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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

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Lake Kathryn Village Expands

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Don Zimmerman is a man with plans. Zimmerman, the owner of Lake Kathryn Village Mall, is in the process of nearly doubling the mall's retail capacity. A new building will house one space of 12,000 square feet plus an additional 12,000 square feet divided into smaller 2,000- to 3,000-square-foot units. Construction is expected to be completed this fall.

"I like expanding and doing things," Zimmerman said. "And we are located at the hub of the wheel, between Belfair, Port Orchard, Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula."

He thinks retail space, with lease rates that are half that of Gig Harbor, will be filled fairly quickly. Although he has not marketed the space yet, he has already had inquiries.

Zimmerman, pharmacist and owner of Cost Less Pharmacy, did not start out as a developer. He leased his original business location for Purdy Pharmacy in the 1970s, and business was doing fine.

"I hadn't planned to move," he said, "but the cost of the lease kept going up and I decided it was time to own my own building." He bought 30 acres at the Lake Kathryn site with Mike Salatino in 1977.

They didn't build until the early 1980s. "Interest rates were 21 percent then, and so we waited," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman and Salatino named the development after their wives, both named Kathryn. The original building still stands

with the Food Market and Cost Less Pharmacy, flanked by the smaller Minter Veterinary and Salon 302.

Zimmerman later bought out Salatino and Walt Schmidt, who was also a co-owner at one time. He now owns 94 percent of the development, with college roommate Gary Bisceglia as his partner.

The development has grown since its origins. The post office moved there from its original Wauna location in 1991. The Burger King franchise opened in 2005.

Zimmerman has purchased an additional 17 acres over the last 15 years. Approximately five years ago, Pierce County informed him that if he wanted to develop any further, he would have to install a traffic signal either at the entrance to Lake Kathryn or at the intersection of State Route 302 and 94th Avenue NW. He decided the intersection was the most sensible place for the light, and he also built the new road leading to it from the mall.

The master plan for the entire property has been through several iterations, said B.Z. Zenczak, of Zenczak & Partners Architects in Tacoma, who has worked on plans for the site since 1986. Shortly before Sept. 11, Safeway was very close to building an anchor grocery store on the site, but the uncertain climate put a hold on the plan. They reconsidered a few years later, as the Great Recession hit. Zimmerman doesn't know if a major grocer will eventually build at Lake Kathryn, but if one does, there is suitable acreage.

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New development under construction. Image: Zenczak & Partners Architects



Winner Dee Dee Kerkes was first nominate in 1999. Photo: Richard Miller, KP News

Citizen of the Year Dee Dee Kerkes

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Dee Dee Kerkes of Home received the 34th annual Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year award from the Lions Club during the club's annual fundraising banquet at the Key Peninsula Civic Center March 31.

Kerkes had been repeatedly nominated for her many years of volunteering for and on behalf of the KP Fire Department, the Key Free Clinic and the Key Peninsula Community Services senior center and food bank. She was first nominated in 1999, but was still taken aback when it happened again this year.

"I was surprised when I was nominated but floored when I was actually given the honor," she said.

Kerkes started helping the community about 43 years ago. "We had a completely volunteer fire department then and most of the men were gone during the day," she said. "There were several women that decided we wanted to fix that and we became volunteer firefighters."

She later became a professional paramedic while continuing as a volunteer EMT/firefighter for KPFD throughout the 1980s and '90s. She finished her career working the front desk at the Key Center fire station in the early 2000s.

"Dee Dee was the receptionist when I started here in 1999," said KP Fire Chief Guy Allen, who was likewise nominated for the award this year. "She was also an EMT instructor and first-responder instructor. I am very honored to have been nominated for Citizen of the Year with Dee Dee and very happy to congratulate her."

Lions Club Treasurer Claudia Jones also met Kerkes in 1999, when she trained residents of Herron Island to be their own first responders.

"She came out on her own time to do Tuesday night drills for about three months—she stayed overnight with us and would go home the next day because of the ferry schedule," Jones said. "She taught us basic life support, AED (automatic external defibrillator), radio ops, airlift; just the whole spectrum because we would be alone for at least 40 minutes before we had backup on the island."

Kerkes still attends fire commissioner meetings and volunteers for the department. "She is very well known for her expertise in firefighting and aid, and also served as chaplain," Jones said. "To this day, she makes department hats, gloves and novelties at Christmas; she's well into 30 years with the Santa sleigh."

CONTINUED PAGE 8

Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN, EDITOR, KP NEWS

Sometimes it feels like we live on an island. We're surrounded by abundant, natural beauty, skirted by sparkling Puget Sound, dazzled with incomparable views of the Olympics and Mount Rainier. It all adds up to make this place extraordinary.

Again and again, we hear visitors ask, "How could it be that I never knew about this secret place?" And it's tempting to wish the Key Peninsula remained a secret, remained just like it is.

Preserving and protecting the quality of life on the Key should be our top priority. The entire region is experiencing unprecedented growth; and road safety on the Key Peninsula cannot be side-stepped any longer without consequence.

State Route 302 and the Key Peninsula Highway grow increasingly dangerous as more drivers need to use those roads. Our state legislators, the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Pierce County Council, the Pierce County Sheriff's Office and the Key Peninsula Fire Department are aware of the safety issues and inadequacies of our local highways. For decades, studies have documented the problems and mapped out new route options for SR-302. WSDOT has made a few safety improvements with better-marked crosswalks and bolder center line striping. Sadly, there are other infrastructure projects with higher priority for more-populated areas, more-vocal constituencies.

Pierce County, responsible for the highway south of SR-302, acknowledges trouble spots and has acquired state funding to resolve one glaring safety issue at the intersection of Lackey Road, Jackson Lake Road and the KP Highway. ("Transportation Improvements Drive Forward..." KP News October 2017). But even with a safer

intersection, the highway presents an even larger unsolved problem.

Anyone stuck in the miles-long backup the afternoon of Friday, April 13, felt the frustration of being unable to get anywhere. The KP Highway is the only access to the southern end of Key Peninsula.

A single vehicle smashed into an electrical pole that afternoon. Shortly after, the pole toppled and blocked the road. Peninsula Light crews responded quickly but the resulting backup with no alternate route left drivers stuck. School buses, work vans and civilians all lined up to wait for the road to clear.

Here's the truth: If an accident occurs anywhere south of Lackey Road on the KP Highway, everyone living south of that point may as well be living on an island.

When this single point of entry and exit is blocked, it cuts off entire communities. There is no alternate route to or from Home, Herron Island, southern Lakebay and all of Longbranch whenever the highway is blocked south of Lackey Road, making emergency services and access to medical facilities impossible except by air or water.

There could be a simple answer. If Jackson Lake Road was extended south for approximately 1,000 feet, it would intersect with 186th Avenue NW to create a much-needed alternate route connecting the entire southern end of the Key Peninsula.

We've known for a long time that a catastrophic emergency like an ice storm or earthquake could isolate us. Now we know

just one vehicle can shut down everything for south-end residents.

While we wait for alternate routes, there are ways to make driving safer for us all.

Despite a new law to curb distracted driving, it remains just as common to see people using phones behind the wheel, weaving back and forth, crossing the center lane and veering onto the shoulder. For me, I'm too much like Pavlov's dog to the ping of a new message. My conclusion? The phone rides in the trunk.

And then there's driving under the influence. If you have more than a couple of drinks, don't delude yourself that it's okay to drive home because we live in the country. Either call a friend for a ride, have a designated driver or sober up before you get behind the wheel. Whatever it

takes, just don't drive impaired.

There are a few things we can do as individuals to improve safety on our highways. We can turn on our lights during daylight hours. We can make a genuine commitment to stop using our phones while driving—not because we're afraid of being ticketed, but because we have made a commitment to ourselves, our families, our community that we all want to be safer drivers. It's a mutual thing.

The more our population grows, the more reliant we all become on transportation and safe access. Having safe roads and routes is only one part of the solution. We all need to drive—let's do it as safely as we can.



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The Key Peninsula Veterans will conduct its annual Aisle of Honor ceremony at Vaughn Bay Cemetery May 27 at 1 p.m. Seven service flags and 354 casket flags will be on display. The names of 455 veterans from the Key Peninsula and family members will be read out during the service. Rep. Michelle Caldier (R-Gig Harbor) will deliver a speech. Scott Lumsden will pipe the national and state flags in and out and the Vaughn Elementary School chorus will sing. The cemetery is located at the corner of 100th Street NW and 186th Avenue NW. Please park at Vaughn Elementary and use the free shuttle buses. For information, call 253-509-8656. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*



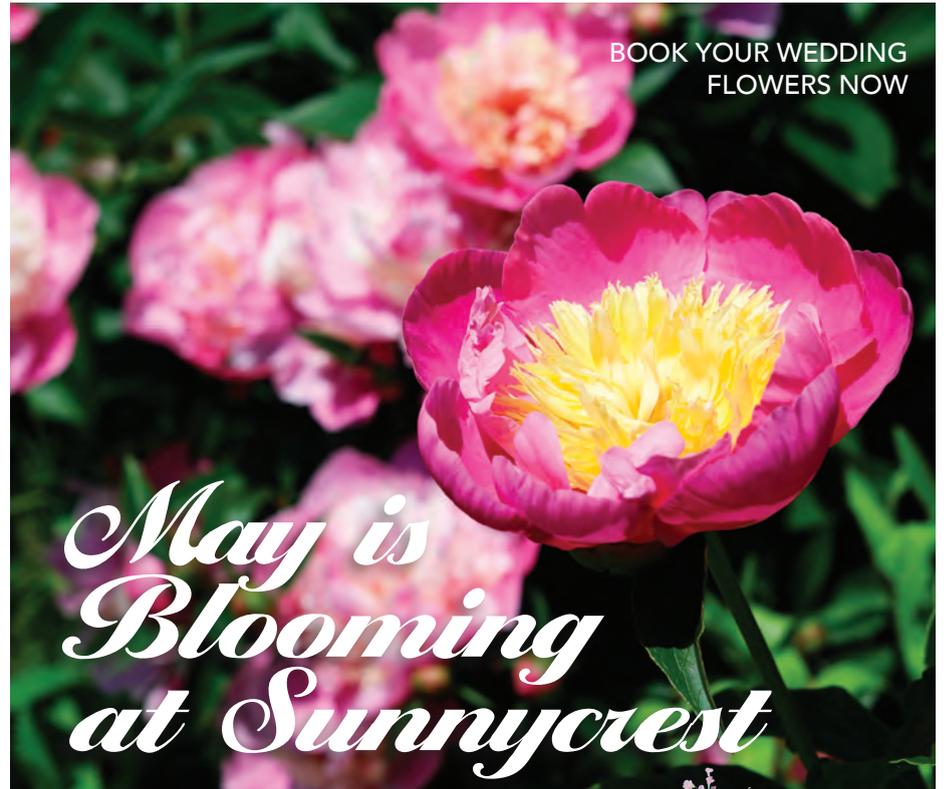
LAKE KATHRYN VILLAGE FROM PAGE 1

Image: Zenczak & Partners Architects

The initial permit for commercial development was approved in 2016 and the building permit was approved in May 2017. Site development started last fall but was delayed because of heavy rains. The project is now moving forward and Zimmerman hopes to have spaces ready to lease this fall. The building will provide a shell, with lessees finishing their spaces

according to their needs.

Once construction on the new building is completed, Zimmerman plans to give his current building a facelift. Plans include changing the facade, replacing the metal supports and adding curves to the sidewalks. "We are ready to bring the old building into the 21st century," he said.



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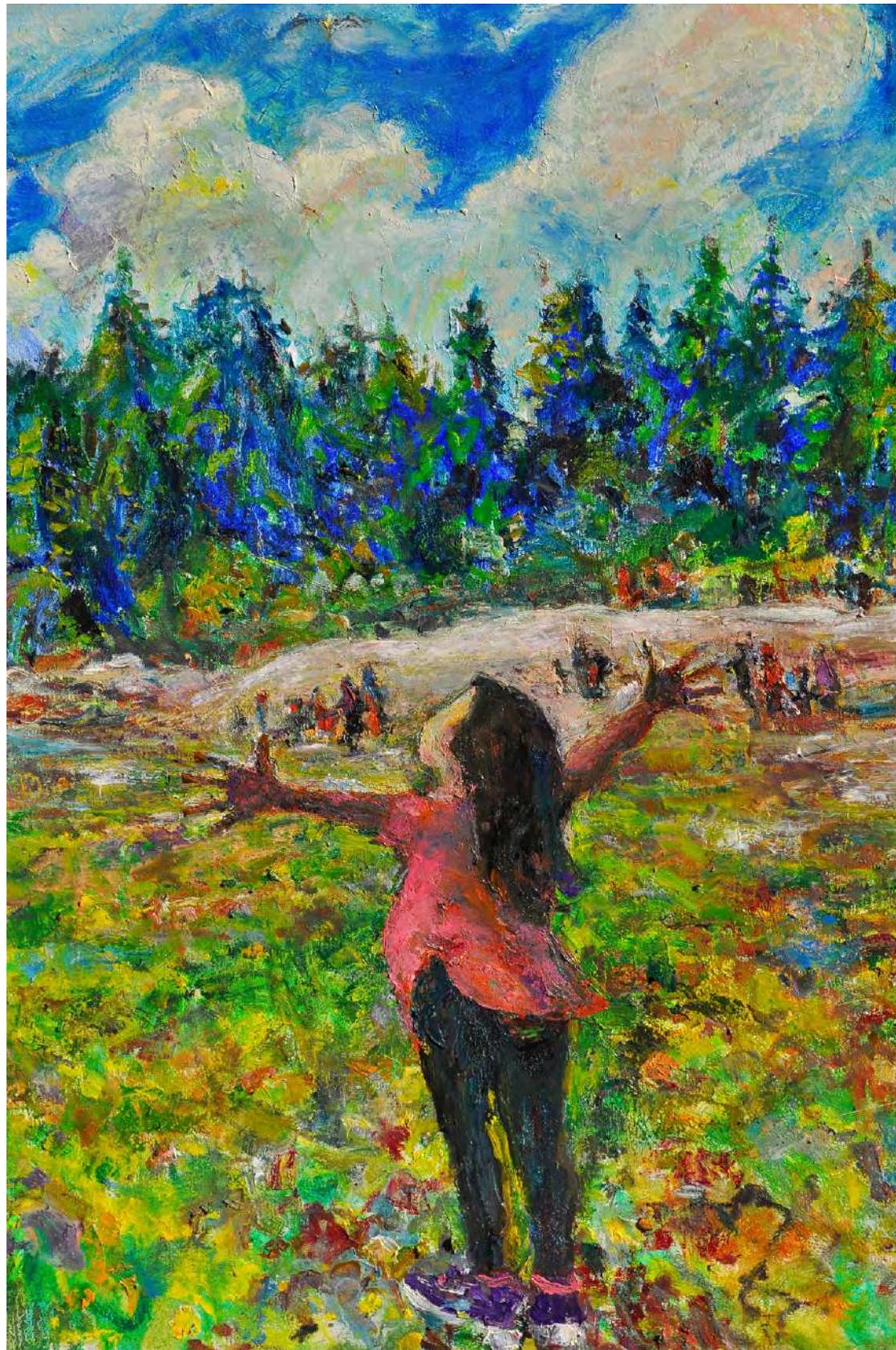
Key Peninsula Civic Center Appeal Drive.

Enclosed in this copy of your Key Peninsula News you will find a handsome gold donation envelope for your consideration. We ask that you consider making a springtime donation, of any amount, to help with the costs of operating and maintaining our community's Civic Center. As our very dedicated board will attest, the maintenance and upkeep are a never ending battle with our 80+ years old buildings. Any financial help would be much appreciated.

This springtime donation request is in support of the Civic Center, only. This coming fall, you will find an even handsomer green envelope asking that you consider a donation to the Key Peninsula News...delivered, free of charge, to every household on the Peninsula. In the past, you all have been most generous to the KP News and, I know, they too are most appreciative.

It is firmly held, hereabouts, that our Civic Center and the Key Peninsula News play a significant role in the lives we lead on the peninsula. We hope you feel the same and that you will consider making a financial contribution to either the Civic Center this spring or to the Key Peninsula News come this fall. If you would consider supporting both... cheers.

Bruce Macdonald,
Board Treasurer



The Best Day, an oil painting by artist Tweed Meyer inspired by a widely-loved photo. Photo: Dale Goodwin

A Community Remembers Lacey Foy

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Lacey Renae Foy, 8, of Lakebay, had an infectious zest for life that touched her community, school, church and loved ones. She died March 21, following several days on life support. ("Lakebay Girl Drowns," KP News April 2018).

"She had a love for swimming," said Sydney Edison, Lacey's stepmother, from the dais of

the Grace Presbyterian Church at a celebration of Lacey's life on April 14. "She always had her backpack with her swimsuit and towel, always ready to go to the pool. She loved taking swimming and climbing lessons at the Y." Edison read aloud from a thank-you letter that the gift of Lacey's corneas restored sight to a grateful 7-year-old girl and a 55-year old man. "All she knew was how to love everyone."

"In our line of work, you don't always know the impact that you're going to have on children and you're not always prepared for the impact they will have on you," said Evergreen Principal Hugh Maxwell, who spoke at the service.

One of many Evergreen staff who spoke at the memorial, occupational therapist Jan Yerex shared how Lacey was known for her exuberance, but also for her deep desire to be connected with others. "When she met you in the hall, she had a habit of trying to figure out how she matched you in some way, like 'We're boot buddies' or 'You've got a pony tail too! We're the same'."

Yerex commented about what a hugger Lacey was—so much so it was called a "Laceybug hug." She had a tendency to want to kiss and hug all the staff. "We worked hard on appropriate school greetings, but Lacey would always get her hugs in," said Yerex. Lacey's optimism shined through even if she didn't have the best of days, as she would say, "Tomorrow I'm going to do better," or "tomorrow is going to be the best day ever!"

Kristina Butorac, para-educator at Evergreen, read from a student's letter at Lacey's life celebration: "Lacey was my best friend and I really miss her. She always gave me hugs. Lacey was the first friend I cared about and loved. If I could tell Lacey one more thing, it would be that I love her very much."

The love for Lacey is apparent by the giant bulletin board just inside the entrance of Evergreen Elementary.

Plastered with pink paper, "Lacey's Wall" features a joyous photo taken of her with outstretched arms on a field trip to the beach last year. A banner, in her own words, claims, "It's going to be the best day ever!" Filling out the wall of honor are handwritten notes from staff and students. Two weeks after Lacey's death, Bette McCord, office manager at Evergreen Elementary, reflected on how hard Lacey's death has been on everyone at the school, saying, "It's still hard not to cry."

On an easel at the service stood an oil painting (shown p. 4) by local artist Tweed Meyer, commissioned by an Evergreen parent volunteer who "felt deeply inspired by Lacey's completely genuine nature. Lacey lived entirely in the moment; she made that moment beautiful." In honor of Lacey, the painting will hang at Evergreen Elementary.

"Paintings don't always work out like this, but there was something so special about this whole thing; my heart was in it — I've lost my own son — I could feel it," Meyer said. "With life as in art: You give birth to it, you have to believe it has a soul and will go out into the world and be where it is supposed to be, otherwise you'd never let it go."

As Lacey was a shining light at school and in the community, she was a special kind of strength to her family. The family's pastor, Dan Whitmarsh of Lakebay Community Church, stayed close to Lacey and her family at the hospital during Lacey's last days and officiated at the memorial service. He remembers hearing from her father, Adam Foy, how he felt so lost when Lacey's younger sister died of cancer four years ago. He told Whitmarsh he'd stopped attending church altogether.

"It was Lacey herself that got them all to come to church again," Whitmarsh said. He was told Lacey had gone to church with a friend one Sunday and arrived home singing the songs and saying, "I want to go to church. We should all go to church!"

"They showed up at our church picnic last summer and have pretty much been coming ever since. She really wanted to be involved," Whitmarsh said.

Whitmarsh noted the family has a solid support system that combines help from the Lakebay Community Church, Evergreen Elementary, the crew at the bus barn and the general Peninsula community. There are people who care about this family, even people they may never meet, Whitmarsh said. "When tragedy happens here, the Key Peninsula rallies to help."

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Phyllis Henry COAST TO COAST



You Have My Word

Today it seems too many contracts and purchases include voluminous “Terms and Agreements,” and too often we push the “Agree” button or provide a signature, but never read the fine print until there is a problem. I grew up in a simpler time. In 1937, I was 6 years old, living with my mom and dad and five brothers and sisters on a farm in Iowa.

One evening when all eight of us were gathered around the big round dining room table about to eat our meal, Jake, the livestock buyer, knocked on the door and handed my dad a check. Dad, without looking at the check, thanked Jake and tucked the check for thousands of dollars into a little pocket on the front of his bib overalls. After a few comments about the warm weather and high school baseball scores, Jake left. Before he had even opened the door to his pickup, my mom asked, “Is the check for the right amount?” My dad nodded yes. Mom said, “You haven’t even looked at it.”

Three days earlier, Jake and my dad had stood in the shade of the barn, looking over the 40 head of Hereford steers (steers are emasculated boy cows) milling about in the feedlot, some eating from the long wooden trough full of grain, some at the huge metal waterer, others moving restlessly in the confined space. The two men reached an agreement, Jake left, and dad finished repairing a broken hinge on the barn door. The next day, the steers were herded up a ramp onto a livestock truck, and Jake waved as he drove out the driveway headed for the Chicago livestock pavilions.

The 40 steers had been part of our lives for months, ever since dad bought them from a rancher in Wyoming. All summer, they were landscape animals, their reddish hides and gleaming white faces part of the ever-present view from the living room window. The steers spent their days munching the clover and grass in the north pasture. Then two weeks before Jake arrived, they were herded through the wooden gate into the feedlot, to be “finished,” to be fed corn and oats to put on a few more pounds and to give their hides the healthy shine that the livestock buyers looked for, the “shine” that added a few dollars to the price willing to be paid by the buyers looking for prime beef to be slaughtered into steaks and roasts to feed the hungry.

After the livestock truck drove away

my mom, the official worrier in our family, lamented, “We may never see Jake again. He could just drive our steers to Chicago, sell them, and never give us our money.” Dad said, “Don’t worry so, Katie.” Mom couldn’t stop saying, “Then how could we make the loan payment on the farm? How about Christmas? The kids need school clothes. You said we would get a new washing machine.” My dad put his arm around my worried mom’s shoulders and quietly said, “It’s OK, Katie. He’ll pay me when he gets back from Chicago. We shook on it.”

Twenty years after Jake drove off with my dad’s 40 head of steers, I was living with my husband and three preschool children in a tiny town in Iowa, where each month our income almost equaled our expenses. Sal ran the only grocery store in town, and he let customers like me buy groceries “on the bill,” charging groceries until the end of the month. Each time Sal sold me anything he said, “Thank you,” to which I replied, “Thank you,” after which, unless he was too busy, we shook hands. When which-bills-to-pay-this-month decisions had to be made, Sal always got paid in full, not because he would have cut off my credit (he had a drawer full of unpaid ledger accounts), but because we had “shook on it.”

Phyllis Henry lives and writes from a hill overlooking Burley Lagoon.

Rachel V. Berry KP DAY TRIPPER



Rediscovering Bremerton

Bremerton has always been a city that rides on the fortunes of the maritime industry. With its close ties to the U.S. Navy, it boomed during times of war and declined during times of peace. By the late 1970s and for the next two decades, the downtown area slipped into abandonment and disrepair, with huge retail anchors vacated by JC Penney and more. By 2000, the derelict commercial district had become an eyesore...but no more.

If you haven’t experienced Bremerton’s renaissance, it’s time to take a quick day trip. From high-end condominiums and a beautiful waterfront park to multiple cultural delights and quaint shops, Bremerton offers activities for all ages. Here’s just one itinerary that’s sure to please.

Stop 1: Port Orchard foot ferry. You can

certainly drive directly to Bremerton, but it’s more fun to park in downtown Port Orchard and take the foot ferry. Parking is free for four hours on weekends, and the fare is a mere \$2 for a beautiful 15-minute jaunt on the water. Ferries depart on the hour and half-hour, with return ferries leaving at the quarter-hour marks.

Stop 2: Horse & Cow Pub and Grill, 536 Fourth Street. Walk off the ferry and up two blocks to Fourth Street. Time your arrival at the pub for around 11:30 a.m. and you can enjoy lunch at this home-away-from-home for submariners. You can even see a yellow submarine among the artifacts. It’s iconic—and on Wednesdays and Saturdays, you can grab a delicious burger and fries for just under \$5.

Stop 3: Kitsap County Historical Museum, 280 Fourth Street. You’ll find entertaining exhibits tracing area history and sharing space with Valentinetti Puppet Museum in the historic Seattle First National Bank building. Admission is \$4 (discounts for seniors and children), and it’s open Wed-Fri, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturday, noon – 4 p.m. The museum is near the historic Roxy Theater, which debuted in 1941. It recently reopened after extensive renovations to return it to its former theater glory.

Stop 4: Collective Visions Gallery, 331 Pacific Avenue. CVG is an artist-owned and operated gallery representing approximately 20 of the area’s most innovative visionaries. It occupies the former McBride’s Hallmark building and is open Tue-Sat, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Stop 5: Harborside Fountain Park, 251 First Street. Continue strolling down Pacific Avenue past the ferry terminal. You’ll eventually find a unique waterscape park that reflects the city’s maritime history. Children will especially enjoy the intermittent water and noise from columns resembling surfacing submarines. The park is a terrific place to spend an hour watching ferries and marine vessels come and go.

Stop 6: USS Turner Joy, 300 Washington Beach Avenue. The USS Turner Joy has a long history of participating in American war efforts, but it is most famous for firing the first shots in the Gulf of Tonkin at the start of the Vietnam War. Now a floating museum, it is open March through October 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Tickets are \$15 for adults, with discounts for active and retired military, seniors and children.

At this point, you might be ready to head home. But if you still have energy and

time, you can go back to Pacific Avenue and discover the thriving brew pub scene (Dog Days Brewing and Lovecraft Brewing on Fourth Street are just two) or unique boutiques such as the upscale vintage clothing shop Ish (249 Fourth Street) and F.R.O.G. Soap (530 Fifth Street). You’ll also pass several public art installations that make terrific selfie photo backdrops.

Travel Facts

It is approximately 35 miles from the Key Peninsula to Bremerton via SR-16 and SR-3. Two-hour street parking in Bremerton is available, depending on the day of the week and time. There are several paid lots throughout the downtown area, particularly near the ferry terminal.

Rachel V. Berry lives in Port Orchard.

Joseph Pentheroudakis ON THE WING



Migratory Birds and the Law

In December 2017, the U.S. Department of the Interior issued an opinion concluding that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, enacted 100 years ago, only applies to “purposeful killing” of migratory birds, not to incidental killing. The decision was applauded by the energy industry but alarmed the conservation community.

Bird migration is a natural wonder and a subject of study for naturalists and environmentalists. But it has also been at the center of national environmental policy.

The late 1800s saw an enormous increase in commercial hunting and poaching of birds to supply the fashion industry with feathers and expensive restaurants with bird meat. By the early years of the 20th century, several species had disappeared and many others were driven to the brink of extinction.

Hunting laws were the province of individual states; there was no federal oversight. In its 1896 Greer v. Connecticut decision, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that, absent a federal law, states owned all game and wildlife within their borders and could regulate their harvest and management.

However, a patchwork of state hunting laws did not help migratory birds, which do not live in a single state. Protection of birds was seen by then as a worthwhile goal and clearly in need of federal legislation.

The first such law was the Lacey Act, enacted by Congress in 1900. That law relies on the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce and, as such it passed constitutional muster. In its current form, the law makes it a federal crime to engage in “interstate or foreign commerce involving any fish, wildlife or plants taken, possessed or sold in violation of state or foreign law,” among other provisions.

That was a good start, but the law did not prove very effective at first. So in 1913, the Senate adopted a resolution asking President Woodrow Wilson to convene with the governments of other nations to come up with rules for the protection and preservation of birds. The first such convention took place in 1916 between the U.S. and Great Britain acting on behalf of Canada, then a part of the British Empire. The two countries agreed to stop hunting of all insect-eating birds and to establish specific hunting seasons for game birds, in order to ensure the preservation of species “considered beneficial and harmless to man.”

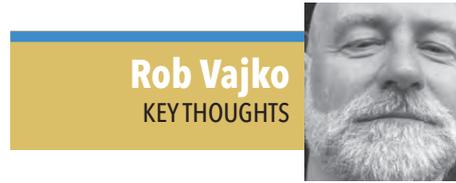
That approach paved the way to passage of the law. The Constitution grants the president the power to enter into treaties with other nations, with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Senate ratified the treaty, and to implement it, Congress passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1918, making it a federal crime to “pursue, hunt, take, capture or kill” a migratory bird without a permit or to sell any of its parts, including nests, eggs and feathers. The law was challenged, but in 1920 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it did not violate states’ rights. It remains federal law to this day, and treaties with Mexico, Japan and the Soviet Union (now Russia) have also been signed.

In recent years, the act has been interpreted as making unintentional or accidental killing of birds a federal crime. For example, it has been used to prosecute energy companies for the deaths of thousands of migrating birds killed by wastewater pits or wind power turbines. Federal courts have sided with both sides in these cases; the Department of the Interior’s opinion mentioned above purports to eliminate the perceived ambiguity in the language of the law.

Fearing prosecution, various industries have worked with environmental groups to mitigate the effect of their infrastructure on migrating birds. The department’s opinion, in effect, means that henceforth mitigation will be simply voluntary.

One hundred years on, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act may need to be amended.

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



Rob Vajko
KEYTHOUGHTS

Are You an Ultracrepidarianist?

It is probably hard to answer that question, because you have no idea what an “ultracrepidarianist” actually is; neither did I. If you know that you don’t know but don’t want to admit it, then you probably are one. It’s OK to admit you don’t know what it is, especially considering what it is.

An ultracrepidarianist is “a person who regularly gives opinions and answers to things that are outside of their sphere of knowledge or field of specialty,” according to the contributing geniuses at Wikipedia.

We had an expression in our family when I was growing up that drove me crazy but that also held me in check, especially when discussing issues or topics I really wasn’t that well-informed about. We would get involved in some kind of discussion (“discussion” meant “argument” more often than not). Someone, usually my brother, would suddenly stop debating and look at the person who was getting the most heated in the discussion and say, “Wow! You must know an awful lot about blue whales!” (Or whatever it was we happened to be arguing about at the time.)

The reason that statement was so effective was because it forced me (yes, it was usually directed at me) to admit that, no matter how much I might want to look like I really knew what I was talking about, I really hadn’t studied the topic in much depth at all. There were many more people much better informed about the blue whale (or whatever) than I was, and the person I was debating (usually my older brother) knew I wasn’t some kind of closet specialist who just had never revealed my secret knowledge until now. He knew I didn’t know all that much and now I knew that he knew too. Playing make-believe isn’t quite as fun when someone points out that you are, in fact, playing make-believe.

We had a different word for an ultracrepidarianist when I was a kid—we called such a person a “know-it-all” and, as most of us know, nobody likes a know-it-all.

The problem is that no one is being fooled. You know that you aren’t an expert and, chances are, those listening to you quickly figured it out as well.

We act like we know it all because we want respect and admiration and want others to look up to us. In fact, the opposite happens. People eventually find us annoying and lose respect, which in turn drives us deeper

CONTINUED PAGE 8

Key Peninsula Civic Center

CIVIC CENTER

CORNER

Saturday - May 26

Memorial Day Weekend
Saturday
10 am - 4 pm

Sign-up to sell...

Reserve your space today!

www.kpciviccenter.org

253-884-3456

Inside Area
with table

\$25

Early Friday night set-up

Outside Area
without table

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Let us help you with your spring cleaning! Donate your treasures & collectibles to the Key Peninsula Civic Center

Clean, usable items only!
(Unfortunately, we cannot accept electronics, exercise equipment, baby furniture or clothing.)

KPCCA Donations

Accepted *Saturday*
May 12 & 19
8 am - noon

Friday
May 25th
3 pm - 7 pm

17th Annual Celebration of Local Organizations

Free Admission 🍷 Family Fun & Food 🍷 Live Music 🍷 Bloodmobile 🍷
Key Peninsula Historical Society 🍷 Master Gardeners
Imagination Playground by the Key Peninsula Library 🍷 Emergency Preparedness lectures
Lakebay Fuchsia Society Plant Sale 🍷 Scout’s Rope Challenge Bridge & more...

LIVABLE COMMUNITY FAIR

May 5th
10 am - 3 pm

Key Peninsula Civic Center

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Food Market
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The key to your next adventure!

KPCVICCENTER.ORG 253-884-3456 FACEBOOK.COM/KPCCA

VAJKO FROM PAGE 7

into the hole we've dug to get respect and admiration back.

Ultracrepidarianism has, of course, always been around but social media hasn't helped any. While hiding behind a computer screen, we don't have to watch the eye rolls or hear the snickers; we can't pick up on the social cues we would normally notice in person. We can also Google a snappy comeback or quickly find an answer or simply ignore the comments we don't like.

The main reason that we have to guard against ultracrepidarianism is because being a know-it-all means that we believe we know what we don't. Our mind becomes closed and we stop being open to any other viewpoint. When we stop learning, we stop growing.

Now if you can pronounce the word, then maybe you really are an ultracrepidarianist.

Rob Vajko lives in Purdy.

DEE DEE KERKES FROM PAGE 1

"I do whatever I can whenever they need help," Kerkes said. "I belong to the Ashes women's auxiliary group and the Volunteer Firefighters Association. We also donate to families who've come into hard times."

"Dee Dee has her fingers in a lot of very worthy organizations," said Penny Gazabat, executive director of Key Peninsula Community Services in Home. "She started working in the food bank about three years ago and now she's the treasurer on our board."

Kerkes continues to volunteer in the food bank, assists with fundraisers and takes blood pressure and blood sugar measurements for some of the seniors who utilize the center. "I just kind of do what I can," she said.

"She's a very worthy person to receive this honorable award," Gazabat said. "I think Citizen of the Year is great for our community, to pull everybody together to acknowledge all of the work that we do here."

"Anyone can send in a nomination," said Lions Club President Bill Jones (Claudia's husband). "They all go through (club member) Hugh McMillan, who does the bios, and then at the last meeting before the dinner, we have a roundtable to discuss them."

Every member in attendance votes by secret ballot for three first, second and third choices. "This way, even somebody with a whole bunch of third-choice votes could win if more people voted for them than the first choice," said Bill Jones.

While the Citizen of the Year award is intended to recognize volunteers, it has been given to people whose work has gone above and beyond the requirements of their paid position.

"We should acknowledge the people that are doing that," he said. "I don't think people knew everything Dee Dee had done, even though she's been nominated before. Yeah, she was paid for working in the office, but that didn't have to do with training on Herron Island, or getting up in the middle of the night to go and feed firefighters because they needed it, or go and do death notifications or raise funds for those families."

"There are some criteria that don't go with standing at the front desk," said Claudia Jones. "This is about recognition for the passion that you have and what you put into the well-being of people, and that's what Dee Dee has."

"I think this area has a very big heart and its people are extremely kind and very, very giving," Kerkes said. "It's an honor to be able to volunteer out here."

OBITUARIES



Kurt Frender

Born Sept. 12, 1956, in Bremerton, Kurt Frender died March 25, 2018. Frender called the Central Kitsap region home. He graduated from Bremerton High School in 1975. Early on in his career he was an emergency response medic at Central Kitsap Fire Station 41 as well as an ambulance driver and medic at the now closed Silverdale Speedway.

Frender worked at the Bremerton Naval Shipyard over 30 years, which gave him much joy, retiring young at 55. His time as a machinist was cut short by an accident that caused him to fall onto a dry dock. After he recovered from the fall, Frender moved to the transportation division and for years did bus runs as well as driving a fuel tanker. He was recognized by his co-workers as a person with great respect for safety.

Unfortunately, all the hardworking years at the shipyard left Frender with terminal lung disease. He had many hopes and dreams about where he wanted to work once he retired from the shipyard. Sadly, he died before those dreams could come to fruition.

Frender was well loved and had many close friends who shared time with him in his last days. Special thanks to Michele Christianson, a massage therapist who kept his back and body flexible enough to walk; Scott Nell, Laura LaTray, Jeff Kaiser, Jody and Richard Marshall, and Nanci and Anna Cochrane for their love and support.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Robert and Shirley, and his brother, Terry. He leaves behind his loving wife, Judy Harmon; son, Jesse LaTray; brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Dee Frender; sisters, Shelley Lindal and Linda Parks; a few special people he called daughters, many nieces and nephews; and three special people who will always call him Grandpa.



Helen Provencal

Born May 20, 1932, Helen Provencal, a 27-year Herron Island resident, died April 8 at the age of 85 surrounded by family. Helen dearly loved her family and her animals. She was a lifelong member of a local jazz society and loved to dance.

Originally from Maine, Provencal was raised in a Salvation Army family and found great joy by dancing in numerous performances while in high school.

Helen and her husband Richard were married for 57 years. They raised their family in California. They operated a very successful septic business, raised Arabian horses and dogs. The family eventually moved to the Vaughn area, and later to Herron Island. Helen is survived by daughter Torey (Ralph) Bravo, five grandsons and numerous great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband in 2007; her son, Alan; and her daughter, Roslind.

Helen Provencal was a real "character," always spoke her mind and had numerous friends across the United States. She will be greatly missed.

BEST OF KP SUMMER

Everyone loves summer on the Key Peninsula for sunny weather, beaches, sunsets, gardens, picnics and parades. Here's your chance to tell the world what you think is the best of summer on the Key Peninsula.

WHAT'S YOUR BEST?

Winners for the the best poetry and essays will be featured in a special pull-out section, sponsored by local businesses and organizations.

The Best of KP Summer

will be published in our August edition. Start writing your entry today!

Email your entry to editor@keypennews.com **before**

June 8. Please include your name, email address and telephone number.

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



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AN INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT ON OFF-DUTY SCHOOL BUSES

KP SCHOOL BUS CONNECTS

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE for Veterans Aisle of Honor Sunday, May 27

Park in the lot at Vaughn Elementary School, free shuttle busses will load every 20 minutes and deliver you to the Cemetery entrance. After the ceremony, busses will begin shuttling you back to your car and will continue until everyone is served.

Depart Vaughn Elementary	Arrive Vaughn Cemetery	Depart Vaughn Cemetery	Arrive Vaughn Elementary
One bus every 20 minutes from 11:30		Two busses every 20 minutes from 2pm	
11:30	11:40	2:00	2:10
11:50	12:00	2:20	2:30
Two busses every 20 minutes from noon to 1pm		2:40	2:50
12:10	12:20	3:00	until done
12:30	12:40		
12:50	1:00		

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



Come join us in honoring our veterans

AISLE of HONOR

Sunday May 27 1pm Vaughn Bay Cemetery

Park at Vaughn Elementary with free shuttle bus to cemetery provided by KP Bus Connect

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Dan Bassett's home office has few visitors outside the farm family. *Photo: Polly Robinson, KP News*

The Best Sort of Homework

POLLY ROBINSON, KP NEWS

People often dream of working from home; stay in your jammies, tea in hand, hair styled by pillows, fuzzy slippers on your feet and a loving dog (or indifferent cat) snuggled beside you—all as you earn money. You set your own hours and answer the phone (or not) as it pleases you.

While some of that may be true, rarely does it all happen at once. As is often the case, reality is more prosaic.

Dan Bassett, who runs Mirabella Farm with his wife, Rika, and their 4-year-old daughter, Rosie, was laid off just as he was relocating to the KP in August 2015. He spent months applying to various IT positions in Seattle and found that “invariably when the potential employers realized that I lived so far out of the city, they didn’t think that amount of commute would work and moved on to other candidates,” he said. Luckily for Bassett, U.S. Bank had a different model.

The biggest challenge Dan has as an information security engineer working from home is getting into the work mindset and avoiding the distractions that being at home can bring. “For example, if I find myself on a long conference call at 8 a.m., I may wind up down in the barn milking my cow,” he said. “Luckily, my wireless headset has fantastic reception.”

Being home all day means that he gets to be with his family all of the time, which can be a mixed blessing. There are times when he needs to concentrate on work “but I have a 4-year-old that wants my full attention, too,” he said.



Dan Bassett, co-proprietor of Mirabella Farm in Long-branch. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*



Sonic String Quartet

From Bach to Macklemore...
...a night of contemporary string music

May 19, 2018
Key Peninsula Civic Center
8 p.m. // doors 7:00 p.m.

Tickets @ Blend or Sunnycrest: \$20
Tickets at door: \$25
Children 16 and under: \$10



The pros outweigh the cons, however; not wasting gas to commute and avoiding the stress of sitting in I-5 traffic for hours are just two. Considering the delays a single-car accident caused on Key Peninsula Highway weeks ago, those are considerable benefits. "I can say without a doubt that I'm better for it," Bassett said.

The biggest benefit for Bassett is living in a wonderful place and doing work he enjoys. He is grateful for U.S. Bank's work-from-home policy. A typical day begins with logging into a remote data center, spending some time on the phone with his manager, then responding to email or attending virtual meetings. Most of what he does is independent work, but he does have means of collaboration, including email, telephone and instant messaging. "My team is very geographically diverse," he said. "My manager is in California, two peers are in Oregon, and another is on the East Coast. My employer is in the Midwest, so I keep Central time hours, which is fantastic in the summer because I finish work by 3 p.m., leaving me plenty of time to go for a swim in Jackson Lake with the family."

Bassett does miss the camaraderie of working directly with colleagues. "There really is no substitute for standing around a white board and gesticulating wildly while someone draws diagrams and flowcharts," he said. He also has far more formal "meetings" than before. "When I worked in an office, people would just stop by to discuss issues, but now that we are all remote, people feel the need to schedule times to talk," he said.

Telecommuting has become more commonplace as companies realize the value in reducing the overhead that comes with not having to provide office space for people. It also puts fewer people on the road and greatly expands the talent pool beyond the local area, Bassett said.

Telecommuting relies heavily on internet access and Dan says he's fortunate to have the reliable business-class connection that Wave offers. "My only complaint is that they can't seem to get their act together regarding IPv6 (the newer internet protocol Version 6, launched in 2012, used by computers to communicate over the internet). It's 2018, folks! This is where I hope someone from Wave reads the Key Pen News," he said.

The Key Peninsula occasionally loses power or internet connection, sometimes for days at a time. Bassett informs his manager and waits it out. "I think only once have I ever been desperate enough to keep working that I dragged my generator out of the barn to get back online."

New Classrooms at Minter Creek Elementary

BRODY CASKIN,
SPECIAL TO KP NEWS



Writer Brody Caskin is a fifth-grade student at Minter Creek Elementary School. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

Minter Creek Elementary School will soon be receiving two new, prefabricated, dual-classroom portables. Each building will have an approximate area of 1,600 square feet, or about 800 square feet per classroom, similar to the size of other classrooms in the school as well as those in the school's current portables.

Serious discussions about adding more portables started in September 2017, based in part on an increase in the number of students at the school. In addition, the Washington Class Size Reduction Measure, or Initiative 1351, recently changed the rules about class sizes in Title 1 schools such as Minter Creek. The law states that kindergarten through third-grade classrooms shall have no more than 15 to 17 students. Upper grades are capped at a few more. Although the law has since been temporarily suspended, schools throughout the state have already begun planning for its implementation.

"We're one of two schools that are receiving portables," said Ty Robuck, principal of Minter Creek. "Discovery Elementary is working on it. Last year, Voyager Elementary also had to get portables."

Peninsula School District is hoping to start installation immediately at the end of the current school year, in order to have the classrooms finished and ready to use Day One in the fall. However, the district will only be able to start when site work and building permits are complete.

Minter's new portables will include restrooms, so when cold weather comes students won't have to walk out in the rain and snow. "The ultimate goal is so that in the wintertime, we're not having kids walk all that way," Robuck said.

Patrick Gillespie, director of facilities for Peninsula School District, said installing the septic system is likely to be complicated and may cause delays. "There will be a separate septic system that will be for the portables," Gillespie said. "It's a gravity-fed system that will end up on the west end of the property. They're still finalizing their site plans on that so everything is subject to change."

New building regulations put into place after the district's most recent portable classrooms were installed have also made the process difficult. A new regulation requires each classroom, for example,

to include a minimum of four windows. "That's to get more natural daylight in," Gillespie said.

Other building features, such as electrical outlets in which one socket is only activated when motion is detected, will increase energy efficiency. While the motion-detector outlets are new for the school, motion-detection technology is not, as all classrooms have lights that turn off automatically if no motion is detected.

Many Minter Creek students have been wondering if a favorite playground tree popularly referred to as "The Big Tree" will be cut down. While nothing is final, Gillespie believes it is likely the beloved tree will have to go. "I think it would be unfair to cut down the tree, because it is a place where students love to play," said fifth-grader Aleah VanderDoes.

Money for the portables will come from the district. "The costs for this project will be paid for from the district's capital projects fund," said Vicki Smith, the district's business services supervisor. "This fund contains money that can only be used for purchasing land or facilities and for capital improvements and construction projects. This fund is financed by the sale of bonds that have been voted on by the community. School impact fees are also deposited into this account."

Complications with septic and other aspects of the installation process make these the last portables Minter Creek is likely to receive. "These are much more difficult to get in than other portables and that's really driving cost on it," Gillespie said. "There's a lot more site work we have to do to get these in. After this, there is a good chance we won't put any more portables on the site, but I can never say never."



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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.

MAY 4 & 5**LAKEBAY FUCHSIA SOCIETY SALE**

Come peruse a huge selection of trailer, upright and lax fuchsias at the KP Civic Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Mixed flower baskets also for sale. 253-686-7904 or gablehousep@aol.com

MAY 5**LIVABLE COMMUNITY FAIR**

Learn about what's happening on the KP at the 17th Annual Livable Community Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. 253-884-3456 or www.kpciviccenter.org

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

The Key Peninsula Historical Society will have an open house in conjunction with the Livable Community Fair at the museum at the civic center. Activities for children included. 253-888-3246

MAY 5 & 19**DEPRESSION & BI-POLAR SUPPORT**

The Lakebay Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group meets the first and third Saturdays from 11:15 a.m. to noon at KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. Kimberly, 253-753-4270 or DBSALakebay@gmail.com

MAY 6**360 TRAILS POKER PEDAL**

Family-friendly biking event to benefit the park bike trails, details in ad on page 18. Check in 8:30 to 9:30 at Gateway Park, ride starts at 10 a.m. www.bikereg.com

MAY 7**LAKEBAY CHURCH EL SOMBRERO TAKEOVER**

Youth of Lakebay Community Church will take over El Sombrero for a fundraiser evening of food and fun. Proceeds help youth outreach and yearlong activities. El Sombrero restaurant in Key Center from 5 to 9 p.m. 253-884-3899

MAY 7 & 21**VETERANS MEETING**

The KP Veterans group meets at the KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW, on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. All veterans, military service members and families with children 16 and older are welcome. 253-225-5130

MAY 8 & 22**CROCHET OR KNIT**

Join Loving Hearts on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW, to knit or crochet for charity. Yarn donations are needed and very much appreciated. Virginia at 253-884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com

MAY 12**MOM & ME TEA**

A time for women to enjoy with the little princesses of their life. KP Civic Center, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., tickets \$20 for adult and one child, \$5 per additional child. keypenparks.com

MAY 16**KP LAND USE**

The Key Peninsula Advisory Commission meets the third Wednesday of every month (case dependent) at 6:30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. KPAC reviews applications for proposed developments in the community requiring a public hearing and makes recommendations to the Pierce County executive, county council, hearing examiner, planning commission and the Planning and Land Services Department. 253-432-4948

MAY 17**EMERGENCY PREP**

Meetings on emergency preparatory topics are held the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. Contact Peggy at 253-686-7904 or at gablehousep@aol.com (Put E Prep in the subject line).

MAY 19**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT**

The KP Alzheimer's Association caregiver support group meets the third Saturday of each month. All unpaid family caregivers, their family and friends are welcome. Come exchange practical information on caregiving problems and possible solutions, share feelings, needs and concerns, and learn about resources available in the community from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Crandall Center, 9016 154th Avenue Court NW. 253-820-2213

MAY 20**KEY SINGERS SING ON KEY**

A variety of musical selections will be presented at the Key Singers' annual spring concert, "Fun, Faith and Fidelity," 3 p.m. at McColley Hall, Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Rd NW. Cabaret seating and light refreshments. Admission: \$6 donation suggested.

MAY 26**COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE**

Participate in the Key Peninsula Civic Center's Memorial Day weekend community garage sale, Saturday May 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Booth spaces available to rent. 253-884-3456

MAY 26 & 28**LAKEBAY CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE**

Annual rummage sale of gently used clothing, tools, sporting goods, books, toys, electronics, baby, youth and a variety of household items. Always something for everyone. Proceeds help support community outreach and youth of Lakebay. Saturday, May 26, and Monday, May 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lakebay Community Church, 11 Cornwall Road SW. 253-884-3899

MAY 28**RELATIVES RAISING KIDS GROUP**

This new support group for grandparents and relatives raising children meets the fourth Monday each month at Evergreen Elementary School from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Potluck dinner and child care provided. For more information, call Lori Mertens at Children's Home Society at 253-884-5433 or 253-391-0144.

OFF THE KEY**MAY 3****DEMOCRATS MEET**

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

MAY 12**OLALLA CLUB CONCERT**

Dan Frechette plays at the Olalla Community Club located at 12970 Olalla Valley Road, Olalla. Suggested donation is \$20. Potluck starts at 6 p.m. Concert starts at 7 p.m. www.olallahouse.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**

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

TUESDAYS**TOPS**

Take Off Pounds Sensibly is an affordable wellness education organization where members learn about nutrition, portion control, food planning, exercise, motivation and more. Visitors are welcome to 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.

SENIOR TAI CHI

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

STORYTIMES

Discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the Key Center Library. Music and motion story time (0-2 years old with an adult) at 10 a.m. and preschool story time at 11 a.m. 253-548-3309

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME**

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

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS**KP HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN**

The Key Peninsula Historical Society museum at the KP 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

WEDNESDAYS

READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS

The Children's Home Society of Washington sponsors this free cooperative preschool class for 3- and 4-year-olds at KP Civic Center. Parents or caretakers participate with the children, playing learning games from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. 253-884-5433.

LAKEBAY WRITERS

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

KP YOUTH COUNCIL

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

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

SENIOR MEALS

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

THURSDAYS

TOASTMASTERS

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

SENIORS LUNCH

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

FRIDAYS

SKATE NIGHT

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

SATURDAYS

WRITERS GUILD

The Writers Guild meets the first and third Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon in the community council office, Suite D, at the Key Center Corral. 253-884-6455

MONTHLY MEETINGS

May 1, KP Historical Society meets first Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in the museum at KP Civic Center. 253-888-3246

May 2 & 16, KP Lions Club meets first and third Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

May 8 & 22, KP Fire Commission meets second and fourth Tuesdays, 5 p.m., Key Center fire station. keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

May 9, Bayshore Garden Club meets second Wednesdays, 10 a.m., fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 253-332-4883

May 9, KP Community Council meets second Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. Guest speaker Brian Stacy, engineer for Pierce County public works project plans on the Key Peninsula. 253-432-4948

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

May 10, Peninsula School District board meets second Thursdays, 6 p.m., district office in Purdy. 253-530-1000

May 10, KP Civic Center Assn. board meets second Thursdays, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 253-884-3456

May 14, KP Parks Commission meets second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

May 21, KP Democrats meets third Mondays, 7 p.m., Home fire station, johnpatkelly@aol.com

May 28, KP Farm Council planning meeting for 2018 Farm Tour, fourth Mondays, KP Community Council office. 253-432-4948 or email keycouncil@gmail.com

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



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www.keypeninsulacommunityservices.org and www.facebook.com/KeyPenCS

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- ❖ Introduction to Acrylics with Pat Thompson
- ❖ Drawing on Art History with Adria Hanson
- ❖ Load the Bus! Shopping at Walmart May 3
- ❖ Call for Details!

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2018 Schedule

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EVERGREEN TUES & THURS AM

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

EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY AM

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

VAUGHN TUES & THURS AM

- 8:50 Vaughn Elementary School
- 8:59 Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr KPN
- 9:00 Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct KPN
- 9:05 Wright Bliss Road @ SR 302/4-Corners
- 9:06 SR 302 @150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 9:10 SR302 @ 140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 9:14 SR 302 @ Charbonneau Construction
- 9:15 SR 302 @ 92nd Ave NW/Lake Kathryn Village
- 9:21 Purdy Park & Ride

VAUGHN WEDNESDAY AM

- 9:50 Vaughn Elementary School
- 9:51 Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr KPN
- 9:52 Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct KPN
- 9:54 Wright Bliss Road @ SR 302/4-Corners
- 9:57 SR 302 @150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 9:59 SR302 @ 140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 10:01 SR 302 @ Charbonneau Construction
- 10:04 SR 302 @ 92nd Ave NW/Lake Kathryn Village
- 10:09 Purdy Park & Ride

TUESDAY & THURSDAY MIDDAY

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

TUES, WED & THURS PM

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

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In Search of Wild Foods: Foraging Opportunities on the Key Peninsula

ANNA BRONES, KP NEWS

For those willing to seek it out, the forests and beaches of the Key Peninsula can provide an abundance of food. While foraging may be seeing a resurgence in popularity and wild foods deck the menus of many local-focused restaurants, the tradition of searching for wild food sources is nothing new. Throughout the Pacific Northwest, indigenous populations have depended on the bounty of the natural environment for centuries.

“Wild foods are a bit of an acquired taste, but it’s really rewarding,” says Adam Deleo, founder of the Key Peninsula based Adam’s Mushrooms, which sells foraged and farmed mushrooms as well as other local, wild Pacific Northwest foods. “You get some fresh air, you get some exercise, and you get some food.”

Foraging advocates often mention the health benefits of wild food. “It’s fresh, it’s free and it’s healthy,” says Brook Hurst Stephens, who lives in Longbranch at Historic Faraway. “(There are) no preservatives or artificial flavorings in nature.”



Wild nettles are easy to spot. Photo : Adam Deleo

Foraging is a seasonal activity, and in the springtime, some of the most common wild foods to forage are nettles. Nettles are nutrient-rich and easy to find, and while their stinging aspect causes most people to veer away from them, they’re an abundant food source. “They like to grow in margin areas, like the edge of forests,” says Deleo. Nettles are best harvested when they are young, and Deleo encourages foragers to wear gloves to avoid being stung and to pick the top two or three sets of leaves. Nettles can continue to be harvested even as they grow a little older. “I stop harvesting them when I see them going to seed,” says Deleo.

Boiling, blanching or drying causes the nettles to lose their sting. There are

many culinary uses for nettles, and Deleo recommends thinking of them as similar to spinach. They can be sauteed with a little chopped garlic, olive oil and lemon juice, added to pasta or on top of a pizza, or dried and used for nettle tea. One of Deleo’s favorite meals is enchiladas stuffed with blanched nettles.

In early spring, fiddleheads, lady ferns curled tightly together before they start to unfurl, also start to pop up. “They like really wet soils,” says Deleo, so look for them in wet areas and creek bottoms.

Fiddleheads have a slightly grassy taste. Before cooking, they need to be properly cleaned—easy to do by placing them in a bowl of water and then rubbing the fuzzy bits off. They shouldn’t be consumed raw, so boil them in salt water first for about 10 minutes before using them. “You can have them in your pasta or as a side, or just put them on top of stuff,” says Deleo. “Serve them with some hollandaise.”

Hurst Stephens also suggests pickling them. In fact, she once won the Grand Champion Best of Show in the preserved foods category at the Mason County Fair for her pickled fiddleheads.

Other spring edibles include miner’s lettuce and dandelion greens, and as spring turns to summer, other wild foods will flourish, like huckleberries, blackberries and salmonberries. Whatever wild foods you are foraging, it’s important to know what you are looking for. Deleo recommends the Facebook group “PNW Foraging and Wild Edibles” as a good resource, both for learning about wild foods and for posting pictures if you’re not sure about what you’re looking at.

Secondly, know where you are foraging. Be respectful of private land, and remember that commercial foraging is not allowed on state park land. There are limits for how much you can forage for personal use; check with a ranger if you are unsure.

For more foraging information, check out the book “Pacific Northwest Foraging” by Douglas Deur, which is a helpful guide to local plants. “Pacific Feast: A Cook’s Guide to West Coast Foraging and Cuisine” by Jennifer Hahn is great if you are looking for ideas on what to do with all that wild food. Whatever you do, remember that foraging is an excellent excuse to get outside and enjoy all that the local forests and shorelines have to offer. “It’s a nice way to be outside and it’s really practical,” says Deleo. “You can get a meal at the end of the day.”

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Don and Molly Swensen celebrate four years in the wine business. *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News*

Blending in at Blend

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

Blend Wine Shop in Key Center is more than a place to have a glass of wine—the real draw is that Blend is the place where newcomers can meet the locals and learn about the close-knit community of the Key Peninsula.

One group that meets there frequently calls themselves the Blenders. Some of them are longtime residents who have lived near each other for years but had never met until they started attending the Friday night wine tastings.

Don and Molly Swensen took over the shop four years ago with the goal of continuing what Dayl and Jeff Minch had started three years earlier. “We wanted to have the place be a community gathering site,” said Don. “Our plan for the future is to continue on that path. No huge changes, but reinvest to make it a more pleasant place to be.”

Asked what prompted them to buy the shop in 2014, Don Swenson smiled and explained that he liked what the Minches had started building. “It was on a whim,” he said. “And I was retired.”

“He was retired for 22 hours,” Molly said. “He retired on April 30 at 2:30 p.m. and we opened noonish May 1.

“But if that was what Don wanted to do, I would support him and do the book-keeping,” she said. “We knew nothing about wine, nothing about running a retail business, but Don likes being around people and wants to participate in the community.”

A longtime board member of Two Waters Arts Alliance, Molly has scheduled dozens of monthly art shows at Blend over the last four years. “You know, there are an incredible number of extremely talented people living out here,” she said.

David Starkweather was the featured artist in April. The first-time exhibitor at Blend described the place as “an invaluable asset” for the community, especially for artists. Although he is a longtime KP resident, before his show, few people knew that he was also an artist.

A fairly frequent customer, songwriter and poet Clark Snyder said, “I probably would not be here if it were not for the art thing and the live music.”

Many community groups use Blend as a meeting place and it is often the site of events that help local organizations with fundraising. “The number of scheduled events and personal parties is growing,” Don said.

Several groups such as the Beaders and



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the Knitters were holding regular get-togethers well before the Swensens took over. The Beaders meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, and the Blend Hookers and Tinkers (the knitters) meet each Wednesday evening. A more recent addition is the Artists' Blend, which meets on the first Tuesday of the month.

Both Swensens said the job of running the shop would be too big "if it wasn't for Xoe being able to help out." Xoe Frederick, Swensen's daughter, and her husband, Jeff, are especially valuable when musicians are on the calendar. Xoe helps serve and Jeff comes to help with setup.

Molly said another key to their success are the distributors who run the Friday night tastings and provide information about the wines. "They are wonderful; they love coming here," she said. "Every time we get a new one, their first response is, 'Is it like this every Friday?'"

"Everyone here has one thing in common—wine—but you meet other people in the community," said customer Shannon Ganisin during a recent Friday night tasting. "People depend on it. It gives them a reason to get up and get out of the house and meet people they would not get to meet otherwise. This is what the kids have at their civic center Skate Night—this is skate night for adults."

Former Counselor Named Director at Camp Stand By Me

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

Angela Cox, once a counselor at Easterseals Camp Stand by Me, recently became the new camp director.

With 14 years of experience in the disability services area, Cox has put in many years in various capacities for Easterseals Washington, including two as camp counselor at Camp Stand By Me.

"Angela is passionate about empowering children and adults with disabilities to reach their full potential," said Easterseals Washington President and CEO Cathy Bisailon. "She understands the incredible impact of respite breaks for caregivers."

Cox's mother was a special education teacher. Cox spent some time in her classes and has several cousins with disabilities.

She received her certification in assistive technology and augmentative communication from the California State University at Northridge. This specialty allows people with disabilities to communicate more easily through the use of



Angela Cox, director at Camp Stand By Me.

Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

computers and adaptive devices.

"Returning to Camp Stand By Me is like coming back home," Cox said. "The work that I did here in my previous positions ignited my passion for therapeutic recreation, and now I am honored to lead our amazing employees and volunteers to serve children and adults in this beautiful setting."

Easterseals Camp Stand By Me has been an inclusive, barrier-free environment for children and adults with disabilities to experience all the joys of camp without limitations since 1974. Camp includes swimming, riding horses, singing, art and more.

Regular sessions with a low camper-to-counselor ratio are offered for nine weeks each summer. About half of the counselors are international and many return for a second year.

Many campers also return year after year.

Weekend respite camps are held once or twice per month from September through May. These give caregivers of special needs children and adults a time for themselves. The weekend camp gives the special person the opportunity to have time with strangers and often one session will lead to more.

One mother said that leaving her adult children at the camp saved her marriage, as it was the first times they'd ever been away from relatives.

Camp Stand By Me is the only Easterseals campground in Washington. Some campers come from states that do not have a similar facility.

Community volunteers help keep the camp going, although more would be welcome, Bisailon said. Organizations, companies and individuals can adopt a building or a particular program to which to contribute time, materials or other assistance.

For more information or to make a donation, go to easterseals.com/washington.

May 2018
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The new office grand opening celebration on April 14. Photo: Rob Vajko, KP News

DK on the KP: Inside Local Real Estate

ROB VAJKO, KP NEWS

If you've driven through Key Center in the last few months, you may have noticed DK Property Management and New Beginnings Real Estate in what used to be the liquor store on the corner of Key Peninsula Highway North and 92nd Street NW.

Both companies are owned and operated by Donna Lester, a longtime KP resident. "We're glad to be on the main street," she said.

The building is home to All Around Gutters, owned and run by Lester's husband Matt of almost 25 years.

"We opened DK Property Management and New Beginnings in 2013," Lester said.

DK Property Management manages rental homes. While Lester is licensed to work anywhere in Washington, most of the properties she manages are on the Key Peninsula.

"I work with owners to get the renter in there, get a lease, get all the paperwork done," she said. "I do inspections on the house before the renter moves in, collect the rent every month, pay the owner, keep an eye on the property. If you want to rent your house, I don't care what it is as long as it's not falling down and you're willing to fix whatever is wrong with it."

Lester said that "rentals go pretty fast

once they come to the market." She strives to keep properties rented with the least amount of turnover.

The Lesters, who have been married for 25 years, are longtime KP residents. "I've been out here for 25 years," she said. "I raised my kids out here; my five grandkids have all gone to school and grown up out here and I love the KP."

Lester also likes to give back through sponsorship. "We love the kids so anything to do with sponsoring children is something that we jump on," she said. "We've sponsored the wrestling team out here for years; we sponsored baseball teams out here. We love to connect with the community."



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Family Rescues Orphan Annie on SR-302

April 2 marked a year since a rescue mission was launched by Lisa Caskin, her son, Jonathan Kintz and his girlfriend, Emily DeLong of Home. The elusive chicken had been observed hanging out on the side of the road near Ravensara for nearly three weeks. Caskin, who also lives in Home, is a self-described sucker for wandering, injured and unwanted animals. "It took multiple searches by three people to catch her," Caskin said, "but once we had her in our sights, we weren't going home without her." After chasing the chicken for two hours, they finally got her. She was grossly underweight and riddled with mites. Today Little Orphan Annie is one happy chicken and adores being picked up and carried around like the queen she really is. *Photos : Lisa Caskin*



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Mason Bees Love the Key Peninsula

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Jim Watts knows mason bees and he knows what they like. Bees, all of the 4,000 varieties native to North America, like the same thing: an environment rich with pollen, free from pesticides and pollution. Each variety has its own niche in the ecosystem. “The Key Peninsula is the best place I’ve found for mason bees, which are native to the area.”

At a March 27 presentation given at the Longbranch Improvement Club, Watts described his experience installing portable mason bee housing at area farms and woodlands, free of charge. Watts is in the business of propagating bees and in the words of Longbranch resident Bernie O’Brien, who has housed the bees for the last three years, “It’s been a fantastic and fruitful exchange.”

Watts Solitary Bees, a small company based in Bothell. Watts’ father started the business 50 years ago to raise leaf cutter bees. Prolific throughout North America, leafcutters are summer bees that like it hot; 95 degrees is their optimal temperature, which is why they aren’t prolific in Western Washington’s cooler climate. Leaf-cutter bees pollinate seed crops, like alfalfa, canola, onion seed, carrot seeds—all the crops honeybees don’t like.

Recognizing mason bees as superior pollinators to honeybees, but unable to propagate them, the bee laboratory at United State Department of Agriculture asked Watts to experiment with mason bees using methods similar to those the company uses to raise leafcutter bees. “We bought some bees but it took about six years of trial and error until we discovered how best to propagate them for commercial use,” Watts said.

The single-largest pollination event in the world occurs annually in California’s central valley, where almonds are big business. With nearly 1.1 million acres of blossoming almond trees requiring pollination within a week or two, timing is everything. Growers pay top dollar for honeybee keepers nationwide to bring their hives to do the job.

“A good friend who owns the largest number of honeybee hives in the world described the almond pollination event in California as ‘an annual orgy for honeybees.’ In the process, they end up sharing their diseases with all the other bees and take them home and perfect them,” Watts said.

“Mason bees are a spring bee and they like it relatively cold, for a bee. Honey bees fly at about 68 degrees or so,” Watts said. “We can get mason bees to fly at 48 degrees.

That’s a big advantage at an orchard.”

Watts works exclusively with organic orchardists and described an incident several years ago when he took his mason bees down to California. “The weather was beautiful, about 70 degrees, but then a cold weather snap came through the valley and the honeybees stopped flying,” Watts said. Undeterred by cooler temperatures, Watts’ mason bees proved their value.

Mason bees are solitary bees,—they don’t live in hives. Each mason bee emerges from its own cocoon. Like most native bees, they fly for six to eight weeks collecting pollen and laying eggs before the adults die.

“The females make a pollen ball, lay an egg on it and then she creates a mud partition before repeating the process, laying anywhere from one to a dozen eggs in each hole,” Watts said. “They average five eggs. Male mason bees don’t have stingers and in all the years I’ve worked with them, I’ve never been stung.”

In nature, those eggs begin to develop over the summer and by fall, there is a full grown, living and breathing adult bee inside its cocoon. The bees hibernate over winter. When the weather warms in spring, they chew their way out of their cocoon and go off to start the process all over again.

In his commercial setting, Watts takes the bee houses back to his climate-controlled facility and the constant temperature slows the bees’ metabolism down, which results in very healthy bees with high (97 percent) hatch rates.

“We make certain the bees are in good health; we can actually see their fat cells under a microscope,” Watts said. “By September when the eggs have developed to cocoon stage, we extract them from their wooden holes and carefully wash them to minimize viruses and fungal diseases. The clean cocoons continue to hibernate at about 34 degrees until they are ready to go out to organic orchards to do their pollination work.”

Watts holds back a number of them to propagate more mason bees and that’s where interested landowners on the Key Peninsula come in.

“We’re totally focused on propagating mason bees for use on organic orchards and we’re changing the way farmers farm with our bees,” Watts said.



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Olson's Longbranch cabin. Photo: Kevin Scott / Olson Kundig

A Longbranch Childhood Inspired World-Renowned Architect

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Jim Olson, a renowned Seattle-based architect with deep connections to Longbranch, is publishing a new book about his work. “Jim Olson: Building, Nature, Art” will be released May 22.

The book highlights 25 projects in a career that now spans more than five decades. The works include homes, a chapel, a museum and public spaces located in places ranging from the Key Peninsula to San Francisco to New York to Mexico to Taiwan. Olson's own cabin in Longbranch is featured.

“This book is very special to me because it illustrates the philosophy I have been refining for over 50 years—one of integrating nature, architecture, furnishings and art into a unified whole,” he said.

With over 500 images including plans, sketches and photographs, the book begins with an essay by Aaron Betsky, the former director of the Cincinnati Art Museum and the current dean of the School of Architecture at Taliesin (formerly the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture). Betsky has written extensively about architecture and design.

Olson's grandparents bought their Longbranch property in 1913. He said he has

no doubt that the view of Mount Rainier framed by McNeil and Anderson islands was a draw—his grandmother climbed Rainier twice. In the early days, the property was reachable only by boat, via a ferry to the Longbranch Marina and then by rowboat.

Olson spent summers there, along with the family's other six grandchildren. He described working hard in the mornings and then playing all afternoon. He hunted for crabs under the rocks and built forts out of driftwood. When he wasn't playing, he was drawing. “The things that happen to you as a child affect the rest of your life,” he said.

He knew he wanted to be an artist or an architect early on and announced his plans for an architectural career when he was 12 years old.

When he was a first-year student at the University of Washington, Olson's father gave him \$500 to design and build a bunkhouse to replace an old building on the property. Olson built it in 1959 with the help of a carpenter. “It was the best opportunity of my life,” he said.

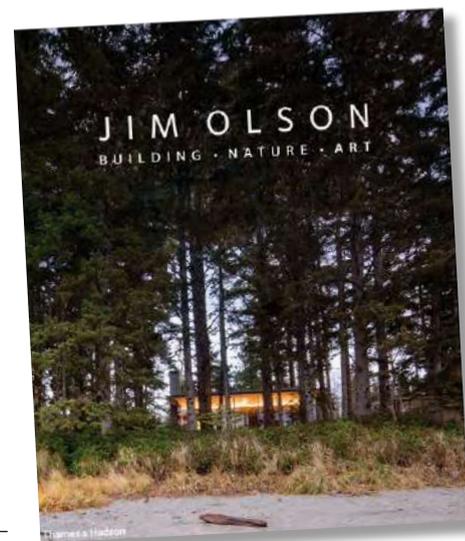
Nothing of that original 14-by-14-foot building has been removed, but over the years, it has been transformed. In 1983 Olson added two separate buildings—a bathroom, to bring running water to the

cabin for the first time, and a bedroom. Twenty years later, he added a living room and a second bathroom that did not require going outside and walking up a small flight of stairs. And in 2014 Olson and his wife added a bedroom wing and a lower floor with guest quarters. The original bunkhouse is now a kitchen and that first bathroom is now home to exercise equipment.

“Living close to nature is the greatest luxury,” Olson said. “The cosmos is a big place. Home is important. It is not about the building but what the building lets you see.”

Water plays a big role in Olson's designs—the flickering of light on its surface, the mirror-like quality when it is calm, and the mystery of clouds as they are reflected, he said. Light is also important—its quality as it comes through translucent leaves how the color changes with the seasons.

Olson said that because there are not a large number of colors in Pacific Northwest nature, they stand out when they are there, such as the purple of foxglove and the drama of white dogwood. The trees of the Key Peninsula have a big impact. Olson said that Egyptian columns remind him of firs, whose straight lines frame the view from his house and are juxtaposed



Olson's new book will be released May 22

against the curve of madronas.

The flights of sea birds he watched growing up and their defiance of gravity inspired Olson to make his buildings seem to float. And the materials he uses tend to harken back to his childhood experiences as well—the concrete of the family bulkhead, the weathered materials reflected in driftwood and bark.

“We reach out to the places we love, and the Key Peninsula is an amazing place,” he said. “I try to recreate the things I love at Longbranch.”

Equestrians Explore 360 Trails

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

Key Pen Parks' 360 Trails is well-known among local hiking and mountain biking crowds for its 9 miles of well-maintained, secluded trails and sometimes flat, sometimes rolling terrain. A third group enjoys the trails from a loftier elevation: Horses and their riders have been welcome at 360 Trails since day one.

"The geology of the site is a sand-and-gravel deposit from the last ice age. Because it drains so well, it's rideable 365 days a year," said Key Pen Parks Commissioner Kip Clinton.

Located less than 4 miles from the Purdy bridge, 360 Trails draws horseback riding enthusiasts from throughout the Key Peninsula, as well as Gig Harbor and Kitsap County. "I expect, as word gets out in the horse community that Gateway Park/360 Trails has officially opened as a public park with parking for horse trailers, it will become a regional draw," Clinton said.

360 Trails was carved out of miles of old logging trails crisscrossing Department of Natural Resources land. The trails' poor condition as DNR land once rendered them only accessible by horse. "The park district got the property on a 50-year lease through a state trust land transfer," Clinton said. "It's morphed into more mountain-bike-accessible trail mileage and less horse-accessible trail mileage. Some separation between cyclists and equestrians has been necessary to prevent collisions and spooks."

Scott Gallacher, executive director of Key Pen Parks, said the vast majority of the trails are open to horses. "Only one trail is for mountain biking only. Everything else is multiuser," Gallacher said, adding that some trails are bikers and hikers only, while others are hikers and horses only. "We're a small agency. We don't have the resources and staff to build trails for one specific user group," he said.

Over the past few years, dedicated mountain bikers have volunteered much of the time and effort required to expand and maintain 360 Trails. As a result, Gallacher estimates that 80 percent of current trail users are mountain bikers and hikers, while the remaining 20 percent are equestrians.

As part of the 360 Trails expansion, the former trailhead and parking lot on Powerline Road are now closed to all but emergency vehicles, and a large paved area at Gateway Park holds cars, trucks and trailers for horseback riders and mountain

bikers alike. The latticework is evidence that horses were prominently in mind while the trails were being developed. "From a horseman's point of view, asphalt is slippery for steel horseshoes and the lattice pavers with gravel infill provide better traction when loading and unloading from a trailer," Clinton said.

Mark and Deanna Hunter live in neighboring Kitsap County, about 5 miles from the park. Mark is an avid mountain biker and Deanna loves riding the trails atop her horse, Taffy. "We call this horse-bike riding," Deanna said. "We used to come out here when it was just 360, but now together with Gateway Park, it's so beautiful. The



360 Trails users Deanna and Mark Hunter enjoy riding together. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

new trailer parking makes getting in and out with horses so easy."

"We've been riding out here about four years now," Mark said. "We like to come out during the week, as weekends can get really busy."

A need for equestrian-friendly trails has increased as property development has rendered many former horseback riding locations unusable. "Most horse people live in semi-rural or suburban areas and lack nearby horse-accessible trails. There may have been real trails when they got the property, but sprawl happened," Clinton said. Recognizing a need, Key Pen Parks has leased another 480-acre parcel of land from DNR in the hopes of one day providing trails geared primarily to equestrians.

With the Key Peninsula's water-bound geography restricting major commercial development, Clinton views access to nature as an important and sustainable draw for tourists. "I see park and trail development as an economic development tool for the KP," she said. "This area is rural, with a few commercial centers. It has a limited 'carrying capacity' due to environmental constraints. However, it is within easy driving and cycling distance from cities. I believe recreational tourism is the economic future of the KP."



Evergreen Elementary students enjoy meeting farm animals as part of their school day on April 3.

(left) Tom Bates, KP resident and learning center semi truck driver.

Photos: Lisa Bryan, KP News



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Patti and Jerry Nebel stopping in Galixidi, Greece in as part of an April European tour

BEST OF KP SUMMER CONTEST

Give it your best!

Everyone loves summer on the KP: sunny weather, beaches, sunsets, gardens, picnics and parades. Here's your chance to tell the world what you think is the best of your summer on the Key Peninsula.

Everyone's welcome to enter.

If you live here (or wish you did) you're qualified to enter with your poem, story or essay about what's best. Judges will choose winning entries that best express the KP summer theme, tell an evocative story and are fun to read.

What do you love the best?

The Best of KP Summer will be published in our August edition. Winners for the best poems and stories will be featured in the special pull-out section, sponsored by local businesses and organizations. Start writing your entry today!

Email your entry to editor@keypennews.com **before June 8**. Please include your name, email address and phone number.

OFFICIAL RULES: Limit three entries per person; maximum 150 words for poetry; 300 words for prose. Entries must include your name, telephone number and email address. Judges will select winning entries based on originality, theme and storytelling. Winning entries will be published in the August 2018 KP News as space allows. All entries become the property of Key Peninsula News and may be edited for publication.

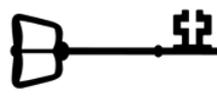


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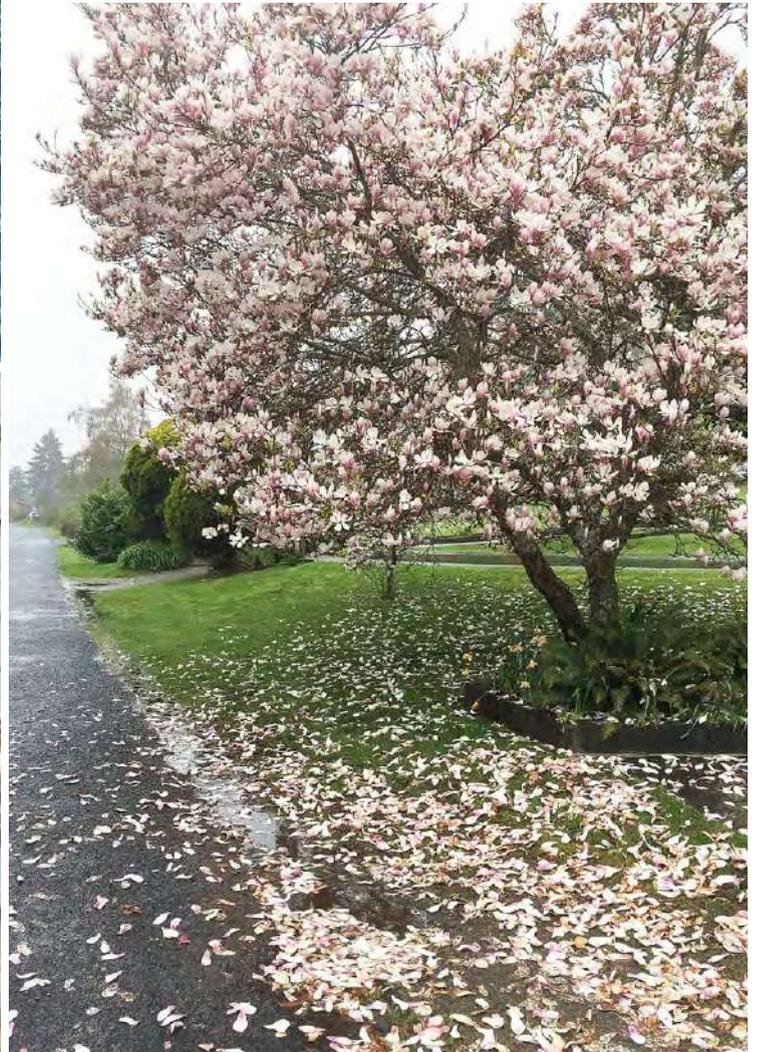
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TOP LEFT: Sea lions enjoy the scenery from Center Channel buoy. *Photo: Jim Bellamy* **TOP RIGHT:** Pug puppy fearlessly engages with giant plush bunny at Pet Easter Treat Hunt. *Photo: Veronica Grandt, Key Pen Parks* **ABOVE LEFT:** Troop Committee Chair Chris Quill congratulates new Eagle Scout Nicholas Wiklund. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **ABOVE CENTER:** Male varied thrush seen before migrating to higher altitudes for the summer. *Photo: Ron Cameron* **ABOVE RIGHT:** Lush magnolia blooms carpet an A Street yard in Home. *Photo: Tim Heitzman, KP News*