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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

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Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News

PHS Seahawks Perfect in Conference Play, Defeated in Playoffs

A new QB led Peninsula to a 7-0 season and into the playoffs for the fourth consecutive year. How did they do it?

DANIEL SHURR, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

It has been an unreal season of fall sports so far at Peninsula High School, with most teams making a postseason appearance. While the majority may fly under the radar, Peninsula Seahawks football was still the pride of Purdy at 7-0 in season play (8-2 overall), until the Mt. Spokane Wildcats stopped the train in Spokane Nov. 15.

The Seahawks got off to a slow start, losing their first (and only) two games out of conference in September. These preseason games only help with playoff seeding in high school football, but those losses came back to bite Peninsula in their postseason run.

The first was a 21-6 loss at home Sept. 6 to the O'Dea Fighting Irish from Seattle, the team that knocked Peninsula out of the playoffs last season. O'Dea was ranked seventh in the state to start the year, while Peninsula was ranked a respectable 11th. The Hawks saw a similar outcome in the next game, struggling on offense and losing to the Sammamish Skyline 25-17.

Peninsula notched their first victory of

the year at home in week three in a decisive 38-12 win over the North Thurston Rams Sept. 19. That boosted confidence and paved the way for a 55-0 dismantling of the Shelton Highclimbers the following week. Peninsula saw their toughest win on the road Oct. 3, squeezing past Timberline 24-21 thanks to a late pick in overtime by senior Cole McVay, playing safety at the time, spoiling Timberline's homecoming game. With a solid three-game winning streak, the Hawks kept the wheels turning on the road against Capital with a 27-7 win over the Cougars.

The Peninsula offense was overshadowed all year by their dominant defense, but a home game against the Yelm Tornadoes proved that the Hawks under senior quarterback Peyton Bice could indeed keep their heads above water and score points in the midst of a shoot-out. Peninsula took down Yelm and their high-powered offense 31-28 in their last home game of the regular season Oct. 18, putting them in control of their own fate and in contention for the 3A South Sound Conference championship.

Next up for the Hawks was the most important game this side of the Narrows Bridge: the 41st annual Fish Bowl against Gig Harbor Oct. 25. Peninsula must have wanted the win more, as the Seahawks offense exploded and the defense played stellar, delivering their fourth consecutive Fish Bowl 42-3 and making them No. 1 in the SSC.

But the Hawks still had one game left to play against the Capital Cougars. Peninsula easily took that game 49-7 after the reliably solid defense paved the way for another offensive explosion by the Hawks, earning a first round home game in the playoffs Nov. 7 against the Arlington Eagles.

The Seahawks won that game 35-0, sending them to play the Mt. Spokane Wildcats in Spokane Nov. 15.

That's where the wheels came off. Peninsula scored first with a field goal after an interception in the first quarter, but then struggled with penalties and missed opportunities. Junior Bryce Cleave had a couple of big runs, including a 45-yard return to open the second half, and later provided good field position to set up junior Sean Skladany for the Hawks' lone TD in the fourth quarter. Final score: 35-10, Wildcats.

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Bridge bypass under construction in November. Photo: WSDOT

SR-302 Construction Continues into Winter

WSDOT said it combined multiple improvements into one plan in effort to save time and money and to minimize the impact on traffic disruption.

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

Washington State Department of Transportation is on track to finish its State Route 302 construction on schedule, although no relief is on the horizon for drivers.

WSDOT's plan for SR-302 includes improvements from Elgin-Clifton to Purdy, but the main slowdown for drivers is located at Minter Creek. Over the course of the next year, contractors will remove the culvert the creek flows through and a new concrete girder bridge will be installed.

Work crews are currently creating a temporary bypass to allow traffic to continue moving once construction begins in earnest.

The Minter Creek project is estimated to free up 25 miles of usable salmon habitat by removing barriers to fish traveling upstream. Two more culverts on Little Minter Creek will be upgraded to larger, boxed concrete structures. Continued one-lane and shoulder closures of culvert sites should be expected until work is completed, currently slated for fall 2020.

The culvert replacement is the result of a lawsuit that pitted tribal authorities against Washington state in a dispute over salmon management. The tribes argued in 2001 that WSDOT was responsible for replacing culverts that acted as a barrier to

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Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN,
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

To everything there is a season and so begins the magical wonder of winter holidays. No other time of year is filled with such a deep sense of nostalgia and a desire to turn back the clock to simpler times. Whether you celebrate the coming winter solstice, Hanukkah or Christmas — this season is focused on bringing light to darkness.

It's a wonderful time of year. Homes are transformed with twinkling strings of light, the smell of fir, pine and cedar mix with gingerbread baking in the oven. Holiday recipes from dog-eared old cookbooks with grandma's handwritten notes for buttery cookies handed down over generations.

But these shortened days and long cold nights weigh heavily on some of us. Rather than eager anticipation for a jolly good time, it feels more like staring hopelessly into the abyss. Our senses seem dulled, our reactions are slowed. Nothing feels good, nothing seems right. It seems like everyone is happy except for us.

You are not alone. There are others who struggle as you do. Everyone has feelings that matter, especially you. This holiday, someone is grieving their loved ones, heartbroken to spend their first — or another — Christmas without them.

There are others who feel or have felt this way too. Reach out, don't be afraid to ask for help. Talking with others who have experienced these feelings makes a world of difference. When we feel like this, it can seem like things will never change, but life is not so absolute and the heightened sense of loneliness does not last forever.

Each of us experiences life in our own season.

There is help for almost every problem from support groups — people who relate to where we are right now. The reassurance that comes from fellowship with others who share similar circumstances is immeasurable.

Social service organizations can provide resources specific to challenges with raising children, food insecurity, medical and dental needs, and the needs of aging and those with disabilities. Whether low-cost senior lunches or backpacks for kids filled with enough food to last the weekend, it all helps.

For Key Penners, today is not so unlike the days of old, with neighbors helping neighbors. We work together to resolve problems and achieve goals we couldn't alone. We stick together in good times and bad.

At Key Peninsula News we believe our work is vital to connect people by delivering the reliable local news you can depend on. Our stories not only delight but engage readers from all walks of life to learn more about the depth and quality of life here, to discover the richness and knowledge that lies beneath the surface.

Our community is strengthened when we understand everyone's viewpoint, even those with diverse backgrounds, lifestyle and beliefs. When we listen to each other, we're all better for it.

Each month our community calendar is filled with the events of nonprofit groups and organizations that provide resources and activities to enhance our lives in addition to opportunities for fellowship and fun for all ages.



We support local business owners by providing a platform to advertise, reaching you, their local customer. The question, "How did you hear about our business?" is often followed by the familiar words, "I read about you in Key Peninsula News." That's how it works, you have a need, they have a solution, everyone benefits.

The number of nonprofit businesses and groups in our community is astonishing. How would we know they exist without the Key Peninsula News? There are fantastic groups and organizations that work to make life better. And what better way to discover how you can participate and weave yourself into the fabric of life that sustains us.

Your continued support and appreciation for Key Peninsula News sustains us. You let us know what you think with spontaneous fan letters and notes of encouragement and criticism. We meet each other in person and you reach out to tell us our work makes a difference in your life. Record-breaking donations are funding our financial health and our growth like never before.

The future is uncertain for newspapers across the country, yet we remain optimistic because of you.

No matter how you celebrate the coming season of darkness, share with someone, anyone. Give of yourself no matter where you are. The heartwarming miracle of the holidays lies in the power of sharing.

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We thank all who have helped move us closer to our year-end NewsMatch goal with record-settingly fast, generous and enthusiastic support.

Maybe you gave because you feel twice as good when you know your donation will be doubled. Or perhaps it's because you enjoy your KP News so much every month.

There's still time to be a part. The match ends Dec. 31— give now at keypennews.org or mail your check to KP News, PO Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394.

Give a gift of your time and make a difference in the life of a child.

Help children boost their reading and basic math skills as a Volunteer Mentor at Vaughn Elementary School, Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:45. Contact Cathy Rich for more information: 253-509-9397 or cathy@cisofpeninsula.org

Communities In Schools of Peninsula's mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.



253-884-4699

editor@keypennews.org

PO Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Lisa Bryan

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Ted Olinger

STAFF CONTRIBUTORS: Krisa Bruemmer, Matthew Dean, Dan Marten, Joseph Pentheroudakis, Dave Stave, Sara Thompson

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS: Ed Johnson, Chris Konieczny, Richard Miller, David Zeigler

COLUMNISTS: Meredith Browand, Phyllis Henry, Ted Olinger, Dan Whitmarsh

WEBMASTER/SOCIAL MEDIA: Joseph Pentheroudakis

OPERATIONS/PRODUCTION DESIGN: Tim Heitzman

BOOKKEEPER: Linda Grubaugh

AD SALES: Deanna Hunter sales@keypennews.org

Christina Welsh kpnads@keypennews.org

DISTRIBUTION: James Allyn, Phil Bauer, Norm Brones, Bill Dietz, Bruce Macdonald, Ted Ralston, Frank Slater, Bob Wilkins

PUBLISHING BOARD: Sara Thompson, president, Bruce Macdonald, John Nichols, Frank Slater, Bob Wilkins

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CenturyLink struggles to connect the KP. Photo: AdobeStock

Little to No Broadband Equality for KP Residents

Aging infrastructure is maxed out in Key Peninsula neighborhoods where residents are on waiting lists to connect to high speed internet service – or service of any kind.

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

After KPC Director Cindy Worden watched her internet speed plummet from 10 Mbps to 1 Mbps, she spent hours on the telephone determined to find answers. A line had been moved to make way for culvert replacement along State Route 302 over Minter Creek, effectively moving her from the beginning of the line to the end, reducing her speed to a trickle.

Lucky for her, it was a temporary and resolvable issue, but she invited CenturyLink to speak at a KP Community Council meeting Nov. 13 to explain why others might not be so fortunate.

Christopher Black, manager of local network implementation engineering and construction for CenturyLink, addressed a full house at the monthly meeting of the council held at the Key Center Fire Station. He spoke candidly about the realities of bringing high-speed internet to rural communities like the Key Peninsula.

KPC Director Irene Torres said she saw complaints from local residents posted on Facebook that CenturyLink has reached full capacity on the KP to deliver high speed internet hookups. She asked Black what the company is doing for residents who need service, and said, “Kids can’t do their homework without it.”

“I understand it and hear it just about everywhere I go,” Black said. “I think what you’re being told is based on the copper platform that we have out on the field today. We are not investing in expanding

that copper platform. We want to build fiber optic, that’s the way to go.”

Black explained that the aging copper phone lines limit CenturyLink’s footprint. “I can bring fiber optics to the neighborhood — those big boxes you see on the side of the road — and from there it’s one mile in circumference around that box,” he said. “Around here it might be 20 houses. In Seattle or Tacoma there could be a million people in that 1 mile and that is a good payback for us.”

Black said there are potentially some state funds available through the Community Economic Revitalization Board or through the FCC’s Connect America Fund (CAF), based on census blocks and any existing coverage available — such as cell phones with 4G — that funds approximately 40 percent of the expense for rural areas.

The FCC mandates where those CAF projects are located. To illustrate the costs, Black described how he used a federally funded project to take broadband to 400 residents who live on Neah Bay.

“We had to run a 17-mile fiber optic cable to get there. I was in charge of construction at that time and we spent \$4 million. We ended up with about 200 customers and the federal government paid us back a little bit of money, but we’ll never see the light of day. The Indian Tribes have... the ear of our local and state government, and that goes a long way.”

Black said that \$500 million funds oper-

ations for all eight states in CenturyLink’s western region.

“To you and me, it sounds like a great deal of money, but when you consider we spent \$4 million just to get to Neah Bay, \$500 million doesn’t get you very far,” he said. “Since cell phones came about, we’ve lost nearly 75 percent of our business. Bankers and stockholders expect a return on investment.”

Black said there is a national formula on what it costs for telecommunications companies to connect rural neighborhoods and sell high speed internet. That formula is an 8-year payback at an 18 percent take rate.

“If we want to invest \$100,000 to bring internet out to a neighborhood, based on an 18 percent take rate, over the course of eight years — let’s say that number is only \$50,000. The other 50 percent has to come from homeowners,” he said. “There is no other funding available.”

Black said CenturyLink is willing to partner with their competition and is always looking for ways to bring service out, something that never would have happened with the old phone companies. With competitors working together, both companies can go twice as far as long as everyone makes their 18 percent margin.

On average, in a neighborhood with buried electricity, Black said it costs roughly \$50 a foot — a considerable investment per mile. It’s pennies per foot for fiber optic cable versus copper, but the larger costs involve labor, permitting and construction.

“We will also partner with homeowners. If there is a lot of interest in getting high speed internet service we will take a look, come up with a price, and we will ask for an aid to construction,” he said.

Telecommunications companies are regulated by the FCC and cannot deny service if service is available, Black said.

KPC Director Bob Anderson said, “What I heard you say is that Neah Bay was successful because of political pressure. My question to you is who in the state of Washington is providing political pressure for rural areas?”

“That would be you,” Black said. “It’s the individual city and town councils, your state representatives who work for you.”

KPC Director Chuck West asked Black about the recent repairs to the substation at the corner of 64th and Key Peninsula Highway NW, property West owns where CenturyLink had to replace the electrical, saying it was his understanding “it was an equipment issue slowing things down, not necessarily the pipe.”

“It’s a little bit of both,” Black said, “but

there is resistance in everything.”

Electric cable has more resistance than fiber optic, so with both parts of that it ends up slowing the system down, he said. With the older copper system there is more resistance the thinner the wire is. “Just like your extension cord at home, the longer the cord, the less the power you get at the end of it,” Black said.

“My expense budget is small, and just like your budget at home, we’re putting things off,” he said. “When funds aren’t there, projects don’t happen. We’re pretty much to the point where the bandage is falling off...it needs to be replaced.”

PHS SEAHAWKS, FROM PAGE 1

But how did the Seahawks find the success they did?

For openers, the entire team stepped up this year. While many had starting positions last year, like senior linebacker Nolan Casey or senior left guard Joe Hille, others had enormous shoes to fill. Senior quarterback Bice took a few snaps last year, filling in for then Peninsula QB Burke Griffin, who went on to play Division I football at the University of New Hampshire.

But Bice only played when Peninsula was smacking around the opposing team. This year he had to start, and performed well enough to give the team its fourth consecutive SSC title and a playoff berth. Through eight games, Bice racked up 1,191 yards through the air, threw for eight touchdowns, and lobbed nine picks into the hands of the wrong team. His rushing stats weren’t a thing of beauty, but the Seahawks QB put up solid stats through the air, considering PHS is a run first, ground and pound offense.

Sean Skladany was the lead running back for Peninsula, and during the regular season rushed for 682 yards and went over 100 yards on the ground in two games this season. He also found the end zone a handful of times on the ground, helping the Seahawks offense find their late season success, and becoming the SSC’s Most Valuable Player.

Peninsula head coach Ross Filkins, now in his 25th year, anticipated a postseason run for the Hawks, possibly capped off with a state championship. One thing is certain — this senior class has stepped up through adversity and triumph, and everyone on the football team assumed a leadership role. Peninsula didn’t win it all, but Seahawks football will remain the pride of Purdy for years to come.

Daniel Shurr is a Peninsula High School senior and PHS Outlook sports writer. He lives near Vaughn. Read more of his work at www.phsoutlook.com

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The year started off with a bang when the Puget Sound region saw 20.2 inches of snowfall in the first half of February, the most in 50 years. It made for scenic views and long hours for Peninsula Light Co. crews struggling to keep up with powerlines downed by falling trees. "Snowmageddon" left a lasting impression, as Pen Light spent most of the summer trimming trees and replacing lines along the Key Peninsula Highway and State Route 302. *Top photo: Beth Buffington, Above: Ed Johnson, KP News*



The Peninsula High School Seahawks won Fish Basket III, defeating the Gig Harbor Tides for the second time in 2019 by 56-51 in the Class 3A West Central/Southwest playoffs at Puyallup High School Feb. 15. Ranked No. 1 in the South Sound 3A Conference, the Seahawks took their second consecutive trip to the state tournament in 30 years. *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News*



After an exhaustive search, the Board of Commissioners of Key Peninsula Fire District 16 selected Dustin Morrow as the new fire chief. Morrow signed a contract two weeks later at the March 12 commissioners meeting and started work in April. One of his first tasks was to promote a permanent EMS levy for the district, which KP voters approved in a supermajority vote Aug. 6. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*



Karen Jorgenson, the retiring volunteer executive director of Food Backpacks 4 Kids, received the 35th annual Key Peninsula Lions Club Citizen of the Year Award for 2018 in March. It was her eighth nomination after helping to found and run FB4K in 2008. *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News*

From record-breaking snow to record-setting basketball, it was a memorable year.

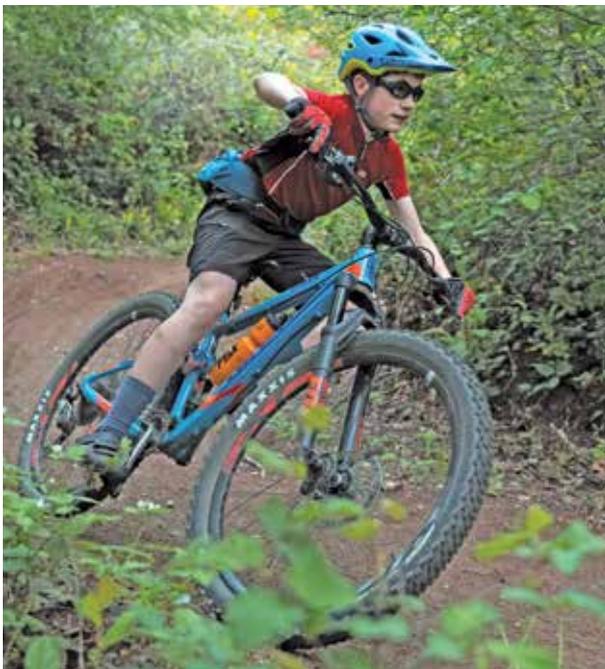
Looking Back at Our Year



The Filicy University Birds marching band sets a tone of hilarity at the Fourth of July parade in Home, with a record turnout of parade floats, parade watchers and post-parade pancake-eaters. *Photos: Chris Konieczny, KP News*



The KP Logging Show in August brought out the beast in some of us, as seen in the "Timber Beast" chainsaw sculpture by Jeff Samudsky. Over 2,000 people attended the show held at Gateway Park. *Photo: David Zeigler, KP News*



Key Pen Parks created the hugely popular biking course at 360 Trails and the new "home team" — the KP Pirates mountain biking team — completed their first successful season in June. Henrik Daray, 14, above. *Photo: Chris Konieczny, KP News*



Volunteers of the Key Peninsula Historical Society were hard at work on restoration of the Vaughn Library Hall in April. Work began in March on the restoration of the historic library hall donated to the KP Historical Society. Built around 1895, it is the last remaining of the many library and meeting halls that dotted the Key Peninsula for decades starting in the late 1800s. It was in continuous use until 1956 and will live on under the auspices of the historical society. *Photo: Jackie Hickey*

Ted Olinger

ANOTHER LAST WORD



Meeting the Real Santa

No child enjoys being scolded, especially by a beloved adult, but being personally reprimanded by Santa Claus is a special burden.

It was 1966 or '67. I was of an age when I not only accepted the existence of Santa Claus as unassailable truth, but could also readily believe my dad when he told me we were going to visit him one summer day at Santa's boatyard in San Pedro.

I had already seen Santa Claus at least once in his official capacity. I remember being astounded when he called children he had never met before by name to come up out of a crowd somewhere — Sears, perhaps? — to give them a toy he somehow knew they wanted, including me. It was a green Matchbox race car I'd longed for, and still possess.

I was also no stranger to boats or boatyards by then. My parents had been toting me along on sailing trips since I was an infant. One of my earliest memories is just a flash of a glance through the green netting of the cargo hammock where I was stowed, strung up like a sack of potatoes between portholes. I was well acquainted with boatyards too since my parents and their friends, I learned later, had been scouting for a boat to buy in partnership. It was perfectly normal to me that Santa would spend time at such a place — didn't everyone?

I must even have wondered or asked what he might give me on this occasion because I remember imagining the obvious answer: a toy boat.

It was a hot, dusty gravel lot lined with crooked rows of boats in various states of repair or decay, some surrounded with dubious scaffolding. There was a long open building, just a roof really, sheltering massive saws and piles of cast-off engine parts, anchors, and giant collapsing coils of stinking rope.

Santa did not look well. He was thin and gray, with a long red beak of a nose and a scraggly beard he stroked with one hand while his other held a cigarette. I have no memory of being introduced, but he and my dad joked about his having to put on weight and grow the beard out soon. Stray dogs roamed the boatyard and occasionally Santa would pick up a rock to throw at one.

"Meeting Santa" had been a lazy ruse to get me into the car and out of my mother's hair probably, but I didn't think that way then.

We examined one particularly enormous hulk, brownish and sunbaked. The two men stepped around the scaffolding and boat stands, examining the fabric bulging out of the seams of the hull. I, being whatever age I was, naturally began climbing the scaffolding like monkey bars until I was high enough to look inside. There was no deck, just a maze of crooked bulkheads surrounding a giant, rusted corpse of an engine.

"Hey Jungle Jim, don't climb all over that!" yelled Santa. When I was back on the ground, he added, "You can't just climb everywhere, we don't have enough coffins!"

He did not give me a toy boat.

It was months later, maybe even a year, when we were at another boatyard. This time my mom came along, and we met our sailing friends there. This yard was at a marina in Redondo Beach that had a giant rolling box hoist with slings in the middle, for launching boats.

A large truck appeared towing a 40-foot ketch standing tall on her full keel, glistening in new black paint, dwarfing everything around her.

Santa Claus was driving the truck. I cringed.

My parents and their friends had purchased the hull we examined in San Pedro and brought it back to life, building a new deck and scavenging two massive crane booms off a Navy cargo lighter to serve as her twin masts. The adults crowded around the boat like it was a dream come true. Because it was.

They were all starting their families and careers. Some, like my dad, had been home for just over a decade from Korea; now he and his friends were on standby to go to Vietnam. They grinned and laughed like children while my mother and the other wives solemnly ran their hands over the hull seams she and the others had re-caulked, either imparting or asking for a blessing.

That hull was already 30 years old then but she was our first boat, well-found, sullen and sluggish in anything but a small gale and, as we repeatedly learned, unbreakable. Re-christened "Phoenix," she changed the trajectory of our lives by changing the people who sailed her through long, wet passages, seafood feasts and marathon poker games; adventures, dangers and moments preserved now only in me and other aging children.

Someone rolled a standing ladder up against the boat and the adults clambered aboard. I followed.

"Hey, Jungle Jim." I climbed down and walked over to that old gray man with the thin red nose, but kept my eyes on the

ground. "Here," he said. I looked up. He handed me a small candy cane wrapped in cellophane, and winked.

Award-winning journalist Ted Olinger lives in Vaughn.

Meredith Browand

KEY ISSUES



Lessons Learned

As 2019 rapidly comes to a close it's natural to take a few minutes to reflect on the past year. If your year was anything like mine it flew by in what felt like the blink of an eye. Seasons changed, snow melted, the days got longer, kids returned to school, the summer sun waned, and now the winter holidays are upon us. I've learned a lot in 2019 and am thankful for the lessons it brought.

2019 taught me that there is an unmatched joy in new beginnings. We welcomed a baby girl in March more than a decade after her brothers were born. Our family of four became a family of five and we quickly adapted to life with an infant. We marveled at her early coos, celebrated the first time she rolled over, adjusted to a baby's schedule, and watched as she quickly learned that her big brothers were head over heels in love with her. The joy she brings is indescribable; she is everything we never knew we needed.

2019 taught me that persistence pays off. The failed bond attempts of the Peninsula School District loomed large this year as we undertook another attempt at securing funds for new buildings. Lessons learned in previous years helped campaign leadership adjust their strategy this year to best meet the priorities of the local community. Hundreds of volunteers and thousands of voters proved that staying in the fight was key to achieving a victory that will benefit our community for many years to come.

2019 taught me that our country's institutions are built to last. A quick scan of cable news will show you that our country is at an undeniable crossroads. The partisan divide seems to be getting bigger by the day and it's not surprising many are questioning what this divide will do to our democracy. Our institutions have been tested and they've proven to be steadfast, much like the founding fathers envisioned nearly 250 years ago. As citizens it is our responsibility to hold our government accountable and insist that it works in a way that best serves the entire population and not just partisan pandering.

2019 taught me that I have a responsibility to find ways to communicate with those I

disagree with. It's not a secret that I have strongly held beliefs that shape my priorities, decisions and the ways in which I interact with others. Engaging in conversation with like-minded individuals is easy. I prefer the affirming comments, agreeable head nods and identification of shared values. Having effective conversations with those I disagree with often feels much different. As a society we must find ways to learn from those we disagree with instead of demonizing them and assuming our own personal beliefs are under attack. I have a responsibility to do my part in having these conversations in a healthy and productive manner.

As I look forward to 2020, I'm excited about what the year will hold for my family, my community, and my country. I know that the coming year holds promise and potential and I can't wait to see what's on the horizon.

Meredith Browand is a mother and an activist who lives in Purdy.

Phyllis Henry

COAST TO COAST



Dusting Memories

Some words change our lives. "You have a full scholarship." "The cancer is in remission." "You will be giving birth to twins." The words loom in our minds all in caps, written with red ink in our dreams, influencing every decision once they have been spoken.

Maybe, in truth, all words change our lives in some way. None can be totally erased. One Saturday morning when I was cleaning the house (those were the days when the laundry was done on Monday, ironing on Tuesday and cleaning on Saturday), my 5-year-old son, as was his custom, followed me around insisting that he could help me. When I sat for a few minutes in the rocker to rest, he grabbed the dust cloth and "dusted" the coffee table for me.

After he swiped the cloth back and forth over the coffee table a few times, he grinned at me, delighted to be my helper. Always on the quest for a teaching moment, I brought him close to the coffee table and pointed out that he had missed a lot of spots. With my hand over his, we methodically moved the dust cloth back and forth until every inch was clean. I moved on to dust an end table. He wasn't thanked for his help, didn't get a hug or an "I love you." Today I yearn to undo something that never happened.

A few minutes later on the landing of the stairs his 7-year-old sister was hugging him close and I overheard her say, "Don't feel bad. Moms can see dirt that kids can't."

Why do those words stay with me? Why do I, after all these years, feel guilty? Did my son grow up to be a super house cleaner because of this incident? Did my daughter resent me forever because I was so insensitive that Saturday morning? When after 60 years I asked them about that day, both claimed to have no memory whatsoever of the incident.

Yet almost daily I think about that morning. Sometimes I try to recreate in my mind the arrangement of the furniture in that living room. Where was the sofa? Where was the coffee table? What were the kids wearing? What was I wearing? Where was my other daughter?

Individual words are like tiles on a Scrabble table — difficult to evaluate until they are put together in a sentence. “Don’t feel bad. Moms can see dirt that kids can’t.” Leave out a couple words and we get, “Moms feel bad when kids don’t see dirt.” No, that’s not it at all. “Kids feel bad when moms see dirt.” There’s no way to erase the fact that my son didn’t see dirt and felt bad.

There’s no way to erase the fact that my daughter believed that moms can see dirt that kids can’t.

This I believe is a nugget to pick out of this moment in the past. Do we have a universal truth? A NASA scientist sees the landscape of the moon when a romantic couple is only basking in its light. An X-ray technician sees a broken bone when the patient only feels pain. A good cook knows that a pinch of thyme gives a special touch to his soup while the typical customer just knows the soup tastes good.

How sentences are constructed can irritate our souls like scratches from cactus thorns, but can also soothe our souls like the softness of goose feathers. Whether one shrinks from the irritation or embraces the soothing depends entirely on the arrangement of the scrabble of dictionary words.

Socrates is believed to have said, “There is no solution; seek it lovingly.” The “no solution” part I comprehend. Sometimes anger or frustration or guilt triggers the search, so I try to convince myself to forget the problem. But why did my daughter think I could see dirt that was invisible to kids?

“The unexamined life is not worth living” is also attributed to Socrates. Now I ask you, the reader, “Do a few unforgettable words constantly bobble into your consciousness?” Remember: Even after a lifetime of examining there is no solution. Giving up the search, however, makes life not worth living. Never mind; the coffee table was dusted.

Award-winning columnist Phyllis Henry lives in Gig Harbor.

Dan Whitmarsh
WRITING BY FAITH



Being Light in Darkness

The darkness always surprises me. Our languid days of summer too quickly give way to winter’s darkness and, here on the peninsula, the night is long and it is dark.

Our roads become narrow tunnels through murky forests; our homes solitary islands in a monochrome sea. I find myself traveling through the evening dusk wondering, “Where did the light go?”

Darkness is necessary. Under the cover of winter, the land replenishes itself, restoring nutrients that will become the forest’s food next spring. Darkness is a time of pulling inward, of rest and reflection. Long winter nights slow us down, giving pause from the frenetic activity of summer’s light.

In times of darkness we nestle in, taking pleasure in the little things: a warm bowl of soup, or a brief spark of sunlight reflected in a frozen puddle. In the stillness is space to ponder and to engage the necessary soul-work of quiet mindfulness. We need the silence that winter brings.

However, something within us pushes back. Our ancestors gathered around campfires and candles. Today we line our streets and fill our homes with all the marvels of illumination electricity affords.

We’re told it was German pastor Martin Luther who first brought a tree into his home and decorated it with candles, to mimic the light of stars through evergreen boughs on a cold winter night. Many of us enact this tradition every year, filling our homes with twinkling lights as an act of whimsical defiance against the darkness of the long winter that lies ahead.

In the midst of the Christmas story, a voice calls out: “Behold, those living in the land of darkness have seen a great light.” In this season, Christians celebrate the light that came to earth, bringing life and hope and joy and peace to all humankind.

In this story we also hear a mandate to be a light to the world. Instead of giving in to dehumanizing forces that seek to divide and destroy, we are called to be a light that stands against the darkness.

In this Christmas season, choose to be a light. Offer a kind word. Give an unexpected gift. Visit a lonely senior. Forgive someone who hurt you. Donate to a worthwhile cause. Attend a Christmas concert and sing along. Invite a new friend over for dinner. Opportunities to be a light abound.

As you decorate your home and hearth, fill the night with songs of mirth and plea-

sure. Greet each other with glad holiday greetings. Call your parents or your children. If need be, find a quiet space and rest your soul in order that your light gains strength and power.

Darkness can be necessary, but it can also be overwhelming. Be the light somebody needs today.

I wish you all a happy holiday season and a very Merry Christmas.

Award-winning columnist Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church.

OBITUARY



Mary Watson

Mary Watson died Oct. 22 at her home on Rocky Creek on the Key Peninsula. She was 93 years old.

She was a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and a member of the Tacoma congregation for more than 60 years and a dedicated supporter of End of Life Washington and its work to offer death with dignity. She also worked on many other progressive causes, both political and cultural.

Mary was a voracious reader and attended several book clubs, including one dedicated to her beloved Jane Austen. She also enjoyed meeting with a poetry group, a women’s circle, the Friends of the Key Center Library and regular neighborhood gatherings.

A transplant from the Midwest, Mary loved the Pacific Northwest and cherished her memories of many years spent exploring its natural beauty. She was a regular in several hiking groups until her illness slowed her in her late 80s.

Mary is survived by her four children: Chris Fruitrich (Teresa) and Mary James of the Tacoma area, Ellie Fruitrich of Australia and Ean James of Hawaii; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She also enjoyed a wide circle of supportive friends and neighbors.

At her request, there will be no service. She asks the many who will miss her: “Don’t be sad, just remember.”

There's still room for you.

Our year-end campaign has been wonderfully successful. There's still time to add your name to the list of our donors.

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The artists shown with work in their studios in Vaughn. Photo: Richard Miller, KP News

Phoebe Toland and Dick Notkin — Artists Share a Life

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Artists Dick Notkin and Phoebe Toland moved to the Key Peninsula five years ago from Helena, Montana. They sat down one afternoon last month to talk about their work and about what it is like for two busy artists to share a life.

“We really understand the artistic need to create and so we are very supportive, and we aren’t jealous of each other’s studio time. And we understand that if your passion is to be an artist, it is a full-time job,” Notkin said.

The couple first crossed paths when Toland was in graduate school at the University of Montana and Notkin was teaching, but they were in different departments and were barely aware of each other. It wasn’t until years later that they were re-introduced by a mutual friend. “I didn’t even recognize him,” said Toland.

They moved here largely to be closer to Toland’s sister, sculptor Tip Toland, and her husband. “Tip’s career was taking off, and we realized that if we didn’t move closer, we wouldn’t see them very often,” Toland said. They were also ready to leave the brutal winters and summers that increasingly brought the threat of forest fires.

They found a house that fit their requirements: It had to have enough studio space for both of them and be a walkable distance from Tip. The brown shag carpet throughout, they think, kept the place on the market for a few years, but that was easily removed. They converted the multi-car garage and lower floor of the house into studio spaces.

The two have much in common. Both knew they would be artists from early childhood. They were raised in urban areas but have spent adulthood in rural locations. Their art is deeply influenced by the world

that surrounds them. And, Notkin said, “We are both left-handed Scorpios.”

But as they talked about their work, the differences became apparent. Toland is primarily a painter and printmaker, and also creates wood and paper sculptures that sometimes harken back to her combined graduate degree in painting and theater arts. Her images are often abstract. Notkin works in clay. His work is tightly controlled and detailed, with a high degree of craftsmanship.

“All my work is so intuitive. I have no idea what it will become until that last moment. Dick needs to know right off the bat what he will be completing,” Toland said.

Toland came from a creative family. Her father was a writer for the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin and then wrote books and plays; her mother was talented in needlecraft and quilting. “My sister Tip was gifted in terms of drawing people, but I was more interested in design, more abstract pictures. We had our own very separate means of expression,” she said.

After undergraduate work at the Rochester Institute of Technology and graduate school in Montana, Toland returned to the east coast where she worked at the Philadelphia Museum of Art for several years. “It was there that I fell in love with paper,” she said. She turns paper into both sculptures and multidimensional collages that incorporate woodblock prints. “You have to like the whole process — if you don’t like all the steps you probably won’t do it because it is all so labor intensive,” she said.

“Although I am an abstract artist, all my work has a thematic basis,” she said. Toland tends to work in series, and is currently focused on gardens. “The pieces are a way

of expressing my love of gardens and gardening but they also stand in for the earth and feeling of concern and apprehension of climate change.”

Toland acknowledges a sense of crowding, a bit of foreboding apparent in much of her recent work, especially in the last few years. Her other works were influenced by the development taking place where she lived in Helena. Another installation was inspired by her father and Notkin’s, who both died in the same year.

Notkin, though he has lived in expansive spaces all of his adult life, said his work is not affected by where his studio is located. From the time he was a student his work has expressed his feelings about war, technology and the environment. “I work out of a political landscape. If an artist can’t

say what they feel in their art, then what the hell is the point?” he said. His father, of Jewish

descent, fought in WWII, and though he was proud to have fought against Hitler, he also described that time as the worst in his life. Notkin came of age in the years of the Vietnam War. Friends served, and of those who survived, he said, most came back damaged. “I think my opposition to war continues to be justified,” he said.

Notkin knew from the time he was in kindergarten that he wanted to be an artist. He went to the Kansas City Art Institute to study painting, but after he was introduced to clay in a sculpture class, he knew he had found his medium. He loved the detail he saw in the extensive ceramics collection at the Kansas City Art Museum and in the pieces he saw at home as he grew up — his father was an immigration lawyer and his many Chinese clients gave him

artwork as gifts.

Notkin is perhaps best known for his unglazed ceramic teapots inspired by 16th century Chinese Yixing wares. He is a master and innovator in the slip-casting technique, which uses molds and liquid clay, allowing him to work in series, adding highly detailed images that make each pot unique. He has created more than 350 pots, most of which are in private and public collections.

Notkin’s tiles serve as another avenue for expressing his alarm. He creates each from clay, using finely detailed images such as skulls, dice, buildings, ears and barbed wire. “Each original tile takes about four days, depending on the detail,” he said. Then he creates a press mold that allows him to create copies. He now has hundreds of tile molds to draw from. Some tiles are glazed in color. Others are fired in sawdust, which causes the value of the tile to vary from light to dark. The tiles are then sorted and stored by color and value to be used to create murals. Two well-known murals, both using hundreds of tiles, are a portrait of George W. Bush titled “All Nations Have Their Moment of Foolishness” and “The Gift,” an image of the Hiroshima bomb.

Notkin’s work has been shown all over the world and is in collections at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He has received many awards for his work and was featured in a PBS Craft in America Landscape documentary.

Both Notkin and Toland continue to work full tilt. Notkin’s father once asked how he was planning for retirement. He replied, “I don’t have any extra money to put away. And besides, what will I do? Pick up some hobby like maybe ceramic art?”

"IF AN ARTIST CAN'T SAY WHAT THEY FEEL IN THEIR ART, THEN WHAT THE HELL IS THE POINT?"

SR-302 CONSTRUCTION, FROM PAGE 1

returning salmon. Seventeen years later, after a series of appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court reached a split decision and defaulted to an earlier ruling in favor of the tribes. Washington was ordered to fix hundreds of areas deemed barriers — fixes estimated to cost over \$3 billion in culvert expansion and bridge construction.

The other repairs will involve more traditional highway maintenance. Intersections along SR-302 are receiving curb ramps at crosswalks, bringing them into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ramps will serve to accommodate wheelchairs and create a smooth transition for bicyclists. Eight miles of road will be repaved, including the Purdy Bridge, which will also undergo deck structure rehabilitation. Supplementary work such as guardrail repair and erosion control will be performed throughout.

Drivers began to see the effects of the project in late August, as contractors began brush-clearing around Minter Creek to create space for equipment and a two-lane bypass. Repaving is on hold until summer 2020, as warm, dry conditions are needed. Purdy Bridge repairs will be conducted at the same time as paving and will shut down the Purdy Spit for three as-yet-undetermined weekends. Drivers will be diverted around the head of Burley Lagoon.

According to WSDOT, at least two weeks of notice will be provided once closures are scheduled. “It makes more sense to do just one weekend of work instead of being stretched out, doing just a few hours a night, and having to get it ready to open up in the morning,” said Andrew Larson, WSDOT assistant project engineer.

Although multiple SR-302 delays over the next year is a bleak forecast for KP residents, according to Larson, combining multiple improvements into one plan saves both time and money.

“When we’re doing it all at the same time with a contractor, we can get a better price by combining them together instead of having the separate prices of the individual projects,” Larson said. For projects like the Purdy Bridge repaving and deck repair, which are technically two separate undertakings, one cycle of bridge closure can address both problems. “This way, instead of doing one project one year, and the next year having to come back and disrupt traffic again, it made sense to do it with this project, when the workers were going to have to disrupt traffic anyway.”

WSDOT’s monthly reports indicate the project is currently on schedule. Approximately \$15 million has been budgeted for the completion of all planned work, with the majority earmarked for the new Minter Creek bridge.



Pioneer Elementary School Principal Stephanie Strader talks to parents. Photo: Aimee Gordon, Peninsula School District

Pioneer Elementary Principal Presents Dream for STEAM

All district students will be eligible to attend the new magnet school in Gig Harbor next fall.

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

Parents, community members, school administrators and staff gathered at the future home of Peninsula School District’s first magnet school, Pioneer Elementary, Nov. 13 for a “Dream for STEAM” community event.

“Upon full opening,” scheduled for fall 2020, “we’ll have about 30 classrooms, K-5. That’s about 500 students,” said Principal Stephanie Strader. “Being a magnet school means we get to pull from our entire community of students, so all the way south to Longbranch, all the way out to Fox Island, up to Crescent Valley.”

In addition to presenting current blueprints for each floor of the building and the playground, as well as images of the future Pioneer Elementary, Strader discussed the meaning of STEAM and her vision for the school. “I want us as a Peninsula School District to decide what STEAM means for us,” she said. “STEAM does stand for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. But what does that look like within our practice and our beliefs and our philosophy here in Peninsula School District?”

“How we go about that, what our beliefs are, our values, our morals, it’s all something that we get to create from the ground up, and that’s an exciting opportunity,” she said.

“Where most of our schools are really based on literacy and math, this school

would be more science-based, and the literacy and math would come in the science-type project,” said Superintendent of Elementary Programs John Hellwich.

“If we’re going to learn about character development, they are empowered to choose whatever kind of text they want, to talk about that character development,” Strader said. “If we’re learning about life science, they have the power to ask the questions and to design the process and the product and explain their thinking and show their mastery.”

Strader is “really, really excited” about the plan for a large, open “Maker Space”

that can transform to meet the needs of students and instructors.

“When I think of Maker Space, I think of a creativity room,” she said. “It could be an art room. It could be a science room. It could be a place where kids are growing plants, it could be pottery making. It could be glass making, maybe. It could be woodworking.”

“STEAM is a passion of mine,” said Minter Creek Elementary parent and engineer Maria Kusche, who runs the annual STEAM Family Night event at Minter. “My kiddo — he loves math and science. He’s really always grasped onto them.”

Kusche’s son, fourth grader Brody Finch interrupted his mom to insist, “Math is better than reading.”

“I love the concept of a STEAM-focused elementary school,” Kusche said. “It’s this

age that really, if you plant that seed, it sparks and then they continue on.”

“Just because we are a STEAM magnet school doesn’t mean these things are not happening in other schools,” Strader said. “What might be different is our delivery model, how we’re trying to get the students to those standards.”

Strader and Hellwich also addressed parents’ questions about the potential lottery system for applying to Pioneer and plans for school transportation.

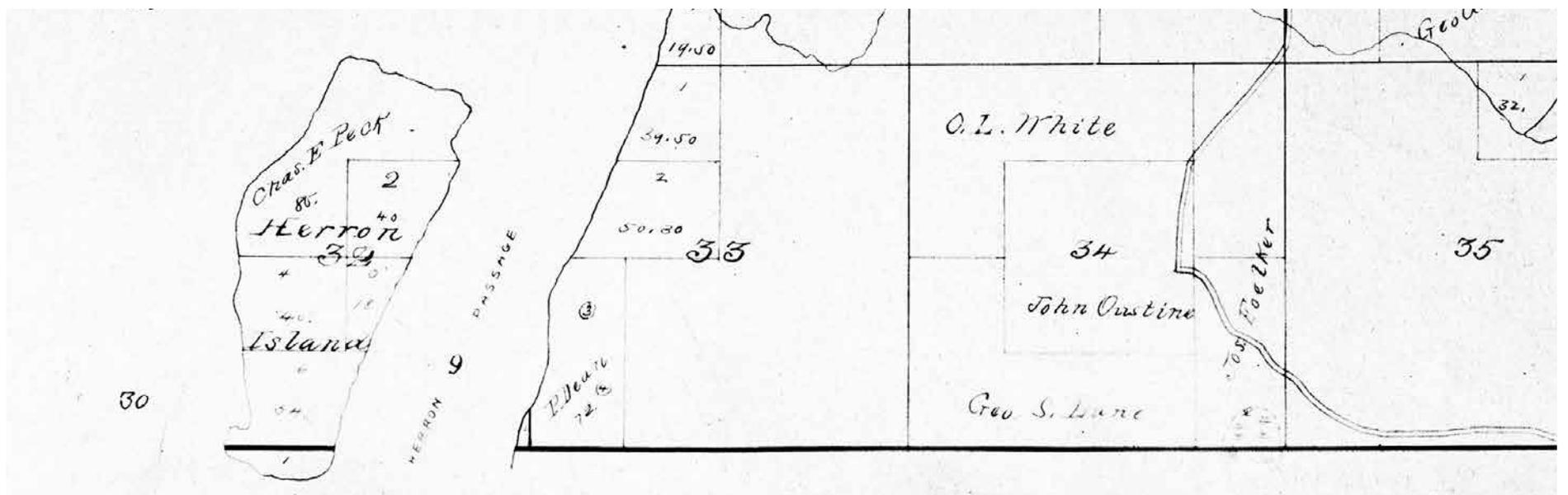
“We have been granted and guaranteed that we will be transporting,” Strader said. “Just the model for that is unclear.”

“There are various options,” Hellwich said. “One would be that you might transport your kid to a hub that they get picked up at. Or maybe they get picked up at their neighborhood school and go from there.”

Strader hopes to start communicating the details of those processes by early to mid-January, and to host more community events.

“My goal definitely is to make it as transparent and public as possible, I want everyone to understand what we’re doing,” she said. “There are my cards on the tables,” she said to the room full of parents, many with young children in tow. “Feel free to pick one up, give me a call, send me an email. I’m happy to talk with you.”

The new school is located at 8502 Skansie Avenue in Gig Harbor, occupying and expanding the site of the former Boys & Girls Club.



An 1889 map showing Charles E. Pack (misspelled as Peck) as the owner of a portion of Herron Island. From Plummer's Complete Atlas of the County of Pierce, Wash. Courtesy Tacoma Public Library

Charley Pack: Herron Island Pioneer

A forgotten Swiss immigrant farmer was the first settler on Herron Island.

JOSEPH PENTHEROUDAKIS, KP NEWS

There's nothing like reconstructing a forgotten life from the past. Bit by painstaking bit, a story can slowly emerge, sometimes seemingly out of thin air, and soon we can't tear ourselves away. A life hums with echoes of its time; listen closely to someone's story and you'll hear the voice of their age.

Take for example the story of Charles Emil Pack.

Researching the history of Herron Island required identifying the island's first white settlers. None of the standard reference works on KP history mentioned their names, so it was time to consult original sources.

The first settlers would have been granted patents to the land by the Government Land Office in Olympia, the agency in the Department of Interior responsible for surveying and managing lands that had come into the public domain.

GLO records have been digitized and are available on the Bureau of Land Management's website, the GLO's successor agency. Survey maps for Case Inlet provided the coordinates assigned to the island when the area was first surveyed in 1853 and 1856

Entering those coordinates on the GLO site returned three hits.

The earliest settler was a Charles Emil Pack, who had claimed a total of 92 acres along the north and west sides of the island in 1872. Over 20 years later, in 1894, a patent for most of the rest of the island, about 160 acres, was issued to a Julius Sunde. Finally, in 1895, the narrow strip of land on a high bank at the south

end was deeded to the Northern Pacific Railroad Co., part of the land grant authorized by Congress in 1864 to help finance construction of that railroad from the Great Lakes to Puget Sound.

A treasure trove of information existed on Julius Sunde, but Charles was more elusive and harder to track down. Julius led a rich social and professional life, with frequent mentions not just in government records but also in newspapers, magazines, books and letters.

By contrast, Charles Pack, Charley to his friends, left only a few scattered traces. Those few pieces of the puzzle put together, however, were enough to outline the trajectory of his life.

Charles Emil Pack was born Emile Pack in French-speaking Switzerland in 1829. He emigrated to the United States, arriving in New Orleans in April 1847 on the 900-ton, three-masted ship Taglioni, which

made regular runs between Le Havre in France and Louisiana. One hundred and seventy of the 199 passengers listed on the ship's passenger manifest, including 17-year-old Emile, gave their occupations as farmers and stated they were headed to Missouri. Young, expanding America needed farmers; Europe heeded the call.

Emile's plans seemed to change, however. The war that broke out in 1846 between the United States and Mexico following the U.S. annexation of Texas was in its second year and volunteers were needed. Within a few days after he got off the Taglioni, Emile joined Company B as a private in the newly formed Battalion of

Louisiana Volunteers. History does not record when he was discharged, but the war ended Feb. 3, 1848. Emile's service during that war would be recognized four decades later; in 1887 Congress authorized pensions for survivors of the Mexican War who were over the age of 62. Emile applied in 1891 and was granted a monthly pension of \$8 starting in 1893.

In 1855 Emile surfaces again, this time in New York City, where he applied and was naturalized as a U.S. citizen. His name on the naturalization certificate is Emil, having dropped the French ending; the name Charles would not appear until later.

Fast forward to 1871, when Emil, by now Charles Emil, has moved to Washington Territory and is sharing a house on a farm in Mason County, west of Herron Island across Case Inlet. The

territorial census shows 326 inhabitants in the county, not counting Indians. Perhaps

that was too crowded for Charley; in September 1872 he applied for a patent on 92 acres around the northwest part of the island. According to his statement, he had been living there since January of 1872, in effect squatting on public land. Congress's Land Act of 1820 allowed the sale of public lands at \$1.25 an acre; for reasons that are not documented Charley paid \$2.50 an acre for a total of \$230, about \$5,000 in today's money.

The purchase was approved on July 25, 1873, making 43-year-old Charles Emil Pack the first documented settler on Herron Island.

Charley cleared two acres and built

a chicken coop and an 18-by-20 foot house, "a comfortable house to live in," according to the statements of two witnesses, his friends Joseph Sherwood and John Wisman, provided in support of his claim.

The 1880 territorial census shows Charley as the only inhabitant on Herron Island. In that year's agricultural census, he is listed as a subsistence farmer; the census enumerator comments that Charley "has cleared a small patch round the shanty, and raises enough for his own wants, selling nothing."

We do not know when Charley left the island. In 1895, two years after his Mexican War pension was approved, he deeded his land to Allen Fish, the new postmaster at the village of Herron on the mainland who was to serve until 1904.

Charley died on June 7, 1898, at the Fannie C. Paddock Hospital in Tacoma at the age of 68. On his death certificate his occupation is given as cook; his farming days on the island had probably been over for some time. He is buried at the Old Tacoma Cemetery in Tacoma.

Charley Pack never married and appears to have lived a solitary life. His shanty did not survive subsequent logging and development on the island, but the best area to farm would have been the sunny slope on the island's west facing side. Charlie Schmel, who logged the island in the 1950s, remembers several gnarly old apple trees on the west side. Apple trees live a long time; it's possible those were planted by Charley Pack, Herron Island pioneer.

Joseph Pentheroudakis is writing a book on the history of Herron Island.



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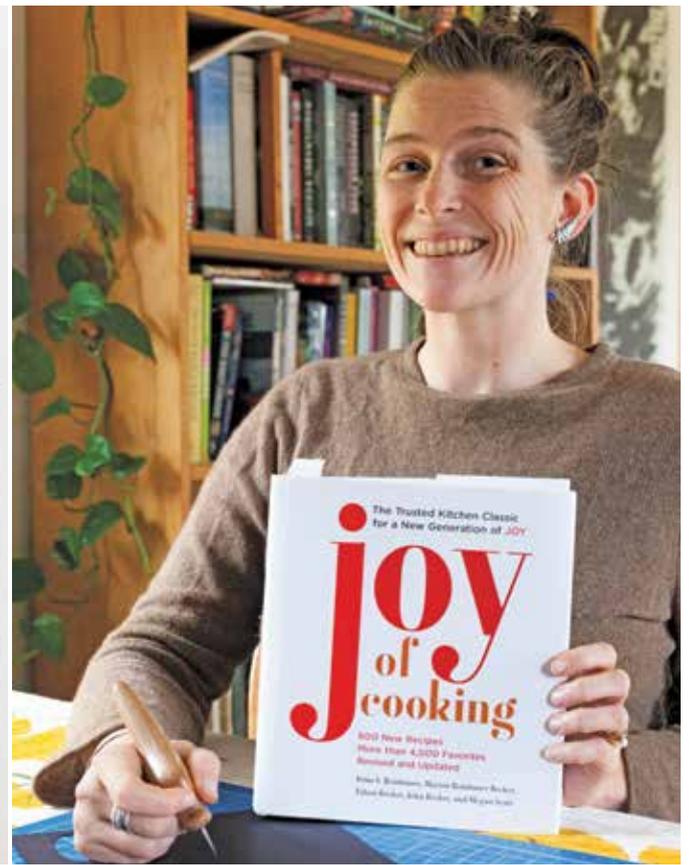
The new off-leash dog park is open at Gateway Park with "all dog" and "small dog" areas. Benches and other enhancements (like obstacle features) are coming soon! See what the dog park looks like right now in a short video on the [Key Pen Parks Facebook page](#).

Banner sponsorships are available for only \$300, including design and production. Sponsor banners will be posted for all of 2020. Money raised helps bring more enhancements to the dog park off-leash area. Details at www.keypenparks.org



Seasonal maintenance for park buildings, facilities and grounds; 40-hour work week for six months. Description and application at www.keypenparks.com under Employment or visit the park office during regular business hours.

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



Anna Brones' intricate papercuts are an integral part of the redesigned classic. *Photo: Luc Revel*

Local Artist Helps Illustrate New 'Joy of Cooking'

Anna Brones is a prolific writer and artist living in Vaughn. Her distinctive papercut artwork became part of culinary history in November.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Artist, author and native Key Penner Anna Brones is one of two illustrators whose work will adorn the latest iteration of the iconic "Joy of Cooking," now in its ninth edition.

"It's an American cooking classic, something that is a resource that almost everybody has in their kitchen," Brones said. "It's often given at important life transitions; most people have told me, 'Oh, I have my grandmother's edition and it has all of her notes in it.'"

Properly called "The Joy of Cooking: A Compilation of Reliable Recipes with a Casual Culinary Chat," the famous tome was first self-published by Irma S. Rombauer in 1931 when she was a newly widowed 54-year-old. Unique in its time, the book included 500 easy-to-master foundational recipes accompanied by what would become famously chatty commentaries. Rombauer died in 1962. Succeeding editions of her book have sold 18 million copies.

The ninth edition of "Joy," published in November, was updated and expanded by Rombauer's great-grandson John Becker and his wife Megan Scott, who share credit with Irma and her daughter Marion Rombauer Becker, the first illustrator, and her son Ethan Becker (John's father), who edited later editions.

"They were following my work," Brones said. "I just got an email one day: 'Hey, are you interested in doing illustrations for the new 'Joy of Cooking?'" That was at the end of 2017, but they had already been working on this for almost a decade."

Brones grew up on the Key Peninsula, where her great-grandparents settled around 1930. She attended Vaughn Elementary, Key Peninsula Middle School and Peninsula High School before going away to college and living abroad until 2015.

The authors of "Joy" asked Brones to participate because of her extensive work creating papercut silhouettes.

"The reason they wanted papercuts is because in the first edition Irma had her daughter Marion do

papercut silhouettes for all the chapter headings. I have a copy from the late 1940s that has the original art," she said.

Each chapter of the new edition begins with one of Brones' papercut silhouettes introducing the chapter subject, such as fruit, pies or shellfish.

"The thing about working in papercut is it's a very different medium; if you don't do it, it's hard to envision what positive and negative space looks like," she said.

"Positive is the subject and the negative space is what surrounds it. Everything

is one piece of black paper cut with an X-Acto knife, and it's all connected. You can pick up the original and it's all one piece," Brones said. "The papercuts work well as chapter headings because they provide an element of pause in all the text."

Another tradition is continued in the new edition with process illustrations by John Norton.

"There are separate illustrations of tools and ingredients," Brones said. "It's good to have two types of illustrations in there. It's such a reference book and if you look at cookbooks nowadays, they're just so photo-heavy. I actually prefer having illustrations because I

think it gives you a guide but doesn't overwhelm you."

There are over 4,000 recipes in the

new edition; the authors added more than 600, including recipes for quinoa, curry and vegan dishes undreamt of in earlier decades.

"Megan and John did an incredible amount of work," Brones said. "This is 'the' reference book; you have to be sure that it's all correct. You're not supposed to have to go online and look anything up: it's all supposed to be in here. There is a familial duty to the generations that have worked on this book.

"All of the recipes are tested and updated; they've brought back some classics but

there are just things about the modern kitchen that are so different than how we cooked in the '40s," she said. "For example, one of the illustrations I really like from one of the earlier editions is how to skin a squirrel. So, that's not in here. I don't think that the beaver tail is in here either."

Brones has written three cookbooks and two books about food and created and edited the food magazine *Comestible*. She prefers to follow methods instead of recipes, but made an exception for "Joy of Cooking"

"I made the quiche the other day. I'd never blind-baked a crust for quiche before and that's what it said to do, so I tried that. You bake the crust first, let it cool and then put the ingredients in and then bake the whole thing. That worked out. There are a lot of recipes I want to try.

"Maybe people won't even notice the papercuts," she said. "But I hope they will."

Brones' latest work is the Women's Wisdom Project, a collection of 100 papercut silhouette portraits of inspiring women, each cut from a single piece of paper, that she has been creating for almost a year. "I don't know the final form it will take: a book or a show or what," she said. "It's a real challenge and I have to finish it first."

Read more about Anna Brones' books and see her artwork at annabrones.com.

"ONE OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS I REALLY LIKE FROM ONE OF THE EARLIER EDITIONS IS HOW TO SKIN A SQUIRREL."



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DEC. 6**FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK**

Get your blood pressure checked and enjoy a nutritious meal at KP Community Services. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 253-884-4440

POETRY & PROSE: OPEN MIC

Young and old share words that have touched their heart, mind or spirit. Original work welcome. Free for all ages, 2 to 3 p.m. at The Mustard Seed Project. 253-884-9814

DEC. 7**SEATTLE STYLE STRINGS CONCERT**

An afternoon of seasonal music by the Seattle Style Strings, known for their creativity, technical discipline and refined approach to many musical styles and periods. A free, all ages event sponsored by Friends of the Key Center Library. 2 to 3 p.m. Key Center Library. 253-548-3309

DEC. 11**MEDICARE HELP AT KPCS**

Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisor (SHIBA) volunteers explain options for Medicare Supplemental and Advantage Plans, answer questions, review your insurance plan and determine eligibility for Medicaid and Medicare or other financial assistance. Administered by the state Insurance Commissioner. 12:30 to 2 p.m. KP Community Services. 253-884-4440

DEC. 12**DEEP REST YOGA - SPECIAL CLASS**

Learn how to maintain inner balance and peace this holiday season via meditation, breathing exercises, gentle yoga positions and yoga nidra. \$15 or 1 punch for current yoga students (scholarships available). 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The Mustard Seed Project. Limited space. Register at 253-884-9814.

UGLY SWEATER OUR POT LUCK

Wear your ugly sweater and you may just win a prize! Bring a favorite dish or two and a recipe to share and settle in for a comfy meal with friends. 12 to 2 p.m. KP Community Services. 253-884-4440

DEC. 13**BEAT THE BUGS: FREE VACCINE**

The Pierce County Medical Reserve Corps will provide flu, Tdap, hepatitis and pneumonia vaccines at no cost to

anyone 18+ who is uninsured, underinsured, homeless or experiencing barriers to healthcare. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. KP Community Services. 253-884-4440

DEC. 14**KPCS RUMMAGE SALE**

Shop at our rummage sale to support KP Community Services food bank and senior center. Amazing items that would make great gifts. Please donate good, clean, usable items to sell. Volunteers needed at the sale. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. KP Community Services. 253-884-4440

GINGERBREAD HOUSES

Make and decorate your own gingerbread house. All supplies provided while they last. All ages; under 6 with an adult. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Key Center Library. Register at piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar

DEC. 15**KEY SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Annual Christmas Concert at McColley Hall, KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Rd, Lakebay. 3 p.m. This is our gift to the community – no charge, but food bank donations are encouraged. Light refreshments. 253-884-5615

CHRISTMAS BLUEGRASS JAM

Bring an instrument or just sing and appreciate. Potluck snacks at break time, and food bank donations appreciated. Longbranch Community Church, 6 to 8:30 p.m. 253-884-9339

DEC. 16**LIBRARY EVENT AT RED BARN**

Participate in a fun project. For students in sixth-12th grade. 3 to 4 p.m. Red Barn Youth Center. 253-548-3309

DEC. 17**MAKE A SNOWMAN WITH NEW KPCS DIRECTOR**

Make a cute little snowman and meet Willow, our new executive director. \$1.00 donation suggested. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. KP Community Services. Call 253-884-4440 to sign up.

DEC. 20**FESTIVE LUNCH AND COOKIE EXCHANGE**

Join us for a festive meal and bring a batch of your favorite cookies and recipes to share. 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. KP Community Services. 253-884-4440

DEC. 23**PUPPETS PLEASE**

Colorful marionettes perform a holiday-themed in-the-round show. All ages. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Key Center Library. 253-548-3309

PENINSULA SONGWRITERS

Key Center Library Brones Room 6 to 8 p.m. Peninsulasongwriters@gmail.com 253-256-5210

DEC. 27**COFFEE WITH A LIBRARIAN**

Learn about your library, what it has to offer, give feedback. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Key Center Library. 253-548-3309

NORTHWEST ANIMAL ADVENTURES

Meet Luna the Eurasian eagle-owl and several animal friends that may also include an armadillo, a tortoise, a hedgehog and more. All ages. 2 to 3 p.m. Key Center Library 253-548-3309

DEC. 28**FREE WINTER WINDS HOLIDAY CONCERT**

2pm at Key Peninsula Civic Center. Presented by Narrows Music Society and Key Peninsula Civic Center Association.

DEC. 30**AMAZING MAGIC SHOW**

Discover the amazing things that happen when you open a book and read. For Jeff Evans, his career in magic began from a book of coin tricks he read when he was 12 years old. All ages. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Key Center Library. 253-548-3309

DEC. 31**KEY PEN THE NEW YEAR**

Celebrate at Key Peninsula Civic Center. New Year's Eve, doors open at 7pm. Tickets \$30 for entry only or \$50 with dinner.

OFF THE KEY**DEC. 2****TRAUMA & RECOVERY**

Leah Harris, M.A. Trauma, addiction, mental health challenges, and healing and resilience. Space limited; email bobtanderson@me.com. 5:30 to 7 p.m., Heron's Key, 4340 Borgen Boulevard, Gig Harbor.

SALMON WALKING TOUR

Free tour from Austin Estuary Park to Donkey Creek Park in Gig Harbor. Learn about salmon life cycle and significance while viewing spawning salmon. All ages. Meet in Austin Estuary Park near the picnic table. 1 to 2 p.m. 4009 Harborview Drive. harborwildwatch.org. 253-514-0187

DEC. 7**PIER INTO THE NIGHT LIVE DIVE**

Take an underwater journey of Gig Harbor while you stay warm and dry on the dock. Divers live stream video to a 10-foot screen where staff biologists identify what

they find. 5 to 6 p.m., Jerisich Dock, 3215 Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor.

DEC. 20 TO JAN. 1**24TH ANNUAL MODEL TRAIN FESTIVAL**

Kids get hands-on with toy trains and more. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Santa on hand for free digital photos 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 21, 22, 23, Jan. 1. Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. washingtonhistory.org

WEEKLYEVENTS**MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS****YOGA AT THE CIVIC CENTER**

Bring your mat, blanket or towel. Drop-in \$12.00 or four classes for \$40. Cash or check. KP Civic Center from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. 253-884-3456. Closed Dec. 25.

MONDAYS, WEDS & FRIDAYS**S.A.I.L. EXERCISE CLASSES FOR 65+**

At The Mustard Seed Project. Improve balance and mobility and prevent falls. For any fitness level — you can even participate sitting down. \$5/drop-in. Preregistration required. Limited scholarships. Mon. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Wed. & Fri. 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. 253-884-9814. No classes Dec. 23 to 27.

S.A.I.L. EXERCISE CLASSES FOR 60+

At KP Community Services. 8 to 9 a.m. and 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Free; suggested donation \$5 per class. Call 253-884-4440 to register. No classes Dec. 14 or 25.

TUESDAYS**REFIT FREE WOMEN'S EXERCISE**

REFIT is a fitness experience designed to engage the heart as a muscle and a soul. Childcare provided. Tue. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW. waypoint-church.org or 253-853-7878. No classes on Dec. 24 or 31.

COUNTY ON SEPTIC

A Tacoma-Pierce County Environmental Health Specialist will answer questions about septic systems or help submit applications for design or repair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the KP Community Council office. sriley@tpchd.org, 253-798-6470 or 253-432-4948. Closed Dec. 23 to Jan. 2.

KEY SINGERS REHEARSALS

Rehearsals for KP choral group until Dec. 10. All singers welcome. Membership \$10 per year. 7 to 8:30 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church. Marianne at 253-884-5615

LOVING HEARTS KNIT OR CROCHET

Knit or crochet for charity. Yarn donations needed and very much appreciated. First Tuesday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; all other Tuesdays 1 to 3 p.m. WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW. Virginia at 253-884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com. No meeting Dec. 24.

SENIOR SHOPPING DAY

Shopping trips Dec. 3 and 17. Sign up with KP Community Services. 253-884-4440

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

First TOPS meeting is free with no obligation. Weigh-in from 8:35 to 9:25 a.m. Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. marcgrubb1990@yahoo.com

OASIS YOUTH CENTER

Are you a queer or questioning youth between the ages of 14 and 24? Games, new friends, learning and snacks. Oasis Youth Center satellite program Tuesdays 3 to 6 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. oasisyouthcenter.org, oasis@oasisyouthcenter.org or 253-671-2838. Closed 24 & 31.

STORYTIMES

Preschoolers discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the Key Center Library from 11 a.m. to noon. 253-548-3309. Library closed Dec. 24 and 31.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**PRESCHOOL & TODDLER PLAYTIME**

The Children's Home Society of Washington KP Family Resource Center offers an indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. Caregivers stay with child. Drop-ins welcome; stay as long as you wish. \$1 per child donation suggested. 253-884-5433. Closed Dec. 24.

SENIOR TAI CHI

KP Community Services, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Free; suggested donation is \$5/class. Sign up at 253-884-4440. Closed Dec. 24.

TUES, THURS & SATURDAYS**S.A.I.L. EXERCISE CLASSES FOR 60+**

KP Community Services from 9 to 10 a.m. Free, suggested donation is \$5. Call 253-884-4440 to register. Closed Dec. 24.

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS**KP HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN**

Historical Society museum at the civic center is open 1 to 4 p.m. Free admission. 253-888-3246 or keypeninsulamuseum.org. Museum closes Dec. 23 for winter break.

WEDNESDAYS**BLEND HOOKERS AND TINKERS**

Join in at Blend Wine Shop for a rollicking good time. All skill levels and fiber interests welcome; 21 and over, 5:30 to 8 p.m. hannah8ball@gmail.com or 817-929-3943. No meeting Dec. 25.

KP YOUTH COUNCIL

Meets at the Key Center fire station, 2:30 to 5 p.m. No meeting Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. Keypercouncil@gmail.com

LAKEBAY WRITERS

A writers workshop for people who love stories. Share yours; hear others. Key Cen-

ter Library, 1 to 4 p.m. Loren Aikins, 253-884-2785. Library closed Dec. 25.

READY SET GO!

Free early learning program for 3- and 4-year-olds. Limited to 16 children with parent or caregiver. Focus on kindergarten readiness and lots of fun. KP Civic Center, VFW room, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. 253-884-5433. Closed Dec. 25.

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS**SENIOR MEALS**

Nutritious meals for ages 60+ served at noon at KP Community Services; \$3 suggested donation. Guests under 60 welcome to attend; \$5 suggested donation. 253-884-4440. Closed Dec. 25.

THURSDAYS**FREE COMPUTER CLASS FOR SENIORS**

Bring questions and learn the basics. Seniors 60+. From 10 to 11 a.m. at KP Community Services. 253-884-4440

COUNTY ON WELLS

Dec. 5 and 19, a Tacoma-Pierce County Environmental Health Specialist in drinking water and Group B wells answers questions about drinking water or shared wells 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the KP Community Council office. sriley@tpchd.org. 253-798-6470 or 253-432-4948

COUNTY ON WASTE

Dec. 12, a Tacoma-Pierce County Environmental Health Specialist on household waste management answers questions about household hazardous waste, garbage haulers and recycling 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the KP Community Council office. sriley@tpchd.org. 253-798-6470 or 253-432-4948

SENIORS LUNCH

All are welcome when the KP Senior Society meets for a potluck, games and fellowship in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 253-884-4981

TOASTMASTERS

Have fun improving your public speaking ability and leadership skills. Guests are welcome with no obligation to speak. 8 to 9 a.m. at WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW. keypeninsulatoastmasters@gmail.com

FRIDAYS**BOARD GAMES FOR SENIORS**

Games and social time for seniors at KP Community Services, 1 to 2:30 p.m. 253-884-4440

INTRO TO GENTLE YOGA

Older adults encouraged to move at their own pace. Yogic philosophy, range of motion, strength and balance, breathing techniques and relaxation. Limited space; call to register. Instructor: Lisa Dunham.

\$12/drop-in or \$100/10 class. 8 to 9 a.m. at The Mustard Seed Project. 253-884-9814. No class Dec. 27.

TRIPLE P PARENTING CLASSES

Sign up for parenting classes and apply for assistance with basic food and health insurance applications. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the KP Community Office. 253-432-4948 or 253-884-5433. Closed Dec. 23 to Jan. 2.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

- Dec. 3 & 17, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. West of the Narrows **Depression and Bipolar Support-Lakebay Group**, KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Rd NW. Kimberly 253-753-4270 or dbsalakebay@gmail.com
- Dec. 3, 11 a.m. **KP Historical Society** board meeting in the museum at civic center. 253-888-3246
- Dec. 3, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. **KP Business Association** business meeting at Blend Wine Shop. kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com or 253-312-1006
- Dec. 4 & 28, 6 to 9 p.m. **KP Lions Club**, Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721
- Dec. 5, **26th Legislative District Democrats**, 6 p.m. social; 6:30 p.m. meeting. Public invited. Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard. 26thdemocrats@gmail.com
- Dec. 7, **Writers Guild**, 10 a.m. to noon, KP Community Council office. 253-884-6455
- Dec. 9, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. **KP Parks Commission**, Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240
- Dec. 10 & 30, 5 to 7 p.m. **KP Fire Commission** at Key Center fire station. keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222
- Dec. 11, 10 to 11:30 a.m. **Bayshore Garden Club**, Longbranch fire station. Wendy, 253-332-4883
- Dec. 11, 10 to 11:30 a.m. **Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition**, Gig Harbor Fire District Headquarters, 10222 Bujacich Road NW. Pep-c.org, Steve Rees, 6ftwav@gmail.com, 253-720-0662
- Dec. 11, 7 to 9 p.m. **KP Community Council**, Key Center fire station. Pierce Transit will give updates about bus service on the KP. 253-432-4948
- Dec. 12, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. **Ashes** support group for Fire District 16, Key Center fire station. 253-884-3771
- Dec. 12, 6 to 7:30 p.m. **Peninsula School District** board, district office in Purdy. 253-530-1000
- Dec. 12, 7 to 8:30 p.m. KP Civic Center Assn. board, Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. kpciviccenter.org, 253-884-3456
- Dec. 16, 7 to 8:30 p.m. **KP Democrats**, Home fire station, johnpatkelly@aol.com
- Dec. 18, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. **Key Peninsula Advisory Commission**, KP Civic Center, reviews applications for proposed developments and makes recommendations to Pierce County. Verify meeting details at piercecountywa.gov/5937/Key-Peninsula-Advisory-Commission

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- Dec. 19, 7 to 8:30 p.m. **KP Citizens Against Crime**. Discuss what's happening in our community with Pierce County Sheriff. Key Center fire station. dolores-starr@centurytel.net or 253-884-3105
- Dec. 2 & 16, 7 to 8 p.m. **KP Veterans** group, KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. Veterans, military service members and families with children 16 and older are welcome. 253-884-2626
- Dec. 20, 1 to 3 p.m. **Two Waters Arts Alliance** board welcomes artists and art lovers. VFW Room, KP Civic Center. twowaters.org 253-884-1163
- Dec. 20, Noon to 1 p.m. **KP Business Association** luncheon meeting, El Sombrero. kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com or 253-312-1006
- Dec. 21, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Key Peninsula **Caregivers Support Group** at The Mustard Seed Project. For caregivers of those with memory loss. Free and open to the public. Please call Debra Jamerson before attending. 360-621-1110
- Dec. 23, 6 to 8:30 p.m. **Relatives Raising Kids** support group. Grandparents and relatives raising children meet at Evergreen Elementary. Potluck dinner and childcare provided. 253-884-5433
- Multiple dates, **KP Sportsmen's Club** board meets first Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.; general meeting and potluck second Thursdays at 6 p.m.; bingo \$1/card and potluck fourth Fridays at 6 p.m.; Ladies Bunco last Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Bring snacks and \$5 to play. Sportsmen's Clubhouse, 5305 Jackson Lake Road NW, 253-884-6764

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KP Fisherman Reflects on Salmon, Aquaculture and Climate Change

Randy Babich has been fishing Puget Sound and southeast Alaska for 54 years. A lot has changed in that time.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

The Paragon is a 56-foot commercial purse seiner moored at Longbranch Marina, a seagoing workhorse that dwarfs the pleasure boats around it.

"I was going to be a dentist," said the owner, Randy Babich, who just turned 70. "I went through pre-med, pre-dent. My dad always said, 'Get into a profession.'"

Babich spent five years at the University of Washington while supporting himself by fishing in southeast Alaska with his dad. "But the longer I fished up there, the more I thought, 'I'm just going to fish, why would anybody not want to fish?' I fell in love with the frontier."

He changed majors, earning degrees in philosophy and psychology. "And after 54 years, outside of working for my dad I've never worked for anybody in my life."

Babich grew up in Gig Harbor and "got into fishing" starting with his grandfather, who immigrated to Gig Harbor in 1910 after a grape blight on the Adriatic island of Brač. "There's 1,300 islands on the Dalmatian coast, and most of Gig Harbor came from that place."

He bought the Paragon in 1980, five months after it was launched. It can deploy a huge wall of netting (the seine) around a school of fish with a large skiff, a misnomer for a small boat with a 225-horsepower inboard engine. The seine has floats along the top line and a lead line along the bottom. The lead line is pulled in, "pursing" the net closed on the bottom, and the catch is hauled in.

"I've navigated 452,000 nautical miles, and this boat's probably put about 41 million pounds of fish aboard, mostly salmon. But it's a tough game; high risk, high stakes gambling," Babich said.

"There's something in our DNA that is a magnet for the endeavor of fishing in a frontier — the high risk is almost like the juice," he said. "Keep in mind that in a good season in Southeast Alaska, the most days you get to actually fish would be about 32. If we got three hours sleep a day, we thought that was fantastic."

Babich started renting a cabin on the Key Peninsula in 1973 because "Gig Harbor was growing far too fast for me." He built a house in Vaughn in '77, then bought property in Longbranch for a larger house and shop in 1985. He became acquainted with

a woman named Lindsey in 1980 who had lived on the KP since '76, and they married in 1989.

"She is one tough gal," he said. "She piled the lead line, which is 2,500 pounds, 18 hours a day, then cranks out gourmet meals. She's the best net person and best navigator I ever had."

In the late 1980s, Babich began to notice changes in the market and the marine environment.

With the spread of fish farms in Pacific Northwest waters, "salmon went from being a specialty to being a commodity," he said. "I could see the light at the end of the tunnel and it was the train, because it's very easy to raise salmon."

In 1990, he and Lindsey diversified into caviar.

"I was trying to look for something that was value-added that the farms couldn't touch, and it happened to be the eggs of a chum. The Japanese call it 'ikura.'"

Chum salmon is also called dog salmon, keta salmon or silverbrite salmon. The name chum comes from the Chinook Jargon "tzum," meaning "spotted" or "marked."

The value of chum caviar is about 65 percent of the fish, he said. "The Russians will eat it right off their finger; the Japanese mix it with rice into ikura don. For a lot of Americans, eggs are bait."

Now in its 30th year, the Babiches' company, Trader Bay Ltd., packs about 50,000 pounds of ikura each year. The rest of the fish, 1 to 2 million pounds bought from 28 other purse seiners, is filleted or chunked and sent to smokeries or canneries, or is frozen and shipped overseas.

"It's been a very successful adjunct to being a fisherman. Lindsey is as much responsible for the success of it as I am."

But fish farms, he noted, have had a negative effect on the environment as well as the market.

"In Norway they move the pens around," he said. "Here we have pens in place, so you have residual fecal droppings and feed devastating the ecosystem beneath the pen. One thing they could do to thwart the spread of parasites that exist in Canadian farms is to move all farms upland. I think that will be the trend for farmed fish."

Conversely, even while affecting the environment, fish farms are also affected by it.

"The biggest threat to commercial fishermen now — for farmers and fisherman — is climate change: It's right in our face,"

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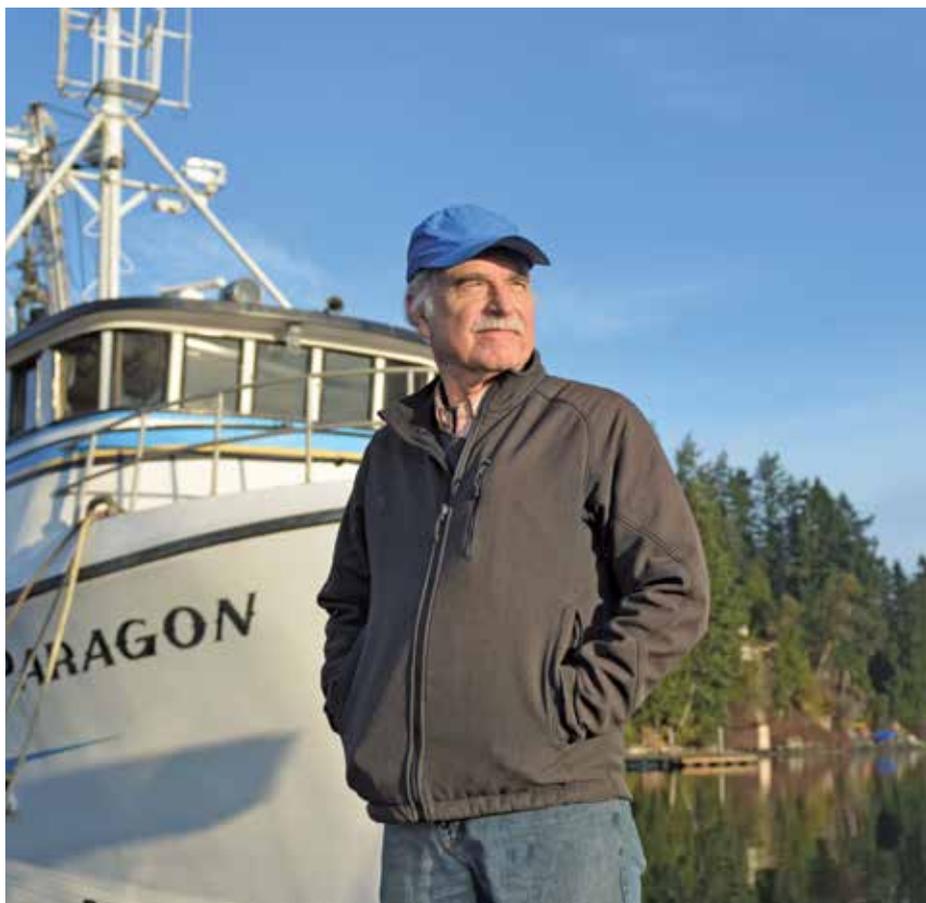
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Randy Babich has been a commercial fisherman for 54 years. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

Babich said. “We absolutely, positively, unequivocally see it.”

Changes in ocean water temperature and acidity have had an impact on all kinds of species, he said.

“The survivability of fish is really noticeable. This year we had about 40 percent of the normal run. The temperature in South Puget Sound was up to 61 degrees.” According to his Alaskan colleagues, in Bristol Bay it was 68 degrees.

“Acidity affects the longevity and the size of fish,” Babich said. “It’s a reality; you can measure it. Science is not an illusion.”

Many species, from young salmon to baleen whales, feed on zooplankton, which are affected both by lack of oxygen in warm waters and the quality of their own prey, phytoplankton. Phytoplankton absorb carbon dioxide, but that process is compromised by warm water and acidification caused by an overabundance of the gas.

“You see it in these dead whales washing up (27 gray whales stranded in Puget Sound in 2019, part of the 70 that died along the U.S. west coast),” Babich said. “They were emaciated. Dead whales are not a good sign.”

Babich views himself and his colleagues as custodians of the environment.

“I am a strong environmentalist,” he said. “With fishermen, you get this, ‘Oh, you guys just go out and rape the seas.’ We do not

We’re all members of the Marine Stewardship Council; we go through a scrutiny of unbiased analysis to be a sustainable fishery.”

He was also part of the Marine Environmental Consortium that stopped about 15 fish farms from being put in Puget Sound.

“Politically, we have a lot of hurdles and I spend a lot of time in Olympia in the winter, lobbying and all that, to try to keep our head above water,” he said. In 2012, he helped pass a bill to promote public-private partnership to finance fish hatcheries.

“The state was going to close one (hatchery) down a few years ago in Hood Canal. A group I belong to, the Purse Seine Owners Association, decided to keep it afloat, so we spent about a million bucks in five years to cover the fixed capital costs. That hatchery is really important; you have about a 2.3 percent return from those fish but the spin-off is a 7-1 factor in the economy.”

In addition, brood stock from that and other hatcheries are planted by Washington tribes and others to rehabilitate salmon runs around Puget Sound.

“There are people doing good things,” Babich said. “We just need to accelerate that and of course acknowledge that this is a reality we have to adapt to. I guess the question is, will it be enough?”

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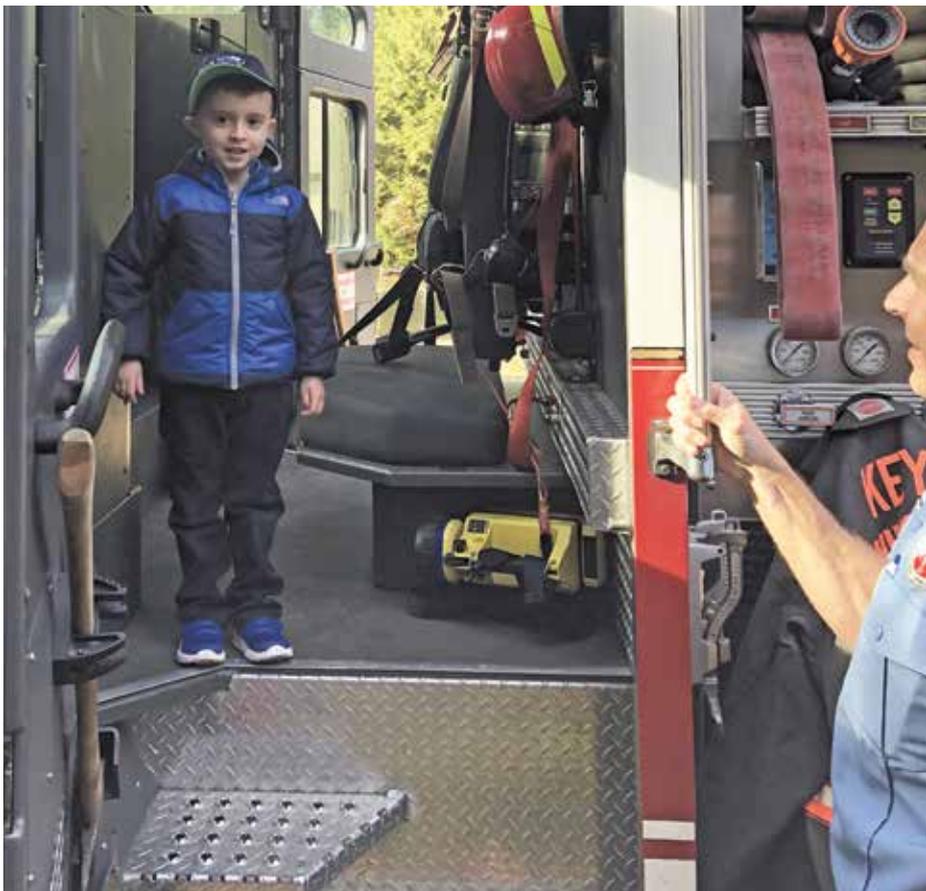
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Preschooler Mason gets a first-hand view of his dream job. Photo: Kolby Asbra

New Fire Safety Program for Preschoolers

KPFD has partnered with the school district to include fire prevention and life safety, responding to bullying and understanding anxiety and mental health.

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

Key Peninsula Fire Department visited a local cooperative preschool classroom in Home Nov. 8 to deliver a lesson on fire safety to children, ages 3 to 5, as part of the department's Public Education and Community Outreach Program.

"I work with the school district to deliver a fire and safety curriculum to every grade level," said Prevention Officer and Volunteer Battalion Chief Anne Nesbit, who visited the classroom with a lieutenant, an EMT and two paramedics.

"We didn't have our own fire safety program until last year," said Key Peninsula Cooperative Preschool teacher Kolby Asbra. "Anne spearheaded it to make it happen. If it weren't for someone as amazing as her, we'd still be using the Gig Harbor Fire Department to teach our schools their fire safety lessons."

"Years and years ago, we used to do our own," Nesbit said. "Then we started contracting with Gig Harbor. And they did a great job. But I wrote a proposal saying we needed to take prevention back and shadowed Gig Harbor for a year. I was able to make it my own, which was great."

"There's a full curriculum and a whole

plan," Asbra said. "It's really good for us."

Nesbit began KPFD's "Firefighter Friendly" lesson with flashcards, asking the preschoolers to indicate "hot" or "cold" with their thumbs. When Nesbit held up a card showing a book of matches, 5-year-old Mason Erwin stuck his right thumb up for "HOT!" and excitedly raised his left hand.

"I'm going to be a firefighter when I grow up!" Mason announced.

Volunteer Battalion Lieutenant Dave Vezzani stood at the front of the room and smiled.

"This is firefighter Dave," said Nesbit. "Let's all say hi to firefighter Dave!"

Nesbit explained that firefighter Dave would look different in his full firefighting gear, which was spread out around him on the classroom's colorful "Circle Time" carpet. She then invited the children to touch Vezzani's fire boots, flame resistant bunker gear, gloves, air pack, mask and helmet.

Vezzani proceeded to slowly put on each item, one at a time.

"Is it still firefighter Dave?" Nesbit asked the preschoolers again and again as Vezzani transformed. "Isn't he cool?"

In a situation where a young child is trapped in a fire, it is important for them

to understand what their rescuer is going to look like and how they will sound. The SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) worn by firefighters makes their voices deep, raspy and mechanical.

"We really want to take out the scariness of the firefighter," Nesbit said. "We don't want them to be afraid."

It's difficult to imagine hiding under a bed, surrounded by flames, and remaining quiet when a firefighter enters the room. But for a scared child, this is a realistic scenario that KPFD's "Firefighter Friendly" curriculum works hard to address and prevent.

"Firefighter Dave sounds different now," Nesbit said to the children.

In his transformed voice, Vezzani announced, "Fire Department. Is anybody here?"

"I'm here!" the preschoolers shouted back.

"How can you tell firefighter Dave is smiling?" Nesbit asked as the preschoolers peered through Vezzani's mask, going on to explain that firefighter Dave's squinting eyes meant he was smiling and a friend, and there to help.

"Mason said he really enjoyed the visit from the firefighters," said Mason's mom, Heather Erwin. "We're so thankful they spent the time to come and visit the kids and let them explore their trucks and cool equipment."

"I really liked being able to get into the fire truck and the ambulance," Mason said. "I was especially glad to see my friend, Anne."

"Not only does she go to the elementary schools, but she comes out here to a program that isn't even a school district program, for free," Asbra said. "We're so lucky that she goes out of her way to make it work for the whole community."

"I'm really grateful for our leaders in the department realizing we can do it," Nesbit said. "The reaction in the community and the schools has been overwhelmingly positive that our fire department is the one in the classroom and out in the community delivering the fire safety lessons."

"This year we are proud to announce that we are in Key Peninsula Middle School with a curriculum regarding life safety, bullying and understanding anxiety and mental health," she said. "We've partnered with Peninsula School District and we go in with their lead counselor."

Life Safety lessons offered by KPFD include water safety, child passenger safety, emergency preparedness, senior fall prevention, fire prevention, winter and holiday safety, bike and pedestrian safety, distracted driving, mental health and suicide awareness. Safe Sitter Classes, CPR certification, and Stop the Bleed tourniquet education are also offered to the public.



THANK YOU

Special holiday thanks to a few of the many who work so hard to make Key Pen Parks a great place for recreation. Each has given valuable time to make our Park experiences the best they can be.

PARK STAFF: Scott Gallacher, Laura Armstrong, Matt Woodward, Eddie Vannausdle, Veronica Grandt, Christina Hallock, Rebecca Saar, Courtland Capwell, Lloyd Anderson, Brian Mahlum, Maxwell Anderson, Charles Paganelli, Kadence Pinter.

TRAIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Courtland Capwell, Miguel Galeana, Tanja McMurray, Dale and Angela McKee, Cedar and Ellie Combs, Cliff Peterson, Shannon Reichl.

EVENT SUPPORT: Anne Nesbit, Marilyn and Jerry Hartley, Lisa Miller, Tom Phillips, Steve Skeehan, Mark Ambie, Deanna and Rory Muller, Steve, Ben and Max Goins, Jim and Steiner Christensen, Gary Robertson, Steve Nixon, Tod Udem, Dave Haugen, Greg Tatom, Bob Cartwright, Cory and Chayse Farencik, Steve, Alyx, Caton and Kinzie Coldicott, Emilee Miller, Coree Collins, De and Sawyer Henderson, Chris and Thea Oughten.

TRAIL BUILDING & MAINTENANCE: Courtland Capwell (deserves a second mention), Ben and Jess Combs, MsFits, Nick Marvik, Shawn and Travis Bornhoeft, Rocky, Mark Hunter.

Thanks to you all.
(Including those I regret overlooking.)

Working together, we can look forward to an outstanding, productive 2020 filled with abundant recreational opportunities.

— Mark Michel



[A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY]

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Election workers pick up last-minute ballots in Key Center. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

Key Peninsula Votes

DAN MARTEN, KP NEWS

Key Peninsula residents participated in the Nov. 5 election in high numbers.

Voters selected Peninsula School District board members, Key Peninsula Metropolitan Parks Commission members, a Fire District 16 Commissioner, and two Port of Tacoma Commissioners. A number of advisory votes and initiatives were also on the ballot.

The Key Peninsula has 12,343 registered voters and nearly 47 percent returned ballots in this election. KP voters once again participated at levels higher than most of Pierce County, where about 39 percent returned ballots. For all voters in the Peninsula School District, turnout to elect new school board members was 49.56 percent, again a better rate of return than other districts.

The KP rejected the affirmative action-related Referendum 88 by a 60 percent margin while Initiative 976 was approved by 66 percent of KP voters, demonstrating strong support for \$30 car tabs.

In the Peninsula School District election, voters chose Chuck West over Sami Jensen for Position 1, Lori Glover for Position 3 in an uncontested election, and Natalie

Wimberley for Position 4, ousting incumbent Leslie Harbaugh. Interim Superintendent Dr. Art Jarvis congratulated the new board members and thanked exiting board members Harbaugh and Marcia Harris for their years of service in a message of appreciation posted on the school board website.

Jarvis also thanked Jensen for her “willingness to enter the political arena and giving your time to our schools.” Jarvis said that there are “major challenges for the board of directors,” including an “expiring operations levy and the construction launch for four new schools.”

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Parks Commission will have Mark Michel, the current board president, assume Position 3 while Linda Weeks was elected to Position 1. The newly elected commissioners will be sworn in at the January 2020 meeting.

Frank Grubaugh was re-elected to Commissioner Position 1 of Fire District 16 in an unopposed election. There are five commissioners on the board.

Deanna Keller was elected to Port of Tacoma Commissioner Position 3 and Kristin Ang came from behind in late vote counting to win Position 5.

The final results of the election were certified Nov. 25.

Pierce County Sheriff Announces Early Retirement

Paul Pastor plans to contribute his expertise on the national level.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor recently announced his plans to retire nearly a year before the end of his term. Although the longest-serving sheriff in county history is stepping down, he is not stepping away from what has driven his career.

“I want to work on things that are dear to my heart in terms of public trust and how we approach the overlap between law enforcement and mental health services,” Pastor told the KP News.

“I’d like to make more of a contribution at a national level. I’ve been doing things with a major sheriff’s association and the National Executive Institute at the FBI. I’d like to spend more time on that,” he said.

“We are in a good spot right now; I have an excellent command staff,” Pastor said. “I think that my leaving now will encourage some who might want to run for sheriff to think about it now. It’s time for people to shake their heads and get started in the process of running for sheriff and declare themselves ready to run, so that the public has time to look at a choice. I don’t have someone I want to tap as successor. I am not anointing anybody.”

He added that experience with managing a large organization is important. The department includes more than 700,

“I DON’T HAVE SOMEONE I WANT TO TAP AS SUCCESSOR. I AM NOT ANOINTING ANYBODY.”

including the county jail staff.

Pastor said his path to law enforcement was accidental. “I planned to be a college professor. I’m an over-educated cop,” he said.

After earning a degree in government and sociology from Pomona College, he went to Yale where he received two master’s degrees, in legal and medical sociology, and then a Ph.D. in sociology. His graduate work focused on the relationships between police departments and other agencies and how they mobilize medical and mental health treatment. The fieldwork took him into the streets with police in New Haven, Boston and Seattle. “That is where I saw that police in the field could make a moral difference,” he said.

While at Yale, New York Police Depart-

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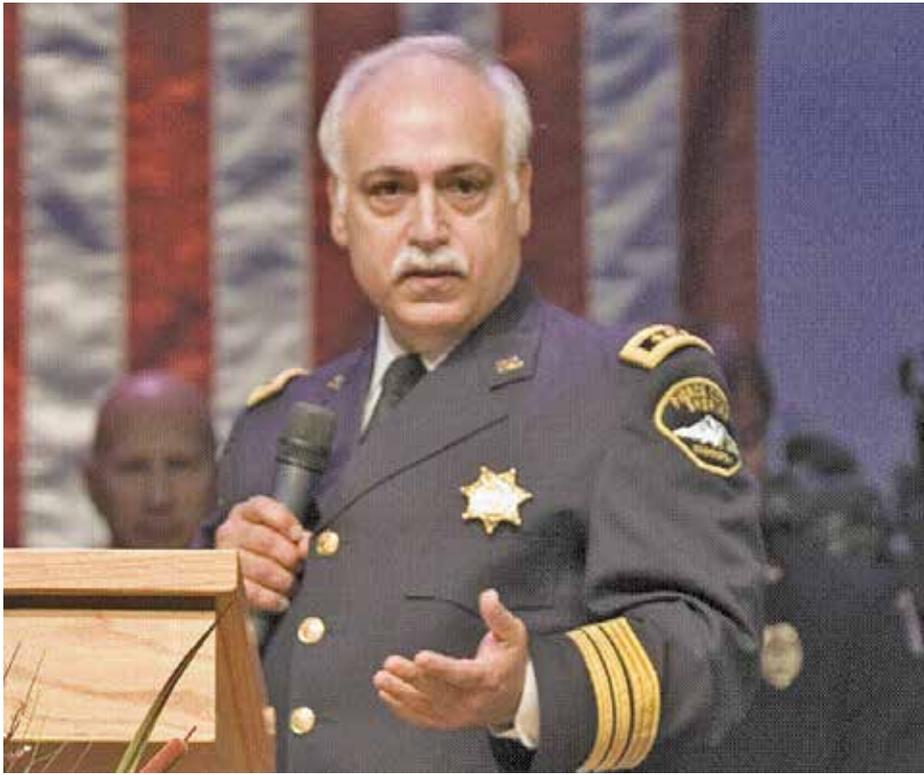
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Retiring Sheriff Paul Pastor. Photo: Pierce County Sheriff's Department

ment Sergeant David Durk came to speak. Pastor was impressed. "The sergeant said, 'Look, if you want to change the world, get a haircut and put on a badge and you can change the world one individual, one family, one neighborhood at a time.' I found out he was right. But he didn't tell me how hard it was going to be."

Pastor initially worked in academic research and then went to the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, managing curriculum and testing programs. The Pierce County Sheriff approached him to take a job as an inspector, saying, "You can teach it, let's see if you can do it." He then served as the police chief for Everett and undersheriff for Clark County before returning to Pierce County.

Pastor was appointed sheriff in 2000 and was elected in 2008 to the first of three terms when it became an elected position.

"When people think about policing, they think about car chases and gun fights," he said. "What really happens is less exciting and more complex. People with badges on ... make choices often with very little information and very little time. It is important that they make those decisions in an ethical and moral matter. Character counts in law enforcement."

Pastor said he is proud of his department's work with the community to overcome gang problems and to defeat what he referred to as the "methedemic." He

also cited a decrease in property crime, thanks in part to a program to concentrate on high rate offenders, the co-responder program to have mental health workers going out with department staff, and the work done to integrate fire and police departments in the South Sound 911 system.

"Our people have tremendous smarts and heart, tremendous character," he said.

The main challenge ahead is how to continue the work the department does with a lean staffing model.

"We police about 445,000 people over 1,800 square miles and we do it with about 350 people. And we do it not in a sleepy cow county, we do it in a county

with real, big-time, prime-time crime. We do a whole lot of work with very few people and we do the same thing with the jail."

Pastor acknowledged that the Key Peninsula is underserved.

"If it were a town, it would be the size of Lakewood," he said. He hopes to reconfigure how the outlying detachments are organized, probably with a lieutenant whose focus would be the KP.

As the county population grows, he said, "We need to grow both physical and civic infrastructure. We can't just get more efficient. It is a combination of staffing, technology, and the way we interact with other institutions. It will require resources."

"I SAW THAT POLICE IN THE FIELD COULD MAKE A MORAL DIFFERENCE."

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Peanut Brittle Conspiracy

ED JOHNSON, KP NEWS

My mother was the easiest person to buy for. All it took was a pound and a half of Mary See's peanut brittle to make her happy. No one ever thought about trying to make peanut brittle. The standard had been established and any attempt to make our own could only meet with failure.

That was until I happened to ask a young lady from Vaughn for a date and she suggested we spend a couple of hours making peanut brittle. She showed up at my house with all the ingredients. All I had to do was turn on the stove and produce a heavy bottomed pan. When I turned on the stove, nothing happened. I was out of propane. I have a 400-gallon tank, but we had been in the house for 30 years. It just picked a bad night to run out. We ended up at her house and before I knew it, we had peanut brittle. When I tried it, it was very good, but not being the ultimate judge of the product, I took some to my mother and offered it to her. Her comment was, "That's better than See's." Bingo!

That was probably 15 years ago. The lady doesn't come around anymore, but every year friends and neighbors anxiously await their peanut brittle. My favorite recipient is my dentist. I always put a bit extra in the office Christmas package.

The recipe is really quite simple. You'll need a candy thermometer and a heavy-bottomed pan. I use a steep-sided skillet that Costco sells from time to time. After deciding it was the perfect brittle-making vessel, I went back and bought a second one to have in reserve.

Peanut Brittle

- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup white Karo syrup
- ½ cup water
- 3 cups salted peanuts
- 2 teaspoons soda

In a sauce pan, over medium heat cook sugar, Karo and water. Cook until sugar dissolves and the mix boils. Continue cooking without stirring until

the mixture reaches 280 degrees on candy thermometer.

Gradually stir in salted peanuts; I use dry roasted. Keep mix boiling, stir often, watch closely until it reaches 300 degrees.

Remove from heat and add 2 teaspoons soda. Stir in gently but quickly. Pour at once on 2 large, well buttered cookie sheets. Cool. Break into pieces. Makes 2½ pounds.

Since my fiancée is allergic to peanuts, I've started using cashews and occasionally pistachios in the same proportions as peanuts. Be careful, though. If you spread it around too much, you'll be expected to deliver it forever.

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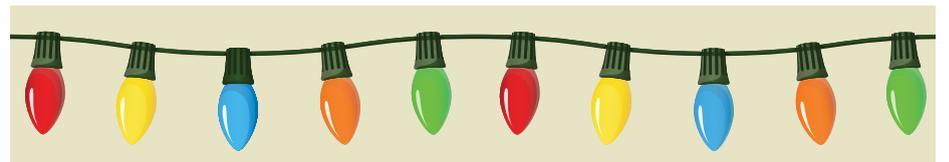
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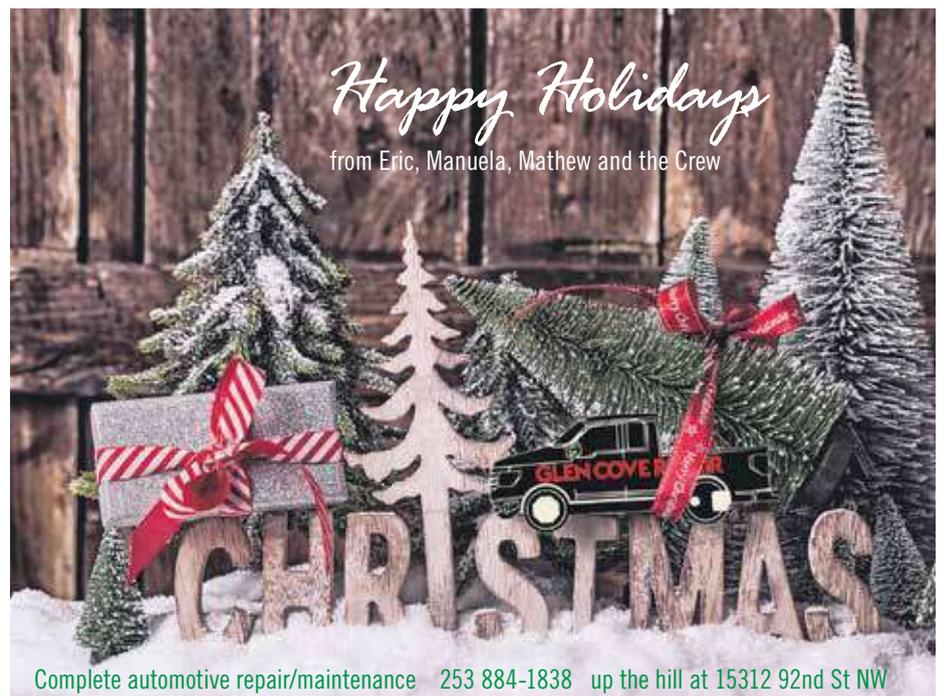
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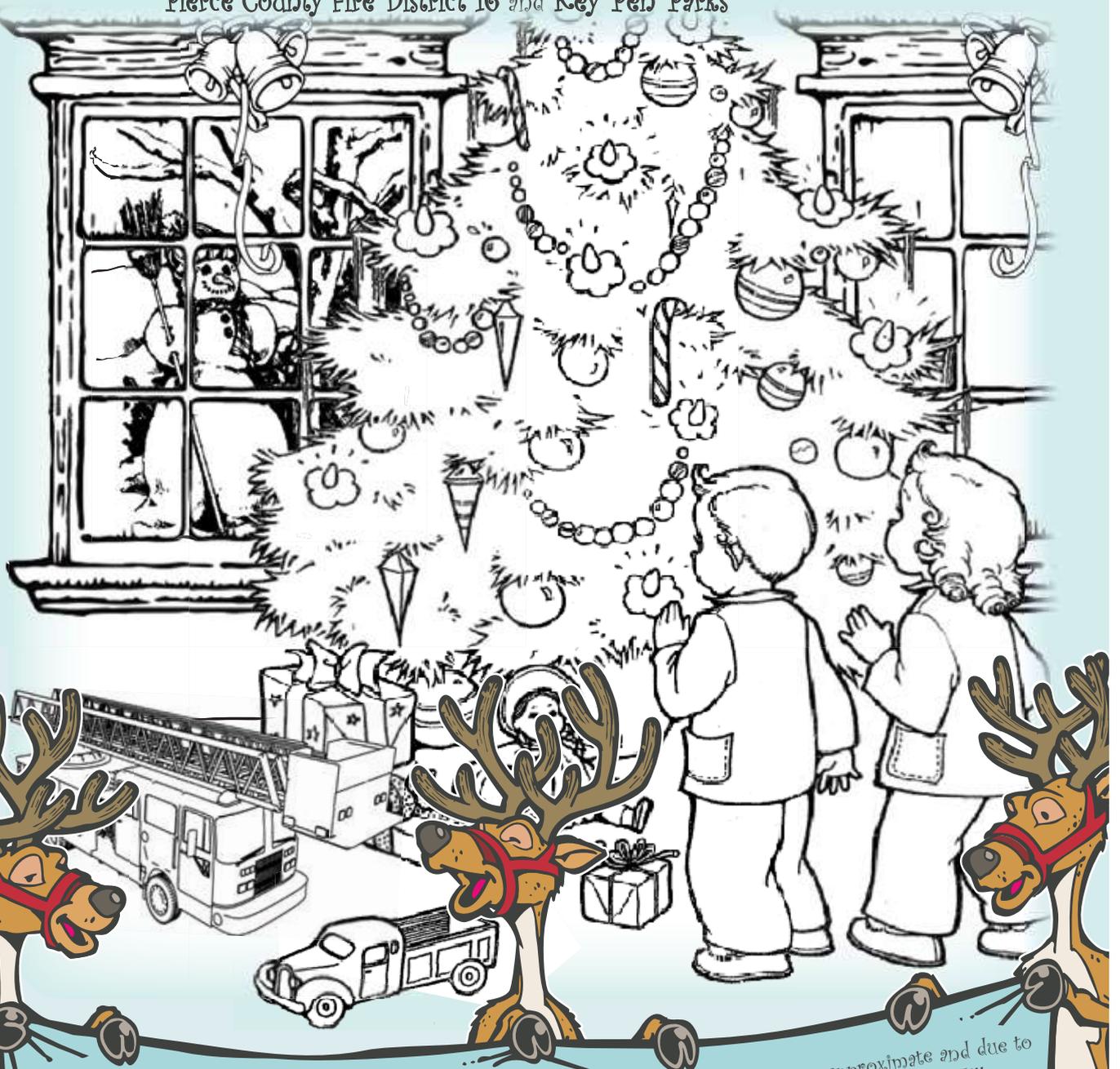
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- New Beginnings Real Estate
- Peninsula Gateway
- Peninsula Light Company
- Peninsula School District
- Phyllis Henry
- Pierce County Fire District 16
- Ravensara Drive-Thru Espresso and Bakery
- Red Barn Youth Facility
- Rest Stop Adult Family Care
- RH Tech
- Richard Kelly
- Sound Credit Union
- St Anthony Hospital
- Stan Fleming
- Sunnycrest Nursery and Floral
- The Mustard Seed Project
- The Snack Shack
- Troy's Mobile Auto Repair
- Two Waters Arts Alliance
- VIA Unlimited
- Washington State Parks
- Westwind Motel and Apartments
- Windemere Key Realty
- YMCA Camp Colman
- YMCA Camp Seymour

Santa Claus is coming to town...

brought to you by the - Key Peninsula Business Association, the Fire Fighters Union, Pierce County Fire District 16 and Key Pen Parks



Santa will fly from 5:30pmish to 7:30pmish* each night. Please keep in mind that times are approximate and due to temperamental reindeer, Santa will stick to main roadways. Listen for our sleigh bells to signal our arrival!!!!

**Due to Weather and Reindeer Games, exact times are not possible*

Sun, December 1 Cookies with Santa - 3:00pm Tree Lighting - Key Center (Dusk) Lake Minterwood - 6:00pm	Sat, December 7 Greentree - 6pmish	Fri, December 13 Skate Night at KP Civic Center Vaughn Area - 7:30pmish	Sun, December 15 Evergreen School - 6pmish Santa will be there until 6:15pmish Taylor Bay - 6:45pmish
Mon, December 2 Bel Mar Wind and Tides Emerald Shores	Sun, December 8 Jackson Lake - 6pmish Home - 7pmish Joemma Beach Farms 8pm	Sat, December 14 Horseshoe Lake - 6pmish Creviston Heights - 7pmish	Mon, December 16 Bel Ridge - 6pmish Lake of the Woods - 6:45pm
	Mon, December 9 Palmer Lake - 5:45pmish		Fri, December 20 Lake Joliday - 6pmish



Warming Shelter

Open when temperature drops below 35° for two days or more
Call Peggy for information at 253-686-7904



KP Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Rd 253/884-3456 www.kpciviccenter.org

A FUN FAMILY NIGHT FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL KIDS

Key Peninsula Civic Center



Dec. 6: Skate Night + Dodgeball
Dec. 13: Skate Night
Dec. 20: Skate Night + Dodgeball
6 to 9 pm

Live DJ, Skating, Dancing, Games, Prizes, Kid-Friendly Burgers, Pizza, Snacks & Drinks

Kids \$5 / Parents free
www.facebook.com/KPCC.SkateNight

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



CIVIC CENTER CORNER

Key Peninsula Civic Center & Narrows Music Society Present:

WINTER WINDS

Holiday Concert
FREE ADMISSION DONATIONS TO KPCCA GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED
Saturday, December 28
2pm-4pm



Mondays & Wednesdays
8:30 to 9:30 am
at the Civic Center

Bring your mat, blanket or towel
Drop-in \$12/Four classes \$40
Cash or check, please

KP Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Rd 253/884-3456 www.kpciviccenter.org

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KEY PEN the NEW YEAR!



DECEMBER 31ST



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VIP TABLE: \$400
Entry + Dinner for 8 Guests



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MUSIC BY: THE PROFITS

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BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9 AM
FELLOWSHIP TIME 10:15-10:30
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30
COFFEE AND TREATS 11:30-12
WE MEET AT KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER IN VAUGHN
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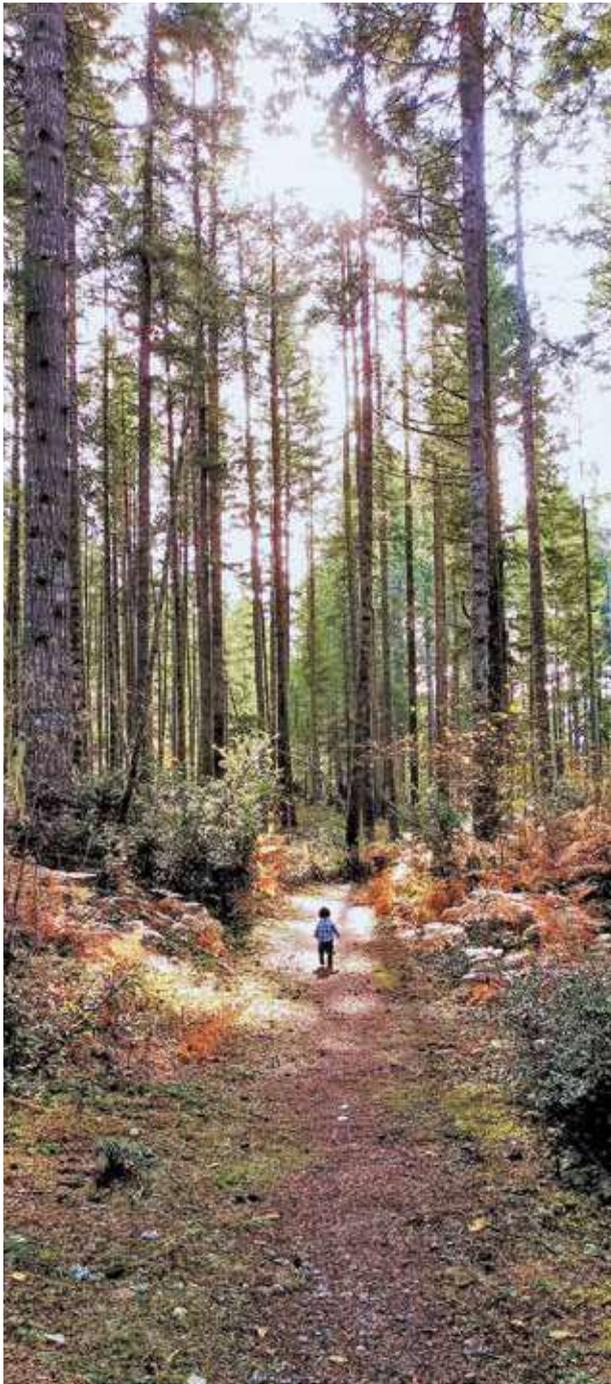


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TOP LEFT Liam, adventurous 16-month-old explorer. *Photo: Sherry Lyons* **TOP MIDDLE** Lighthouse Christian 6th-graders deliver 2 tons to KPCS Food Bank *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News* **TOP RIGHT** Eastern gray squirrel. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **CENTER** Tim Kezele, KPCCA president on Santa's lap. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News* **LOWER LEFT** Pileated woodpecker poses on a rail. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **LOWER RIGHT** After Peninsula High School was vandalized with racist and misogynistic graffiti Nov. 22, students responded with their own messages. *Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News*