



KEY PENINSULA NEWS



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Aubrey Strong, age 4, enjoys playing kitchen at the new preschool. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

Doors Open for KP Cooperative Preschool in Lakebay

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

After years of rising enrollment and long waiting lists, the Key Peninsula Cooperative Preschool opens its third location, housed at Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church on McEwan Road NW in Lakebay, with classes officially beginning Sept. 13.

The KP Cooperative Preschool (KPCP) has operated continuously since the early '70s, housed in recent decades at both Evergreen and Vaughn Elementary schools under an agreement with the Peninsula School District. With no room to expand into Minter Creek Elementary School the chances of finding suitable, affordable part time rental space to expand north of Key Center looked slim.

For parents with preschoolers, there

are few options available on the Key Peninsula. Most of those involve money, travel and time. Meghan Conant, the KPCP board member who manages enrollment for nearly 65 families said, "We are geographically isolated. If you can't get into preschool here, the alternative is commuting to Gig Harbor or Port Orchard where preschool tuition can cost \$400 or \$500 per month. Our monthly prices range from \$70 to \$130."

"We were looking for a place pretty much anywhere on the Key," KPCP President Carrie Koehnke said. All the available spaces they visited were either too small or already had groups using the space at other times throughout the week. "Besides," Koehnke said, "I really didn't know how we'd be able to afford it."

"I thought to myself, there just had to be something," KPCP board member Brandy Jean said. She used Google Maps and scoped out every single sizable building on the Key Peninsula. "Pastor Ed of Grace Church was the first church we called." That single phone call became a pivotal moment; doors opened that changed everything.

"When Grace moved to the Key Peninsula nearly three years ago, one of our main concerns and prayers was how we might serve the community," said Pastor Ed Longabaugh. Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church was founded in Gig Harbor in 2007, but lost its original site when it was sacrificed for new development. The church used alternative spaces before finding their home in Lakebay. "This building has been a huge blessing

to us and we'd been hoping to share the space," Longabaugh said.

"One of my biggest concerns about using a church was that we would have to put stuff away," teacher Kolby Ashby said. "On the contrary, Grace Church's congregation and pastor Ed have been so generous and accommodating." The church welcomed the preschool to use the space as their own, provided the church could continue using the classroom for Sunday school.

"Our whole congregation has been watching the changes, and we're so very pleased to see this taking shape," Longabaugh said. "The preschool board has been terrific to work with, and the spaces they're using have been upgraded—a blessing to us."

The upgraded space, coupled with a generous grant from the Angel Guild, is equipped with tables and chairs, shelves, play tables and work stations for "construction," a completely outfitted play kitchen and more. Outside, the classroom opens up into a fully fenced area for outdoor playtime. Preschool is all about playing and learning.

"While children learn a lot of academic skills at home, in the classroom setting they learn about following direction as a group and getting along with their peers; these are all things they learn in preschool," Jean said.

"Standing in line is a huge skill," Ashby said. "For preschoolers who aren't ready to stand in a line or sit quietly at circle time, just learning to wait is a skill. It's good for their brains to practice patience." She said great progress can take place in kindergarten if students go prepared after learning these skills in preschool.

"At KP Cooperative Preschool we believe fundamentally that children learn best through play," Ashby said. "Our goal is for children to walk into these classrooms and feel ownership of their classroom and environment. We want them to feel safe with their friends and their teacher; we want them to feel completely free to explore and to love what they're doing."

"Preschool is all about the kids. The money, the parents, the other components involved are crucial," Ashy said. "It's basically just about the kids having a safe place to learn and grow. It may sound generic but it's so powerful. I think the co-op kids are meant to grow and be amazing."

Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN, EDITOR, KP NEWS

At Key Peninsula News our focus is local. The very word "local" means different things to many people—to the point it feels as if we need a better word altogether to adequately define it.

It is entirely disingenuous for our local focus to prevent us from acknowledging that these are uncertain and troubled times. From one extreme to the next our hearts beat in uneasy rhythms as we try to make sense of it all. One thing is clear: The divisive atmosphere across the nation brings deep concern for our democracy.

It isn't easy for anyone. We guard our words, watch our tongues and occasionally swallow our truths with the hope others will return the favor. If you are anything like me, you take a deep breath, put on your brave face, smile and go forth with your daily routine. We hope for the best.

Many of you have shared that Key Peninsula News has become your newspaper of choice as a welcome refuge after growing weary of the relentless barrage of anger and outrage that feels so intentionally provocative.

People tell us stories all the time. We don't explore them all; that is not our function. But after listening to so many there are some unique characteristics of Key Penners that stand out:

We want to help. We like to share. We want to learn. We like to teach. We love to play, laugh, and make music.

As we all experienced this summer, none of us can get away from air pollution regardless of who or what we think caused it; nor can the Southern Resident orcas or the Chinook salmon escape the continuing consequences of human actions and pollution disrupting the web of life undersea.

The orcas arrived in July. The first call to

KP News reported sightings of Southern Resident orcas in Carr Inlet and was followed by more sightings in Henderson Bay, Case Inlet, and even an orca pod in Drayton passage. Callers were ecstatic, still breathless from the thrill of seeing these iconic mammals in local waters.

Phone calls and emails came pouring in as well from residents furious over the sight of pleasure boaters pulling up too close to the orcas just off Wyckoff Shoal. People said they shouted and motioned to thoughtless boaters from the shore, "Get away! Get away!"

These environmental issues are important realities that must rise above political ideology. Between the real and metaphorical poles we find ourselves in, we often lie stuck, incapable of meaningful compromise in times that demand thoughtful action.

An encouraging thing about humans is that we have the unique ability to quickly adapt. We have the capacity to see what's not working and make adjustments. The question remains whether we have the will to rise above our challenges, individually and collectively.

There is good news to report and the smoke need not clear for us to see the value of compromise in action locally.

We begin another school year, on time and as scheduled, with thanks due in no small part to the Peninsula Education Association whose members now have a collective bargaining agreement in place with Peninsula School District. With an overwhelming 89 percent approval rate, Peninsula Education Association members

approved their contract by a vote of 477 in favor with 61 members opposed.

We have teachers who want to teach. We have children who want to learn. There is no greater investment we can make than to offer them the most supportive environment at home, at school and at play within our vibrant and loving community.

It takes far more than willingness or good intentions to change bad habits much less accomplish something worthwhile. It takes identifying a goal and taking action to do it. Much of that action involves this thing called "practice."



If there was ever a group with the experience of practicing together to resolve difficulties and provide opportunities for improvement, it is the residents of the Key Peninsula. Countless organizations and individuals work to nurture the strength and resilience of our community.

Sometimes it takes cheerleading to rally ourselves to rise again when we're feeling uncertain. Fall delivers a comforting sense of tradition. From the beginning of school to the appearance of scarecrows in Key Center and the return of football season, rejoice in the community you make possible.

Go to at least one football game at Peninsula High School and get in touch with the power of working in unison as a team. Life is not without healthy competition but the best place for that is on the field. Support your local PHS Seahawks and cheer them on this season. We have a Fish Bowl to win.

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Appealing a Pierce County Property Tax Assessment

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Each summer the Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer Mike Lonergan mails cards to all property owners, informing them of the updated value of their property used to determine taxes due in the coming year.

What happens if the new assessment seems out of line with what an owner expects? Lonergan said the goal of his office is to ensure that each property is assigned an accurate value.

"The bottom line is this: Ask if you could sell your property for the assessed value. If the answer is yes, you don't have a case," Lonergan said. "If the answer is no, then you should appeal."

The appeal process, though, may not be for the fainthearted.

Last year Key Peninsula resident Jan Foss received an assessment stating that his property had increased in value by more than 27 percent. He was puzzled by the increase—his property does have some view but is high bank without beach access and he was not aware of any recent sales that would support such an increase. He contacted the assessor's office and decided to appeal.

He was scheduled to present his case to the Pierce County Board of Equalization, an independent board of five members appointed by the county executive to hear property owner appeals. The appeal process required Foss to identify

three comparable properties. He used Zillow, an online resource, to identify comparable properties. He was also given parcel numbers of the three properties used by the county to make its determination.

Foss evaluated the county-identified comparable sales. All were waterfront, but they had more waterfront footage, easy beach access and bulkheads. Some had additional amenities such as power, water and dock on the beach. He appeared before the Board of Equalization in November. The board agreed with Foss that the county properties were not comparable, and asked what he thought would be acceptable as an adjusted assessed value. He suggested a 15 percent increase. Two weeks later he received a letter confirming that he had "provided clear, cogent and convincing evidence that the assessor's 2017 value is incorrect." The new value, about 15 percent higher than his 2016 assessment, was approved.

Two weeks later, Foss received a notice from the assessor's office stating that the office was appealing the decision of the Board of Equalization and that he would need to appear before the Washington State Board of Tax Appeals. Foss began to prepare for the appeal and looked further into the descriptions of the properties used by the county. He stood by the basic differences, making his case that all waterfront is not equal. But in addition, he

found that one property was actually two lots and that another parcel was 6 acres rather than the 1½ acres initially described. He sent his documents to the state in February as requested.

In March he received a call from the county appraiser to inform him that they were withdrawing the appeal, and he was notified by mail shortly thereafter. The appeal is specific for 2017. Foss recently received his 2018 assessment and it is back to the 27 percent increase he experienced last year. "I don't know if I have the energy to do this again," he said. "It's a ton of work for me, and the county has all the information at its fingertips."

Lonergan did not have access to the records at the time this article went to press, and the county appraiser responsible for the appeal has retired, but Lonergan did offer some observations. According to him, property values on the Key Peninsula have begun to increase at rates seen earlier in Tacoma and Gig Harbor—by 12½ percent this year.

Of the more than 300,000 properties assessed each year, about 1,000 are appealed. One appraiser on staff is responsible for appeals. About one-third of appeals are adjusted because of manifest errors—such things as errors in the legal description, the placement of improvements or erroneous measurements. These can often be determined by checking the parcel on the department website and

owners can call the assessor's office at 253-798-6111 with any questions.

The county uses mass appraisal to make market adjustments each year. To do this, the county is broken up into 18 areas and each area is then divided into neighborhoods (the Key Peninsula is one area with 21 neighborhoods). Appraisal is then based on sales in the same neighborhood. Lonergan thought that perhaps the large increase in the Foss property was due to the sale of expensive homes in the vicinity that upon further scrutiny were not comparable. The specific comparable properties would have been identified after Foss filed his appeal.

Lonergan also said that his office generally does not appeal the decision of the Board of Equalization if their decision is within 10 to 15 percent of the assessor's original estimate. The state appeal process can take up to two years, and he feels that the confusion about accounting for tax payments, when the assessed value is unclear for several years, is simply not worth it.

Property taxes will increase in 2018 for everyone, due to a new state tax to pay for school funding in response to the state Supreme Court McCleary Decision and, depending on the district, approval of levies to pay for requests from fire, park, library and school districts.

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Principal Todd Hering. Photo: Richard Miller, KP News

Dream Commute for New Minter Creek Elementary Principal

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

The Peninsula School District hired Todd Hering as the new principal at Minter Creek Elementary School in July.

No stranger to PSD, with three children of his own attending schools in Gig Harbor, Hering said he is excited about his new position and working near his own neighborhood, only minutes away from his office. He previously worked in Mason County as an assistant principal, but when the local position opened up he was eager to apply. "I had heard wonderful things about the staff, about the students, the families, the community, and that's something I wanted to be a part of," he said.

Hering said he appreciates the strong sense of community on the Key Peninsula and the willingness of KP parents to play an active part in their children's education. One of Hering's examples is Watch D.O.G.S., a popular program where fathers and father-figures volunteer at the school to assist staff and provide positive role models for students. The acronym stands for "Dads of Great Students."

"While there are hardships here for some, the thing I love about this community is that they rise above that and don't use it as an excuse," Hering said.

Although this will be Hering's first time serving as a principal, he feels well prepared by his experience as an assistant principal and by the mentoring he has received in the academic community. "I'm fortunate to have a great staff; we have a great dean of students here, a great secretary and office manager—the staff is wonderful. That's helped to make the transition smooth," he said.

Another transition for Hering is going from middle to elementary school. While there are similarities in all schools, Hering said that elementary school puts more emphasis on growth. "The middle schoolers are a few years older and they're going through huge changes, figuring out who they are, how they fit in the world, how they fit in with their peers. Elementary is more about developing the foundation so they can grow in a healthy way and make good choices," he said. "It's kind of the beginning steps of the development."

Hering doesn't plan to make any big changes right away, but said he wants to encourage "whole-child" education that focuses on social and emotional education as well as academics. Another priority is teaching adaptability and quick thinking, to help students respond to the changing world around them. "A lot of the jobs that are currently in our society aren't going to be there by the time our students get out into the workforce," Hering said. He wants to encourage children to ask questions and not become "stuck in a mindset."

Many local schools are looking for space for an ever-increasing number of students, but Hering feels that his new school is well equipped for the short term. Minter Creek recently installed two new portables, which hold four new classrooms to help deal with growth in the area ("New Classrooms at Minter Creek Elementary," KP News, May 2018). Hering said he believes that as the population grows, one of the best moves for schools is to continue investing in good teachers. "There's nothing that will improve a student's schooling more than having a high-quality teacher in their classroom," he said.

Most of all, Hering is excited to see the school in session and begin meeting his students. "It's odd walking up and down the hallways during the summer and not seeing students. Schools are meant to be vibrant and full of energy and that's what the kids bring."



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

To celebrate the upcoming 40th anniversary of the infamous crosstown high school football rivalry that is Fish Bowl, we dove into our archives looking for stories to elucidate this epic contest and illuminate the surrounding joyous festival that somehow affirms all that is good about being a teenager for one night—or at least the parts of teenagehood that are least bad, awkward or confusing. This piece about the decisive Peninsula High School victory from November 2009 helps set the tone for another heroic Seahawks win at Fish Bowl 40 on October 19. Don't miss it and don't forget your green hairspray.

Fishbowl 31: Seahawks Crush Tides 38-7

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

If only one could have floated on the scented air of that crisp fall evening now so distant, riding the smells of baking salmon and burning popcorn through clouds of green and blue hairspray. There were the last rays of sunlight streaming through the uprights at Roy Anderson Field. A big harvest moon pushed its way through the trees at the far end, where the scoreboard counted down time to kickoff. Below were the grandstands packed with parents, alumni and children too small to join the thousands of barely dressed, desperately texting teenagers roaming the venue. The combustive, carnival atmosphere generated by those swarming students would've made Mardi Gras look like a Quaker's wake. Though every inch of their exposed skin was painted green and gold or blue and yellow, the young fans seemed not to fear or even notice the cold. They were warmed perhaps by the open stares of parents and teachers and principals gazing on their charges with ill-concealed admiration, and even envy. Yet all were connected by the same anxious fusion of hope and dread surrounding this game, a feeling intangible but real to anyone who remembers the incomunicable experience of youth. Seeing all that, then would know something about Fish Bowl 31.

Gig Harbor has won 17 Fish Bowls since the first game in 1979 and Peninsula 13, including nine straight wins in the 1990s. Gig Harbor won six of the last eight games this decade, including the last two years, shutting out Peninsula 33-0 in 2008. Pundits predicted a close game this year, only reluctantly allowing the Seahawks a

Key Peninsula News November 2009.

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Fishbowl 31: Seahawks crush Tides 38-7

By Ted Olinger, KP News

Photo by Mindy LaRue

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APP

Goin' Postal

Facing them was what KGHP game commentator Alex Benzegala called the Tides' "three headed monster": Barrett Schmidtke (QB), Troy Castle (WR), and Austin Seferian-Jenkins (LB/WR), one of the best wide receivers on the West Coast.

From the start, Grosshans had to claw his way up the field, sometimes connecting with a short diagonal blast that would knock a train off its track, but mostly outrunning the defense for little gain. He found Creamer for his first TD reception of the year. That was followed later by a three-point field goal from sophomore Cole Madden (WR). Tides QB Schmidtke threw a floater to Seferian-Jenkins in the second quarter that the 6'7" wide receiver pulled down for the Tides' single TD on a 14-yard reception. Schmidtke took a hard hit in the third quarter by Creamer and limped off the field, but came back to connect with Desmond Ary (WR) despite double coverage and a blitz. Schmidtke finally left the game on crutches, putting Troy Castle at QB for the first time this season. Castle threw simple and effective screen passes to Seferian-Jenkins in a relentless drive that brought the Tides to Peninsula's two yard line at the top of the fourth quarter, where they were stopped by a hard-hit fumble.

And then there was the 175-pound colossus, Seahawk Geoff Grant (WB/DB), whose performance turned even the righteous into pillars of salt. When he stepped onto the field, Grant had one TD in four games. At Fish Bowl, he scored twice, made a diving interception and recovered a fumble for two of the four turnovers. Colossus.

Parsimonious observers attributed Peninsula's "rout" to Gig Harbor's mistakes, as if the Tides were not the quality team they are. The truth is simpler: mistakes were made because it was a tough game, not an easy one. Neither team posted the 60 or 90-yard runs they did in their wins the week before.

Ripping off his headset to storm the field in the final seconds of the game, after Peninsula scored its fifth TD, KGHP's Benzegala rightly said, "The Seahawks are making a statement here."

Peninsula will be graduating 23 of those Seahawks this spring, those seniors who finally won a Fish Bowl. We must let them go but keep our hairspray close and intone the sports fan's double-edged oath: "Wait until next year."

small advantage because of a supposed desire for payback, not their 3-1 record. Left out of this equation was the fact that 3A South Puget Sound League Peninsula beat 4A Narrows League Olympia and South Kitsap in summer scrimmages, the same teams that later beat 4A NL Gig Harbor this season (2-2 pre-bowl).

There is also the matter of Peninsula's quarterback. J.R. Grosshans came into the game leading the 3A SPSL in passing and with 330 rushing yards for eight TDs on 27 attempts. That was more than his own Darrian Creamer (265/46 attempts), the best running back in the league.

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Carolyn Wiley
DEVIL'S HEAD DIARY



Blue Organdy

A couple of my early formative years were spent in El Paso, Texas. There are random snapshots in my head of San Antonio, but I have clear memories of the El Paso house with the sunny backyard and the grease-wood-studded caliche hill that dropped off into the gully across the street.

My hero and leader, my big brother, had just begun his illustrious academic career and I was on my own. My world was opening up. I could go outside by myself—in fact I was receiving messages that encouraged pursuit of outdoor adventures from Mama. On this day the invitation was very specific, “Go play in the backyard while I get dressed, but don’t get dirty.”

I fully understood that not getting dirty was the prime directive. I was also wearing the greatest dress-up dress that Mama had ever made. It was a blue organdy pinafore with lace-edged ruffles, a deep hem inset with lace and a big blue bow in back. Even my Shirley Temple curls were groomed, held in place with a matching blue bow and my usually bare feet were encased in shiny Mary Janes.

I was certain that playing with the hose and the allure of mud pies was on the “don’t” list. Swinging would be OK, but the best part—jumping off at the cusp of the arc—might leave grass stains or bloody knees, violating the Don’t Get Dirty mandate.

Don’t Get Dirty was the objective. Where is dirt? It’s on the ground, of course.

So, I climbed the fence. It was a red picket twisted wire fence with no wooden stringers. To walk the fence, you had to put your feet between the pickets and sidle down the double twisted wire. I almost made it across the backyard before the misstep. My slick-soled, fancy-buckle footwear didn’t hold as well as my bare feet and I slipped. I was falling toward the alley side of the fence.

Once my descent into “dirty” stopped, I realized I was still ahead of the game. No bump, no bruise, no blood, no dirt.

But, there was a problem. Looking down I saw my shoes were many inches above the ground. I squirmed around enough to look up and saw that the top of the fence was higher than I could reach. The pinafore hem held fast but each flailing effort produced the sound of fabric and lace threads giving way.

I soon realized that the best I could hope for was that the garbage truck, only about a block away, would arrive before my mom did. Surely, the men would recognize that I

was not garbage and toss me back over the fence. And maybe my mom would never notice the snagged lace.

Hope may spring eternal, but my fondest wish was not to be fulfilled.

The screen door opened and banged shut and Mama was calling me. I didn’t answer. Although it was irrational to think that the rescuers would arrive before she found me, I still held on to the slightest shred of hope.

I suspect it was the telltale band of blue organdy wrapped around the red picket that gave me away.

Upon discovery, I explained I hadn’t gotten dirty and as far as I was concerned, Mission Accomplished. Luckily, Mama had a self-imposed rule about disciplining children, “If you have already laughed, it isn’t fair to fuss.”

Who knows? The garbage men may not have recognized my value and tossed me in the truck instead of over the fence. But when I find myself hanging on by a mere thread I am not persnickety about the source of assistance. I believe it never hurts to be alert to the possibility that aid may materialize from a most unlikely alliance.

Carolyn Wiley lives quietly, for the most part, in Longbranch.

Rob Vajko
KEY THOUGHTS



Seeing People as People

I recently discovered something about myself that I really don’t like at all. As much as I want to believe that I care about people, I am forced to admit that I really don’t, at least not nearly as much as I want to think that I do. Most of us don’t. We want to believe we care and we certainly try to portray ourselves as caring people, but if we’re really honest with ourselves we have to admit that we probably don’t really care as much as we know we should.

We want to believe that we aren’t racist, that we believe everyone has value and worth but at the core of our being, we really don’t believe it. If I can hear about 40 young girls kidnapped to serve as sex slaves for rebel soldiers in Cambodia and two minutes later forget all about it, then there is something wrong with the way I am seeing others. Should I really care less because they weren’t Americans and it didn’t happen in my own neighborhood? Don’t these 40 young girls have as much

value and worth as my own daughters or the daughters of my friends next door?

Have you noticed that whenever a plane crashes or some tragedy hits somewhere in the world, the news always reports the number of Americans who were killed or wounded as if the tragedy is only a tragedy or that it’s somehow a worse tragedy because Americans were involved?

The core problem is that we tend to view others in terms of how they benefit or hinder us. We like those who make us laugh, feel that we belong, feel wanted; not so much the ones who make us uncomfortable, annoyed or repulsed. Those who don’t influence us, either good or bad, we simply don’t consider much at all.

Our current society values external rewards. These rewards (more money, a bigger house, good grades, a nicer car, a vacation home) rightly or wrongly determine our inner value. Our assessment of others, rightly or wrongly, ends up being based on these external rewards. We ourselves strive to get these rewards for ourselves in order to feel that we are valued as well. Other people around us then become hindrances or helpers in achieving those rewards and hence that inner value.

Psychiatrists and sociologists who have studied German soldiers in WWII have discovered that the only way they managed to witness and participate in the cruelty that was inflicted on those in the concentration camps was essentially by dehumanizing them. They saw them as less than human, more as objects than people.

I am not trying to say that we must feel deeply and personally for every person in the world. We would all burn out pretty rapidly if we tried. What I am saying, if only to myself, is that I need to see people around me as people rather than as opportunities or hindrances. Empathy is a learned behavior (just watch a toddler bash another toddler in the head with a toy and you’ll see what I mean). Children have to be taught to relate the physical or emotional pain they feel when they are injured with how others feel when they hurt them. It isn’t a natural association and it takes time to develop in children. It also seems that it’s pretty easy to unlearn. Our attempt to better ourselves and collect these external rewards means that it’s all too easy to lose sight of the humanness of those around us. It’s too easy to slip into objectifying others rather than seeing them as people like me who can be deeply affected by how I treat them.

I, for one, want to work toward seeing people as people more.

Rob Vajko lives in Purdy.

Dan Whitmarsh
WRITING BY FAITH



Collaboration in our Competitive World

Friday nights in Purdy will soon mean tailgate parties, boisterous crowds and the epic struggle that is high school football. At the end of every game night, one team will leave the field as glorious victors, while the other will walk away knowing that fabled agony of defeat.

Football, like most sports, is described as a zero-sum game. A win for one team necessarily demands a loss for the other team. There is a winner and there is a loser; those are the only options.

Compare that football game to a different gathering. Think, for a moment, of a concert.

At a concert, everyone wins. Musicians share the joy of making music together. The audience enjoys their favorite band—Everybody who attends, whether performer or spectator, feels glad for a night well spent.

This is what collaboration looks like. Unlike a zero-sum competition in which one person’s win is predicated on another’s loss, in a collaborative event, everybody can win. The world abounds with these moments, from concerts to art shows, readings to shared meals, service projects to block parties.

The depth to which zero-sum theory has taken hold of our political discourse should concern us all. It seems for many that winning is only possible if another loses. One’s country, party or special interest group is a “winner” and all opponents are “losers.” No longer seeking the best for the country or community, it appears our political goals have been reduced to crushing those with whom we disagree.

One need only listen to the infantile remonstrations of many media personalities spouting political rhetoric to see this at play. The endless mockery and gleeful “owning” of people of different persuasions makes clear that victory over, rather than working with, others has become the goal.

Central to both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures is the idea of Shalom. Usually translated “peace,” Shalom carries the thought that I am well when all are well. The land is sufficient to supply our needs

when we share and work together. Peace is possible not because we all necessarily agree, but because, through the land, God gives us all we need when we walk together humbly, caring for one another.

This was one goal of this summer's combined worship service and picnic at Gateway Park in July. Our churches practiced collaboration and respect, rather than competition against each other. It was a joyful day as we joined together, seeking a common purpose of blessing our community. There was a sense of Shalom on that sunny summer morning.

Of course, competition isn't always bad. It is essential in our pursuit of excellence. There's nothing like the excitement of the Fish Bowl, cheering our proud Peninsula Seahawks on to victory.

When we turn every issue and discussion into a winner-take-all proposition, however, then we all lose. The biblical command was to "seek the good of the place I put you." We can only do that when we collaborate, seeing even our opponents as partners in the larger goal of health, peace and prosperity. We're all in this together.

Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church.

Vicki Husted Biggs
ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE



Women of a Certain Age

I am not sure when I first heard that phase, but it clearly resonated with me. The expression is a delicate and elegant way of applying words to music; and music it is—the music of a woman's life. Observe a woman of a certain age; her life rich with grace notes and intricate harmonies that overlay the thrumming, humming beat of life. Over time, tempos change, melodies linger, arias emerge, intensities ebb and flow. Listen closely and you might hear a chorus repeated after each verse. Or, a sprightly refrain suddenly transitions to a minor key and she lives in a dirge for a time.

A woman's life is by gift of biology ever changing; weekly, monthly and by decades, until we reach that ripe appellation "a certain age." Reaching "a certain age" means you are not a sweet young thing. You are not without wrinkles. You are not free of scars. You are not naïve. You are no longer unsure of yourself. Being a woman of a certain age means you have likely been tested by life. You find yourself less vulnerable, more able to recognize the difference between a flaw and a really bad choice.

When asked what the phrase meant to her,

one woman said, "Being of a certain age means you don't have so many worries about what others think of you." Another woman said, "It means you've learned the value of saying no." A third said, "Sometimes you should buy the good coffee. And one more thing: Save your feet—invest in good shoes."

Being of a certain age has its advantages. Studies show that our understanding of people and emotions peaks at ages 40 to 50, mathematical skills peak at 50 and life satisfaction peaks at age 69. Vocabulary skills peak between the ages of 60 to 70 and psychological well-being peaks at 72. These benchmarks hold true for both men and women.

But for women, there seems to be a paradox. Gloria Steinem recently said in an interview that women get more radical as they get older because they lose power. Actress Helen Mirren has been quoted as saying that being powerful is much more interesting than being beautiful. For the French, "une femme d'un certain âge" implies sexual experience and confidence. Research from MIT's AgeLab indicates that women over 50 who have met certain benchmarks are the most fit for aging. They have education, work and life experience, plus the verve to pursue innovation and opportunity.

What is the power they are talking about? Being a woman of a certain age myself, I have discovered that I can acknowledge and take satisfaction in my achievements. I can express my opinion and know that I have the force of validity behind it. I can make choices in my own best interests and express generosity in relationships in a healthy way. I can look ahead to opportunities with the benefit of experience behind me.

As a woman of a certain age, I lost my job last spring; I had more than a few moments of panic. What would I do? How would I survive? What were my options? In the six months since that time of personal terror I found a job in a completely new field. I reimagined what my property should look like and tore down two old fences. I added patio space outside and reconfigured my living space inside. I reprioritized how I intend to spend my time.

If you are a woman of a certain age, be fearless. You already have what it takes to start a new business, run for office, learn a new skill, travel, be a mentor to younger women, break an old habit or begin a new pattern. Listen to the music of your own life: What are you hearing? Is it a gently flowing tune, a crescendo building or a bridge contrasting with the verse and chorus? Be confident in your ability to compose your own music.

Vicki Biggs is a medical social worker who lives in Home.

COLUMNS CONTINUED PAGE 8

CIVIC CENTER CORNER

HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS

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

Derek Young
COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE



From the Council

With the summer wrapping up, the council heads into its busiest time of the year. The county executive will soon deliver his proposed budget and the normal cycle of bills in committee and full council tends to increase. We also have several items of particular interest to the Key Peninsula:

Council Comes to District 7 Sept. 11

The Pierce County Charter requires that the council have an evening, in-district meeting in each of the council districts. While I get the chance to talk with you all more regularly, this is an opportunity for the full council to hear about your priorities and needs.

I intentionally schedule our in-district meetings for budget time to ensure the needs of the peninsulas are fresh in the memory of council members when I advocate for those issues in the budget. In past years, we've heard from residents that additional deputies, traffic safety improvements and better access to broadband were priorities and that helped me round up the votes to pass amendments on those issues.

While we don't have the agenda set, in the past we've also had brief presentations by the county executive, the mayor of Gig Harbor and various community groups.

The meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 6 p.m. at the Peninsula High School auditorium.

Shoreline Master Program Update

You may recall that we were finally able to make changes to the SMP three years ago. The current shoreline regulations were passed in the 1970s, long before most of the current science on protecting Puget Sound was available.

So what's the hang-up?

The state's Shoreline Management Act gives dual authority over SMPs to the respective local governments and the state Department of Ecology. Basically, Ecology gets a veto over our plan. While we were able to negotiate favorable outcomes for most of the disagreements, Ecology continues to order us to remove restrictions on aquaculture—specifically, geoduck farms.

The community development committee will see the proposed changes Sept. 17 with a final version currently scheduled for Oct. 2.

Address Changes

As most of you aware, address changes went into effect on the KP April 1. For most, this simply meant replacing the KPN with NW and the KPS with SW. We also used this opportunity to correct a few hundred misaddressed properties.

Things did not go quite according to plan despite the best efforts of county staff. Most of the addressing systems for banks, utilities and other services rely on data provided by the Washington State Department of Licensing. We had been told that they were ready to implement the necessary changes. Unfortunately, we were not told they would be performed by a third-party vendor that actually provides the service. That vendor took much longer to make the necessary changes.

The good news is that it appears the update is now complete and you should be able to make the address changes with your service providers. You still have plenty of time though. The post office will continue to deliver to your old address until next April. However, you will want to make the change to your driver's license now. It's free and you can do it online.

The remaining hurdle is Google, which controls the data for most wayfinding applications. After reaching all the way to our congressional delegation, we finally got a positive response. While I don't have an ETA yet on completion, we are told they are working on an update that will finally make navigation a bit easier on the Key Peninsula.

Again, my apologies for the complications. The changes were necessary to be compliant with the new federally mandated Next Generation 911 service that our first responders and people in need of help will benefit greatly from.

Open Pierce County

I promised that we would make county government more transparent, so I'm so excited to introduce you to our newly launched website. "Open Pierce County" is the county's latest in a series of projects designed to increase transparency and accountability.

First to launch was an easy-to-use online public records request portal, next a convenient site to track public nuisance complaints.

The Open Pierce County initiative has launched three segments on Pierce County's website. The newest, "Open Performance," focuses on the degree to which the county is accomplishing its goals related to three main priorities: vibrant communities, entrepreneurial climate and effective government.

Other portions of the Open Pierce County site are "Open Budget," a guided view through complex financial information and "Open Data," where individuals can view datasets, metadata and create their own filters and charts from the data.

Check it out at open.piercecountywa.gov and let me know what you think.

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

OBITUARY



Karen A. Barrow

While experiencing a fabulous fun-filled week spent enjoying music and visiting family, Karen A. Barrow became unexpectedly ill and died shortly thereafter Aug. 8 in Spokane, Washington. Karen was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend who will be tremendously missed by all. She will always be remembered for her warm smile, gentle laugh, and the love she radiated to all those around her.

Born April 28, 1941, in Lewiston, Idaho to Arthur and Evelyn (Ely) Weberling, Karen spent the first eight years of her life in Rathdrum, Idaho. Barrow spent the rest of her childhood in Spokane and graduated from North Central High School in 1959.

Moving frequently in her younger adult life, she lived in California, Arizona and Washington, while holding many different jobs and making friends everywhere she went. Along the way she was blessed with children Michael, Adina and Glenn, whom she loved dearly.

Karen married Colonel Joseph M. Barrow Nov. 30, 1990, to whom she remained married for over 28 years until her death. Their marriage was filled with world travel, music, arts appreciation and many, many wonderful friends. They lived in Longbranch for the last 25 years of their married life, enjoying boating and the serenity of rural life. The views of South Puget Sound were among her favorites and strongly

In Memory Obituaries are printed free of charge as a service to community members. Please limit to 300 words and provide high-resolution photographs. All submissions will be edited. Send to editor@keypennews.com.

influenced where they built their home.

Karen enjoyed nothing more than sharing memories and the accomplishments of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren with friends and family.

She was preceded in death by her parents and son Glenn. She is survived by her husband Joseph Barrow; brother Arlen Weberling (JoAnn); son Michael Gardiner (Lynne); daughter Adina F. Morse (James D. Montgomery); stepsons Joe Barrow and Shawn Barrow (Marnie); grandchildren Jeanette Lundgren (Justin), Amanda Gardiner, Johstono Alden Weberling Morse, Channing Eleanor Weberling Morse, and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Discovery Baptist Church, 4902 Gustafson Drive NW in Gig Harbor Sept. 1 at 11 a.m. with a fellowship gathering to follow to share memories of Karen. Attendees are encouraged to dress casually.

The family would like to thank the staff at Providence Holy Family Hospital in Spokane, especially ICU nurses Margie and Kelly, for the outstanding care and support they provided.

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Letter to the Editor

Camp Seymour Should Honor Community Plan

The YMCA Camp Seymour is building out its facilities to a point where it can now serve 350 overnight campers, 150 day-campers and 70 staff. And, following its long-range plan, there is more construction to come.

Because of this the camp was advised last fall by the Pierce County fire marshal that no new building permits will be issued until the camp can meet current fire protection safety standards, which in this case will require a water source capable of providing 1,500 gallons per minute flow for two hours at a minimum pressure of 20 PSI.

The question is how to achieve the fire marshal's fire flow requirements in a way that balances practical construction issues and honors the quiet, forested rural character of the Key Peninsula.

The YMCA board and staff, headquartered in Tacoma, hired an engineering firm. Two of that firm's proposed options stand out: a 60-foot tall water tower within full view of Thomas Road that cannot be effectively screened or hidden from view; or two 20-foot water tanks, operated with pumps as needed, in the same location that can be successfully screened.

The YMCA chose the 60-foot water tower option and the organization continues defending that choice in spite of the Key Peninsula Advisory Commission's 5-0 vote in opposition at a standing-room-only public meeting July 18. In addition, over 20 neighbors of Camp Seymour have written to Pierce County Planning stating their support of Camp Seymour but opposition to this 60-foot water tower.

The option to construct two 20-foot tanks at the Thomas Road site is being ignored by the YMCA board and staff, even though that option would simultaneously achieve Camp Seymour's expansion goals while demonstrating respect for our community goals of maintaining the rural character of the Key Peninsula. The engineer hired by the YMCA noted that two 20-foot tanks with pumps would satisfy the requirements of the fire marshal. He testified in front of the hearing examiner that the use of fire pumps to provide fire flow when needed is "common."

For two months the YMCA board and key staff have turned a deaf ear to objections from the KP community to the 60-foot tower, and for over a month they have ignored the workable and preferred option of two shorter tanks.

Cell towers aside, there are no structures 60-feet tall on the KP—nothing as massive, industrial and visible as this proposed tank. Once a 60-foot structure is built, others will follow and the character of the Key Peninsula will be changed forever.

Everyone agrees that Camp Seymour is a well-loved landmark of the Key Peninsula. Many of us attended the camp as children and we continue to send our children and grandchildren as well.

Everyone agrees the camp must meet

updated fire protection safety standards to protect life.

The option of two shorter tanks is a good one that could and should be viewed as a win-win for the YMCA and the Key Peninsula community. Please join me, 50 of your neighbors and the Key Peninsula Advisory Commission in telling the board and staff of the YMCA that this proposed 60-foot tall water tower is not welcome on the Key Peninsula. It doesn't fit.

Peter Stanley, Vaughn

Join the Scarecrow Invasion!



Exhibit your scarecrow in Key Center to kick off the 2018 Farm Tour. Free application for Scarecrow Invasion is available online at Kpfarmtour.com or contact KP Community Office at 253-432-4948

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Peninsula Interim Superintendent Hits the Ground Running

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The Peninsula School Board appointed Art Jarvis as interim superintendent of the Peninsula School District by unanimous agreement July 26. “He hit the ground running,” said school board President Marcia Harris. “I spoke to him the morning after our board meeting and he was in the office working the next day.”

Jarvis, who has been in the field of education for five decades, is now in his 31st year as a school superintendent.

The position became vacant when Rob Manahan, who had served for two years, resigned in May to become the superintendent of the Snoqualmie Valley School District. Karen Andersen, PSD chief financial officer, served as superintendent from July 1 when Manahan left until the interim position was filled.

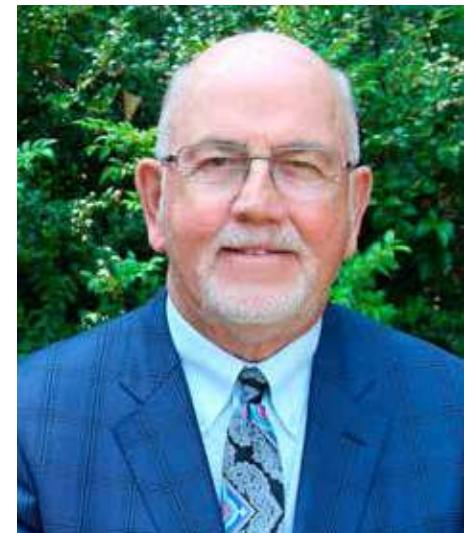
“It was not an ideal time to pick up a new superintendent,” Harris said, regarding Manahan’s departure. The board decided to hire an interim for a year. “Typically for an interim position, you look for a person who is very experienced and we wanted someone who was not interested in the permanent position,” she said. “It was the right decision.”

Harris said that she knew several recent retirees and contacted them directly for input. The board heard from a number of qualified candidates, some of whom will be considered for the permanent position.

“Art Jarvis has a stellar reputation,” Harris said. Jarvis has served as interim superintendent for other districts including Shelton and, most recently, Renton. The Renton position was extended to two years so that he could mentor the incoming superintendent.

Jarvis earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in education, Master of Arts in special education and a doctorate in educational administration from the University of Washington. He has served as superintendent in the Tacoma, Enumclaw and South Whidbey school districts—all districts serving the range from just a few thousand to 30,000 students. He was twice named Washington State Superintendent of the Year.

Jarvis described a few of the near-term challenges he anticipates. First, just getting ready for the start of the school year, which he noted can be a challenge in any district. But the critical shortage of space is a particular problem for PSD and he is working with staff to get portables in place and look at other ways to ease the overcrowding.



Art Jarvis breaks for a portrait. Photo: Maddy Hale, Peninsula School District Marketing Intern

He said collective bargaining negotiations will present a challenge for all school districts this year, as a result of the McCleary Decision, because the system has changed. Jarvis described the situation as “unusual,” but said, “Peninsula has a wonderful relationship with teachers and I will rely on that. I want to get a good agreement with staff in which they feel respected and supported and which will not place the district in a financial bind.”

He plans to support initiatives already underway, including technology with increased access to electronic devices at the secondary level and a change in the approach to discipline. He described the ongoing work on the best way to approach discipline, using a model of restorative justice that aims to keep students in school and not punish them by sending them away from school.

“I don’t think I’ll have any trouble keeping busy,” Jarvis said. “I’ll be the new kid on the block in some areas. I’ll be doing a lot of listening,” he said. “The staff is delightful. They are working hard on all the issues and are positive and supportive people. I am thrilled to be here.”

Living in Tacoma near Titlow Beach, Jarvis looks forward to a much shorter commute without so much time on Interstate 5. He said, “It will add years to my life.”



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A Brief History of the Humble Scarecrow

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

The scarecrows are back. Or at least, they will be soon. Silly and spooky scarecrows will begin popping up along local roadways, cheering harried commuters, delighting local children and heralding the start of another autumn on Key Peninsula.

The scarecrow contest, sponsored by the KP Farm Council, builds anticipation for the annual Key Peninsula Farm Tour the first Saturday in October.

Scarecrows have fearlessly served humans in their pursuit of bountiful harvest throughout the ages.

People have been finding ways to keep birds off crops for centuries. Scarecrows were used in Ancient Greece; Roman farmers adopted the practice when Greece became part of the empire.

During the Middle Ages in Europe, it was the job of the farmer's children to run into the fields and scare off flocks of hungry crows. But when the Black Death wiped out a third of Europe's population beginning in the 1340s, survivors discovered humanoid statues did the job just as well.

Three centuries later, early American settlers brought their own idea of scarecrows to farms in the New World. It was the German word for scarecrow, "bootzamon," which eventually became "bogeyman," a creepy mythical man who has been frightening children into good behavior ever since.

Scarecrows reached their heyday in America before World War II, before synthetic pesticides took over as the preferred method for commercial agricultural production. It was then the idea of scarecrows in popular culture morphed from useful agricultural tool into whimsical autumn decor.

Given their human appearance, it is no surprise that scarecrows still occupy a special place in the cultural imagination. America's most famous scarecrow, the kindly fellow who helps Dorothy travel the yellow brick road in "The Wizard of Oz," announces from the outset his desire for a brain. This stands in opposition to the Japanese scarecrow "kuebiko," a Shinto deity of knowledge and agriculture represented in mythology as a scarecrow who cannot walk but has comprehensive knowledge of all things.



Making a scarecrow is an easy weekend project with lots of room for creativity. To begin, nail together two pieces of wood to make a cross-shaped frame and pound one end into the ground. Slip an old, long-sleeve button-down shirt over the frame. Tie a knot or cinch off at the waistband and at each cuff. Stuff the shirt with straw. Add gloves to hide the ends of the crossbeam.

Then, do the same with an old pair of jeans. Tie knots at the cuffs and stuff straw inside. Attach the pants to the shirt by running rope or string through the belt loops and over the shoulders like suspenders. Tall rubber boots that have sprung a leak or crummy sneakers destined for the trash add a realistic touch.

The head could be a gourd or pumpkin with a hole cut just big enough to be fitted securely atop the vertical beam. Alternatively, decorate an old pillowcase with facial features and stuff it with hay. A hat or more hay for hair is a great finish.

Kathy Lyons of Lakebay has charmed scores of travelers through Key Center with her amusing scarecrow creations, including her SpongeBob-inspired "Hay Bale Squarepants," which took first place in the annual scarecrow competition sponsored by the KP Farm Council in 2014. Lyons also turned heads with her scarecrow "Girl on a Bicycle" in 2017.

"Use your imagination, make it fun for yourself and attempt to entertain others," Lyons said. "Be sure to make it sturdy. Use rebar for posts, as there are crazy winds in Key Center."

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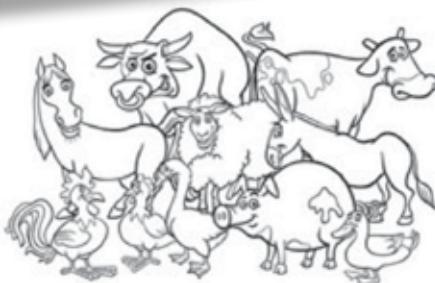
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Enter your event or regular meeting schedule on our website calendar at keypennews.com. Click on "Submit an Event" and fill out the form, including contact information for verification. Send questions or updates to editor@keypennews.com or call 253-884-4699.

SEPTEMBER 4

NW SPAY/NEUTER

Drop off pet at KP Civic Center at 7 a.m. on 9/4. Cats must be in a crate/box; dogs must be leashed. Pick-up at KP Civic Center at 7 a.m. on 9/5. 253-627-7729 or shuttle@nwspayneuter.org for fees and to schedule a pick-up.

SEPTEMBER 6

LAKEBAY FUCHSIA SOCIETY

We are having our annual picnic at Ann and Bob Campy's house this month. Details: 253-225-3027.

SEPTEMBER 8

FREE IMMUNIZATIONS

Free back to school immunizations for KP children ages 5 to 18. Key Medical Center; 15610 89th St. Ct NW; Key Center. 253-884-9221

SEPTEMBER 8

SWINGIN' WITH DEAN SHOW

Dean Ratzman plays Swing, Jazz Standards, Blues, Rock and Soul hits of Great American Artists.'40s-'70s. 3 to 4 p.m. Key Center Library. 253-548-3309

SEPTEMBER 11

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETS

District 7 council meeting at Peninsula High School Auditorium 6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 24

RELATIVES RAISING KIDS SUPPORT

Grandparents and relatives raising children meet the fourth Monday each month at Evergreen Elementary from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Potluck dinner and child care provided. Call Lori at CHSW at 253-884-5433 or 253-391-0144.

OFF THE KEY

SEPTEMBER 8

TINA AND HER PONY CONCERT

Indie Appalachian Folk Duo at the Olalla Community Club. Tina Collins plays tenor

banjo, tenor ukulele, guitar and vocals. Quetzal Jordan plays cello, guitar and vocals. Potluck starts 6 p.m.; music starts 7 p.m. www.olallahouse.org; 253-439-0078.

SEPTEMBER 10

SUICIDE-THE RIPPLE EFFECT

GHKP Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition presents this film based on the story of Kevin Hines who, at age 19, attempted to take his life by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge. He is now on a mission to use his story to help others. 7 p.m. at Galaxy Gig Harbor, 4649 Point Fosdick Dr. NW, Gig Harbor. Purchase tickets at galaxytheatres.com

SEPTEMBER 13-16

GIG HARBOR FILM FESTIVAL 2018

Over 100 indie films from around the world; post-screening filmmaker Q & A sessions; and spirited parties. gigharborfilm.org/gig-harbor-film-festival-2018/

SEPTEMBER 14-16

GIG HARBOR OPEN STUDIO TOUR

Gig Harbor area professional artists display their work and demonstrate their processes. Tour includes 33 artists and 23 studios. Follow the signs with the PINK HAND. gigarboropenstudiotour.org

WEEKLY EVENTS

WEEKDAYS

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES

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

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

PLAY TO LEARN

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free program for children (ages 6 and under) and adults to play together! Individual play, fun group activities, songs, and a whole group circle time. Drop-in program: no registration required. Please join us. Michelle 253-530-1097 or harrisonm@psd401.net.

TUESDAYS

STORYTIMES

Discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the Key Center Library at 11 a.m. For preschoolers. 253-548-3309

LOVING HEARTS

Join Loving Hearts to knit or crochet for charity. First Tuesday of the month:

11-1 p.m.; all other Tuesdays 1-3 p.m. WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Ave NW. Yarn donations are needed and very much appreciated. Virginia at 253-884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com.

TOPS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly is an affordable wellness education organization; visitors attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge and without obligation. Weigh-in from 8:35 to 9:25 a.m. at 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 in the Key Peninsula area? We are bringing Oasis Youth Center to you at our satellite program Tuesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. There will be games, new friends, activities, learning and snacks. oasis@oasisyouthcenter.org

KEY SINGERS REHEARSALS

Rehearsals for KP choral group Sept 18 to Dec 11, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church. All singers welcome. Membership \$10 per year. Colleen Slater, cas4936@centurytel.net

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME

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

SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior tai chi class meets 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. If you're not already in the class, you must sign up in advance for the next class. 253-884-4440

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

KP HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN

The Key Peninsula Historical Society museum at the civic center is open Tuesdays and Saturdays 1 to 4 p.m. The current exhibit is Tales of Logging the Key Peninsula. Free admission. 253-888-3246. www.keypeninsulamuseum.org

WEDNESDAYS

READY SET GO!

Free Early Learning Program for 3- & 4-year-olds. Classes begin September 26;

register now. Limited to 16 kids with their parent/caregiver. Focus on kindergarten readiness and lots of fun. KP Civic Center VFW room, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Lori Mertens 253-884-5433.

LAKEBAY WRITERS

A workshop for people who love stories. Share yours; hear others'. From 1 to 4 p.m. at Key Center Library. Loren Aikins, 253-884-2785

KP YOUTH COUNCIL

Meets every Wednesday from 2:30 to 5 p.m. at the Key Center fire station. Keyencouncil@gmail.com

BLEND HOOKERS AND TINKERS

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

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

SENIOR MEALS

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

THURSDAYS

TOASTMASTERS

Have fun improving your public speaking ability and leadership skills at Wright-Bliss fire station from 8 to 9 a.m. 253-858-5761

SENIORS LUNCH

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

FRIDAYS

SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior tai chi drop-in class meets 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. 253-884-4440

TRIPLE P PARENTING CLASSES

Children's Home Society of Washington partners with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to sign up families for Triple P Parenting classes and provide assistance with basic food and health insurance applications. Representative available at Key Peninsula Community Office, Suite D, KC Corral Fridays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 253-432-4948 or 253-884-5433

MONTHLY MEETINGS

September 1, Writers Guild meets first Saturdays, 10 a.m., community council office, Suite D, at the Key Center Corral. 253-884-6455
September 1 & 15, Lakebay Depression and Bipolar Support Group meets first and third Saturdays, 11:15 a.m., KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. Kimberly, 253-753-4270 or dbsalakebay@gmail.com
September 3 & 17, KP Veterans group meets first and third Mondays, 7 p.m., KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Rd NW. All veterans, military service members and families with children 16 and older are welcome. 253-225-5130

September 4, KP Historical Society meets first Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in the museum at KP Civic Center. 253-888-3246

September 5 & 19, KP Lions Club meets first and third Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

September 6, 26th Legislative District Democrats meet first Thursday 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting. Public invited. Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard. 26thdemocrats@gmail.com

September 10, KP Parks Commission meets second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

September 11 & 25, KP Fire Commission meets second and fourth Tuesdays, 5 p.m., Key Center fire station. www.keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

September 12, Bayshore Garden Club meets second Wednesdays, 10 a.m., Longbranch fire station. Wendy, 253-332-4883

September 12, KP Community Council meets second Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-432-4948. Guest speakers: Peter Ansara, Director, Pierce Co. Community Connections and Corrine Weatherly, Pierce Co. Librarian (Key Center).

September 12, Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition meets second Wednesday, 10 a.m., Gig Harbor Fire District Headquarters, 10222 Bu-jach Road NW, Gig Harbor. www.PEP-C.org

September 13, Ashes support group for Fire District 16 meets second Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Key Center fire station. 253-884-3771

September 13, Peninsula School District Board meets second Thursdays, 6 p.m., district office in Purdy. 253-530-1000

September 13, KP Civic Center Assn. board meets second Thursdays, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 253-884-3456.

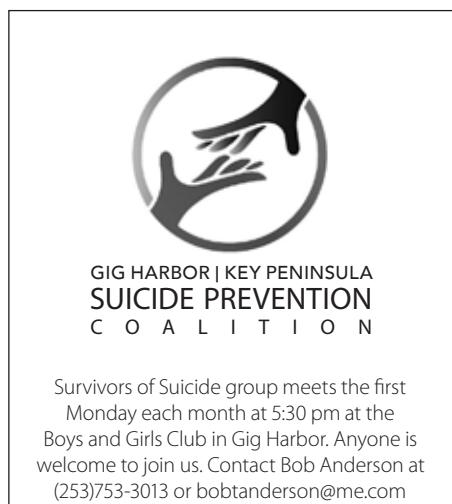
September 17, KP Democrats meets third Mondays, 7 p.m., Home fire station, johnpatkelly@aol.com

September 19, KP Advisory Commission meets third Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., KP Civic Center. Reviews applications for proposed developments and makes recommendations to Pierce County. 253-432-4948.

September 20, Emergency Preparation meets third Thursday, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 253-686-7904 or gablehousep@aol.com (Put E Prep in the subject line).

September 24, KP Farm Council planning meeting for 2018 Farm Tour meets fourth Mondays, KP Community Council office. 253-432-4948 or email keycouncil@gmail.com

Multiple dates, KP Sportsmen's Club board meets first Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.; general meeting and potluck on second Thursdays at 6 p.m.; bingo \$1/card and potluck on 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



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



Angel Guild Thrift Shop

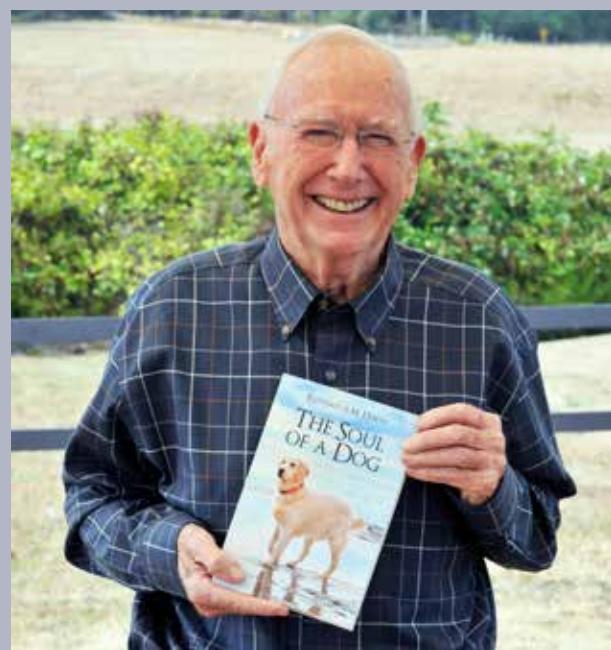
Open 10-4
 Tuesday to Saturday in the
 Key Center Corral 253 884-9333

Donations: Tue-Sat, 9:30 to 3:30
 P.O. Box 703, Vaughn WA 98394

Dick's Last Stand

6 to 8 pm Saturday, Sept 8

at The Blend Wine Shop in Key Center



Join local author Richard A.M. Dixon, reading and signing his final work, *The Soul of a Dog*, the life stories of six unforgettable dogs

Longbranch Improvement Club
 Exhibits Demonstrations Food

fiber arts

threads through time

ARTISTIC TO UTILITARIAN
 TRADITIONAL TO MODERN

Saturday Oct. 6
10am to 4pm
Free Admission

4312 Key Peninsula Hwy S., Longbranch
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 30 minutes from Gig Harbor

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AWANA

September 5, 2018

Runs through May 2019

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\$40 ea - \$120 max per family

Sign up
Today!

CUBBIES: PRESCHOOL

SPARKS: K-2ND GRADES

T&T: 3RD – 5TH GRADES

TREK: MIDDLE SCHOOL

JOURNEY: HIGH SCHOOL

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www.kpbfellowship.org



Key to Life Church of the Nazarene

Come Worship with Us! You are Welcome!

Meeting at The Mustard Seed Project
Sundays at 10:30am

(253) 549-9963

email: rockrev@aol.com Facebook: KeyToLifeChurch



BACK TO SCHOOL - BACK TO SKATE NIGHT!



Every Friday Night

Starting September 14

6 to 9 pm at the Civic Center

Live DJ, Skating, Dancing, Games, Food, Prizes

Kids \$5 / Parents free

Kid-friendly burgers, pizza, snacks and drinks

A fun family night for elementary and middle school kids

Check out www.facebook.com/KPCC.SkateNight

"Do I have assets? What are they? How can I protect them?"

Free Assets Protection Seminar Sept. 20

Community experts will explain what assets we all have and how we can protect them from theft and damage.

Thinking Thursdays

Join us for our first Thinking Thursday, September 20 at 10 am in the Crandall Center

Coming up later this year

October 18
Medicare Open Enrollment: What You Need to Know

November 15
Medicare—So You Are Turning 65. What Now?

December 20
Grief and Loss: How Do I Cope?



**The Mustard Seed Project
OF KEY PENINSULA**

Call **253-884-9814** info@themustardseedproject.org

www.themustardseedproject.org

Visit us Mon-Fri, 10-4 in The Crandall Center uptown Key Center



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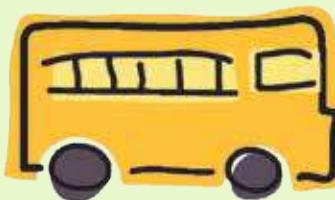
Rebates are subject to change at any time.

FOR DETAILS AND CURRENT INFORMATION:
www.penlight.org/rebate-programs
energyspecialist@penlight.org | 253.857.5950



Peninsula Light Co.
www.penlight.org

FREE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL AGES



KP SCHOOL BUS CONNECTS

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

253-884-BUSS or www.kp.council.org

Fall Schedule

Starts Tuesday, September 4

EVERGREEN TUES & THURS AM

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

EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY AM

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

VAUGHN TUES & THURS AM

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

VAUGHN WEDNESDAY AM

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

TUESDAY & THURSDAY MIDDAY

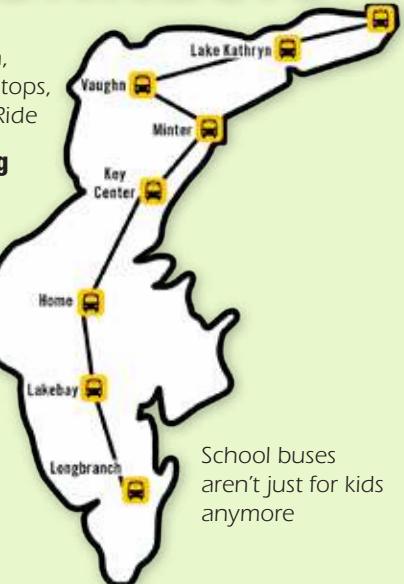
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|-------|--|
| 10:33 | Peninsula High School |
| 10:35 | Purdy Park & Ride |
| 10:38 | Cost Less Pharmacy @ Lake Kathryn Village |
| 10:48 | SR 302 @ Windermere Realty, near 118th Ave |
| 10:50 | SR 302 @ 140th Ave/Lake of the Woods |
| 10:51 | SR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

TUES, WED & THURS PM

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

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

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



School buses
aren't just for kids
anymore



Key Peninsula Volunteer Firefighters take the heat of a mid-August drill. Photo: Grace Nesbit

New Fire Protection Rating Reduces Longbranch Insurance Costs

Alice Kinerk, KP News

Longbranch homes are even safer from fire damage these days with an improved Protection Class (PC) rating for the Longbranch fire station by the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB).

"The Longbranch area was rated PC-9; it will now be rated PC-5. As with all other areas of the fire district, you receive the Class-5 rating provided your home is within five driving miles of a fire station and you have a hydrant within 1,000 feet of your property. If you do not have a hydrant close enough, then your rating is adjusted to a Class-6," according to Key Peninsula Fire Chief Guy Allen who announced the news Aug. 1.

Annual insurance premiums paid by homeowners depend on the home's value, but rates are expected to drop significantly in Longbranch with the latest rating from WSRB according to Allen.

"This improved rating is the direct result of new volunteer firefighters living at the south end; that helped us increase the number of people available to respond out of Station 49," Volunteer Battalion Chief Anne Nesbit said.

PC ratings rank a community's fire protection system, providing insurance companies with information they then use to set homeowner insurance rates. The highest rank, Class 1, represents an excellent fire protection system. The lowest rank, class 10, indicates zero protection. Classes 9 and 10 are considered unprotected. Often these are rural areas without sufficient hydrants or fire

departments. Specific PC ratings are tied to each home's proximity to a fire station and hydrant.

In Longbranch, fire hydrants are located at Taylor Bay Estates, Driftwood Point and on Tipperary Drive.

PC ratings are made after a careful and complete inventory of a fire department's staffing, equipment, communications and water systems. As a member of WSRB himself, Allen was able to predict the Longbranch drop to PC-9 several years ago and knew it would take additional staffing to bring it back up.

The water-bound geography of the Key Peninsula means assistance from neighboring fire departments can be slow to arrive in an emergency, making the need for volunteers even more important.

"As Volunteer Battalion Chief, I really wanted to beef up our on-Key volunteer group and that has been the focus of our recruitment," Nesbit said. "We'll take people from Gig Harbor as long as they are within a timely response to one of our stations. The community and our department benefits even more if someone lives in the district because they are more apt to respond to a call when they are off-shift."

"We were lucky this year that several of the applicants for our volunteer program were in the KP south area," Nesbit said. "They did well enough to be accepted, they excelled and are now part of our department. Combined with professional staff, the new volunteers added enough firefighters to qualify Station 49 in Longbranch for the improved rating from WSRB."

Finding adequate staffing for the Key Peninsula Fire Department has always been tough and the local tax base makes bringing on additional paid staff unlikely, Allen said. But, because the WSRB views both professional and volunteer firefighters equally, he said that local residents donating their time to the fire department makes a huge difference.

To become a volunteer firefighter a person needs to be at least 18 years old, a high school graduate and able to pass a written exam that includes both math and reading comprehension. The test can be challenging, but provides the fire department with information about the candidate's ability to learn, which is important due to the training required of volunteers. "If you know someone who is looking for something to keep them busy, we need all the volunteers we can get," Allen said. Both men and women are encouraged to apply.

In a letter to Chief Allen, the WSRB stated that it is up to homeowners to ensure their insurance companies are aware of the change. "We recommend that residents of your community residing around the Longbranch station contact their insurance agents to determine the relative effect this new station rating will have on their insurance premiums," a WSRB representative wrote.

Before contacting their insurance company, homeowners can contact WSRB to get a specific PC rating for their home free of charge by calling WSRB Customer Service at 206-217-0101 or emailing customerservice@wsrb.com.

PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT FARM ASSISTANCE UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & FARM TOURS ON THE KEY PENINSULA



Get the "Dirt" on Soil September 13, 7:00-8:30 pm Key Peninsula

This workshop will focus on learning the basic components of soil and their role in the functions of soil. Learn how managing your soils can lead to better forage production and animal health. Learn how to find out what soil types are

on your property to inform grazing and fertilizer timing, grass species selection, and more. Learn how and when to take a soil test and how to interpret the results for proper fertilizer application. Retired Natural Resources Conservation Services Soil Scientist, Chuck Natsuvara, will be on hand to help give you tools to better understand the "dirt" beneath your feet. **RSVP for location.**

The Difference a Good Liming and Calcium Nutrition Program Can Make Sept. 20, 6:30-9:00 pm Key Peninsula

Gudrun Mart of Columbia River Carbonates will walk through developing a liming program for your farm to boost productivity and improve your bottom line. Better and more predictable results can be achieved by knowing the right material, right amount, right place and right time when it comes to liming. Gudrun will illustrate her recommendations with examples of studies, observed crop and pasture responses, and experiences from her years advising farmers. There will be an opportunity to test pH yourself. Bring soil samples from your land for instant testing and go home with a better understanding of what you can do to make a difference in land stewardship through pH management. **RSVP for location.**



Sustainable Pasture Management - Kaukiki Farm September 15, 10:00-11:30 am Longbranch

Come to this picturesque, 146-acre farm near Taylor Bay and learn about sustainable pasture management. Listen to Warwick and Janice Bryant describe their farming methods that stay away from practices which degrade the soil, water, and other natural resources. Hear about grass growth, rotational grazing, fencing, and irrigation. See K-Line irrigation pods in action. Speak with Pierce Conservation District Farm Resource Planner, Paul Borne, about the services Pierce CD can provide for your farm. Also, learn about the Great Peninsula Conservancy's partnership with Kaukiki Farm to preserve valuable farmland. **Please RSVP.**



Visit www.piercecd.org to register now!



Mark Christel
253-432-4637
www.markchristel.com
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**We work for you,
not Wall Street.**



Todd Rosenbach
253-884-4787
www.toddrosenbach.com
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LPL Financial
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*As reported by Financial Planning magazine, June 1996-2016, based on total revenue
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Senior Center & Food Bank
Helping our citizens to eat and live healthy
PO Box 392 Lakebay WA. 98349 253-884-4440 Fax: 253-884-6196
Email: KPCSdirector@centurytel.net

Key Peninsula



**THANK YOU TO
ALL WHO MADE
THIS SHOW A
GREAT SUCCESS !**

A special thank you to:

John Jaggi of Fellrite Timber Co.

& Dan Wehmeier of Wehmeier LLC

www.keypeninsulacommunityservic.org and facebook.com/KeyPenCS



Happy campers jump for joy at Delano Bay Christian Camp *All camp photos: Richard Miller, KP News*

MATTHEW DEAN & LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Thousands of young campers experience their first taste of independence at the summer camps dotting the shores of Key Peninsula. Each day at camp brings something new.

Whether learning to paddle a kayak or scaling a climbing wall, by the time they leave they are seasoned campers, hooked on the joy of being outside. They'll know the soft feel of the forest floor underfoot and hear the howls of coyotes in dark of night. Maybe they'll spot a doe with twin fawns trailing behind or watch an imposing osprey dive to catch a fish.

With privately owned camps tucked away out of sight here and there, it is easy to forget the Key Peninsula hosts this recreational wonderland.

Sound View Camp

Located at the extreme southeast end of the peninsula, Sound View Camp has been welcoming campers to the Key Peninsula since 1952. Previously operated under the Camp Fire USA organization under the name Camp Wakoma, the camp was sold to the Presbytery

of Olympia in 1985.

Sound View draws campers from all over Western Washington, especially through the Presbytery, which includes churches as far away as Longview and Aberdeen. Sound View currently serves about 60 campers each week, from ages six to 15, over three weeks of official summer camp.

Sound View has extensive beach access and is "land that is not being encroached by development," according to Camp Director Kurt Sample. Renovations and an influx of new staff in 2016 have helped to revitalize the camp and regenerate several underused areas. Popular activities include paintball, a ropes course, boating and swimming, and ukulele lessons.

Sound View is open to campers from the KP, and camperships are available through the Food Backpacks 4 Kids program. Word of Sound View has also spread through KP-based Waypoint Church, which runs its annual week-long summer camp at the Sound View facility

YMCA Camp Colman

Founded in 1912, YMCA Camp Colman prides itself on leadership and tradition. Situated on approximately

100 acres, a half-mile of beach and a 6-acre saltwater lagoon make the camp unique for swimming on the Key Peninsula. Camp Colman hosts about 9,000 guests annually, 1,600 of whom are youth campers in the summer program. The camp is owned and operated by the YMCA of Greater Seattle.

Julia Derocher, 23, recent Simon Fraser University graduate with her BS in environmental science, has spent the last 17 summers at Camp Colman and said she can't imagine her life without summers there. She credits Camp Colman for teaching her the independence and people skills she couldn't have learned anywhere else.

"Every year camp is something you look forward to. It's a time when you begin to see yourself growing most, in that single week you spend at camp. And you just start seeing that growth again and again until the next thing you know you're a counselor," Derocher said.

This summer she directed the program for 16- and 17-year-old campers, after having been a counselor to that age group in previous summers. Returning each summer is a tradition she wants to pass on.



"I think that especially now having a chance to spend a whole week outdoors without technology and learning how to interact face to face is the most valuable thing we offer," Derocher said. "Even if they don't keep coming back they'll have this fabulous skill to take with them—just knowing how to be with people."

Delano Bay Christian Camp

Originally owned by the Delano family, the property was purchased in 1973 by the Stan and Marlene Granberg who had the vision to found the nonprofit Delano Bay Christian Camp in 1979. Owned and operated by The Church of Christ, the campground is open, filled with light and gently slopes down toward an unspoiled beach with inspiring mountain views.

The lodge dining hall, with two hillside dormitories and four seaside cabins can house up to 160 campers, but according to Camp Director Charlotte Larson they average about 130 guests. Delano Bay's summer youth camps are Christ-centered and run in five sessions based on age level.

During summer, nearly 400 youth campers of all ages are surrounded by a volunteer staff who lovingly demonstrate the ideals of Christian love on a daily basis.

The open green space is perfect for volleyball, kickball and team-based sports, according to Larson. Beach activities, slip and slide and hiking coupled with arts and crafts are interspersed each day with teachings and worship that keep young campers fully engaged and learning. Beachside campfire circles with fellowship, devotionals and singing make for powerful iconic memories of camp life among friends old and new.

The camp is available throughout the year for rental exclusively to other nonprofit organizations that hold tax identification numbers. Delano Bay Christian Camp's vision is to be a harbor of refuge for the spiritual growth and renewal of Christians and youth in the Pacific Northwest.

Camp Gallagher

Lakebay's Camp Gallagher was founded in 1970 as an overnight location for the Catholic Youth Organi-

zation, and is currently owned by the nonprofit Friends of Camp Gallagher. After the Seattle Archdiocese sold the property in 2015, word spread that the camp was going up for auction.

"A group of former campers and staff rallied to 'save Camp Gallagher' and started a crowd-funding campaign to buy the camp," Marketing Coordinator Madge Kay said. The group was unable to purchase the property outright. The Friends of Camp Gallagher ended up coming to a lease agreement with the new owners, and resumed operation the same year.

Today's Camp Gallagher is a nonreligious camp for middle and high school kids, running five 60-camper sessions of summer camp per year as well as two smaller "Gallagher Expeditions." Key Peninsula middle and high school students are welcome and the camp is available for group rental on select weekends during the summer.

Camp Gallagher counts a "camper-led experience" as one of its strengths, with campers voting on daily schedules and assisting staff throughout the week. The camp also offers overnight trips, where campers and counselors plan a boating expedition to another part of the South Sound and spend the night away from camp.

YMCA Camp Seymour

Widely known for its message of environmental sustainability, YMCA Camp Seymour was the gift of Tacoma Mayor W.W. Seymour in 1905. The 138-acre camp rests above the shores of Glen Cove, which provides an ideal place for young campers to practice boating and kayak skills. Each year over 2,000 youth campers participate in the summer youth program. Overall the number of campers and guests throughout the year exceed 17,000.

The Outdoor and Environmental Education program at Camp Seymour integrates the study of forest ecosystems, marine science, wildlife ecology and sustainability. Using current ideology in best managed forest practices, the long-lived trees of Camp Seymour forests continue to inspire campers and demonstrate the need for stewardship to improve forest health.

Camp Seymour's "Living Machine" demonstrates how properly composted food waste can be utilized in a thoughtful manner to harness the power of nutrients to grow more food while preventing runoff of those nutrients from harming the ecosystem of Puget Sound.

The classic experience of summer camp continues to promote cooperation, collaboration and leadership with time-proven traditions that fulfill every parent's desire to provide a high quality traditional camp experience where their children can build skills and knowledge. With challenge courses, climbing walls and even zip lines, the thrill of achievement is around every corner.

Camp Woodworth

Camp Woodworth is a private Christian camp and retreat center tucked away on 10 partially wooded acres with trails gently winding down to the beach below. Board member Mike Sherman and his wife live on the property year-round, volunteering their time to the camp as caretakers.

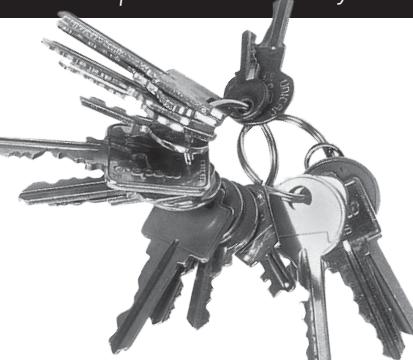
"Seven of the approximately 10 acres the camp sits on were donated in 1945 by Mr. Woodworth," Sherman said. "He wanted to ensure opportunities for young girls and boys to be able to enjoy God's creation in the wild lands away from the city. We want to minister to small churches with congregations that aren't able to afford to send their youth groups to bigger, more expensive camps."

For the last three or four years the camp has been working to refurbish the bayside chapel and modest bunkhouse style cabins with new roofs and fresh paint. Owned by Northwest Bible Ministries, Sherman said, "The board of directors with the help of volunteers are making steady progress on long deferred maintenance."

Camp Woodworth doesn't offer a summer camp program but instead encourages youth groups from other churches to come and use the facilities for their own program. Sherman said, "We don't have a lot of fancy stuff, like some of the other camps, but the peaceful solitude of the area inspires a time for reflection and prayer. We have no funding, receive no grants, but we have this wonderful place to offer that's natural and wholesome."



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KP local Finn Pedersen tests the sharpness of the Timber Beast's axe during the Key Peninsula Logging Show Aug. 18 at Gateway Park. Pedersen was the high bidder in the auction for a truckload of gravel and plenty of firewood to haul home and stack. Mascot of the big show, the impressive "Timber Beast," carved by Jeff Samudosky of JMS Wood Sculpture in Gig Harbor, was a personal gift to Joe Smith. The KP Logging Show & Festival, formerly known as "Old Timers Day," is a fundraiser benefitting Key Peninsula Community Services Food Bank and Senior Center. Photo: Danna Webster

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Bobby, Sharay, Sierra and Kyan Nickles on an April visit to the desert near Ocotillo Wells, outside of San Diego.



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Heather Evanoff meets up with mother Joanna Seeley on their St. Patrick's Day/birthday Honolulu vacation at Diamond Head overlooking Waikiki Beach.

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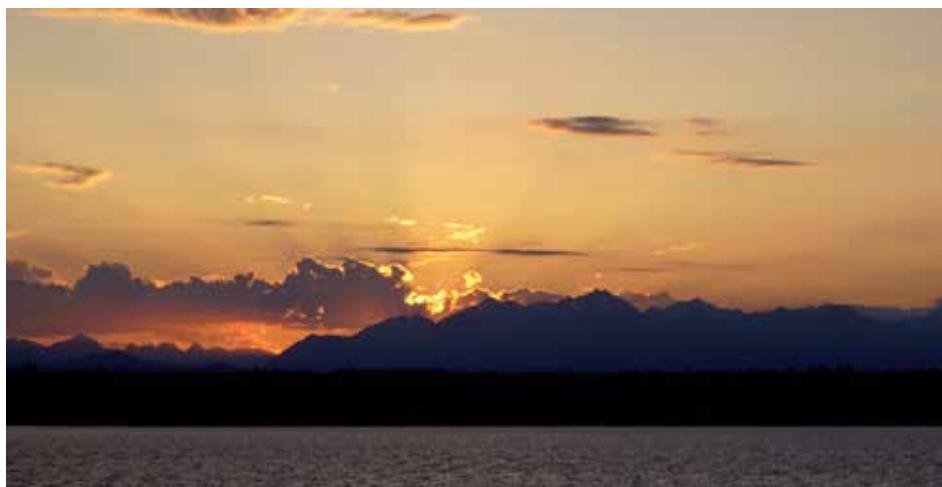
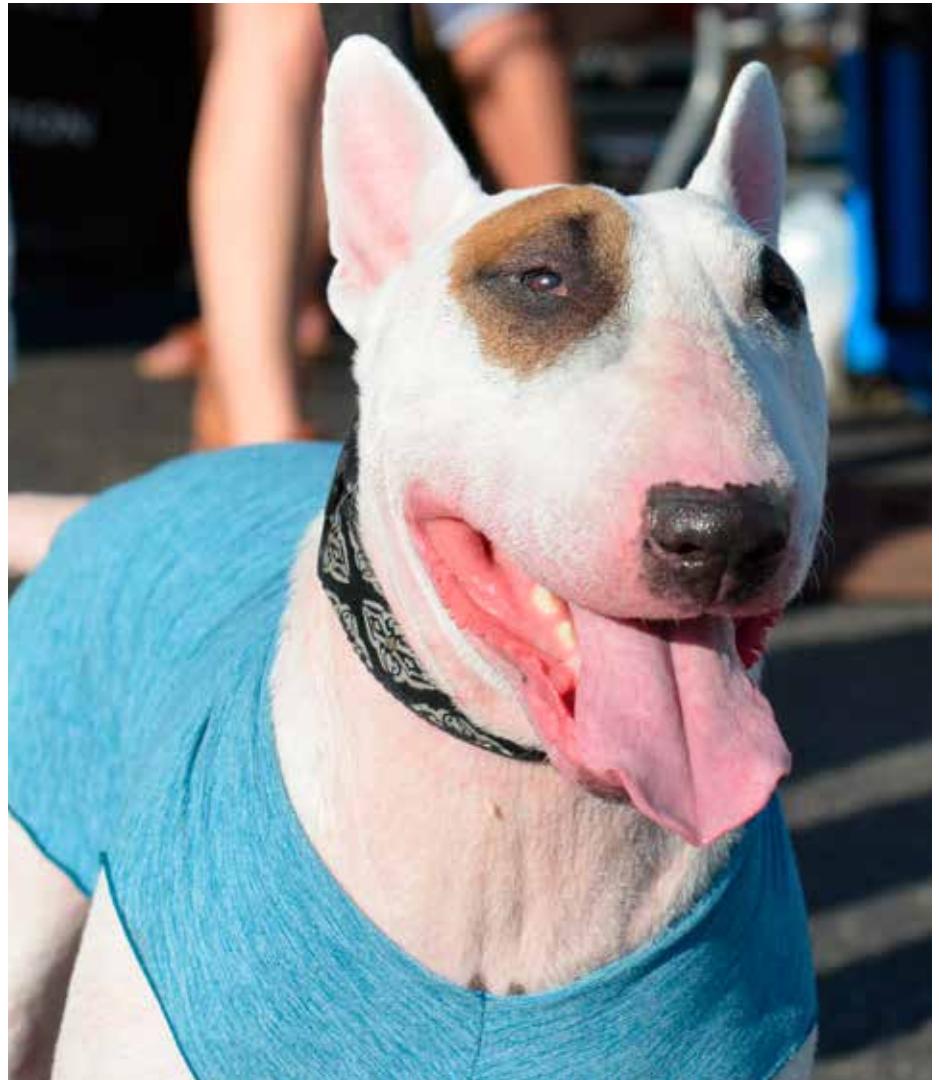
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TOP: YMCA Camp Colman lagoon. *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News* **MIDDLE LEFT:** Edie Morgan on drums and Jerry Nebel on tambourine in Art Walk performance. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*
ABOVE: Ghandi digs KP Art Walk. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News* **LOWER LEFT:** Vaughn sunset. *Photo: Kathy Bauer*