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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

March 2019 Vol. 46 No. 3

Winter Moorage: Another Sinking at Lakebay Marina

"She's gone," Michael Brooks said. "It's a disaster for me. I'm heartbroken. I've done everything I can to the best of my ability to restore her. I'm out of resources at this point."

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

In the early morning hours of Feb. 3, the 58-foot recreational powerboat Skittigate was taking on water, losing the battle to remain afloat. The experience was not the first for the vessel nor its owner, Michael Brooks.

"I owned it probably three or four years; bought it from a retired firefighter who put a lot of money into it," converting it into a fishing trawler, Brooks said. "It was a 90-year old Canadian Royal Patrol Boat and I wanted to restore it for its historical value."

The same boat ran aground, keeled over and sank in neighboring Von Geldern Cove Oct. 14, 2018. Assisted by a minus tide three weeks later, Brooks managed to refloat the vessel in the middle of the night and return to its berth at Lakebay Marina.

Brooks wanted to pull it out of the water and put it in drydock at the time but said, "everyone is full in the winter and it's expensive." He suspects the bilge pump stopped working after losing electrical power from the shore. "I checked on it weekly, but I can't be there 24/7. I'm out of resources at this point. I'm talking to DNR about turning it over to them."

Meanwhile, the boat became wedged underneath the finger dock it was moored to, forcing the dock to rise out of the water and threatening to tear it apart.

Mark Scott, the owner of Lakebay Marina, was reportedly out of the country at the time. His sister, Laura Heather, responded to the evolving crisis posed by the sunken vessel. In an effort to save the finger dock from damaging the rest of the dock and possibly threatening other



After surviving one sinking in 2018, powerboat Skittigate sank again Feb. 4. Photo: Anne Nesbit

vessels moored there, power saws were used to cut off portions of the finger dock to relieve the pressure. This was not the first time Heather had responded to reports of sunken vessels during her brother's winter absence, she said, as it was becoming a regular occurrence.

Days later, two portions of the finger dock were observed floating loose in Mayo Cove and photographed by multiple residents around the cove.

Troy Wood, who manages the Derelict Vessel Removal Program for the Department of Natural Resources, confirmed he spoke with Brooks and sent him an application for the vessel turn-in program, but said that to qualify Brooks must raise it first.

Wood pointed out that the owner refloats the vessel once before in open water without hiring a salvage company.

At the marina, he has access to electricity, so raising the vessel there should be easier.

"But because the vessel is on private property, since portions of the Lakebay Marina are leased from DNR, it's considered private property from the perspective of DVRP. Because the marina does not require insurance from its tenants, the marina does not have access to the DVRP. "Therefore we, unfortunately, because we do not have jurisdiction on private property, we don't have access to the DVRP account and it will fall back on the property owner to remove the vessel."

Wood said he is aware of two other vessels that sank there; one was floated and moved to the private tideland belonging to Lakebay Marina. The covered section is on private tidelands.

CONTINUED PAGE 3

PSD Bond Approved is 'A Huge Win for Our Community'

66% of Gig Harbor and KP residents vote to build four new elementary schools.

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

For the first time since 2003, voters approved a Peninsula School District capital bond by nearly 66 percent Feb. 12, surpassing the 60 percent supermajority required of all school bond measures in Washington state. Voter turnout for the PSD measure was over 50 percent. All 47 voting precincts in the district approved the \$198,550,000 bond.

After PSD narrowly failed to reach the supermajority requirement on the district's previous April 24, 2018, \$220,000,000

"IT'S NOT VERY OFTEN WE GET TO TEACH AND BE PART OF CREATING NEW SCHOOLS OUT HERE FOR OUR KIDS TO FEEL VALUED."

capital bond measure by 240 votes, the Snoqualmie Valley School District announced May 29, 2018 that Robert Manahan, then superintendent of PSD, had accepted the superintendent position there.

Under the leadership of then school board president Marcia Harris, the PSD board moved quickly to hire Dr. Art Jarvis, with more than 50 years of experience in public school leadership, to become the district's interim superintendent.

After a new assessment of the district's facility needs, Jarvis presented his \$198,550,000 capital bond proposal to board members Oct. 11, 2018. Jarvis said there was "no time to lose," due to increased overcrowding. The board unanimously approved the new proposal Nov. 8, 2018, and voted to place it on the Feb. 12, 2019 ballot.

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN,
EXECUTIVE EDITOR, KP NEWS

What I like most about the snow is the blanket of beauty and silence that arrives with it. The first few inches deliver a magical stillness where birds disappear into secret hiding, and as each perfect flake falls from the sky, we are spellbound together in wonder.

It's no secret that winters along the southern shores of Puget Sound are laughably mild to transplants from New England. It only takes a few inches for newcomers to comprehend the quality of snow here is nothing like the dry fluff they left behind. In the Midwest, snow blowers are every bit as essential as lawnmowers.

Mention bad winters to anyone who has lived on the Key Peninsula for 25 years or more and you'll learn the ice storm of 1996 tops the nightmare list. There is a certain pride in the telling of how many days they survived without power, some into the teens.

The recent storm was dubbed Snowmageddon 2019 days before it arrived. The nickname Snowpocalypse worked just as well. When it comes to conveying a message, words matter, and these increased the sense of urgency to stock up.

The snow began falling midday on Friday Feb. 8, and by Saturday morning we had seven inches at my house and the electricity hadn't flickered once. Gazing from my cozy perch at the winter scene below with a pack of sleeping dogs warming my feet, I thought, this is my kind of snowstorm.

Little did I know, in my state of bliss, that many people had already gone without power overnight. Trees toppled under the weight of the snow, taking power lines and electrical poles along with them. Forced

into sudden hibernation, many retired to bed early, with quilts piled high and stocking caps upon their heads. By storm's end, everyone on both peninsulas and surrounding islands would lose power at least once.

While it hasn't been the snowiest winter in recent memory, the snowfall set the record for February and was widely acknowledged as a rare event, unlike anything the region has seen in 50 years. Citing snow accumulations of up to 29 inches in places, later combined with freezing rain, CEO Jafar Taghavi of Peninsula Light called the storm "unprecedented."

Winter weather is notoriously unpredictable around the Puget Sound and skepticism often follows, but caught unprepared in this storm meant facing serious trouble. Key Peninsula is home to many long and winding

driveways, some with deep gullies that run alongside. The answer for most was to stay put and hope for the best.

The best comes in many forms on the Key Peninsula.

The song of one man's chainsaw attracted distant neighbors who appeared one by one with chainsaws of their own to help. Together they cut up four enormous trees that had fallen on his garage, the debris from which blocked the family's driveway for a solid week.

Anthony Taylor of Lakebay became something of a local Facebook celebrity during the storm by volunteering to clear driveways with his tractor for people who needed help. Taylor cleared innumerable driveways,

even taking a couple of days off from work to do it, his wife Vanessa said.

While out clearing another driveway on Bay Lake, Taylor remembered to check on an elderly widow and discovered the 90-year old woman was nearly out of wood for her woodstove. With the help of his son, Taylor delivered enough seasoned firewood to see her through the storm.

KPCS Food Bank volunteers managed to deliver food to seniors, trapped by the snow and without enough food.

It was Peninsula Light Co. that shined throughout Snowmageddon. PenLight crews, supported by contractors from Michels Construction, Asplundh, Salish Construction and Clark County PUD were out in full force and working under brutal conditions. Communications staff were in high gear across multiple media platforms keeping co-op members updated on what was happening and where.

After a storm of this magnitude customers anywhere else might be complaining, but please, tell me, where else in the world do communities suggest celebratory banquets and parties in honor of their power company employees?

Some people dared to venture out early but most were stuck for the duration. Once liberated, people were busily chatting away, in parking lots, stores, restaurants, comparing notes and laughing. "We all have our own snow stories to tell, don't we?"

The snow has melted away now, but underneath it all sweet snowdrops are in full bloom.



[A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY]

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253-884-4699

editor@keypennews.org

17010 S. Vaughn Rd NW / P.O. Box 3,
Vaughn, WA 98394

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Lisa Bryan

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Ted Olinger

CONTRIBUTORS: Matthew Dean, Ed Johnson, Merry Kogut,
Richard Miller, Joseph Pentheroudakis, Sara Thompson,
Irene Torres

COLUMNISTS: Caleb Lystad, Anne Nesbit, John Nichols,
Lila Saucier, Frank Slater, Dan Whitmarsh

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WEBMASTER/SOCIAL MEDIA: Joseph Pentheroudakis

OPERATIONS/PRODUCTION DESIGN: Tim Heitzman

AD SALES: Christina Welsh kpnads@keypennews.org
Tracy Merrifield sales@keypennews.org

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

PUBLISHING BOARD: Sara Thompson, president,
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WINTER MOORAGE FROM PAGE 1

“I empathize and would love to go in there and clean that up, but there is due process,” Wood said. “The program has rules to follow; it doesn’t mean we don’t care. This program has a very specific scope and specific realm in which we can work in the jurisdiction.”

“We’re encouraged that our tenant, Lakebay Marina, and the boat owner, can resolve this problem,” said Neal Cox,

South Puget Sound district manager for DNR Aquatic Lands. “I know the marina doesn’t require vessels to be insured, but we’ll give them time to work together.”

“If all these things fail,” Cox said, “Lakebay Marina has a bond, a performance security, as part of the lease requirements and DNR may be able to use some of those funds to get the boat up if they can’t figure out a way to raise the boat themselves.”



Heavy snowfall and tidal action combined to shift the sunken boat under its dock, threatening the marina structure. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

SCHOOL BOND APPROVED FROM PAGE 1

“The plan Dr. Jarvis brought to the school board was so simple, so focused and such a good one,” said PSD board member Leslie Harbaugh. “The depth and breadth of experience he brings from districts large and small is beyond valuable. To have a man of his caliber come in with clear, fresh eyes and agree, ‘Yes, you do have all of these needs but building elementary schools and housing kids must be our focus’—it was one of those moments where you smack yourself on the forehead and ask ‘Why didn’t we think of this?’”

Then, in a surprise move with ballots already mailed to voters, the PSD board voted to purchase the existing Boys and

Girls Club and property at its Jan. 31 meeting, subject to passage of the bond.

That facility, known as the Jim and Carol Milgard Family Hope Center on Skansie Avenue, will achieve the first of the district’s proposed plans: providing a new elementary school now known only as “No. 10.” The building already contains nine classrooms, a gymnasium, lunchroom and offices ready to open in fall 2019, which will ease overcrowding right away in the fall. Design of a 22-classroom addition to the school will begin immediately.

“When we learned of this opportunity, it was almost too good to believe,” said Jarvis in a Feb. 1 press release. “We struggled to



Future student visits the site of her future elementary school on Harbor Hill Drive in Gig Harbor after the bond to build it passed Feb. 12. *Courtesy Derek Elliott*

find a workable site for the new school and this answer is ideal.”

PSD determined the property it already owns, located on Bujacich Road NW and originally intended for a full-size elementary school, would take too long to meet the district’s pressing need to resolve severe overcrowding in its eight elementary schools serving 1,000 more students than they were designed for. The Bujacich site lies outside the urban growth boundary, which would require changes in existing Pierce County regulations to build there, according to PSD. That, combined with the anticipated cost of extending utilities to the site, made it unsuitable to become school No. 10.

“This is really what made the Boys and Girls Club such an incredible find for us,” school board member Marcia Harris said. “For us to have nine new classrooms available right away for fall 2019 in such good condition plus the space to build the rest of the school, feels like it was meant to be.”

The capital bond will also fund construction of the new elementary school No. 9 on land the district owns on Harbor Hill between Costco and the YMCA. The aging Artondale and Evergreen Elementary schools will be replaced with new buildings.

“The district did a fantastic job communicating the need, along with Stand up For Peninsula Schools, parents and teachers, but above all the voters in our community rallied,” Harbaugh said.

“This is a huge win for our community,” said Evergreen PTA president Meghan Conant. “I’m overwhelmed right now with emotion.”

Jarvis made a prediction as he addressed Evergreen Elementary School Principal Hugh Maxwell, assembled teachers and staff during an early morning meeting at the school in late 2018:

“After passing the bond measure comes the fun: envisioning what the new schools will actually look like.”

Jarvis described his experience building schools in districts like Whidbey Island, saying the way schools are built now provide space designed for community use, especially in rural settings like Evergreen.

Like Jarvis, Maxwell sees new schools like Evergreen being a center of community activity as well, with separate entrances to enhance opportunities for building stronger community connections.

Maxwell said the next steps will be preparing to get school No. 10 started in the fall with stakeholder input from teachers and parents. Teams from different Peninsula schools visited other districts to see how new schools are being built, the importance of natural light, and how flexible and supportive they can be for student learning.

“Our leadership team is already starting to do more envisioning of what other schools are going to look like, particularly with Evergreen and Artondale,” Maxwell said. “How are we going to build those on-site and be safe and functional while that is happening?”

“You just can’t believe how ecstatic people are,” he said. “It’s not very often we get to teach and be part of creating new schools out here for our kids to feel valued.”



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Minter Creek Elementary Hosts Annual STEAM Night

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

Hundreds of people packed Minter Creek Elementary Jan. 31 for the school's annual STEAM Rocks! night, promoting interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math for its students.

Displays and hands-on demonstrations were set up throughout the school by teachers and PTA members to engage kids with STEAM topics. Some of the most popular activities included building towers from marshmallows and toothpicks, mixing chemicals to create slime, and solving math puzzles.

In addition to the school and PTA presentations, several booths were occupied by local businesses and organizations looking to demonstrate real-world applications of STEAM.

One of the most popular displays was Puget Sound Naval Shipyard's ROVs, small robots that operated in a tank of water and could be remotely controlled by attendees.

Other presenters included America's Car Museum, Harbor Wild Watch and multiple Pierce County agencies. Attending students were given a passport with a map of each booth and encouraged to visit them all, and received a STEAM-themed gift at the end of the night.

Another activity that drew a crowd was the strength-testing of popsicle stick bridges, designed and built over several weeks by Minter Creek fifth-graders. The bridges were placed in a hydraulic press and force was slowly applied, while the amount of weight the bridge could take was displayed on a nearby projector. The winning bridge, constructed by fifth-graders Jonathan and Andrew, weighed less than half a pound but was able to sustain over 130 pounds of force before breaking.

Students at the event responded positively, especially to some of the high-tech displays in the gym. Many students mentioned the robotics displays as a favorite, along with an area where they could try out virtual reality headsets.

"I really enjoyed the virtual reality goggles. I'd like to expand on that idea," said Eaton Hansonsmith, a Minter Creek fourth-grader.

According to its presenters, the goal of the event is not to provide detailed instruc-



Pretty good for popsicle sticks: 10-year old Cedar Halvorsen, a fifth-grader in Mr. West's class at Minter Creek Elementary School. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

tion, but to spark interest and demonstrate some of the career paths available to students. "It's just a way to integrate arts, science, and technology into the classroom," said Dawn Barnes, a Title I reading specialist at Minter Creek.

Barnes said that a large portion of classroom time is taken up with basic reading and writing, and it's sometimes difficult to give other

topics the time they deserve. Special events like STEAM Rocks! help to show students other educational opportunities and how areas of learning intersect with each other. "I've found that after events like this, when you do classroom activities and one of the options is taking it down a STEAM route, kids will choose that because they have participated in things that get them thinking in different ways," she said.

While STEAM Rocks! has been running for several years at Minter Creek, the name and purpose has shifted over time. The

original event was focused only on mathematics and was accordingly titled "Math Rocks!" but the scope broadened about four years ago to include more fields of emphasis for the school.

"There's tons of information out there that says that if you don't get kids—especially girls—interested in the science, technology and engineering fields by the time they're

in fifth grade, they lose it. They have no interest, and they don't continue on," said Maria Kusche of the Minter Creek PTA. Kusche has overseen the event for the last six years, and presided over its switch to a STEM focus, and more recently, its inclusion of art and rebranding as STEAM.

STEAM Rocks! draws a large crowd every year and, according to Kusche, is the best-attended event that the Minter Creek PTA presents. Kusche put the average turnout at around 250 students out of a student body of about 400.

THE WINNING BRIDGE SUSTAINED OVER 130 POUNDS OF FORCE

Key Peninsula Land Use Advisory Role May Change

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The role of the Key Peninsula Land Use Advisory Commission (KPAC) is evolving, and that has some members concerned.

Don Swensen, who chairs KPAC, said the group was informed by Sean Gaffney, planning manager at Pierce County Planning and Land Services, at a joint meeting in October 2018 with the Gig Harbor group that the two would no longer review permits for shoreline projects. He noted that the majority of issues that come before KPAC have been related to shoreline development.

That this change came up at nearly the same time as Pierce County delayed the public hearing where KPAC would review the Hope Recovery Center's application for a conditional use permit worries him. "I'm concerned that our local voice is being diminished and at the same time there is more public awareness of county issues and the public wants more of a voice," he said.

According to Gaffney, the hearing examiner appointed by the county council hears cases related to subdivision of land, commercial development, shoreline variances and conditional use permits.

"Land use advisory commission (LUAC) members tend to have good local knowledge and can tie into the local community plan," Gaffney said. "Their recommendations may improve the request and make it a better fit for the community."

At their meetings, LUAC members may decide to approve or recommend against a request. The hearing examiner takes the LUAC recommendation as well as those of PALS staff into consideration. "Ultimately, the hearing examiner is tasked with considering all the state and local land use regulations and that decision will reflect whether or not the request complies with those regulations," he said.

Pierce County Councilman Derek Young said that excluding land use advisory commissions from the shoreline permitting review process was a mistake. The Shoreline Master Plan, approved in October 2018, was a decade in the making and language in the plan included shifting all shoreline permitting to administrative approval within PALS rather than requiring review by a hearing examiner. Because the LUACs review everything that is scheduled to go before the hearing examiner, removing shoreline permits from that process automatically removed them from LUAC review.

Young sees that as an inadvertent change in the LUAC role and is working to correct it.

Swensen is concerned that if KPAC objects to a permit and the hearing examiner is no longer involved, any local objections will have no impact on the decision-making process. He said that if PALS staff has already determined the permits coming before KPAC adhere to county regulations, objections will simply be overruled.

Noting that his district is the only one in Pierce County with significant shoreline issues, Young said that he is working on how to involve the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor LUACs in a meaningful way.

Young said that bringing major shoreline projects, preferably at a pre-application point, to the LUACs would allow for better local input. Routine permits that clearly meet the requirements could be dealt with administratively.

"There is a movement afoot on the part of some county council members and the county executive to decrease the role of LUACs," Young said. "The change in role is described as streamlining and is driven to some extent by pressure from the building industry."

Young said he would like to see KPAC and other rural LUACs take on a larger role as a more general advisory body for issues important to the community along the lines of appointed neighborhood councils in Tacoma.

There are 13 LUACs in the county, each representing a geographic area of unincorporated Pierce County. Each has five to nine appointed members who serve four-year terms and are limited to two consecutive terms. As described on the Pierce County website, the purpose of a LUAC is "to facilitate a structured two-way communication process between the county and community residents, property owners and business owners regarding significant land use issues affecting communities within unincorporated Pierce County."

Established in 2008, KPAC's role expanded in April 2014 to a two-year pilot program. An ordinance passed by the county council expanded its role beyond land use and development to focus on communication between all county departments and Key Peninsula residents, property owners and business owners regarding significant issues affecting the community, including environmental regulations, infrastructure, schools, transportation improvements and public safety. The size increased and included four members of the Key Peninsula Community Council. That pilot ended, and membership now includes two members of the Key Peninsula Community Council with the remainder appointed as members at large.



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GUEST COLUMNIST



About Hope Recovery Center

Hope Recovery Center is a proposed 50-bed residential and nonresidential co-occurring treatment center founded by Jeremiah Saucier and a diverse group of community members who believe it will have a positive impact on and in our community. It is highly needed, highly regulated, and will have the atmosphere of a peaceful rural setting that will benefit those who are seeking to be healed from addiction. It will be a hub of resources for our community and will open its doors to local Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholic Anonymous groups who already hold meetings on the Key Peninsula.

The isolation of the Key Peninsula has created a community of sharing and caring, but also has resulted in the proliferation of sale and use of illicit drugs. Each addict's personal story is different, but the lack of adequate accessible treatment options is a monumental challenge for this isolated community where living in the woods is a way of life that has left many addicts "place bound," with diminished coping skills and very few options for escaping the demons of addiction. Hope Recovery Center will be strategically positioned to meet client needs while reducing the financial and social impact on the community.

In March of 2017, the Pierce County Department of Planning and Land Services granted Hope Recovery Center the green light to move forward in the application process for a conditional use permit for the property located at 4706 Key Peninsula Highway in Lakebay. If approved, this application, submitted in October of 2018, will determine what conditions will be required to develop this parcel, as well as the hurdles required to raise the capital funds to break ground. Hope Recovery Center's board of directors is completely willing to comply with all of Pierce County regulations required for a conditional use permit.

Community members were able to gather at the Lakebay Community Church to meet with the board of Hope Recovery Center Feb. 1 in an open forum environment. The meeting was moderated by Chuck West and there was an opportunity for questions and concerns to be answered and expressed in

a respectful atmosphere.

Some of the questions at the meeting were in regard to the impact that Hope Recovery would have on our community. Some have compared Hope Recovery Center to Olalla Recovery Center, which is a 40-bed residential treatment facility located in a similar rural community in Olalla. Below is a letter written by a local resident:

I live in the Olalla community within walking distance to the Olalla Guest Lodge. My husband and I and four sons, now raised, have lived here 16 years.

During this time, we have never had one negative incident concerning the recovery center.

In fact, the center had a significant impression on my life when, in 1989, while living in Seattle, my maid-of-honor overdosed and was not able to stand with me on our wedding day. She agreed to treatment. She is clean and sober today and victorious over substance, alcohol and dependency. I learned several years after moving to Olalla, that this was the facility where she got back on her feet.

You see, being removed and in a remote location does something for the healing process. Olalla affords this atmosphere as does the safety of the Key Peninsula.

If we are to be successful communities that have unity and thrive we must include the strong and the weak, rich and poor, young and old.

I ask that this Key Peninsula community would consider it an honor to provide a safe place to care for the weak and poor in spirit.

We're all in this together.

(signed) Gretchen Costanzo, Olalla

On behalf of Hope Recovery Center, we thank all of our supporters and those in this community who continue to encourage and endorse this project. We look forward to that first person who walks out the door addiction free.

We continue to serve our community to the best of our ability, getting the addiction out of the way so the human being can live.

Lila Saucier is the administrative supervisor and co-owner of Crossroads Treatment Center in Lakewood, an advisor to the nonprofit board of Hope Recovery Center, and lives with her husband Jeremiah on the Key Peninsula.

Caleb Lystad
GUEST COLUMNIST



Keep the KP Rural: No HRC

What is the Key Peninsula? A few things come to mind: rural, beautiful, quiet, spacious, private, overlooked; a strong community rooted in old school, neighborly virtues.

These special traits were recognized by those who worked to develop the Key Peninsula Comprehensive Plan as part of the Growth Management Act adopted in 2007. The stated goal of the plan is to protect the rural nature of the KP while providing a framework for responsible development and growth.

The plan defines land use zones, such as Rural-10, Rural Farm, Rural Sensitive Resources, and Parks and Recreation. Additionally, the plan recognizes the historical commercial centers that have dotted the KP for decades. These are Rural Activity Centers, where more intensive commercial development has taken place, and Rural Neighborhood Centers, where less intensive commercial development has taken place. The plan strives to keep the rural environment of the Key Peninsula intact while providing a means for future growth that does not encroach on the rural landscape.

Enter Hope Recovery Center, the dream of a man to provide substance abuse and behavior health treatment. A most laudable endeavor, to be sure. The dream began to take shape when Lakebay Community Church offered HRC a piece of land where they had once intended to build a church. This property is situated in an R10 zone.

The zoning plan for the KP allows for "community and cultural" development within R10s when certain conditions are met. This is all well and good. We need churches, schools, civic centers, halls and other facilities that foster and strengthen the fabric of our community.

According to HRC, they met with Pierce County to discuss building a residential inpatient treatment facility and encountered resistance. They were told health services were not allowed in R10 zones. This is the most crucial point to the HRC story.

HRC is first and foremost a health service, therefore not allowed to build in an R10. The 33,000 total square foot campus, including the primary 50-bed facility, cannot be built in an R10. But that didn't stop the dream.

HRC said they managed to get an audi-

ence with the county planning manager and the assistant administrator to the Planning and Land Services director—a very rare meeting with the very top levels of county planning. HRC also said that even here their plan was met with significant pushback: Health services are not allowed in R10. However, the meeting was also attended by Derek Young, our local Pierce County Council member. According to him, it was his office that provided the workaround.

Instead of focusing on what HRC is, a health service, Derek proposed the county should consider what the impact would be compared to a facility that could be built there. In this way it was determined that HRC would have an impact similar to a homeless shelter and since a homeless shelter does fit within the zoning laws, Pierce County allowed the conditional use permit process to proceed. In this way clear zoning laws were ignored.

No On HRC was formed to stop this breach of due process. Rights of every landowner on the Key Peninsula were violated by these actions. By ignoring the clear language of our zoning laws, and using elected officials to pressure the county, we lost fundamental protections that safeguard our community from intrusive development.

No On HRC contends that HRC fails to meet the basic intentions defined under Pierce County Code 18A.37.220 section C. It is our interpretation of this section that the local community is intended to be the primary beneficiary of such a facility. But the Key Peninsula would not be the primary beneficiary, because HRC would be obligated by their operating license to accept patients from all over the state. Just because a person in need lived on the KP would not mean they could find treatment on the KP.

Secondly, we contend HRC is by definition a "health service" and easily classified under 18A.37.220 section E. A basic reading of both that Pierce County code or Washington RCW 70.37.020, WAC 246-337, makes clear HRC is in fact a health service, regardless of any services provided beyond those related to health.

The Pierce County code goes on to say very definitely that health services may not be built in R10 areas (PC code 18A.26.020). However, HRC would be allowed to build in one of our two Rural Activity Centers. No On HRC supports building in these areas.

Please join us as we seek to keep the KP rural by visiting StopHRC.com for more information.

Caleb Lystad lives in Lakebay.

Frank Slater

A VIEW FROM HERE



Casting a Wide Net

Freedom of speech is essential to resolve the issues facing our nation today.

Some of us were raised not to talk politics or religion in polite company.

Not me.

Some time ago, I submitted a column to this newspaper that contained the word “snowflake” in its political context. The column was accepted but without that word.

I objected and had a conversation with the editorial staff about the use and impact of certain terms that have the effect of stopping communication rather than encouraging it.

It is amazing how new salient information can give you a broader perspective and often lead to a change of mind.

I welcome the opportunity to share opinions with others because I find that comparing them often leads to a fuller understanding of what is involved in the issue. That takes practice, patience and even courage; but mostly practice. Such discussions are needed—are essential—to develop the public opinion and support necessary for resolution.

Winston Churchill put it this way: “Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States says: “Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

Most of the discussions about our Constitution concern the rights of the people, but little attention is devoted to a phrase found in our Declaration of Independence: “That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

In other words, the government was not created to give us these rights. We created the government to protect them.

We elect Congress to represent us. They write the laws that govern us. The president is elected to see that the law is executed. Congress and the president choose the members of the Supreme Court, who determine the constitutionality of any contested law.

As citizens, we have responsibilities as

well as rights. If our legislators write laws we are dissatisfied with, we need to let them know why we object and what we suggest instead. If my interaction with my legislator is insufficient, I need to identify the issue and discuss it with my friends and neighbors to come up with a solution to propose.

We the people of the United States must respect one another’s rights, must talk over our differences instead of over each other, must agree to disagree when necessary, and must stand united in the face of adversity, even of our own making.

That is what makes America great. It is the only thing that ever has.

Frank Slater, retired math teacher and Korean War veteran, lives in Vaughn.

Anne Nesbit

SIREN'S SONG



Rising to the Occasion

Rising to the occasion can be fun for daydreaming, but in the real world it rarely plays out with a fairy-tale ending. We are all capable of more than we imagine. To realize these capabilities, however, requires the hard work and practice needed to stretch ourselves. This means that we have to challenge ourselves and go beyond the limits of our comfort zone. The “snowmageddon” did just that for most of us on the Key Peninsula.

While there’s a belief that disasters provoke frenzied selfishness and brutal survival-of-the-fittest competition, the reality is that people coping with crises are actually quite altruistic.

There will always be those who are shining examples of the nonteam player: people angry that they have no power; that electricity was off for too long; angry that there were lines at the grocery store and gas station; angry that they ran out of medications; angry that no one had plowed their driveway or that people were driving too slowly.

Then there are those who without being asked called or drove or even hiked into snow-blocked roads and driveways to check on neighbors. People picking up ballots to mail, running to the store, patrolling to help motorists who were stuck, and removing trees that were blocking roadways. Community members with the means plowing roads and driveways just to help at all hours.

I saw both mentalities at work during the weather. What stood out were not those who refused to help themselves, those who took advantage of circumstances to dodge

responsibility, but those who were living examples of the human spirit of giving.

We often don’t have the right language to talk about emotions in disasters. Everyone is on edge, of course, but it also pulls people away from a lot of trivial anxieties and past and future concerns and preoccupations, and refocuses us. In some ways, people behave better than in ordinary life. And in some disasters, people find the meaningful role of deep social connections and recognize their absence in everyday life.

I have a friend that was out all night helping elderly people keep their house vents clear, shoveling roofs and pulling cars out of ditches. He is from Minnesota and weather like we had “is nothing,” he said. Sadly, for some it was more than that. I hope it was taken as a gentle nudge from Mother Nature that being prepared is not a joke.

This series of storms was a drill. We had warning and time to prepare. Should the “Big One” hit, we will have no warning. The fire department is asking that people be prepared to be on their own for four days or more. Roads may be impassable. Are you ready?

During this last storm in general people did a wonderful job of being prepared and being self-sufficient. They had systems in place, water buckets ready, generators, wood and meals. They also weren’t afraid to ask for help from neighbors.

Were you tested? Did you step out of your comfort zone as you dealt with the weather?

I was put in several difficult situations, admittedly by choice, and had to get myself out. I was successful and quite honestly experienced feelings of pride and a sense of strength. Being a single mom, I think demonstrating that everyone is capable of digging deep and accomplishing things that may seem too difficult is an important lesson for my kids. They in turn were unfazed when we lost power and their electronics, and by being snowbound. Instead what I saw from them was resiliency, great attitude, willingness to step up and do things out of their norm, and good will toward their neighbors. We are all capable of this. Just know we are nowhere near the limits of our potential, and all of us are just beginning to discover our own.

For detailed information on how to prepare for disasters, go to www.fema.gov/preparedness-checklists-toolkits

Anne Nesbit is the Prevention and Public Information Officer and Volunteer Battalion Chief for the Key Peninsula Fire Department. She lives in Lakebay.

Dan Whitmarsh

WRITING BY FAITH



Five Thoughts on the Opioid Crisis

At the behest of Councilmember Derek Young, I was invited to address the 2019 Pierce County Opioid Summit in late February. They asked me to speak on behalf of the faith community and from my experience as a local pastor. What follows is a summary of my talk that day.

In the Judeo-Christian tradition, we begin with the concept of Shalom. Usually translated “peace,” Shalom is the hope of the earth and God’s people, describing a world wherein people live in harmony with one another and creation. Instead of division, hoarding and excessive consumption, we envision a world marked by mutuality, compassion, shared resources and respect. This is the promise toward which we work.

We are guided by our belief in the Imago Dei, or the Image of God. The creation accounts tell of a God who made humankind in God’s own image, endowing men and women with inestimable worth and glory. There are no throw-away people, for all deserve compassion and respect. Every person battling addiction is a son, a daughter, a brother or sister, a parent, and a person worthy of kindness and understanding. Addicts matter to God, and they matter to us.

We also uphold the value of personal responsibility. Each of us is responsible for our choices and actions. Often, in the interest of mercy and compassion, people seek shortcuts in ways that don’t bring true healing. While we seek to offer comfort and compassion, we must be diligent to recognize the deceptions that addiction often brings and be willing to let people face the consequences of their choices if necessary.

There is a justice issue, as well. We continue to learn of the role pharmaceutical companies played in creating this problem. The price paid by minorities and the poor is proportionally higher than the consequences faced by people of privilege. As has been said elsewhere, it’s good to pull people out of the river, but eventually we need to find who is throwing them in. Justice includes consequences for personal actions; justice also demands that systems and communities be equitable and fair for all.

This brings us to the importance of community. Addiction is a complex issue requiring a broad response. We need research and medical communities, mental health experts and law enforce-

WHITMARSH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7
ment. We need schools, churches, synagogues and other local organizations. We need recovery centers and groups to walk with those battling to be free of addiction. We need local citizens stepping up with their resources, ideas and skills. Our community, our sons and daughters, our own wellbeing are at stake. We all need to work together to create healthy families and strong communities.

There's a story Jesus told about a traveler who had been robbed and left for dead by the side of the road. Many ignored him until one man took compassion on him, offering hope and resources for a better future. We Christians are called to be like that good man, the Good Samaritan, joining with a broad coalition to bring hope and healing to addicted people and their families on the Key Peninsula and beyond.

Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church. He has been a regular columnist for over a decade.

Letters to the Editor

THANK YOU KP NEWS

Each month when the KP News arrives, I read it cover-to-cover and then say, "Wow." I am so grateful to have this local source that lets me know what is going on in my community with not just straight news but analysis as well.

For instance, the article on the transient boaters in Henderson Bay contained so much greater breadth and depth of info than I saw anywhere else on this topic ("Henderson Bay Drowning Puts Light on Transient Boaters and Liveboard Laws," KP News, January 2019). As a resident along Burley Lagoon who experienced the search helicopters overhead until midnight on Dec. 28, you can be sure that I wanted to know the facts behind the story and the outcome. Thank you for doing that so completely, even including the picture of the two survivors on their boat, which was probably not easy to get.

I also am in awe that you continue to deliver the KP News to every household in the service area for free. I assume that is a testament both to the value of your service that brings advertisers and donors, and to your dedicated writers and volunteers. We are all part of the same community, which we highly value.

Finally, I looked tonight at your website for the first time in a long while. It also gets a "wow" for being very attractive and easy to navigate. Perfect companion to your print edition. Thank you.

Marsba Williams, Wauna

OBITUARY



Jean Yanity

Jean Yanity was born Lanetta Jean Tatro, Oct. 29, 1941, and died Oct. 24, 2018, five days shy of 77. She was born to a Stillaguamish mother, Lavaun Tatro.

During an unintended blind date where she was supposed to meet Al Yanity's friend, Al and Jean connected and the two became inseparable. In 1971, they started their new life in Fairbanks, Alaska. Along the way, Al adopted Jean's two sons, Shawn and Larry, from a previous marriage. Nick, their third boy, was born to Jean and Al in 1975.

The couple eventually settled in Lakebay where they built a farm, a vineyard, an orchard and amazing memories. Jean was an incredible cook, a loving mom and devoted wife. She became known for the teddy bears she made for all the children in her family and any child or adult who needed one.

Friends invited Jean and Al to visit them in Parker, Arizona during the winter months of 2005. A few more trips and two years later, the couple decided to make Havasu a winter home. They continued to spend their summers in Lakebay where the rest of the family resides.

The couple just finished building a new house in Lake Havasu City. Jean was looking forward to spending this winter in her Havasu dream home. Her favorite pastime while there was collecting rocks and she enjoyed going on rockhounding trips. Always with a smile on her face, her specialty was collecting rocks resembling aliens from outer space.

Jean is survived by husband Al, three sons, seven grandchildren and a great grandchild.

A celebration of life is scheduled for April 27 at 11 a.m. at the Stillaguamish Community Center, 24308 55th Avenue Northeast in Arlington.

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

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The McCleary Effect: Why Your Taxes Went Up and Down, and Will Again

The school bond approved by voters Feb. 12 will not affect tax bills until 2020 and will be 3 cents lower per \$1,000 of property value than the retiring bond. That's the easy part.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

The Legislature passed the largest property tax increase in Washington history in 2017 to satisfy the requirements of the 2012 state Supreme Court order known as the McCleary decision mandating adequate and equitable state funding for K-12 public education.

The Second State School Levy, as the increase is known, went into effect in 2018 and is a complicated two-part tax rate with a sticker price of \$2.70 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, according to the Department of Revenue.

But it had a net effect of raising the average tax bill in Pierce County by about \$1.03 per \$1,000, according to the Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer's office, since rates vary by county.

Still, that increase brought in more money than expected and hurt more people than anticipated because of increased assessments, so the Legislature later made a one-time adjustment for 2019, decreasing the state-wide levy rate by 30 cents per \$1,000.

But wait, there's more.

A new state cap on local school operating levies also goes into effect this year, limiting collection to the lesser of \$1.50 per \$1,000 or \$2,500 per student, even if voters previously approved a higher rate.

"So, there's a spike in 2018 property taxes because of the new state levy," wrote Mike Lonergan, the Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer, in a 2018 Tacoma News Tribune editorial. "It's too early to know for sure, but the school portion of property tax bills should actually go down next year (2019)."

The new Peninsula School District capital bond approved by voters Feb. 12 will not affect tax bills until 2020 and will be 3 cents lower per \$1,000 than the existing bond, which will be paid off by then.

The McCleary case began in 2007 when the McCleary family of Chimacum sued the state "for not meeting its constitutional obligation to amply fund a uniform system of education."

They claimed the use of local property levies to fund local schools created a system that favored wealthy districts over poor districts because of a gap the mechanism created between what the state paid to each district and the real cost of running schools. Districts with high property values could raise large amounts of money with small increases in the levy rate, while districts

with low property values would need to raise their levy rates much higher to get the same amount.

In 2012, the state Supreme Court ordered the Legislature to find a solution. Instead, in 2014, the court found the Legislature in contempt for failing to do so and imposed a \$100,000 a day fine until it did. The Legislature has added \$9 billion to public education since 2012 for a total of nearly \$23 billion in the 2017-19 budget—about half the total. The court ruled the McCleary requirements fulfilled in June 2018.

A large part of this expense came in 2009, when the Legislature updated the state constitution definition of "basic education" to include all-day kindergarten and limited class size to 17 students in grades K-3. That meant more teachers, more classrooms and more support.

The Legislature's goal in creating the Second School Levy was to increase spending on education and eliminate disparities between wealthy and poor districts by shifting some of the tax burden away from

local levies and onto the state. Legislators called this the "levy swap," since it restricts local property taxes in exchange for raising the state property tax rate.

However, while every school district in the state got a one-time infusion of state money, a consequence of the new funding scheme is that districts with higher property values can still use levies to raise more money per student than poorer districts despite the new local levy cap, so the inequity McCleary was meant to fix remains. It also left one-third of Washington's 295 school districts short of funding.

"We never believed the court mandated a levy reduction," said Chris Reykdal, state Superintendent of Public Instruction in a February 2019 interview with the Tacoma News Tribune.

"Why in the world would we (put) such restriction on something that is voter-approved and the money stays in the community?" he said.

The Property Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons program may help eligible taxpayers defray some of their property taxes. If accepted into the program, the taxpayer's property value is frozen and exempt from excess and special levies.

For more information, go to www.co.pierce.wa.us/91/Assessor-Treasurer



We served 4,211 senior lunches in 2018

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Saturday, March 23 from 9 to 11am at Gateway Park

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360 Trails Raffle Ride
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April 27 9am to noon

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Volunteer Park is getting a new playground! To help install new playground equipment email scottg@keypenparks.com or call Scott Gallacher at 253-884-9240 ext.21

Parks Grant Program

Key Pen Parks Grants Program helps community groups improve park and recreation opportunities by funding through requested grants. Visit www.keypenparks.com for 2019 application and information.

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Seasonal Maintenance:
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View complete position description or download an application from the Employment page of our website. You may also stop by the park office during open hours.

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Pierce County removed 143 junk vehicles, 1,440 cubic yards of debris and over 68 tons of other debris from KP properties in 2018. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

Signs of Improvement: More County Cleanups of Nuisance Properties on KP in 2018

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Pierce County code enforcement officers cleaned up 11 privately owned Key Peninsula properties in 2018 through a legal process known as abatement. Five of those parcels were abated in an agreement with the property owners; six were abated by court order. In total, 159 junk vehicles, 1,560 cubic yards of debris and an additional 168 tons of solid waste, household trash and debris were removed, ultimately at the property owner's expense.

Of the properties abated under court order, 143 junk vehicles, 1,440 cubic yards of debris and over 68 tons of other debris were removed. Ninety-one percent of those junk vehicles and 82 percent of the debris measured in cubic yards came from just two properties.

Year after year, all seven Pierce County Council members and the elected officials that came before them heard numerous citizen complaints about well-known community eyesores—inappropriate land use, junk vehicles, abandoned houses and public nuisances. Code enforcement officers not only had heavy caseloads with a backlog of unresolved code violations, but lost time responding to frustrated citizens.

The council modified a number of regulatory tools, including increased funding and departmental changes for improved efficiency, but the length of time from complaint to resolution was, in the words

of more than a few community residents, “still too damn long.”

The council responded with Ordinance No. 2017-22s, which declared that “public nuisances involving solid waste, junk vehicles, derelict structures—meaning structures that are dangerous, unsafe, insanitary or otherwise unfit for human habitation or occupancy—shall be the highest code enforcement priority of the Pierce County Planning and Public Works Department.”

“The impacts of these public nuisances and code violations pose significant adverse social, economic and environmental impacts on neighboring parcels, neighborhoods and the larger community; threaten the quality of life of Pierce County's citizens' ability to be a community in which individuals, families and businesses want to locate; and can reduce property values,” according to the ordinance.

The ordinance authorized the addition of two full-time code enforcement employees and stated the intent of the council to appropriate funds to support abatement of blighted public nuisance properties. It directed the creation of a public portal within the Planning and Public Works Departments' existing website to allow the public to lodge complaints and increase transparency for tracking the status of code enforcement violations online, freeing up code enforcement staff to do their work.

“We are reactive, not proactive, unless

it is a life safety issue,” said Melanie Halsan, assistant director of Planning and Public Works. “Ninety percent of the complaints we are pursuing are based upon someone calling in and saying, ‘I'm not sure what's going on here but it doesn't look right,’ or ‘I live next door to this property and they are starting to collect vehicles,’ or ‘There appears to be a contractor's yard going on.’”

“We're noticing an increase in the number of complaints in 2019,” Halsan said. “The increased numbers could be a result of ease in reporting from the new portal, people noticing progress made on other parcels, or due to the homeless population throughout the county,” she said.

“In addition to the increase in complaints, our (county) council has also established a 90-day resolution time period for us; by resolution, I mean either we have the property owner clean up the site or working with us on a compliance plan—otherwise we forward the case to our prosecuting attorney to obtain a warrant of abatement, which is a court order.

“Our goal is to work with people to bring the property into compliance. If the property owner can't afford to bring the

site into compliance, we can help them,” Halsan said. “We can work through a Cooperative Abatement Right of Entry agreement with the owner. We go onto the property, we clean it up for them, and a lien is placed on it but allows us to go through without having to get a court-ordered warrant of abatement.”

“There was an administrative appeal process that was removed from the code. We didn't see that it was helping our process, but rather delaying resolution of these sites,” Halsan said. Those changes were based on requests from the prosecuting attorney's office or from code enforcement officers.

“We do have people that fight us; they believe they have a right to either have the trash on their property or the junk vehicles or they disagree with how we've classified those vehicles,” Halsan said.

“We go by our regulatory standards and if someone thinks we've erred, there is a process they can go through.”

“The majority of cases are resolved within 120 days,” Halsan said. “We're getting closer. Our goal is to be able to track what we're doing and start narrowing down the time period to hit the mark on 90-day resolution.”



Not every KP abatement was voluntary. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

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www.themustardseedproject.org

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Thinking Thursday March 21, 10-11am,
a local medical professional leads a
discussion on healthy aging.

We welcome a new bus driver, Michael
Olson, to take our seniors to the lunches
at KP Community Services in Home and
regular errands in the area. He's a retired
commercial driver with a real passion for
helping and giving back to his community.

Our door to door ride program grows
with new drivers, Sharron Grattan and
Kristin Olson, taking our seniors to their
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In addition to transportation, we offer
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MARCH 2**STEPHANIE SCHNEIDERMAN AND TONY FURTADO**

7-9 p.m. concert at Blend Wine Shop, 8914 Key Pen Hwy, Key Center. Tickets \$20 each, seating limited to 50 people. 253-884-9688; www.blendwineshop.com

MARCH 5**FREE SPAY/NEUTER CATS & DOGS**

Arrive by 6:45 a.m. sharp. Key Peninsula Community Services, 17015 9th St. Ct. SW, Home. Pasado's Spay Station, free for feral/unowned cats regardless of income & low-income pets. For detailed local info, visit tinyurl.com/KeyPenSpay or tinyurl.com/PasadosSpay for income guidelines and more information

MARCH 12**IMPROV NIGHT**

6-8 p.m. Blend Wine Shop, 8914 Key Pen Hwy, Key Center. Bring yourself and your comical friends for a fun night of improvisation with a St. Patty's Day twist. Age 21+ We hope to see you there! keypeninsulatoastmasters@gmail.com

MARCH 16**MUD RUN AND OBSTACLE COURSE**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sound View Camp; 8515 Key Pen Hwy SW, Longbranch. Race a scenic 5K path on nature trails conquering multiple obstacles and getting dirty along the way. Multiple start times throughout the day. Proceeds help families pay for summer camp. 253-884-9202; www.soundviewcamp.com; info@soundviewcamp.com

MARCH 21**THINKING THURSDAY**

10-11 a.m. Healthy at any age - Strategies for healthy aging - geared to 55 years and above. Advice from a local health provider. Free and open to the public. To register: 253-884-9814; The Mustard Seed Project, 9016 154th Avenue Court NW

MARCH 25**RELATIVES RAISING KIDS SUPPORT**

6-7:30 p.m. Grandparents and relatives raising children meets at Evergreen Elementary. Potluck dinner and child care provided. Call Lori at CHSW at 253-884-5433 or 253-391-0144.

OFF THE KEY**MARCH 2****PIER INTO THE NIGHT LIVE DIVE**

6-8 p.m. Stay warm and dry on the dock while Harbor Wild Watch's divers live stream what they encounter below the surface onto a 10ft screen. Staff biologists will narrate and identify the plants and animals. Dress for the weather and bring a chair. \$2 suggested donation. Jerisich Public Dock, 3215 Harborview Dr., Gig Harbor. 253-514-0187, lindsey@harborwildwatch.org, www.harborwildwatch.org

MARCH 9**TASTE OF GIG HARBOR**

5:30-10 p.m. Samples from nine local restaurants, breweries and distillers raises funds for projects on the Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor, and developing nations. Tacoma Narrows Antique Airport hangar; 1108 26th Ave NW, Gig Harbor. Sponsored by Rotary Club of Gig Harbor. Tickets from Rod Ladd at 253-722-4746 or www.silentauctionpro.com/onlineticketpurchase.php?groupId=731

MARCH 9**JAZZ PIANIST SCOTT COSSU CONCERT**

6-10 p.m. Potluck 6 p.m. Concert 7 p.m. Suggested donation \$20. Olalla Community Club, 12970 Olalla Valley Rd. SE, Olalla. Scott is an internationally known, composer, pianist and recording artist. www.olallahouse.org.

MARCH 14**WA STATE IN WARTIME: THE HOME FRONT IN 1942**

6-7:30 p.m. WA supplied crucial resources in millions of tons of food and raw materials, thousands of airplanes and tanks and hundreds of ships. No state was more profoundly affected economically by the introduction and expansion of war industries. Through seldom-seen film clips, radio broadcast excerpts, and rarely viewed photographs, those early days of the war are vividly captured in detail. Harbor History Museum, 4121 Harborview Drive; Gig Harbor. 253-858-6722; www.harborhistorymuseum.org/events

MARCH 21**THIRD THURSDAY**

3-8 p.m. Washington State History Museum; 1911 Pacific Ave; Tacoma. Free admission. Enjoy all of our exhibitions and a free Scholarly Selections lecture too! 253-272-3500; receptionist@wshs.wa.gov; www.washingtonhistory.org/events

THROUGH MAY 26**UNLOCKING MCNEIL'S PAST: THE PRISON, THE PLACE, THE PEOPLE**

History of McNeil Island as a place, and the prison that opened there 143 years ago. Washington State History Museum, Tacoma. Call 1-888-be-there. Schedule and cost: www.washingtonhistory.org/visit/wshm

WEEKLY EVENTS**WEEKDAYS****SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES**

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10-11 a.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Register with Marilyn Perks at 253-884-4440.

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS**PLAY TO LEARN**

10-11:30 a.m. Mondays: Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25. Fridays: Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. Free program for children (ages 6 and under) and adults to play together. Individual play, fun group activities, songs, and a group circle time. Drop-in program, please join us. Michelle 253-530-1097 or harrisonm@psd401.net

TUESDAYS**STORYTIMES**

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

LOVING HEARTS

Join Loving Hearts to knit or crochet for charity. First Tuesday of the month: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; all other Tuesdays 1-3 p.m. WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Ave. NW. Yarn donations are needed and very much appreciated. Virginia at 253-884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com

TOPS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly is an affordable wellness education organization; visitors attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge and without obligation. Weigh-in from 8:35-9:25 a.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. marcgrubb1990@yahoo.com

OASIS YOUTH CENTER

Are you a queer or questioning youth between the ages of 14 and 24 in the Key Peninsula area? We are bringing Oasis Youth Center to you at our satellite program Tuesdays from 3-6 p.m. at the KP Civic Center for games, new friends, activities, learning and snacks. www.oasisyouthcenter.org, oasis@oasisyouthcenter.org, 253-671-2838

KEY SINGERS REHEARSALS

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME**

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

SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior class, 10:15-11:15 a.m. at KP Community Services in Home. New? Sign up in advance. 253-884-4440

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS**KP HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN**

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

WEDNESDAYS**READY SET GO!**

Free Early Learning Program for 3- & 4-year-olds. Limited to 16 children with parent/caregiver. Focus on kindergarten readiness and lots of fun. KP Civic Center VFW room, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Lori Mertens 253-884-5433.

LAKEBAY WRITERS

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

BLEND HOOKERS AND TINKERS

Does your fiber diet include skeins of yarn? Join in 5:30-8 p.m. at Blend Wine Shop, bring projects to work on, questions, show-and-tell or hang out with a fabulous group of Key Penners. All skill levels and fiber interests welcome; however, must be 21+ due to location. hannah8ball@gmail.com, 817-929-3943

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Current group is full. New group will start March 27 at 6:00 p.m. Please call or text for dates. Facilitator: Suzanne Hickel, suehickel@gmail.com, 253-565-1200

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. Key Peninsula Community Services, 17015 9th St. Ct SW, Home, 253-884-4440

THURSDAYS

TOASTMASTERS

Have fun improving your public speaking ability and leadership skills at Wright-Bliss fire station, 12310 Wright Bliss Rd NW, 8-9 a.m. Guests are welcome to come and observe with no obligation to speak. keypeninsulatoastmasters@gmail.com

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

GENTLE YOGA SERIES

An 8-week Gentle Yoga series for older adults. Students will be encouraged to move at their own pace. The focus will be yogic philosophy, range of motion, building strength and balance, breathing techniques, and relaxation. \$80/series or \$12/drop-in. Instructor: Lisa Dunham. Limited space, please register in advance: 253-884-9814. The Mustard Seed Project, 9016 154th Ave. Ct NW in upper Key Center

TRIPLE P PARENTING CLASSES

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

KP YOUTH COUNCIL

2:30-5 p.m. at the Key Center fire station. Keypercouncil@gmail

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Mar. 2, Writers Guild, 10 a.m., Community Council office, Suite D, at the Key Center Corral. 253-884-6455

Mar. 2 & 16, West of the Narrows Depression and Bipolar Support Group -11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m., KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Rd. NW, Kimberly 253-753-4270 or dbsalakebay@gmail.com

Mar. 4 & 18, KP Veterans group, 7 p.m., KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Rd NW. Veterans, military service members and families with children 16 and older are welcome. 253-225-5130

Mar. 5, KP Historical Society Board Mtg., 11 a.m., in the museum at KP Civic Center. Members, guests, others interested in museum and local history are welcome. 253-888-3246

Mar. 5 & 15 Key Peninsula Business Association business meeting Mar. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Blend Wine Shop; Mar. 15 at noon at El Sombrero. www.kpba.org/about; Nancy Carr, kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com or 253-312-1006.

Mar. 6 & 20, KP Lions Club, 6 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

Mar. 7, Survivors of Suicide, 5:30-7 p.m. Boys and Girls Club, Gig Harbor. Bob Anderson at 253-753-3013 or bobtanderson@me.com

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

Mar. 7, Lakebay Fuchsia Society meets at 7 p.m., KP Civic Center. Myvanway Shirley 253-884-2283

Mar. 11, KP Parks Commission, 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

Mar. 12, KP Fire Commission, 5-7 p.m., Key Center fire station. www.keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

Mar. 13, Bayshore Garden Club, 10 a.m., Longbranch fire station. Wendy, 253-332-4883

Mar. 13, Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition, 10 a.m., Gig Harbor Fire District Headquarters, 10222 Bujacich Road NW. www.PEP-C.org, curtscott45@gmail.com, 253-380-7240

Mar. 13, KP Community Council, 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-432-4948

Mar. 14, Ashes support group for Fire District 16, 10:30 a.m., Key Center fire station. 253-884-3771

Mar. 14, Peninsula School District Board, 6 p.m., district office in Purdy. 253-530-1000

Mar. 14, KP Civic Center Assn. board, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. www.kpciviccenter.org, 253-884-3456

Mar. 15, Two Waters Arts Alliance board members welcome artists and art lovers to join its meeting, 1 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center. www.twowaters.org 253-884-1163

Mar. 16, Key Peninsula Caregivers Support Group, 10:30 a.m.-noon at The Mustard Seed Project, 9016 154th NW, Key Center. Please call Debra Jamerson before attending. 360-621-1110

Mar. 17, Bluegrass Gospel Jam Session, 6-8:30 p.m. For all acoustic instruments, ages and skill levels to play, sing or just listen. Bring music stand

and finger food to share, music and beverages are provided. Longbranch Church, 16518 46th St. SW. 253-884-9339

Mar. 18, KP Democrats, 7 p.m., Home fire station, johnpatkelly@aol.com

Mar. 20, Key Peninsula Advisory Commission, 6:30 p.m., KP Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road, reviews applications for proposed developments and makes recommendations to Pierce County. Verify date, venue, agenda, and check for cancellations at www.piercecountywa.gov/5937/Key-Peninsula-Advisory-Commission

Mar. 21, Key Peninsula Emergency Preparation, 7 p.m. Brainstorming/strategic planning on using Key Peninsula Civic Center as a warming/cooling shelter. Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road, 253-686-7904 or gablehousep@aol.com (Put E Prep in the subject line)

Mar. 25, KP Farm Council planning meeting, 6 p.m., KP Community Council office. 9013 Key Peninsula Hwy N Ste D, 253-432-4948 or email keycouncil@gmail.com; visit kpfarmtour.com

Multiple dates, KP Sportsmen's Club board meets first Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.; general meeting/potluck second Thursdays at 6 p.m.; bingo \$1/card and potluck fourth Fridays at 6 p.m.; Ladies Bunco last Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Bring snacks and \$5 to play. Sportsmen's Clubhouse, 5305 Jackson Lake Road NW, 253-884-6764.

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



Angel Guild Thrift Shop

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

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

Bring your mat, blanket or towel
Drop-in \$12.50
Four classes for \$40
Cash or check, please

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

A FUN FAMILY NIGHT
FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL KIDS

Key Peninsula Civic Center

Skate Night

THIS MONTH
March 8 & 22 Skate Night
March 1, 15 & 29
Skate Night + Dodgeball
Skate 6-9 pm Dodgeball 9-10:30 pm

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

Kids \$5 / Parents free

www.facebook.com/KPCC.SkateNight

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

35th Annual Citizen of the Year Award Nominees

SPONSORED CONTENT

The Key Peninsula Lions Club invites all KP neighbors and friends to attend the 35th annual Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year Award celebration Saturday, March 30, 6 p.m., at the KP Civic Center.

For the last 35 years, the KP Lions Club has invited KP residents to nominate anyone who has made an extraordinary contribution to the KP to receive their highest honor. While the award is intended to recognize volunteers, it has also been bestowed upon professionals whose work went above and beyond the requirements of their paid position.

The reliably sold-out event is an evening of food and drink and a chance to mingle with community leaders and elected representatives ranging from local to federal levels. Tickets are available at Purdy Cost Less Pharmacy, Sunnycrest Nursery or from any Lions Club member for a donation of \$25.

The keynote speaker this year is Jud Morris, president of the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation. Morris retired at the end of December after 13 years as Pierce County community director at the Children's Home Society of Washington and Key Peninsula Family Resource Center. He also received the Citizen of the Year Award in 2014.

"This award shows the importance of volunteerism, but that's not all it does," Morris said. "It's a great example of the Key coming together to honor people, and it's about how the KP works and how many good things there are about it.

"The focus has changed I think because it's impossible for anyone to have a very positive, lasting effect on the Key or anywhere unless they work a great deal

longer and harder than their job hours; you have to be invested—embedded—you can't just do your hours and go home," he said.

Lions Club members vote by secret ballot to select the recipient shortly before the award ceremony. Anyone can send in a nomination, which are evaluated by the members before voting for three first, second and third choices. The winner is known only to one or two members until the name is announced at the ceremony.

"It's an important award and an important night because you get to hear about the great things these (nominees) are doing and you get to meet them, maybe for the first time," said Claudia Jones, Lions Club treasurer. "When you're working at one thing, you don't necessarily see what's going on anywhere else, what other good is being done. At Citizen of the Year, you get that and you're reminded how good we (on the KP) are at taking care of our own."

Upon learning of her nomination, one of this year's nominees said, "I guess that I am a team player, and it seems it is easy to play your best game with the team that lets you play. People on the Key invited me to play."

Profiles of the citizens nominated for KP Citizen of the Year 2018.



James Allyn

James has been KP Civic Center caretaker since 2009. Going far beyond the call of his

regular duties, such as updating the septic system, repairing the gym and repainting the exterior, he has helped to secure and administer over \$260,000 in grants to support capital improvements, including a new wheelchair lift between the entryway level and the gym floor to be installed later this year. Nearly a native son, James attended the original Vaughn Elementary and graduated from Peninsula High School.



Robert Anderson

Bob is a dedicated facilitator of the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula Sui-

cide Prevention Awareness Coalition and serves as a director on the KP Community Council. He volunteers for local youth through the Midday Rotary Club of Gig Harbor and volunteered in support of the Peninsula School District bond. Bob also served as lieutenant governor of Iowa from 1983 to 1987—the first Democrat in Iowa history elected alongside a Republican governor. He lives in Gig Harbor and has a cabin near Taylor Bay.



Meghan Conant

Meghan serves as PTA president and classroom volunteer for Evergreen

Elementary School. She is also a KP Cooperative Preschool officer and parent representative to the Peninsula School District. She has taken on many large projects to support both staff and students in the classroom and schoolwide, and ensures that parents are kept informed of school and district events, working tirelessly for the betterment of Evergreen.



Jeff Essayan and Brody

Jeff and 4-year old golden retriever, Brody were the first therapy dog

team chosen to participate in the pilot Tutors with Tails Reading Program at Minter Creek Elementary School. Sponsored by Communities In Schools of Peninsula and the Peninsula School District, this successful team helps kids who need a little extra academic and social-emotional support. Jeff and Brody also serve at St. Anthony Hospital, where they visit sick patients and offer them emotional support.



Richard "Mike" Fay

Mike is a "volunteer extraordinaire" at KP Community

Services where he works in the food bank, at seniors' lunch and in the office. He is also a mentor at Evergreen Elementary through Communities in Schools of Peninsula; a volunteer with the Longbranch Improvement Club, vice president of KP Citizens Against Crime, and once a year becomes Santa Claus for the KP Fire Department.



Robert Fisher

Robert has over 20 years of service to the KP as a fulltime firefighter/

EMT who goes above and beyond his duties to take care of people. He routinely spends off-duty hours returning to calls where there are people in need to offer his assistance, such as making needed repairs in damaged homes or donating food and clothing. He is not only an asset to the KP but the embodiment of KPFD's mission.



Dianna Home

A paralegal specializing in real estate law and a KP resident for

42 years, Dianna worked for the Peninsula School District for 22 years and served on the Site Council for three schools, working on budgets and schedules. She has been an Angel Guild volunteer for 20 plus years, including many as a board member. Dianna is in her fourth year on the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation Foundation Board, raising funds for local park projects.



Penny Gazabat

Director of the Key Peninsula Community Services in Home until her

retirement in December, Penny has been dedicated to addressing hunger, homelessness and better health for Key Pen residents for more than a decade. In addition to her fulltime work running and revamping the community services center, Penny was a driving force behind the Key Free Clinic and the KP Partnership for a Healthy Community food insecurity committee. She has been dauntless in her work enhancing KP services for all.



Karen Jorgenson

Karen is the founder and director of Food Backpacks 4

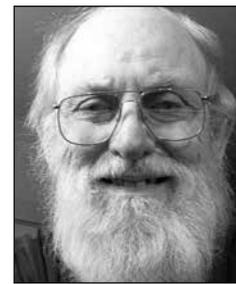
Kids, a nonprofit that has provided backpacks full of food to children in need on the KP and in Gig Harbor for 10 years. The organization has over 60 volunteers and works with individuals, churches and service groups to bring recipes and food to families who may otherwise go without. She retires from her post in May 2019.



Ted Olinger

Ted has been writing about community life in the KP News for a decade

as both a freelancer and volunteer, and also in his award-winning book about the Key Peninsula. A longtime elementary school volunteer, he also served two years as executive editor of the KP News, transforming the format, content and fundraising, and launching a new website and online archive stretching back to 1976. Under his watch, the KP News won three statewide journalism awards for the first time in its 46-year history.



Ed Taylor

Ed has been a stalwart supporter of the KP and its business community for

decades. He has served on the KP Civic Center board and as editor of the KP News in the 1990s; he has served on boards for the KP Fair, the Key Pen Parks and volunteered for the KP Business Association. He lends his advice and expertise to startups and provides housing to displaced residents at his Westwynd Motel in Purdy. His ongoing selfless contributions are legendary



Bob and Barbara Green

The Greens are "get it done" people who have made a

tremendous difference in the short five years they have lived full-time on the KP. Both have been involved in numerous activities, including the Longbranch Improvement Club, the Key Pen Parks Foundation, garden clubs and in starting a seniors' kayak club. They have also served in various capacities at the Longbranch Foundation, raising funds for Evergreen Elementary scholarships.



Lisa Larson

Lisa Larson is a tireless KP volunteer. She has coached girls basketball

and helps with the logistics of the annual KP Farm Tour and the many activities of the KP Community Council. She also participated in the recent 2019 Point In Time homeless count for Pierce County.



RoxAnne Simon

RoxAnne Simon has been an active volunteer with the Key Peninsula

Community Council for the past three years and is currently serving as a youth council adviser. She is often seen at local events in her role as a Safe Streets community mobilization specialist. She is also secretary of the board of the Hope Recovery Center and a participant in KP homelessness counts and community cleanups.



Irene Torres

Irene has been a vital part of community life on the KP for over 20 years.

She helped found and has served on the KP Community Council since 2012 and is its current secretary. She has volunteered for the KP News from 2003 to the present, working as a writer, editor, board member and past president.



Jerry Marsh

A Key Peninsula resident for over 70 years, Jerry has donated his

expertise to the KP Fire Department for more than 30. He drives water tenders to about 90 percent of all house fires on the KP and responds to blocking traffic accidents in his own van customized for the purpose with appropriate safety equipment to free up firefighters and law enforcement. He also uses his Navy training to install radios and maintain electrical systems on the fire rigs. Jerry is the longest serving member volunteer or career member of the KP Fire Department.



Don Swensen

Don has served on the Pierce County Transportation Advisory

Committee, as past president of the KP Community Council, currently chairs its land use advisory committee (KPAC). He and his wife Molly were also honored by the Longbranch Improvement Club for their support of its charitable missions. He and Molly also frequently host political and public information meetings at their wine shop, The Blend in Key Center, when they're not otherwise entertaining the community.



Carolyn Wiley

An award-winning artist and Longbranch fixture for

two decades, Carolyn founded the Fiber Arts Festival in 2007, helped merge it with the KP Farm Tour, and has been helping to organize and finance both ever since. She was a board member for Friends of the Key Center Library, raising money for the library's expansion in 2012, and helped organized events and fundraisers for the Longbranch Improvement Club. She is also a longtime, award-winning writer for the KP News.



Marcia Harris

Marcia is past president and current member of the Peninsula School District board of direc-

tors, founder of the Peninsula Schools Education Foundation, organizer of School Bus Connects free transportation for KP residents, and an active member of the KP Business Association and Gig Harbor Rotary clubs. She also serves on the KP Community Council, the KP Land Use Advisory Committee and on the board of KP Community Services, bringing needed services to south Key residents.

Welcome aboard!

KP SCHOOL BUS CONNECTS



EVERGREEN TUES & THURS AM

- 8:50 Evergreen Elementary School
- 8:59 Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
- 9:00 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @ 193rd Ave
- 9:05 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 9:06 Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
- 9:10 67th Ave Ct NW @ KP Hwy N
- 9:14 Food Market in Key Center
- 9:15 KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr NW
- 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 SW
- 9:55 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @ 193rd Ave
- 10:00 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 10:01 Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
- 10:05 67th Ave Ct NW @ KP Hwy N
- 10:09 Food Market in Key Center
- 10:10 KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr NW
- 10:16 Lake Kathryn Village SR 302 & 92nd Ave NW
- 10:21 Purdy Park & Ride

VAUGHN TUES & THURS AM

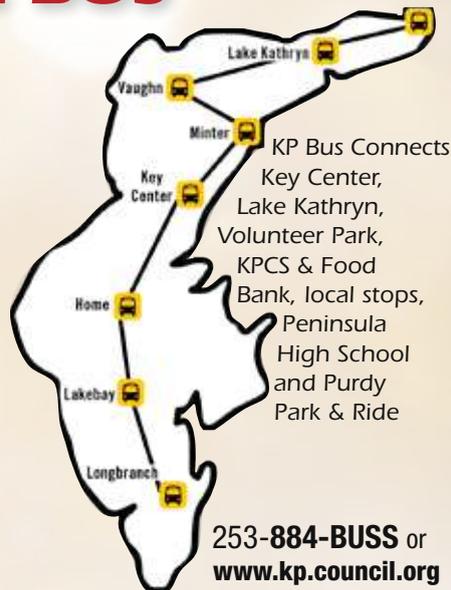
- 8:50 Vaughn Elementary School
- 8:59 Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr NW
- 9:00 Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct NW
- 9:05 Wright Bliss Road @ SR 302/4-Corners
- 9:06 SR 302 @150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 9:10 SR302 @ 140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 9:14 SR 302 @ Charbonneau Construction
- 9:15 SR 302 @ 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 NW
- 9:52 Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct NW
- 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

FREE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL AGES

PLEASE ALLOW ±10 MINUTES YOUTH UNDER 12 ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT NO BIKES
 A partnership with the KP Community Council, Puget Sound Educational Service District and the Peninsula School District.



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

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 NW
- 10:58 Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr NW
- 11:00 Food Market @ Key Center
- 11:06 KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct NW
- 11:09 Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
- 11:12 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 11:18 Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
- 11:19 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @ 193rd Ave
- 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 NW
- 5:03 Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr NW
- 5:06 Food Market in Key Center
- 5:06 KP Hwy N @ 84th St NW/Red Barn
- 5:10 KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct NW
- 5:14 Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
- 5:14 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 5:19 Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
- 5:20 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @ 193rd Ave
- 5:24 KP Hwy N @ 17th St Ct SW
- 5:36 KP Hwy N @ 84th St NW/Red Barn



What are you waiting for?

Call or text to register today!



Winter storms are upon us. With a little help from our members, PenLight can restore your power more quickly. Activating by phone or text takes less than a minute – and it gives us the information we need to respond faster when there's a power outage.

Looking for a new way to report your outage? Introducing outage texting.

Using a new technology called "Outage Texting", you can now report your outage using your cell phone.

Do this now

- Call 253-857-5950 to associate your mobile number with your account.
- To opt-in (after 24 hours), send a text to "857-00". Type "penlight" in the message box, then hit SEND.

During an outage

To notify us of an outage, simply send a text to 857-00, and type "out" in the message box.

This text option will ensure your outage is being reported without tying up the phone lines. If you need assistance call 253-857-5950.

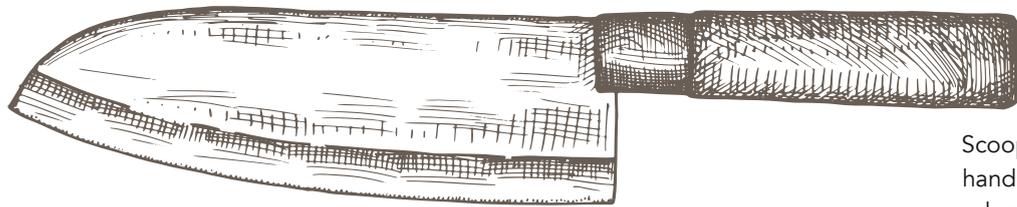


Peninsula Light Co.

a mutual corporation

www.penlight.org

JOHN NICHOLS SHARES HIS FAVORITE RECIPE FOR A FULL-BODIED RUSTIC BREAD WITH A FUNNY NAME



KPCooks

Pumpernickel: What's in a Name

JOHN NICHOLS

Pumpernickel: a wonderfully, distinct-tasting bread with as wonderful a name. I have heard two different stories about the origin of that odd name: one involving Napoleon, another Satan (depending on your ethnic background, perhaps one and the same). Napoleon was leading La Grande Armée through Eastern Europe to punish Russian czar Alexander I for not remaining an ally. Along the route, camp cooks scavenging for food discovered that one of Napoleon's horses, Nickel, loved the dense, dark bread baked by the local peasants. To curry favor with their emperor, they began baking the bread, and it became known among the French troops as "pain pour Nickel" (bread for Nickel).

Historical inaccuracies make that story unlikely, but not so the Devil's connection with the bread. In some German traditions, Satan has the nickname of Nickel. In the same German traditions, the word "pumpf" is slang for breaking wind (if you taught reading to 12-year-old German boys, this would surely be your example of onomatopoeia). So, "Pumpf Nickel" is Satan's farts. "What?" you say. If you can imagine how this bread was probably made by those European peasants—coarsely ground, 100 percent rye flour and soured milk—you can probably also imagine the consequences: gaseous eruptions similar to those from another nether region.

There are two distinct types of pumpernickel: the sour, dense, naturally leavened European version; and a lighter, sweeter American version using commercial yeast and often containing raisins. My sourdough leavened recipe tends toward the former, but with a few American modernizations. It is followed by a quicker variation using commercial yeast.

Pumpernickel complements smoked salmon, winter soups and chowders; my favorite is toasted with raspberry jam.

Day One: The Sponge

Mix in a 2½ to 4-quart bowl:

- 1 cup starter (250 grams)
- ½ cup water (120 grams)
- 1¼ cups dark rye flour (160 grams)
- 2 teaspoons molasses

Cover with a lid or cover tightly with plastic wrap (I often put a rubber band around the rim to hold the wrap tight). Let stand overnight, up to 24 hours.

Day Two: The Real Work

Add the following to the sponge:

- Slightly less than ¾ cup room-temperature coffee (175 grams)
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1¾ cups white flour (270 grams)
- ½ cup whole wheat flour (75 grams)
- ¼ cup dark rye flour (35 grams)

You can use a mixer with a dough hook. I prefer to mix briefly with a metal spoon, scraping the sides, then mix and knead by hand for several minutes to blend everything. If you feel like this is the stickiest mess you've ever handled, then it's perfect. (I could have made my fortune marketing this dough to kindergartens as multi-grain, nutritional glue.)

Cover and allow to rest for 30 minutes until the flours incorporate all of the liquid. Then add:

- About ⅛ cup room temperature water (25 grams)
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 1 tablespoon caraway seed

Again, mix thoroughly to make sure the salt is evenly incorporated, kneading by hand for a couple minutes. Cover tightly as before and allow to rise for 1½ hours.

Before the rise is completed, prepare a proofing basket or banneton, lined with a proofing cloth lightly covered with flour. If you do not have a proofing basket, use a 3- to 4-quart bowl, lined with a clean hand towel (smooth versus rough texture), into which you have rubbed flour.

Scoop the dough out of the bowl into your hands and gently round. Then hold one edge of the rounded dough and let it sag. Catch it with your other hand and fold it over. Rotate the dough a quarter-turn, hold it by the edge and again let it sag. Catch with your other hand and repeat the process four times. This gentle kneading stretches the fibers without breaking the strands or gas bubbles, retaining the leavening effect. Now place the rounded dough into the proofing basket, cover with a cloth and let rise for one hour.

Thirty minutes before baking, heat the oven to 500. I bake in a preheated cast iron Dutch oven, inverted so the low-sided pan is on the bottom and the high-sided pot is on top (the Lodge Combo Cooker set works best). This method retains steam. You can imitate this method with a lidded souffle pot or similar, but it can be difficult to slide your dough into a hot, high-sided pot. Make sure to wear high-heat resistant oven mitts.

If you are not baking in a Dutch oven, simply slide your rounded dough onto a baking sheet and dock with a simple X using a razor blade or very sharp knife. If using a Dutch oven, gently transfer the dough into your bottom pan, dock, then place the lid on the bottom. Turn the oven temperature down to 450, and set your timer for 20 minutes. After 20 minutes, remove the lid if using one, rotate the bread, and reduce the temperature to 425 and bake 25 to 30 minutes depending on how hard you want the crust.

Remove the bread to a cooling rack and wait at least two hours to slice.

Commercial Yeast Version:

This becomes a one-day bread. Put ¾ cup plus 2 tablespoons (200 grams) hot tap water and 2 teaspoons honey into a 4-quart bowl, mix; then add 2½ teaspoons dry yeast. After it begins to foam, at about 15 minutes, add:

- Slightly less than ¾ cup room-temperature coffee (175 grams)
- 2 teaspoons molasses
- 1½ cups dark rye flour (195 grams)
- 1¾ cups white flour (270 grams)
- ½ cup whole wheat flour (75 grams)

Follow the recipe from the first mixing stage in the Day Two portion above, with the exception that the first rise should only be one hour.

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McNeil Island's Past and Present

Our neighboring prison island has a complicated past and uncertain future.

JOSEPH PENTHEROUDAKIS, KP NEWS

McNeil Island has a storied and complicated past, and its largely forgotten history is the subject of a major exhibition at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma that runs until May 26.

Situated in Carr Inlet between Fox and Anderson islands and less than half a mile from the Key Peninsula, McNeil Island is currently home to Washington's Special Commitment Center, a facility operated by the Department of Social and Health Services providing treatment to persons designated as sexually violent predators following the completion of their prison sentences.

The island is best known, however, as the site of a series of prisons from 1875 to 2011. It is the only prison in the U.S. to have served under three jurisdictions: territorial, federal and state. It housed the Washington Territorial Penitentiary from 1875 to 1889; a federal penitentiary from 1889 to 1981; and a state prison from 1981 to 2011.

The federal government bought the land for the territorial penitentiary prison from Jay Emmons Smith, an island settler, in 1870. The 27.27-acre parcel was located in a bay at the southeast end of the island facing Steilacoom, with majestic views of the Sound and Mount Rainier.

First homesteaded in the 1850s, the island was home to a small community of settlers for several decades. It included a school, church, cemetery and post office. Many residents would later work at the prison.

By 1936, however, the federal government had acquired all the privately owned land on the island and the residents had moved out; prison staff in later years lived in government-owned housing. In 1937, the government exhumed the 86 bodies from the island cemetery for reburial elsewhere, since the island was no longer open to the public.

Construction of the territorial penitentiary was completed in 1875. The first three prisoners, two men convicted of selling liquor to Indians and one for robbing a store in Fort Walla Walla, arrived on May 28, 1875 accompanied by a U.S. Marshal.

The prison's design reflected changed views on incarceration, stressing rehabilitation and eventual reintegration into society rather than isolation and retribution. Prisoners lived together in communal cell houses, two to a cell, which they were later allowed to decorate.



Left: United States Penitentiary, McNeil Island, photographic print, cyanotype. Buildings of the U.S. Penitentiary on McNeil Island, WA, circa 1890-91. Looking out over Tacoma Narrows. *Washington State Historical Society, Springer Family Collection, C2014.165.1*. Right: United States Penitentiary, McNeil Island, Photographic print, cyanotype, circa 1890-1891. Interior of a cell block at the U.S. Penitentiary on McNeil Island, WA. *Washington State Historical Society, Springer Family Collection, C2014.165.3*.

Work provided an important pathway to rehabilitation. There was no hard labor at McNeil; reform-minded wardens allowed all work to be voluntary. Prisoners soon discovered that working was preferable to spending the day in their cells and allowed them to participate in the prison's recreational opportunities.

Prisoners worked in the kitchen, vegetable garden, grain fields, dairy and pig farm, slaughterhouse and chicken farm. The Honor Farm, created in 1926, housed 200 trusted inmates and was later used by the state prison for its Work Ethic Program.

Inmates also cleared land as needed and maintained the prison's infrastructure using their existing skills or learning new ones in preparation for their eventual release. There were carpentry, metalsmithing and boat-building shops; a tailor shop; a brickyard; an acetylene-gas plant and later an electrical plant; water works, sewer and sanitation facilities and a hospital; all provided work and training opportunities and made the prison largely self-sufficient.

In addition to work there were educational and recreational opportunities: night school, a library, music, movies, basketball, baseball and more.

The prison's population steadily increased over the years and new cell houses were built to meet the demand. In 1894, McNeil housed 58 inmates; by 1925 that number had grown to 596, and that year the prison could accommodate as many as 1,000 prisoners.

The increase in the rate of incarceration reflected in part general population growth, but was also the result of shifting societal and cultural norms that in turn affected the types of crimes committed and prosecuted.

In the prison's first decades, 30 percent of the inmates served time for selling alcohol to Indians; others had been convicted of sending obscene material by mail or were

smugglers and counterfeiters. Criminals convicted of violent acts were rare; in 1909 Robert Stroud, who gained notoriety in later years as the Birdman of Alcatraz, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and served the first three years of a 12-year sentence at McNeil before he was transferred to Leavenworth.

Convictions for draft evasion and dereliction of duty predominated once the United States entered World War I in 1917. The passage of Prohibition in 1918 saw an increase in tax evasion and gang-related crimes involving the sale of alcohol across state lines.

Suspected illegal immigrants were also detained at McNeil and processed prior to deportation. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and successor legislation in effect until the 1920s resulted in the detention and subsequent deportation of thousands of Chinese immigrants, many of whom went through McNeil.

War- and drug-related offenses and violent acts increased the inmate population in the 1960s; by 1966 McNeil housed 1,340 inmates. Prison gangs changed prisons even further in the 1970s.

In spite of the relatively benevolent environment at the minimum- to medium-security prison, there were countless escape attempts over the years, most of them ending with capture. Many who escaped by swimming across Pitt Passage were helped in later years by Longbranch resident Anna Peyser (known locally as Driftwood Annie), who lived above the beach across from the island. Peyser offered escaped prisoners a hot cup of coffee and warm clothing and sent them on their way, to the frustration of McNeil wardens. Peyser died at 95 in 1984.

McNeil Island had been run in an exemplary manner as a federal prison for over a century, even serving as a model and training ground for the U.S. Penitentiary

at Alcatraz, which opened in 1930. In the late 1970s, however, the federal government decided to close the prison because of an unfavorable Government Accounting Office report, the obsolescence of the prison and the trend towards smaller prisons. The last federal prisoners were moved off the island in March 1981.

But that was not to be the end of McNeil Island's use as a prison. In 1981, Washington State leased the site for a new state prison. The new McNeil Island Corrections Center occupied 66 of the island's 4,413 acres; the remaining land was designated as a wildlife reserve.

In 1984, in an agreement negotiated by Washington's congressional delegation, the U.S. gave the island to the state.

Citing the need for budget cuts, the state closed the prison in 2011. Prisoners were moved and the prison was effectively abandoned.

The Special Commitment Center is the only facility still operating on the island, indefinitely housing and treating 218 convicted sex offenders as of June 2018 in a location separate from the prison grounds. Their indefinite confinement is a result of a 1990 state law mandating sex offenders deemed likely to reoffend be involuntarily committed after serving their prison sentences.

The commitment center has become increasingly expensive to operate since the prison closed as it cares for an aging population and is responsible for all of the island infrastructure. There is increasing interest from state legislators and elsewhere to find a more efficient solution on the mainland.

The rest of the island is now the McNeil Island Wildlife Reserve Unit, managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The public is not allowed on the island.



Left: Tailor Shop, U.S. Penitentiary, McNeil Island, photographic print from glass plate negative, circa 1909, by Asahel Curtis. Two men seated at Singer Sewing Machine Co. treadle sewing machines, making inmate uniforms at the U.S. Penitentiary, McNeil Island, WA. *Washington State Historical Society, C1943.42.15951.*

Below: Conscientious objector Howard Scott created the parts for this violin by hand using wood scraps found during his incarceration at McNeil Island during World War II. He also made by hand the calipers and board with pegs, used to bend and shape violin pieces. Violin and tools courtesy the Howard and Ruane Scott family. *Image courtesy Washington State Historical Society.*



New Exhibit Explores McNeil Island

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

For Key Peninsula residents, especially those living on the southeast side of the Key Peninsula, McNeil Island is ever present. But for many, the story of Washington’s own Alcatraz is long-forgotten or never-known. A collaboration between radio station KNKX and the Washington State Historical Society aims to change that situation.

The exhibit, “Unlocking McNeil’s Past: The Prison, The Place, The People,” opened Jan. 26 at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma and will close May 26. The KNKX six-part weekly podcast “Forgotten Prison” premiered Jan. 22.

Curator Gwen Whiting said the exhibit was over a year and a half in the making.

“The exhibit allows us to span past history to the present. It was exciting to work on a project that covers a topic so relevant to our time, and to explore the intersection of local and national issues,” she said.

Paula Wissel, who co-produced the Forgotten Prison podcast, said, “The podcast is about people and stories, the exhibit is more a biography of place.”

“Just by making McNeil visible, we are helping people think about incarceration,” said Julianna Verboort, Washington State Historical Society communications director. “By talking about the story of the prison and the fact that geographically, it’s right here, we’re making it very present for people.”

Through artifacts, narratives and historical documentation, the exhibit covers the prison’s nearly 140-year history in the larger context of state and national issues such as immigration, prohibition, the war on drugs,

“three strikes you’re out” legislation, and incarceration of those who refused military service—including Japanese-Americans from internment camps.

The history is told from its start as a territorial prison in 1875 through its 80 years as a federal penitentiary to its end as a state prison. The transition space between each section is scaled to the size of an individual’s cell. Artifacts include reflections of a prisoner written in pencil on toilet paper—the only paper he could access at the time, as well as shackles and the wrought iron entry gates designed by noted architect George Gove, who also designed Lincoln High School and Mount Rainier’s Paradise Inn.

KNKX reporters Simone Alicea and Paula Wissel co-produced “Forgotten Prison.” “We spent a year reporting with the museum for the podcast, and the more I learned about McNeil Island, the more I wondered why I hadn’t heard more about this place,” Alicea said. “The remarkable history of this prison really pushes you to think deeply about how and why we lock people up.”

In a companion exhibition, “Reclaimed,” photographs show how nature and climate have overtaken the facilities during the seven years since the prison closed.

The museum is hosting a conversation about life after incarceration at a symposium, Saturday, March 2, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The conversation will provide an opportunity to learn about the challenges and opportunities of re-entry after incarceration and will be moderated by community leader and author Omari Amili, who will also discuss his book, “From Crime to the Classroom: How Education Changes Lives.”



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KP Community leaders Danna Webster, left, and Anne Nesbit. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

KP Residents Receive Star Award

STAFF REPORT

The Key Peninsula was well represented at the Rotary Star award ceremony Feb. 1 at Canterwood Golf and Country Club in Gig Harbor.

Anne Nesbit and Danna Webster were recognized along with Gig Harbor's Guy Toppen. Rotarian Josh Sherwin produced a video for the event featuring the three, highlighting their volunteer work. Sherwin chose a film credit format to list Webster's significant contributions to more than 20 local groups. Nesbit's nomination recognized her work with the Gig Harbor/KP Suicide Prevention Coalition and the Key Free Clinic. Toppen's nomination by Joe Urvina acknowledged his work preserving the Gig Harbor Boat Shop.

Star Awards include a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow for each, for their "service above self."

A dessert auction after the dinner raised an additional \$1,300, with proceeds to the nonprofit organization of the awardees' choice. Nesbit's parents joined her and Bob Anderson, who nominated her. Webster's contingent included KP Council and farm tour directors.

"I am humbled by the recognition," Nesbit said. "I never think of myself as doing anything extraordinary. I am lucky to be part of a wonderful community and work with great people."

Webster said, "Thank you to Ben and Susan Paganelli for my nomination and for the work you do on the Key to put it in a benevolent spotlight. I very much appreciate this Star Awards program because it recognizes the blessings that come along, and we have the opportunity to do a bit of good work."

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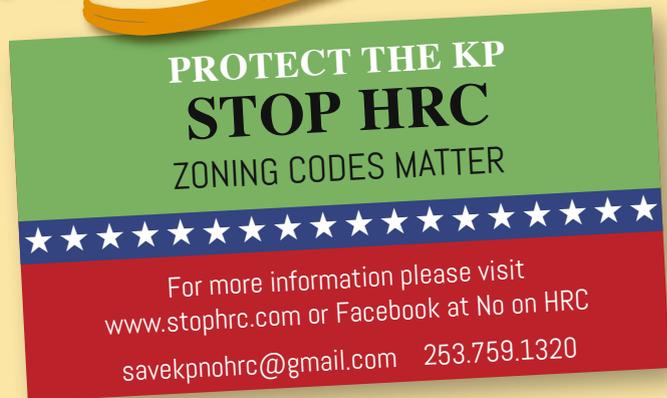
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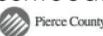
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LEFT Snowed in on Dutcher Cove. *Photo: Jim Bellamy* **TOP RIGHT** The KP was tranquil during the record-breaking 20.2 inch snowfall that began Feb. 3. *Photo: David Zeigler* **ABOVE** A river otter explores the shoreline of Filucy Bay after the big snow. *Photo: Richard Hildahl*



ABOVE The Peninsula High School Seahawks won Fish Basket III, defeating the Gig Harbor Tides for the second time this year 56-51 in the Class 3A West Central/Southwest district playoffs at Puyallup High School Feb. 15. Ranked No. 1 in 3A, the Seahawks lost the bidistrict title the next day to the Bethel Braves 58-47. Despite the loss, the Seahawks are on their way to the state championship played Feb. 27 to March 2. Last season, they took their first trip to state in 29 years. *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News* **ABOVE RIGHT** Linsey Lovrovich, left, blows past Bethel Braves' Sky Lett at their playoff game Feb. 16. Lovrovich scored just 5 in the game but is the No. 4 scorer in the 3A SSL. *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News*