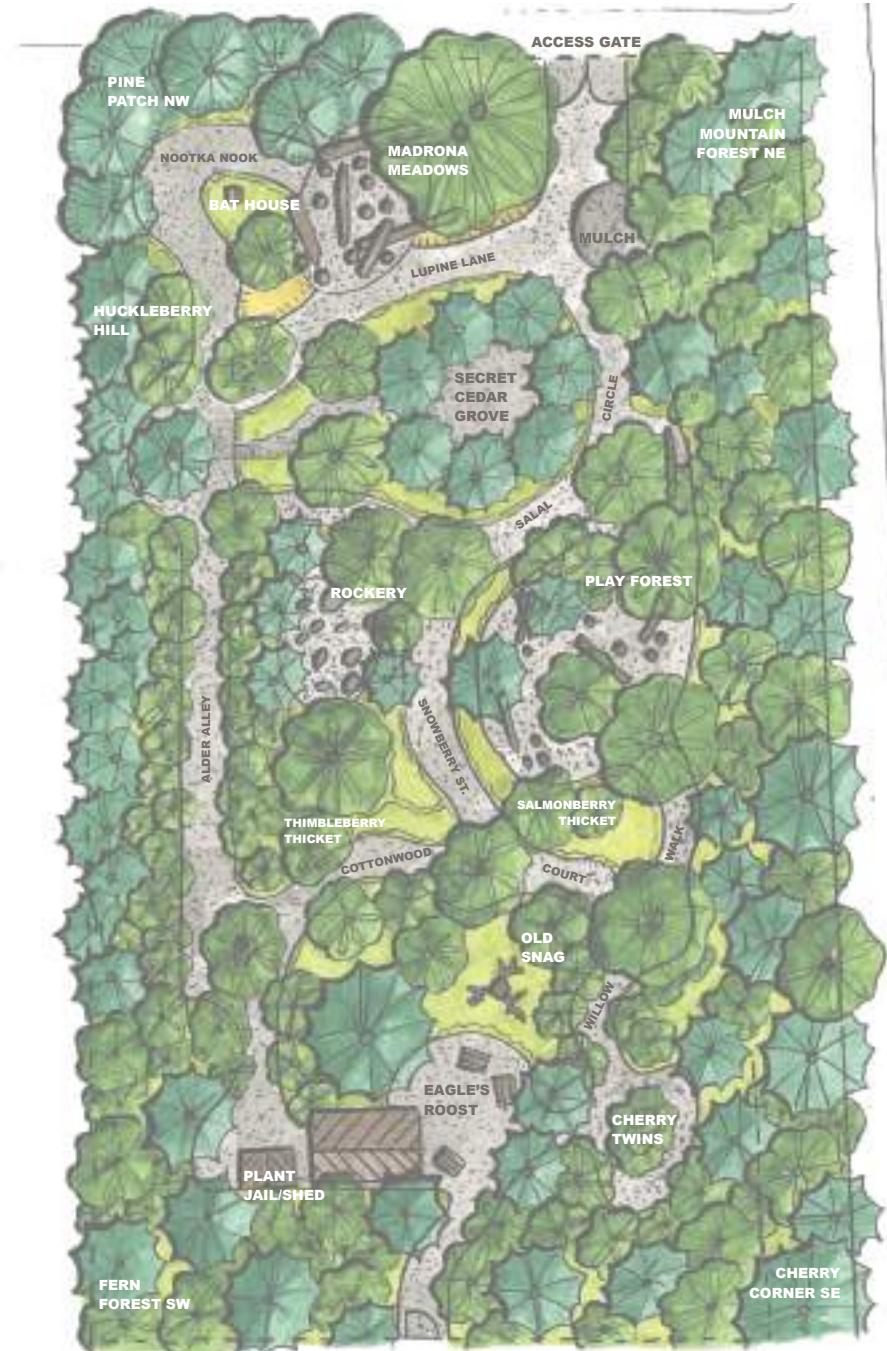
learning area adjacent to the school.

Peninsula School District has owned the property abutting the north side of the school for some time. Evergreen staff convinced the district last year to clear and fence the overgrown lot and allow the staff and students to create a native plant nursery, garden and study area.

The work began in earnest in March 2016 with teachers, parents, students and other volunteers pulling out invasive blackberry roots, spreading new mulch and planting more than 20 different species of native trees and plants.

"In our state standards, grades K through five are very life-science focused," said third-grade teacher Therese Souers. "Every grade level revolves around life science and this gives us the opportunity to actually do it in the field instead of just read about it."

"We decided that outdoor learning experiences are important for students; having to sit in classrooms all day long is not what they want to be doing."



The illustrated master plan of Wildwoods envisions a collection of native ecosystems for children to explore. Map: Heidi Watters, landscape architect and environmental horticulturist

The students are also helping out, she said. "One of the key things we want them to learn is stewardship of the land, which means somebody has to be responsible for taking care of it," Souers said. "They're learning to identify noxious weeds and put them into 'plant jail,' for example, to keep them from escaping."

"It's also teaching them observation and the importance of basic research," she said.

According to fifth-grader Samantha Chisa, "Kids need to learn more about nature. Everyone wants to pitch in to help the younger kids learn more about fresh air, plants dying and decomposing, and protecting the area."

Fifth-grade teacher Denise Ohlson was surprised by how eager her students were to explore the new area.

"They would like to start developing a plant identification format on their Chrome-

Books that can be shared on Google Docs," she said. "They want to start with signs for the larger trees and plants. Each year, each class can revise and improve upon the identification tags and placards."

Fifth-grader Dylon Alena said, "I think the Wildwoods helps us with science and nature. It makes us want to take care of the KP."

Grants and donations from nurseries, a student candy drive and lots of volunteering have gotten the project off the ground, Souers said.

"This can't be done without community support in a big way, so we're looking for groups to come help," she said. "Donated services, even tree stumps and logs and some way to get them here."

"The kids are truly excited and engaged when they are out there," Maxwell said. "I see great things happening here."

2017 Fall Chum HOR/NOR Forecast



- Forecasts range from Good to Poor
- Hood Canal - 493k
- Central/S. Sound – 433k
- Coast – Willapa – 58k
- Grays H – 31k



2017 projected returns for chum salmon. Courtesy Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Salmon and the Key Peninsula

Sara Thompson, KP News

The survival of salmon is threatened. For more than a thousand years, salmon have been a life-sustaining centerpiece of Native culture. The miracle of their annual migration is a reminder that rivers and watersheds, estuaries and oceans are healthy. From orcas and bears catching live fish to eagles and stoneflies feeding on carcasses, more than 130 different species depend on salmon for survival.

Pacific salmon fuel a \$3 billion annual industry, according to the Wild Salmon Center. They support tens of thousands of jobs and local economies and communities around the Pacific Rim. A report from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) from 2012 stated that commercial and recreational fishing in Washington fisheries directly and indirectly supported an estimated 16,374 jobs and \$540 million in personal income. Salmon accounted for a significant proportion of those numbers.

Randall Babich, who lives in Longbranch and has fished in Alaska and Puget Sound, has seen the decline first-hand. "Over my 48 years of fishing, there have been tremendous changes from degradation of habitat to global warming

and changes in the food chain," he said. "The salmon have really been impacted."

For nearly 1,500 years, the balance between harvest by indigenous people who depended on salmon and the natural ebb and flow of salmon populations were sustainable. But the arrival of pioneers in the mid-1800s led to new fishing techniques and the emergence of a market-driven economy, causing a decline in salmon populations. In addition to the effects of overfishing, habitat was degraded by logging, mining and irrigation. By the 1930s, large-scale dam projects posed additional barriers for migrating fish. According to the WDFW, the first salmon in the Pacific Northwest, the Snake River sockeye, was declared endangered in 1991. By the early 2000s, salmon were listed as threatened or endangered in nearly three-quarters of Washington state. These include the Puget Sound Chinook and steelhead and the Hood Canal summer chum.

The federal Endangered Species Act and Washington state law require development of recovery plans for diminishing salmon populations. Margen Carlson, director of Puget Sound Policy for WDFW, called this the "four Hs" of salmon recovery: habitat, hatcheries, hydropower systems and harvest.

In 2002, seven salmon recovery regional organizations made up of local, state and federal agencies, tribes and citizens were created to develop recovery plans and coordinate implementation. The largest is the Puget Sound Regional Organization and it, in turn, is divided into 19 Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIs). The Key Peninsula is part of the West Sound Watershed, which encompasses approximately 250,000 acres and includes the islands of Anderson, Fox, McNeil, Bainbridge, Ketron, Herron, Blake and Raft; the cities of Gig Harbor, Port Orchard, Bremerton, Poulsbo; and parts of Kitsap, Pierce and Mason counties.

Each WRIA works to establish recovery plans appropriate to its region, covering all or some of the first three "Hs."

The last "H," harvest, is addressed each year when

state, federal and tribal fishery managers gather to plan the Northwest's recreational and commercial salmon fisheries. This includes the North of Falcon process, a series of public meetings involving federal, state, tribal and industry representatives and citizens examining fisheries between Cape Falcon on the north Oregon coast and the Canadian border, including the Columbia River, Puget Sound and inland Washington coastal waters.

This year, forecasts for returns in the South Puget Sound for chum, coho, Chinook and pink salmon are all poor. Treaty Indian tribes in Western Washington will restrict fisheries again this year—including culturally important ceremonial fisheries—to protect weak salmon runs. Commercial and recreational fishing regulations are not yet complete but will likely also reflect the need to protect weak returns.

Key Peninsula residents may not have a great deal of power to impact the changing climate or ocean acidification, but there is work being done at the local level to restore and preserve habitat. This will be covered in part two of this series.

For more information, go to: wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/northfalcon.

There are seven indigenous salmon species in the Pacific Northwest: pink, Chinook, coho, chum and sockeye salmon, and steelhead and cutthroat trout. All follow a life cycle of birth in a stream, migration to a large body of water to mature and then migration back to the stream of their birth to spawn and die.

Steelhead spend several years maturing in rivers before migrating briefly to saltwater. Cutthroat mature in saltwater but tend not to travel far from the streams of their birth.

The other five species hatch in rivers or streams, guarded briefly by their mothers, who die within a few days or a month of laying the eggs. Fry hatch weeks to months later and depend on the bodies of dead salmon (or insects that also depend on those bodies) for nutrition.

While chum fry almost immediately head for estuaries to grow, the others spend three to 18 months in fresh water before migrating to estuaries and then the ocean. Chinook return to spawn two to six years later, chum and coho in three to five, and pinks have a strict two-year cycle from hatching to spawning. Sockeye mature in lakes and may remain there or migrate to the ocean before returning to spawn.

Pink or humpback salmon is the most common. It is also the smallest and leanest Pacific salmon. Its flesh is described as soft and bland and is most commonly used for canned salmon.

Chum is the second most common and is leaner than sockeye with firm, pale flesh. It is not farmed and is caught in Puget Sound in the fall and sold fresh.

Coho is fished in the coastal waters of Alaska. It is less fatty than sockeye, with flavorful, medium-red flesh.

Sockeye is second to the Chinook in fat content and has dark red flesh. It is caught in the Northern Pacific, sold fresh and canned.

Chinook (also known as king) is caught in the North Pacific. It is the largest, fattiest salmon variety and may be deep red or white. It is sold fresh, frozen and smoked.

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Penny Gazabat, left, was recognized for her work as a founding member of the Key Free Clinic with an award from the clinic's board of directors, presented during a ceremony by board president Chuck West at the Livable Community Fair at the KP Civic Center May 6. Gazabat is the executive director of Key Peninsula Community Services in Home. "We just started talking with Dr. Roes and Dr. Patterson, and then it (the clinic) started out at my place five or six years ago," she said. "After the first year, we decided to move it to Key Center." The clinic now offers dental and vision services. Gazabat recently resigned as clinic treasurer.

Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News



Hugh Maxwell, principal of Evergreen Elementary School, performs his signature rendition of "Let It Go" as Elsa from the Disney movie "Frozen." Maxwell had promised to sing it in character before the entire student body if they could raise \$1,600 selling candy bars to help pay for the school's new Wildwoods outdoor learning center. The students raised \$6,200, yet there was no encore.

Photo: Beth Porter



Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier cuts the ribbon to officially open the first office of the Key Peninsula Community Council May 9. "We're here to serve the community, bring services to the community and to unite the community by bringing all the different organizations together," said Chuck West, council chair. The office will be shared by the council, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Safe Streets. Visitors can also get information or referrals to Crossroads alcohol and drug treatment and assessment center, based in Lakewood. The office is located in the KC Corral, in the suite that previously housed The Mustard Seed Project. *Photo: Hugh McMillan*

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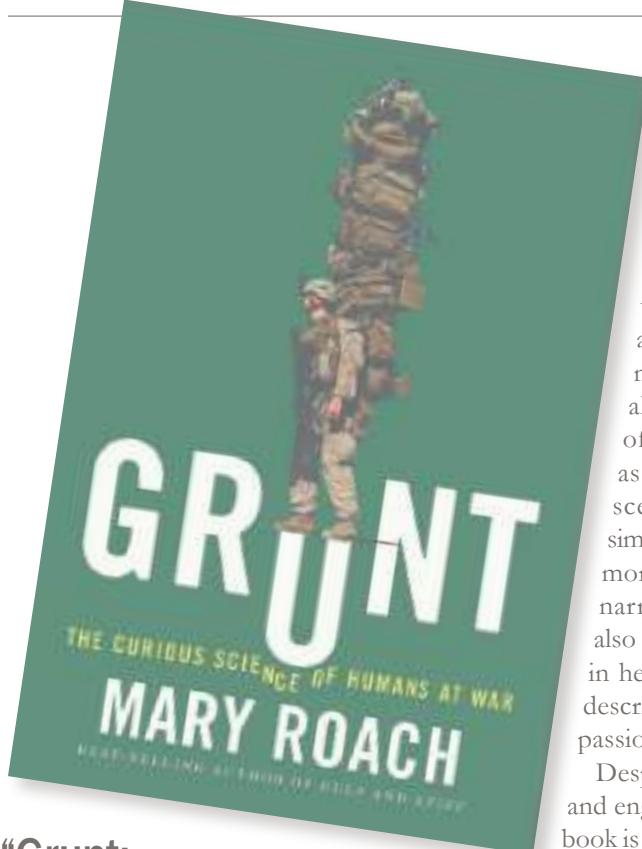
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"Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War"

by Mary Roach
W.W. Norton & Co. 2016

Reviewed by Matthew Dean, KP News

Humor writer Mary Roach has made a career out of offbeat portraits of science and society, and her latest work is no exception. "Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War" is a look at military research and development on subjects from the mundane (temperature-regulating uniforms) to the bizarre (stink bombs and shark repellent).

Roach's passion and curiosity are evident throughout the book, which is presented as her personal journey through a variety of military facilities, learning about the strangest parts of the U.S. war machine. Along the way, she seeks answers to questions that very few people outside the military have asked, such as how medics-in-training simulate the stress of combat. The answer involves several amputees, movie sets and copious amounts of fake blood and tubing.

The book holds true to its subtitle's promise of "curious science," giving a fascinating window into obscure scientific fields and the larger-than-life figures who inhabit them. While "Grunt" is certainly written as entertainment, it's also a respectful and exhaustively researched look at the offbeat side of military science.

Roach's witty, earnest writing is a reason to read the book even for those

uninterested in military science. Her vivid descriptions of scientists and researchers suggest figures you might meet in a comic book or action movie, like a grizzled veteran vehicle mechanic or a fashion-designer-turned-military-tailor. "Grunt" also spends a fair amount of time in unusual locations as Roach tours submarines, scent libraries and climate simulators, which provide even more fuel for her descriptive narrative style. Her curiosity also seems to bring out the best in her interview subjects, who describe their professions with passion and fervor.

Despite its interesting content and engaging style, however, this book is not for the faint of heart—or stomach. "Grunt" is a book about the inner workings of the military and is unsurprisingly loaded with profanity, extensive descriptions of cadavers and gore, and disgusting bodily functions.

Roach's quest for "curious science" goes a step further in its effort to shed light on little-known aspects of war. Entire chapters are devoted to the medicinal potential of maggots, efforts to limit diarrhea caused by Army meals and possible transplant options for soldiers with genital injuries. Roach's narrative cheerfully marches on through the more disgusting topics of the book, treating them as serious concerns that are often ignored due to their inherent unpleasantness.

In addition, "Grunt" is not intended to be a comprehensive look at any part of military science or at military science itself. Those expecting a more detailed, evenhanded or technical narrative will be disappointed. Roach is primarily a humor writer, not a historian, and those who find her style grating or distracting will be disappointed by the relatively brief looks at most of the book's subjects.

"Grunt" is certainly not for everyone; hardcore military buffs probably won't find much value in a newcomer's perspective on obscure science and the occasionally crude or taboo subject matter could push some readers away. As a cleverly written, dedicated look at those serving our country in the most unusual ways, however, "Grunt" is a success and Roach is an unparalleled tour guide.

"Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War" was this year's Pierce County READS selection.



Ninamae McCord of Lakebay celebrated her 90th birthday at a skate party for her many descendants in May at the KP Civic Center. McCord was born in Wyoming, grew up in Shelton, and worked as a nurse in Tacoma for decades before retiring to the KP. "She was one of nine in her family and I know she had five children, because I'm one of them," said daughter Bette McCord. "She's got eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren." Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News

Where in the world



Wayne and Laura Ashby visiting Stonehenge during their April trip to the U.K.



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FREE ESTIMATES

Try these (253) favorites for a summer treat

ON THE KEY

Blend Wine Shop 884-9688 with wine tasting Friday at 5,

Open M-S noon for beer on tap, wine by the glass in Key Center

Gnosh food truck 778-9549 for grilled and deli style samm'iches,
Wed-Sat 11 to 4 in front of Capital Lumber in Key Center

Lakebay Marina 884-3350, historic view, full menu & bar, live
music, 15 Lorenz Road. M-F 11:30-9; Sat & Sun open at 8

Snack Shack for burgers, garlic fries and hot dogs.
M-F 4 to 8, Sat 10 to 7 in Volunteer Park

AT PURDY

Taqueria El Guero 306-6951 Home-style Mexican food from a
classic taco truck. North end of Bridgeway parking lot

Local Boys Tap Room 649-4455 Forty local beers & ciders on
tap, wine by the glass. Open noon weekdays, 11am weekends.

Massimo's Italian Bar & Grill 514-6237
Family-friendly ambience in waterfront view favorite.

GIG HARBOR

Brix 25 Restaurant 858-6626 at 7707 Pioneer Way

NetShed No. 9 858-7175 at 3313 Harborview Drive

Kimball Espresso Café 858-2625 at 6950 Kimball Drive for
casual dining and beverages from friendly baristas.

For a free eating and drinking directory listing,
send details to editor@keypennews.com

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how we're doing. Our survey at
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is fast and fun. Or email comments
to editor@keypennew.com





Top left: Boy Scouts (left to right) Elder Meik, James McGraw and Elder Cloward work on restoring the wooded trails behind the Longbranch Improvement Club April 22 as part of McGraw's Eagle Scout candidacy project.
Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News

Top right: Eighth-grade wailers Haley Barnesson (left) and Caly Albery on alto and tenor sax, respectively, joined the rest of the KPMS jazz band, lending their star power to the already illuminating Livable Community Fair at the KP Civic Center May 6.
Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

Left: KP Little Leaguer Sean Campbell gives it his all to stop an errant throw from the catcher.
Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News

The Adventuress pays a visit to Felucy Bay in May. The 133-foot gaff-rigged schooner, launched in 1913 in East Boothbay, Maine, is one of two surviving San Francisco bar pilots and a National Historic Landmark. She is operated by Sound Experience, a nonprofit based in Port Townsend. Photo: Richard Hildahl