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# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

November 2017 Vol. 44 No. 11



Peninsula High School's reader board on Oct. 8.  
*Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News*

## Grief, Healing after Death of Two PHS Students

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

Peninsula High School is still recovering after the unexpected deaths of two students in October.

Kyle Stillion, 16, and James Oatridge, 17, died in unrelated traffic accidents just days apart. Stillion was struck by a car while walking along Key Peninsula Highway on Oct. 5, and Oatridge was killed in a collision on Sunday, the 8th.

PHS opened its doors on that Sunday night to provide a place for grieving students to go. "The library was filled with grief-stricken students by 6 p.m.," said PHS Principal Dan Goodwin.

In the wake of the two deaths, PHS faculty decided to make Monday, Oct. 9, a voluntary attendance day, with counseling and support available. Goodwin noted that the school district's team of crisis counselors provided aid and was very helpful.

"It was abundantly clear that a routine school day was out of the question and that we needed to stop and tend to the very large number (of) grieving students and staff," Goodwin said. "We had just had the wind completely knocked out of us and we needed to get our breath."

On Oct. 9, about three-quarters of the PHS student body attended at various times.

"It was painful and surreal. Both James and Kyle were supposed to be in my AP

CONTINUED PAGE 4



Plans are under way for an expansion of the Lakebay Marina, raising environmental and other concerns. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

## Proposed Expansion at Lakebay Marina Faces Local Opposition

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Public notices from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently announced Lakebay Marina owner Mark Scott's application to permit an expansion of the dock at his marina on Mayo Cove, with the installation of a 160-foot fingerling float that would end with a 40-by-8-foot floating pump-out station and a sewer line.

In addition, Scott is moving ahead with substantial development plans conditionally approved by Pierce County in October. The proposal is to "to create a campground and RV park with a capacity for up to 300 units with pedestrian access to the marina," according to the application on file. Scott has an option to acquire a 15-acre upland parcel to complete the campground phase of his development plans.

Scott met with a team from Pierce County Department of Planning and Land Use (PALS) on Sept. 11 with biologists as well as representatives from planning, engineering, building, fire and health departments in a meeting designed to provide customer guidance on the current codes; regulations; and permits from federal, state

and county agencies necessary to move the development proposal forward.

"The main focus for this meeting was to discuss requirements for the RV park," said Ty Booth, senior planner for Pierce County. "Mr. Scott was informed he will also need county and state permits for a proposed dock expansion detailed in his recent permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that was not included as it should have been in our predevelopment meeting."

"I strongly encouraged Mr. Scott to hire a consultant to help him through the process," wrote Tom Bloxton, a former Army Corps of Engineers biologist and project manager in an Aug. 30 email addressed to Pierce County Planning, Washington Fish and Wildlife, and Washington Department of Ecology apprising them of the public notice due out shortly.

### Opposition mounts

Neighborhood residents have expressed a number of concerns regarding Scott's plans, including environmental damage from a pump-out station to fish and wildlife, concern for sensitive eelgrass and reduction

CONTINUED PAGE 2



Pumpkins big and small greet Farm Tour visitors to Shiloh Farm. *Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News*

## Local Farmers Struggle for Profit, Toil for Enjoyment

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

The last of the autumn sun warm on your back, the crunch of an apple just off the tree, the contented cluck of chickens—farm life has enticing aesthetics. But for Key Peninsula farmers trying to make a profit, the financial struggles, often invisible to nonfarmers, can be overwhelming.

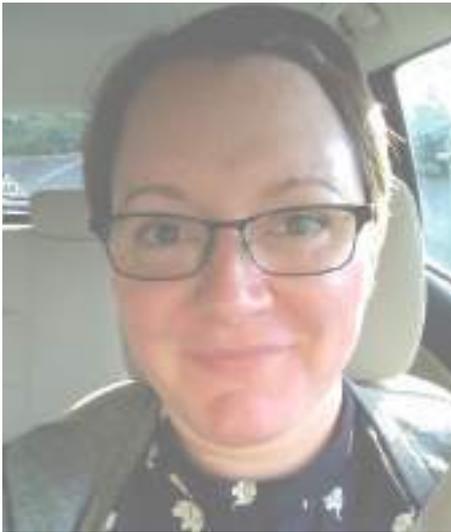
"Nobody makes money. When you see them at the farmers market, someone else in that family is working," said Minter Bay Dairy Goats owner Wendy Webster, who found a niche selling her Nigerian dwarf goats to zoos and preschools.

Pierce County has a long agricultural history dating back to the days of the first white settlers. As Seattle and other cities expanded, outlying areas such as Fife and the greater Puyallup River Valley were plowed and planted to feed those workers, along with the growing population as a whole.

Farms have always been larger and more numerous in the eastern part of the county, where rich alluvial soil helped crops such as hops, flower bulbs, berries and Christmas trees thrive. In contrast, on the Key Peninsula, historical crops included huckleberries — a woodland native — as well as shellfish and timber, which are also harvested without any plowing and planting required. But even the relatively larger farms in eastern Pierce County have always been dwarfed by the sprawling farms of the midwestern United States.

While Pierce County does not keep data

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## Key Pen News Appoints New Editor

STAFF REPORT

Key Peninsula resident Andrea Haffly joins the Key Peninsula News as the new editor. Her official tenure begins Nov. 1.

Haffly, 29, has recent journalism experience within the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor communities through her work at the Peninsula Gateway over the past two years. She has previous editorial experience as editor-in-chief of Tacoma Community College's The Challenge Student News Site, where she helped transition the paper from a print to an online version.

"I am excited to join the team at the Key Peninsula News and continue my work in community journalism," Haffly said. "I have admired the solid reporting demonstrated by the writers and staff of the KP News and I am looking forward to sharing more of our community's stories."

A Key Peninsula resident for over 20 years and a Pacific Northwest native, Haffly has a bachelor's degree in history from Seattle University, where she focused on the modern Middle East. She also has strong customer service background.

Members of Key Peninsula News

Publishing Board, which operates the paper independently under the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association's umbrella, said they were impressed with Haffly's energy and enthusiasm during the interview, and Haffly's ideas to grow and build on the newspaper's foundation.

"I'm confident that she'll bring continuity to the excellence we have come to enjoy and expect from our publication," said Sara Thompson, a KP News volunteer writer, recently appointed to the publishing board was on the selection committee.

The KPCCA board has endorsed Haffly's appointment.

"The KP Civic Center board couldn't be more excited about the hiring of Andrea Haffly as editor of the KP News," said Bruce Macdonald, past president of the KPCCA and a publishing board member who was on the selection committee. "To have Andrea, a longtime Key Peninsula resident, as well as someone with her level of experience and skills as a reporter/editor, is just what we hoped for to take the KP News forward."

### LAKEBAY MARINA FROM PAGE 1

of maneuvering room in the very limited deep-water channel. Neighbors were particularly perplexed that a second pump-out station is even necessary for Mayo Cove, considering the expense and the fact that Penrose State Park operates a pump-out facility at its dock less than 75 yards away from that proposed in the Lakebay Marina permit application.

"The pump-out is available to all boaters. It operates year-round; however, I do shut off the water supply for rinsing during the winter to keep the line from freezing," said Janet Shonk, Penrose Point State Park operations manager.

Some neighbors wrote letters to the Corps of Engineers opposing the dock expansion while others told KP News they held back from voicing disapproval publicly in fear of drawing the ire of the business.



The marina is being considered for the historic register. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

Neighbors also have been concerned about — and reporting to county officials — live-aboard boaters moored at the marina as well as RVs and trailers being used as living spaces without permits.

### Historic Register application

Scott purchased the Lakebay Marina and adjacent upland parcels from the estate of Dewey Hostetler in 2012. By nearly all accounts, Scott's vision for the future of the marina was to preserve the classic look of the past along with the fun he fondly remembers from his childhood. He envisioned restoration of the old building, turning it into a café at the end of the pier to serve as a place where people could buy old-fashioned milkshakes made at the counter while Northwest classics cooked on the grill.

His plan included live music to entertain patrons after the sun went down, along with beer, wine, a little dancing and a lot of fun. He had visions of colorful farmers markets on Saturdays and lazy summer Sunday brunches. He would expand the uplands to create more campsites and hookups for RVs, all part of his dream to promote the resort as the quintessential Puget Sound summer destination for campers and boaters, the last remaining vintage stop along the route of the historic Mosquito Fleet.

"Our staff recognizes the fact the Lakebay Marina has been in existence for decades. We agree it is historic," Booth said. "There is a need for facilities of this sort in the south Puget Sound and with the growing population of the region, there is greater need for recreational facilities."

Mayo Cove resident Phil Johnson said that the wharf was originally built to serve a ferry that operated between Steilacoom, Tacoma and Key Peninsula.

"The original building

actually was built by a chicken-and-egg cooperative and was used to store the outgoing eggs and incoming feed, as well as people's groceries and such," he said. "After the Narrows Bridge was built, the ferries stopped operating. The wharf was sold into private hands and operated as a marina. It really wasn't much of an operation, but it did have a marine fuel dock and they still operate it today."

A nomination to the Pierce County Landmarks and Historical Preservation Commission is currently on track, under the name Washington Co-Operative Egg & Poultry Association Lakebay Station, according to Chad Williams, senior planner at Pierce County Resource Management.

Williams said that the most likely public hearing date for the Lakebay station would be Jan. 16, 2018 unless the commission "can squeeze it in any sooner."

"The Pierce County Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission takes these nominations very seriously because they believe being on the Register of Historic Places is special and a true honor," he said.

Designation of historic landmarks, such as the Longbranch Improvement Club, enables owners to apply for grant funding to assist with preservation. With the special



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designation also comes the responsibility to ensure all the work is completed in strict adherence to historical preservation standards, which often increases the overall cost of the work.

#### What's next

The Lakebay Marina aquatic lease agreement with the Department of Natural Resources will expire in 2021, according to Hannah Blackstock, aquatic lease manager of the Department of Natural Resources' Shoreline District, which includes Mayo Cove.

Blackstock noted that renegotiation of leases frequently includes bringing the facility into compliance with current regulations. "Each aquatic lease is unique to its particular location," she said.

In the meantime, the development application plan was approved by PALS, subject to satisfaction of all applicable and required county, state and federal permits and approvals. This application will expire on Oct. 6, 2018.

The site is located within the Key Peninsula Community Plan, therefore policies set forth within the community plan must be considered during the review of this proposal. Requirements include a zoning code conditional-use permit and all applicable shoreline permits, according to a detailed memorandum written by Booth on the subject.

"These types of uses are generally those types that are allowed and considered appropriate in this area, subject to obtaining all necessary permits. Pierce County is ready and willing to happily provide assistance as we would with any other proposal or applicant. We have demonstrated that over the years by issuing shoreline exemptions to allow repairs to the facility, with the Building Division working to rectify structural issues on the pier, etc.," Booth told the KP News.

He noted that an RV park would require a public meeting before the Key Peninsula Advisory Committee (KPAC), followed by another public hearing before the Pierce County hearing examiner.

"The recommendation of KPAC will be considered by the hearing examiner, who will determine whether this activity will be allowed," Booth said.

The county further suggested to Scott "that existing code violations involving the resort need to be resolved, as it would be difficult for staff to support a proposal before the KPAC and the hearing examiner if there are outstanding issues that we cannot seem to resolve or are ignored," according to Booth's memorandum.

The most recent unresolved county code violations include occupied RVs or travel trailers without required permits, deferred maintenance to the marina without permit

approval, using the upstairs area of the restaurant as a dwelling and unpermitted business signage. A letter from Pierce County Code Enforcement Officer Mark Lupino to Scott requested resolution by obtaining the necessary permits, which would stop the clock on further county enforcement action.

Mark Scott declined to comment at this time.

#### LOCAL FARMERS FROM PAGE 1

on the status of farms on the Key Peninsula specifically, it is clear that farms throughout the county are disappearing. According to PCC Farmland Trust, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting area farms, 70 percent of farmland in Pierce County has been lost since 1950, with nearly a third gone in the past two decades alone. It is no coincidence that the price of farmland in Pierce County has also doubled in the past 10 years.

However, according to Robert Allen, senior economic development specialist for Pierce County, these numbers may be misleading, as throughout history, farms were at the mercy of development.

"Even in the 1930s and 1940s, when the amount of farmland in the county was at its peak, people who worked at industrial jobs in Tacoma and Seattle would buy a tract of land, clear it for farming, then when they were tired of farming, sell it off to developers," Allen said.

Today, maintaining a small farm serves a variety of purposes for farmers, only one of which may be to make money.

"For many people, farming is partly a lifestyle choice, partly a source of income and often partly a way to carry on a family tradition. Farms exist on a continuum between heavy industrial-scale operations and small, niche producers or people who just mow their fields and sell the hay," Allen said.

While the upfront cost of buying or even leasing land in Pierce County is formidable, additional costs also pile up quickly. Large equipment such as rototillers, tractors and combines, as well as the associated insurance, fuel and repair costs and covered storage space can put new farmers into debt from day one. Livestock costs include labor, fencing, veterinary care, feed and bedding. This is all before farmers purchase seed and fertilizer, or set up a watering system.

Interested in getting your farm certified as organic? The certification process will likely cost you an additional \$1,000 at minimum. Then there is the cost of advertising, permits, transportation, fees at the farmers market, as well as the expense of paying an employee at the market to sell vegetables all day.

Local farmer Christine Schlicht, of Chris-

tiPaul Farm on Victor Road, gave up trying to make a living off her land long ago.

"I really didn't run my farm so much for profit but as a tax benefit," Schlicht said.

Schlicht uses local Facebook groups and word of mouth to advertise her beef and produce, and travels to several farmers markets with eggs and handmade jewelry.

After all the financial hurdles have been cleared, there is still the pressure to set prices that match the local grocery stores.

"We bought goats, understanding that there was a market, but people were unwilling to pay a market value for the processed animal," Maureen and Greg Sikora, owners of Gentle Giants Meadows Ranch in Vaughn, wrote in an email to KP News.

As many farmers do, the Sikoras tried a variety of livestock in order to increase profits.

"It became apparent that in order for the farm to be self-sufficient, we had to diversify. We invested in chickens, bought the appropriate permits and became egg producers — well, the chickens did. We covered our costs and made a minimal profit selling off the farm for many years. We tried selling at the farmers market but, the cost of the stall, the permit and the Department of Health requirements made it difficult and not financially viable," the Sikoras wrote.

Paul Fisher of Rusty Wheel Farm in Vaughn had a similar experience. Fisher has raised pigs for the past three years, selling pork at farmers markets and local co-ops.

"We had to build all the infrastructure. It was quite an investment in fencing, water, etc. It cost a lot more than I expected. I wouldn't have been able to do it if I wasn't already collecting a pension. It's not a big money-maker," Fisher said.

Some of local farmers' most-loyal customers often turn out to be other farmers. Sherie McMullen of Maplebrook Farm sells eggs and produce from her farm but purchases locally grown meat for herself. "I want to support local whenever possible. It's expensive but I understand what the farmer has to pay to offer such well cared for and butchered animals," McMullen said.

For other consumers, the inconvenience of traveling to farmers markets or seeking out farms selling directly to customers is too time-consuming to be worthwhile.

"So far, most of my purchases have been eggs. I would like to buy much more. It's hard to know where, when and what," said Leila Luginbill.

Why, with all the expenses, do small-scale Key Peninsula farmers keep on farming?

"It's fun," Fisher said. "Pigs are amusing, very intelligent animals. It's like having a field full of pets."



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During the Oct. 6 game against North Thurston, Peninsula High School's football team pays tribute to Kyle Stillion, killed in a traffic accident the day before. The number 19 on the jersey symbolizes the year he would have graduated. Schoolmate James Oatridge died in a car accident two days later. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

#### GRIEF, HEALING, FROM PAGE 1

(advance placement) statistics class this year," said PHS student Samantha Moore.

Some students left early, some didn't attend at all, and some met up outside of school to help each other process.

"It allowed everyone the choice to grieve in their own way and have the option for getting the support they needed," Goodwin said.

In the following days, support also poured in from the community in the form of cards, letters and videos. Community organizations and local churches had special services, and students from Gig Harbor High School greeted PHS students on Tuesday morning with candles and signs.

"The outpouring of love and caring from students, PHS and district staff, parents and the community was truly heartwarming," Goodwin said.

Both students were well-loved and are greatly missed by their friends and peers. Students recalled James Oatridge's humor and positivity. "He was always really funny and very honest," Moore said. "I just remember this beautiful friend with great hugs and humor."

"Any time I would see him in the halls, he would nod at me or say hey; (he) would just make me feel better about my day," said Gabe Fobes, a senior at PHS.

Friends of Kyle Stillion also remember him fondly. "He was a genuine person," Fobes said.

"(Kyle) wasn't like anyone else I ever knew. He was very different; he was really outgoing. He was always there for people," said Zildjian Fuller. "There was a time my freshman year that I went into a deep

depression, and he really helped me. He always talked to me, and was like, 'Hey man, life's good.' He taught me a lot about self-worth and how you have to stay strong in hard times."

Although this has been a difficult time for Peninsula High School, this experience has brought students together.

"(Monday the 9th) was just one of those days where people just got to know each other, helped each other, had a genuine experience of emotion. I thought it was a beautiful thing," Fobes said.

"After they died, I realized that you have to cherish everyone, no matter the differences. You have to appreciate people, because it doesn't seem realistic, but they could be gone tomorrow," Fuller said.

Goodwin noted that this is a landmark year for the school because class of 2018 is the 70th graduating class from Peninsula High. He said the school will continue to celebrate this milestone by shining the light on its "amazing students, staff and alumni" and that the "genuine compassion for others at PHS," along with the talent and student pride, makes PHS very special.

PHS already had a rough start to the school year with a suspected arson that damaged a building and vandalism that included racial graffiti.

"We have been tested by a lot this first month and a half of school and it will only make us stronger in the end," Goodwin said. "We are not guaranteed another day, and that is not an easy truth to accept, especially at a young age, but we are back on our feet and moving forward with even more purpose than ever."

# Data Shows Diverse Key Peninsula Demographics

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Who are the residents of the Key Peninsula? That depends to some extent on who you talk to. Happy retirees? Struggling families? Those with jobs at home or nearby? Those with work that requires a long commute? Waterfront or welfare?

In these data-driven times, there are some numbers that can help to frame the story. Jonathan White, director of marketing and member services at PenLight until his retirement in October, shared the results of PenLight's customer survey at the Key Peninsula Community Council meeting in September.

PenLight conducts the survey every two years via phone and online with 600 customers. About two-thirds are from Gig Harbor and one-third are from the Key Peninsula, which reflects the numbers of customers served by PenLight. The survey is values weighted — that is, even though the number of people surveyed is relatively small, it is an accurate reflection of the whole population. U.S. Census data was also incorporated into the report.

White has compared survey results over the years, and he sees a transition as the area has changed from a rural fishing and farming community to a bedroom community, evolving into a retirement community, he said.

The Key Peninsula is somewhat wealthier than Pierce County as a whole, is older and has more homeowners. Some of the numbers that reflect the demographics on the Key Peninsula:

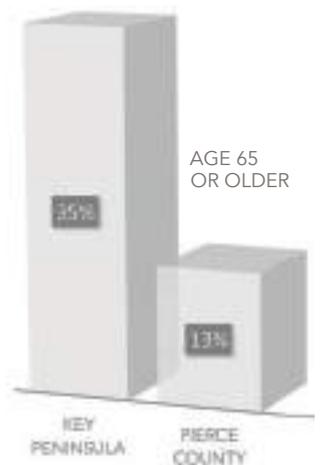
- 37 percent are retired, 44 percent are working full time and fewer than 5 percent are unemployed.
- 35 percent are age 65 or older, compared to 13 percent in Pierce County.
- 84 percent own their homes, compared to 61 percent in Pierce County. Two-thirds of households have just one or two people and 72 percent of households have no children.
- 63 percent of household incomes are over \$50,000. In Pierce County, the median household income is \$60,000 (that is, over half of households make \$60,000 a year) and per capita income is \$28,000.

With housing costs relatively low, families of limited means also come to this area to live. School data shows that many of the local families with children live in poverty. The free and reduced-price lunch program is available to students based on income.

For instance, a family of four with an income of less than \$30,000 qualifies for free lunch, and with an income between \$30,000 and \$42,000, for a reduced-price lunch. All schools on the Key Peninsula have a significant number of students in need. The percentages of those qualifying for the lunch program are 60 percent at Evergreen, 43 percent at Vaughn, 35 percent at Minter Creek and 52 percent at KPMS.

The PenLight survey indicated that only 6 percent of households in the combined Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor area are seasonal, despite the number of small lakes and waterfront properties. This compares to over a quarter of homes in Mason County. But the Key Peninsula may actually be more like Mason County in terms of seasonal homes. A review of data available to realtors, comparing mailing addresses to Key Peninsula property addresses, showed that nearly 30 percent of 1,400 waterfront properties have mailing addresses elsewhere.

The data indicates that the Key Peninsula population is indeed diverse, ranging from retirees to young families, and from waterfront owners who may have primary residences elsewhere to those living in poverty.

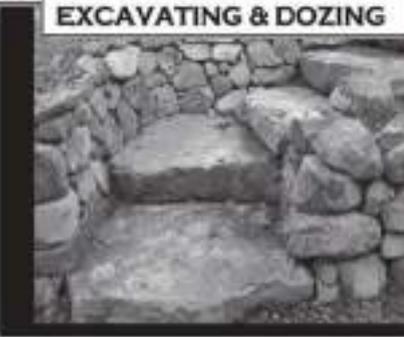




Winners of the annual Farm Tour Scarecrow Contest, in four categories, were: Kathy Lyons/Individual; Blend Wine Shop/Business; Angel Guild/Organization (Viking Warrior shown above); Red Barn/Youth Group. *Photo: Danna Webster, KP News*

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## County, State Take on Opioid Crisis — in Different Ways

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Washington became the latest jurisdiction in October to sue Purdue Pharma, the maker of the drug OxyContin, joining several other states as well as counties and cities that have been filing lawsuits against manufacturers of opioids. The lawsuit seeks civil penalties and damages to claw back the huge profits gained by Purdue Pharma as it aggressively marketed OxyContin despite mounting evidence the drug is highly addictive.

A problem that has been declared a national public-health epidemic, opioid addiction has become a hot issue for government agencies starting at the local level and all the way up to federal.

At press time, Pierce County Council was scheduled to adopt a resolution on Oct. 31 to declare a state of opioid crisis in Pierce County. Among the statistics that the resolution cites is that Pierce County experienced a rate of 10.2 opioid deaths per 100,000 residents, compared to the state average of 9.8.

“I really appreciated the council’s strong statement on the opioid epidemic and how it is devastating our community,” said Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier at the Oct. 3 Pierce County Council meeting.

The meeting, which took place in Gig Harbor, had several Key Peninsula representatives, whom Dammeier acknowledged.

“We have several leaders out there (KP), like Jeremiah Saucier (director of Crossroads Treatment Center in Lakewood who has proposed a treatment facility on the KP) in the back and others, perhaps even greater than in other parts of the county, where nonprofits are stepping up to create solutions,” Dammeier said. “While welcoming support from the county, they are not waiting for the government to solve those problems for them.”

Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson, who filed the lawsuit on behalf of the state, alleges that the trail of opioid addiction in Washington began with an aggressive marketing campaign designed by Purdue Pharma, which assured doctors that OxyContin provided highly effective pain management, even when prescribed to patients suffering long-term chronic pain.

“Purdue Pharma ignored the devastating consequences of its opioids and profited from its massive deception,” Ferguson said.

The blame for the current opioid crisis gripping communities nationwide did not begin with sketchy-looking people in

backlit alleys. The crisis was not cooked up inside derelict houses nor smuggled into the country by well-organized criminals. Instead, the crisis began in the 1990s, when pharmaceutical companies like Purdue marketed their drugs as nonaddictive, and physicians began prescribing them routinely.

Sales consequently skyrocketed — in Washington state, they grew more than 500 percent between 1997 and 2011, according to a press release that announced Ferguson’s lawsuit.

“In 2011, at the peak of overall sales in Washington, more than 112 million daily doses of all prescription opioids were dispensed in the state — enough for a 16-day supply for every woman, man and child in Washington,” the announcement stated.

Among its marketing claims, Purdue distributed videos and pamphlets claiming that opioid addiction occurred in less than 1 percent of patients, the Attorney General’s Office said. The actual addiction rate is as high as 26 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

“There is no good evidence that opioids improve pain or function with long-term use,” according to the Centers for Disease Control in its 2016 guidelines. The CDC says safer options, like acetaminophen or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen, “are effective and carry fewer risks.”

Prescription opioids act in the same way to produce feelings of euphoria — and withdrawal symptoms — as heroin and morphine. The CDC estimates that, in 2014, 2 million Americans had substance-use disorders related to prescription opioid painkillers, compared to 591,000 whose disorders stemmed from heroin use.

“We don’t have enough resources for people coming in addicted,” Saucier said. “When I go to meetings and ask people to stand up if they have been affected in their lives, nearly everyone stands.”

While there are no statistics to show the extent of the problem on the Key Peninsula, there’s some anecdotal evidence.

“On the Key Peninsula, we see a dramatic rise of children being raised by their grandparents, who never imagined their children would be incapable of raising their grandchildren,” said Jud Morris, Children Home Society Key Peninsula Family Resource Center executive director, at the Oct. 3 council meeting. “The opioid epidemic is a problem we have solutions for. As we know, opioids are not a choice but a health hazard.”

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## Frank Slater A VIEW FROM HERE



### Winter Storm Preparation

I grew up on the southwest side of the Olympics. We spent most of the rest of the year preparing for winter. We had wood heat and started cutting our annual wood supply in the spring so we would have enough dry wood and kindling to carry us through the following spring.

Power lines ran through tall timber for much of their length, so we could expect to lose power if there was a storm. Father helped put the pole line for our local REA system in 1935. Prior to that, we used kerosene lamps or Coleman lanterns for light. We still have a supply of those lamps, candles and flashlights in case the power goes out.

Mother had a Monarch range in the kitchen that heated the stove top, oven and water back on the wood-burning side, and electrical cooktop and coils that also heated the oven. She could cook and heat water quite conveniently whether the power was on or not. That and the lights were all that we used the power for until Father dug a well and put in an electric pump in the early '50s.

When we built our current home in the early '90s, we put in a wood stove to back up the electric heat.

One December, we had a winter family gathering and it started to snow midafternoon. After about an hour, it looked serious, so the families headed home. A little after dark, our daughter called from a kind neighbor's home, just west of Minter Creek on 302, to ask if I'd come and get them.

There was compact snow on the roadway, and they'd been waiting for two hours for the road crew to clear the road. They hadn't arrived and no sign that it would be soon.

I got the chains on our Ford Fiesta and headed out. Compact snow covered the road. Cars were in the ditch, crosswise of the road, hanging over the edge of the shoulder, all empty, the occupants having left in search of shelter.

It took until 11:30 p.m. to get three carloads of family home. We slept 21 people here that night.

Another time, a tree fell across our private road and we had to wait for the Peninsula Light crew to deal with the power lines. Our visiting families stayed over. No lights or running water, but we had stored water, lamps and candles. Water heated on the woodstove provided baths in our big kitchen sinks for two little ones.

A bathtub makes a good reservoir. We stuck 5-gallon buckets under the down-

spouts for washing and toilet flushing, as there was plenty of snow melting off the roof.

We do winter storm prep year around, and that habit has helped us many times.

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

## Cathy Warner KEY PEN & INK



### Thanksgiving In a Box

It was November 1993 when my husband and I undertook our first kitchen remodel along with the honor and responsibility of preparing Thanksgiving dinner.

My grandmother, who'd handed off her apron to me, would put every leaf in her dining room table to accommodate 10 of us. She pressed her best tablecloth; set out the fancy china, crystal goblets and a myriad of serving dishes; and arranged elaborate centerpieces.

On the big day, running on two, maybe three hours of sleep, she would dress up, tie on her apron, zip around her kitchen, then launch into the role of gracious hostess as family arrived.

She whisked lump-free gravy from basting broth and cornstarch, and baked pumpkin and apple pies with flaky crusts we raved about year round. Once her turkey wore a vest, collar, cuffs and spats of perfectly crafted dough brushed with food coloring and an egg wash.

She took a photo of that turkey in the kitchen and also on the table. It was her practice to photograph the fully decorated table, with or without guests.

In 1993, my kitchen had temporary plywood countertops and all the overhead cabinets were ripped out. But my oven and stove were still connected.

I found an ad for a ready-made, traditional turkey dinner in the supermarket circular, signed up at the deli counter and picked up my order the day before Thanksgiving.

At home, in the company of my parents, grandparents, husband and children, I opened the large cardboard box to reveal our feast:

- 1 shrink-wrapped, defrosted, uncooked turkey
- 1 foil roasting pan
- 1 box frozen bread dressing
- 1 box frozen mashed potatoes
- 1 tub refrigerated cranberry sauce
- 1 tub refrigerated turkey gravy
- 1 dozen fresh baked dinner rolls
- 1 pumpkin pie with a red ribbon printed on the box

In that moment, the realization that my first Thanksgiving dinner would be served in a kitchen under construction — with all the dishes served directly from foil, boxes and plastic containers onto paper plates and consumed by eight of us crowded around three sides of a plastic-covered table shoved against a wall — sunk my spirits.

I was on the verge of tears when my grandmother — given a reprieve from days of time-consuming preparations — began to laugh, and soon we joined her. We were all together: great-grandparents, grandparents, parents and children, and for that, we were truly thankful. We would celebrate.

In keeping with tradition, my grandmother artfully arranged the components of our dinner atop my dining room table before we unwrapped them. Then she fished her camera from her purse and photographed our Thanksgiving-in-a-box.

Wherever, whenever and however you observe the occasion, inside or outside of boxes and traditions, may you find reason to laugh, love and give thanks.

*Cathy Warner lives in Wauna.*

## Ted Olinger A LAST WORD



### The First Armistice Day

When the United States entered World War I, my grandfather was recalled to duty from his family's farm in southeast Kansas. He had served as a regular soldier almost 10 years earlier and so, at 30, was made a second lieutenant assigned to the 805th Pioneer Infantry of the American Expeditionary Forces.

The 805th's "Regimental History" described shipping out to France: "It was a wonderful night, Aug. 29, 1918, when we departed Camp Funston (Kansas) on our way to take part in shaping the destiny of nations."

The 805th was a segregated supply regiment of black enlisted men and white officers, often assigned to performing manual labor, assisting engineers at the front and recovering the dead from battlefields. They also fought, and saw 39 days of action in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive — the largest military engagement in U.S. history — where 25,000 Americans died and 90,000 were wounded. Some of the enlisted soldiers in the 805th were made knights of the French Légion d'Honneur but were ignored at home.

My grandfather survived shelling, air raids and a gas attack. Again, the "Regimental History" described what it was like in an

understated way: "Nov. 4 found us in a little town called Charpentry that the Germans had wiped off the map. At this place we did fast work, keeping lines of communication open. Long before then, we found out that war was all Old Sherman said it was. We were here Nov. 11, when the armistice was signed. It was a wonderful night."



Grandfather returned to Kansas after the war but couldn't make a go of it and in 1927 joined the growing stream of unemployed men drifting west to find work as an itinerant laborer. After seven years of wandering, he returned to his in-laws' farm, which he managed until 1960.

My own father was 6 years old when he met his father for the first time. By the age of 9, my dad had learned how to work in the fields, in the garden and at school; how to ride and shoot; how to trap and skin rabbits and how to roll his own cornhusk cigarettes. But my dad didn't know anything about his dad's wartime service until they were on a train together one day when a black Pullman porter stopped Grandfather to say, "Hello. Lt. Olinger." Grandmother had burned the Army trunk containing his uniforms, souvenirs and letters.

Then there was the story of the black traveler Grandfather had let stay in the house overnight. Grandfather was never able to get work in town after that. That was the real reason he had to leave his family to earn money and why, on his return, he remained a tenant farmer for most of the rest of his life. Or so the story goes.

I heard these stories as a child on sweltering Kansas summer evenings, told by disembodied voices floating from screened-in porches while my cousins and I chased fireflies. Those voices were not immune to the prejudices of their time, or our own, and it's impossible to pick out truth when it's so closely entwined with emotion and seen only through the dark glass of memory. All of those voices are gone now, most buried under the hard prairie they plowed and planted for so long.

My dad left the farm at 17 when he joined the Army to fight in World War II and later in Korea. When he was dying of lung cancer in 2003, I asked him if he'd had any sense at the time of the difficulties he and his family endured. Dad scowled and shook

his head. "It was a good life," he said.

Nov. 11 was observed as Armistice Day until 1954, when it became Veterans Day in the United States. One honors peace; the other, the soldiers who made peace possible. They mean different things but are perhaps too closely entwined to separate, and perhaps don't need to be, so long as they are remembered.

My grandfather died when I was 4 years old, but I remember him holding my hand as we walked through his garden, looking for Easter eggs.

*Ted Olinger lives in Vaughn.*

**Brook Hurst Stephens**  
LIVING FARAWAY



## Faraway on the Farm Tour Draws Hundreds

For the first time in its 103-year existence, Far-A-Way was a stop on the Key Peninsula Farm Tour. We were one of 13 farms to open our doors to the people of Key Peninsula and beyond — to showcase the craftsmanship, creativity, knowledge, skills and tenacity that have been a part of the KP's rich farming history for over a decade.

It all started when we were considering buying Far-A-Way in the summer of 2016. I'm a licensed broker and found the real estate listing on the MLS (Multiple Listing Service) website. I knew a little about Longbranch from what I had read online after seeing the listing, but my husband and I had never spent any time on the Key Peninsula. Before we purchased this rundown property, I wanted to do a bit more homework on the area.

Where did I go for information? Straight to Google.

I searched "Key Peninsula" and "Longbranch" and was so happy to discover the longest-running farm tour in Pierce County was the Key Peninsula Farm Tour.

In September 2016, when we had only owned Far-A-Way for a month, I decided to host a "post-farm tour" potluck for 30 or so of our friends and new neighbors. I was so intrigued with the farm tour that if I couldn't be on it, I wanted to somehow be a part of it.

Looking back, I must have been crazy! The house was still littered with shabby leftover furniture and dishes, and the rug in the dining room was stained and patched with duct tape.

In the first couple of weeks, I had to literally rake the carpets before vacuuming them, because you can't vacuum up pinecones and trash. I had scrubbed walls and drawers and cleaned out cupboards and

washed a zillion dishes, but it was still pretty sad, inside and outside the house.

During the potluck, I told several people, "Next year, I am going to be on that farm tour," and I was always met with the same blank expression. Then whomever I was talking to would look around at the dying gardens, the rotting wood, the broken windows and peeling paint. The blackberry vines covering acres of the property and sneaking their way into windows and cracks in the walls. The crumbling ceilings and broken gutters creating small ponds along the sidewalks.

Fast forward one year later: I achieved my goal of being on the Key Peninsula Farm Tour, although I didn't submit an application to be a "participating site" until July 24. So 10 short weeks and a lot of hustle later, we opened our gates to hundreds of people.

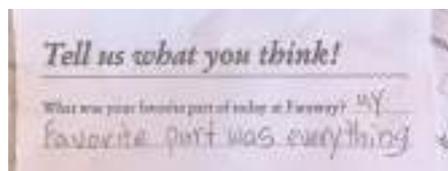
What a day!

Gorgeous weather, happy vendors, smiling musicians. I was pleasantly shocked by how many people showed up for our first stop on the farm tour. So many hugs, so many people running into each other for the first time in years.

We offered unique plants, homemade soap, organic and ethically raised meat, make-and-take crafts for kids and feed samples from our favorite local feed store.

Fresh Food Revolution Co-Op had fresh produce for sale and Gnosh food truck was here too. If you brought apples and a container, Hans from QBerry Farm sent you home with your own fresh cider. If not, he had grapes and gave samples of grape juice.

My next-door neighbor Connie Hildahl was on hand to answer questions and sign copies of her beautiful photo-filled book, "Echoes of Faraway." Her display was like a step back in time, set up with newspaper clippings, photos and memorabilia that kept people interested and asking questions all day long.



*Photo: Rich Hildahl*

We answered other questions about Faraway at our information booth, and there were raffle prizes awarded to a handful of the lucky people who filled out comment cards before leaving.

Tim Kezele, who has worked his "Longbranch Tree & Shrub Care" magic for three different owners over the past 40 years (including us) led tours down the 200-foot-

CONTINUED PAGE 8



# CIVIC CENTER

# CORNER

## Thanks to—

Thanks to **Mark Burris** for the hours spent rebuilding the Annex handrail. Thanks to the ever-helpful, always-capable **Civic Center Board** for their help presenting Blues & Brews. And special thanks to **Rob Haworth** of RNJ Smoked Meats for donating time and delectable pulled pork, smoked garlic potatoes, and mac 'n' cheese for our Blues & Brews dinner. Your generosity helped make this event successful!

10TH ANNUAL

# WINTER WARMUP

# Holiday Crafts Fair

Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9 to 5

*Handmade & One-of-a-Kind  
Local Art and Creations  
Over 60 Artisan Booths*

**Free Family Fun All Day**

11:00 Vaughn Elementary  
Drums and Choir

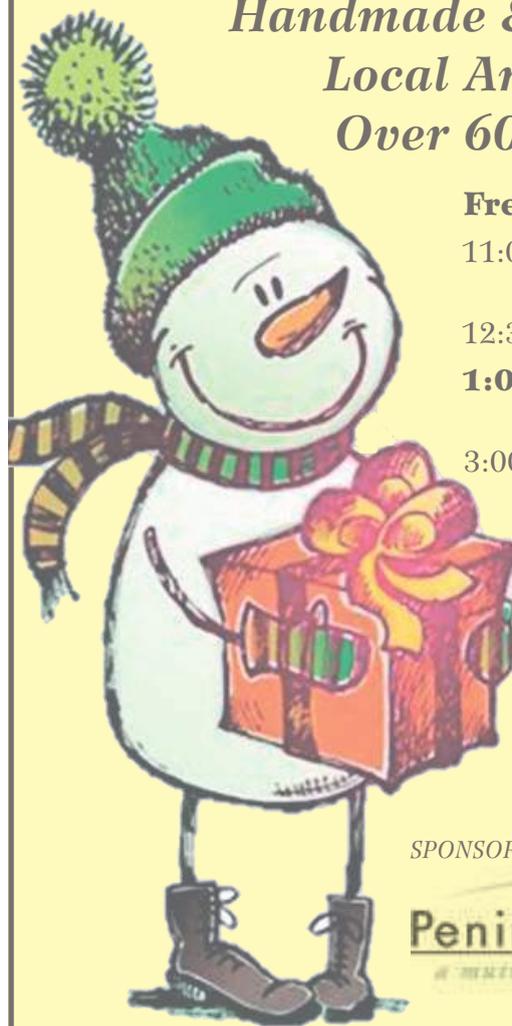
12:30 Bluegrass Minstrels

**1:00 Santa arrives**  
Free pictures with Santa

3:00 KPMS Jazz Band

**Face painting**

**Hot food &  
treats all day**



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

## FARAWAY FROM PAGE 7

long, covered pergola. I don't think he had time for more than a bite of his breakfast burrito.

The crowds showed up at 9:50 and were still walking down the pergola at 4:30, a half hour after the farm tour closed and while vendors were loading up their trucks and leaving. I actually had to ask people to leave so I could finally let my dogs out of the house.

That night, after everyone left, Tweed Meyer and I had a glass of wine and started reading comment cards, and over and over the words from the community filled my heart to bursting. My favorite comment might have been, "My favorite part (about today at Faraway) was everything."

Mission accomplished!

*Brook Hurst Stephens lives in Longbranch. She can be reached at HistoricFaraway@gmail.com and you can follow the property's daily progress at Historic Faraway on Facebook.*

**Bill Trandum**  
WINDS, TIDES & WEATHERS



## The 'Ghosts' of Key Pen Beaches

You stroll across a Key Peninsula beach, the tide is out but is not particularly low. Suddenly your foot plunges nearly 2 feet deep through the sandy surface into a sort of quicksand. Maybe you plunge all the way to your thigh. When you try to pull your foot out, your boot or shoe on that foot comes off and your other foot sinks and it feels like you'll never escape. If you have a walking stick, you push it down, hoping to find a purchase for it, but it sinks a good 4 feet and you never feel it bottom out.

Finally you pull the stick out and lay it crosswise across your path. You bend to it and place both hands on it, shoulder width apart, and struggle like crazy to get either foot free. Eventually, with both shoes or boots buried, you practically lay yourself down on the stick and try to worm your legs back to the surface.

Now, you try to stand up to find that both shoeless feet keep slipping back through the liquified sand. Finally, unless someone with solid footing helps pull you out, you lie on your back and squirm your way to solid gravelly beach.

Maybe you go back later with a square of plywood to stand on and a shovel to try to recover your boots or shoes, which may be as much as 4 feet deep, and every shovel full of sandy slurry you try to dig simply slides back into the quicksand pit.

So what's going on? Is it an evil result of some nearby aquaculture project? An unseen outflow of subterranean water from a creek or lagoon?

Most likely none of the above. Burrowing sand shrimp, also known as ghost shrimp or mud shrimp, seeking to dine on plankton, have populated sandy intertidal zones all over the world. Their tunnel systems are reminiscent of anthills and may extend as deep as 16 feet. They can live as long as 20 years and grow as large as 4 inches long. Except for the "sinky" sand pits they create, they (and their poop) are harmless to humans.

Surface-cultivated oyster beds often sink out of sight, never to be seen again. Oyster farmers have tried and tried to defeat ghost or mud shrimp, even employing insecticides to kill them.

Environmental concerns have stopped that practice, at least here in America. So far no one has come up with a safe way to get rid of them. They are sometimes used by fishermen as bait and are a significant food source for gray whales.

And these critters have been around a long time. Fossilized ghost shrimp and tunnels date back to the Pleistocene epoch. And apparently they favor beaches fed by a supply of fresh water. These little shrimps love west coast U.S. beaches from Alaska to San Diego as well as Australian and New Zealand intertidal zones. So no, the soupy soft beach condition is not caused by some man-made intervention.

*Bill Trandum, a resident of Vaughn, is a retired U.S. Navy captain and a student of all things winds, waves and waters. He has sailed, fished, crabbed and shrimped Pacific coastal waters from Alaska to California.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Farmed Salmon Don't Belong Here

The author has compiled an excellent history of Washington's status, to date, with marine net pens ("Atlantic Salmon, Net Pens and Risks to Native Salmon," October 2017). However, the experience in Scotland and First Nations of British Columbia paint a very different picture.

Pesticides used to treat sea lice on penned salmon poisoned over 45 lochs on the West Coast of Scotland. The Scottish experience is mirrored by what scientist Alexandra Morton is finding in net pens on First Nations territory — pens that were not approved by the First Nations tribes. Deformed salmon, wild herring captured inside the pens, etc.

Almost more startling is a report on the catastrophic destruction of net pen salmon in Scotland. According to The

Sunday Herald, "The Scottish fish farming industry has admitted that it threw away up to 10 million salmon last year — nearly a quarter of its stock — because of diseases, parasites and other problems." See the full article at [www.heraldscotland.com/news](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news).

We do not need this industry in Washington's marine waters.

*Heather McFarlane/Gig Harbor*

### 'We Don't Care Anymore' — But We Should

I am writing to complement Rob Vajko for calling our attention to an important phenomenon — not usual for the KP News editorial page but welcome nonetheless ("Key Thoughts," October 2017).

Now is exactly not the time to take an "I don't care anymore" attitude to the events reported by the true media (that is, the mainstream journalists who source and verify what they are talking about versus the "alternative" hacks who just repeat what the bonehead down the block told them to say).

Vigilance has been the watchword for our democracy since Paul Revere set up those lamps in the North Church belfry. Vigilance was sadly lacking in 1930s Germany as the Nazis usurped and consolidated their totalitarian regime's power to horrific effect. Vigilance means staying awake and alert to the misdeeds and misdirection of an administration with totalitarian leanings.

A word from Hannah Arendt, who escaped internment and documented how Nazism arose and took over Germany, seems appropriate here: "The moment we no longer have a free press, anything can happen. What makes it possible for a totalitarian or any other dictatorship to rule is that people are not informed; how can you have an opinion if you are not informed? If everybody always lies to you, the consequence is not that you believe the lies, but rather that nobody believes anything any longer. A people that no longer can believe anything cannot make up its mind. It is deprived not only of its capacity to act but also of its capacity to think and to judge. And with such a people you can then do what you please."

*Ted Ralston/Vaughn*

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# Gateway Park 'Pioneer' History

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

Gateway Park is formed from several different properties totaling 72 acres.

One of the two original properties, later Parcel B, was owned by Englishman William Alexander, who purchased it and several others in the area in March 1891. He was a farmer in the Minter precinct in 1900 with wife and children Josie, Charles, Effie and Winifred. Alexander sold 120 acres to Albert Woodard in 1909 and moved to Charleston, Kitsap County.

Woodard operated a hog farm. A story is told that Woodard had a contract with the Navy yard in Bremerton: He supplied butchered pigs, and food scraps were daily loaded into a truck. It stopped in Purdy, where the tank was filled with hot water. By the time the truck arrived at Woodard's farm and was unloaded, the food was "cooked" for the pigs to eat.

They grew strawberries that continued to grow and local residents picked them.

Woodard's daughter, Ida Joy, born while they lived on the property in 1910, married Lennart Lonning. She received 10 acres of the property next to Woodard-McLeod Road, now 94th Avenue heading to Horseshoe Lake. Lonning descendants still have homes on the acreage. Roy Woodard, son of Albert, owned the rest of the property by 1939, after his father died.

Israel Ostrom, born in Sweden, a former Seattle plasterer and saloonkeeper, is named on Parcel A in 1915. He, his family and the Hartquists moved from Seattle to this area in 1914. He tried "homesteading," as he and his wife, Johanna, referred to, but didn't like farming. The 1920 census shows he was still farming but lived in a rented home in Glenwood in Kitsap County.

Ole Hartquist was Ostrom's partner in the saloon in Seattle from 1904 until 1914, when the two families moved to this area. Whether Ostrom bought the Pierce County property in partnership with Hartquists or sold it to them, Annie Hartquist was listed on 1924-1965 maps. She developed a farm there. When Ole died in 1921, Annie moved to Port Orchard and married a baker named Lindquist.

Ostrom also purchased two properties in Kitsap County in 1912, the northern one becoming his Horseshoe Lake Resort. By 1917, he had a dance hall, restaurant and bar, plus a two-story home there. He and his wife owned and managed the summer resort with son Leo, assistant property manager in 1920. It was the site for many

local couples meeting before it closed in 1962, after Mrs. Ostrom had a bad fall. The dance hall was taken down a few years later.

Others who owned the properties included Bert Ray Leach from Illinois, a barber in Seattle until 1942. Bert lived in Port Orchard near his parents in 1960 and owned Parcel A after Annie H.

Clarence R. Perkins, a dental technician from Tacoma and wife, Joanna, purchased Parcel B in the 1940s, and Parcel A later. Their son, Tacoma dentist C. Russell Perkins, and wife, Eleanor, came into possession of both parcels after his father died in 1980, and sold them to McWest Lumber Industries in 1985. They had property near Glencove and lived their later years there.

Harry and Connie Johnson bought the land from McWest in 1989 and sold it to Elmer and Betty Anderson in 1995. The Johnsons built the home that is still on the property, now a caretaker home for the parks district. Anderson was a longtime KP parks commissioner involved in the long-term planning. They sold the original parcels, although with different boundaries, to Key Pen Parks in 2012.

Many different owners had these prop-

erties over the years, but only a few lived there. A great-granddaughter of Ostrom, Janet Coryell of Vaughn, said, "One of Grandpa's properties became a park, and now another one has, too!"



Listening to remarks at the opening of Gateway Park. Boy Scouts Troop 220, who presented the flags at the ceremony, are seen in the background. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*



Map source Metsker 1965



A group of local and county officials cut the ribbon for the official opening of Gateway Park on Oct. 2. The park now has a playground, among other amenities. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

November 2017  
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December 2, 2017  
Key Center Fire Station

Seating times:  
\* 8:30 am \* 9:30 am \*  
\* 10:30 am \*

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The Tea Experience

A limited number of children's scholarships are available courtesy of the KP Parks & Rec Foundation.

## GATEWAY PARK GRAND OPENING

# Thank You

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the grand opening a success! Starting with volunteers; Peninsula High School Cheerleaders, Marilyn & Jerry Hartley; State of Washington Recreation Conservation Office, Commissioner Ted Willhite; Washington State Representatives 26th District, Michelle Caldier and Jesse Young; Pierce County Councilman, Derek Young; Key Pen Parks Commissioners: Ed Robison, Mark Michel, Kip Clinton, Shawn Jensen & John Kelly; Jessica Hopkins and Scot Fleshman from Rainier Family Medicine in Gig Harbor; Home Band Association; Troop 220; Key Pen Parks Staff, Key Pen Parks and Recreation Foundation, and many others who have supported us! Thank you to everyone who attended, we hope you had a great time!

**KEY PEN PARKS 2018 BUDGET HEARINGS** Be part of the 2018 budget process at 7:30pm on **November 13** at the Key Pen Parks office in Volunteer Park. Public meetings are required per State of Washington RCW84.52.020.

**CONTRACTOR, CONSULTANT OR VENDOR?** If you are interested in doing business with Key Pen Parks, contact Scott at [scottg@keypenparks.com](mailto:scottg@keypenparks.com).

For the latest news see [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com) or Facebook page



Ruth Bramhall was a pillar of the Key Pen community. As Key Peninsula Fire District 16's Battalion Chief Chuck West said, "She was a strong woman who taught us about perseverance and dedication." *Photo: courtesy of family*

## Key Pen Loses an Icon

RANDY VIERS, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

After an amazing and fulfilling life as a young girl from Montana, a loving and caring wife and aunt, registered nurse and healthcare provider, world traveler and adventurer, teacher and instructor, woman of faith, prolific community volunteer, dear friend to many and a legend on the Key Peninsula, Ruth Sarah Hornung Bramhall died peacefully on Oct. 4, at a Tacoma hospital with loved ones by her side.

Born March 18, 1924 in Victor, Montana, she was raised in Victor by parents Adam and Sarah "Sadie" Whicher Hornung. She had three siblings, Robert, Grace and Edward Hornung.

After graduating from high school, Bramhall moved to California to work as a riveter in an airplane factory as part of the World War II effort. After the conclusion of the war, she returned to Montana where she earned her nursing degree at the School of Nursing in Great Falls.

She then moved to Washington state to pursue her career and secured a nursing position at American Lake Veterans Hospital in Lakewood. While there, she met her future husband, James Bramhall. They dated for three months and were married in Victor, Montana, on May 18, 1947. The couple resided in Tacoma.

Eleven months after Mary Bridge Children's Hospital opened in Tacoma, Bramhall was asked to take over the position of head operating room nurse. This was the beginning of a 29-year career with Mary Bridge. She retired from the hospital in 1984.

Bramhall was an active member of the Association of Operating Room Nurses.

She was a member of the board of directors, secretary and president-elect before serving two terms as president. During her tenure with AORN, Bramhall traveled to Europe, Russia and South Africa.

Before her retirement, Ruth and Jim Bramhall moved from Tacoma to the Key Peninsula. They purchased a farm and built their home in the Minter area. She quickly became active on the Key as a community volunteer.

Bramhall referred to herself as a "doer" and was known as the community's greatest volunteer. Her work with nonprofit organizations can be rivaled by none. She received mounds of awards, certificates of appreciation and plaques for joining, participating and donating to civic groups and causes.

Bramhall admired the work of the Key Peninsula Fire Department and eventually was elected as a fire commissioner and served two terms. She was also a member of the Longbranch Community Church and a member of the bell choir.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jim; parents; brothers and sister. Bramhall is survived by two nieces, Clare Delaney, her stepchildren, Tyler Delaney (Jody), Paige Delaney (Bruce), Trevor Delaney, Perri Delaney (Brian), and their seven children; niece Gayle Weber (Brien), great-niece Morgan Weber, great-nephew Ryal Weber (Tisha), and their two children.

*A celebration of life will take place 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 18, at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S Vaughn Road KPN, Vaughn. Messages and condolences may be left at the Mountain View Funeral Home website at [www.mountainviewtacoma.com](http://www.mountainviewtacoma.com).*

*In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the following organizations: The Mustard Seed Project, 9016 154th Avenue Court KP N, Lakebay, WA 98349; Victor School Foundation, P.O. Box 1047, Victor, MT 59875; Mary Bridge Children's Foundation, PO Box 5296, Tacoma, WA 98415-0296.*

## Food Market at Key Center to Go Solar

The Key Peninsula Food Market in Key Center will soon be powered by a large solar-energy system. A&R Solar will begin installing the 99.96 kW system in November.

The system will sit atop the grocery store's roof and will be completed before the end of the year. The installation will take about a month.

Solar will offset about 50 percent of Food Market's refrigeration costs, said Don Stolz, owner of the Food Market for nearly 15 years. "Power costs will do nothing but go up," he said.

Food Market customers who get their

own solar energy systems with A&R Solar will receive a \$500 Food Market grocery gift card. More information is available at [a-rsolar.com/food-market](http://a-rsolar.com/food-market).

## Preparing for 'When,' not 'If'...

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

On Sept. 30, PEP-C (Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee) hosted the 2017 Preparedness Fair, an emergency preparedness workshop that featured over 40 experts, first-responders, vendors and community service agencies.

The purpose of the annual event is to help community members be ready for inevitable disasters, such as earthquakes.

Pierce County Emergency Management, Safe Streets, Peninsula School District, South Sound 911, American Red Cross, Costco, Puget Sound Energy, Peninsula Light, Cascade Regional Blood Services, FEMA, Communities in Schools and many others provided classes and advice. Courses ranged from emergency prep for beginners, preparing a community, psychological first aid, HAM radio operations, military support plan and evacuation planning, to disaster preparedness for pets and many more.

Training programs ran simultaneously in 12 classrooms at Gig Harbor High School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There were nearly 60 opportunities to learn best practices in emergency preparedness and disaster preparation, self-defense, solar power options, neighborhood preparedness and response and other essential life-saving techniques.

Knowing about food safety, natural gas safety and the power-restoration process will be critical in the event of a disaster or emergency. Loa Andersen, of Gig Harbor area, challenged students to be prepared with at least five different ways of starting a fire. She advised, "Practice, practice, practice."

Andersen asked, "Where will you be, what will you do, and what will you need?" and then, "What can you not do without?"

The topics of cooking without power and electric generator safety were popular. Introduction to disaster first aid and fire extinguisher training were offered several times.

PEP-C general chairman Curt Scott and Don Lee organized the event, planning for which took a year. "It is amazing what they've done today," Olalla resident Anne Davis said as she checked out the resources at the fair.

FEMA's policy is, "Do the most good for the most people." That translates into the reality of a faster disaster response in urban centers and cities than out in the country, where the motto is, "You're on your own."

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"Old information said to prepare for three days. We now realize we need to prepare for two to three weeks while waiting for disaster response," said Dan Burstrom, assistant chief with Gig Harbor Fire District 5.

Preparing for earthquake, windstorm, ice storm, power outages, wildfire and other disasters requires planning in advance — before panic sets in. Doug Nelson, the Fox Island Emergency preparedness coordinator, advised, "Try to build a complete plan only with what you have."

### HOMEWORK TIME

Peggy Gablehouse, representing the Key Peninsula Civic Center Emergency Shelter Committee as well as the PEP-C group at the emergency fair, said, "Your homework assignment is to think of 20 uses for a large plastic garbage bag."

The KP Civic Center hosts monthly meetings on emergency preparedness. The featured November speaker will be a representative of PC-NET with a presentation about the program, which helps establish neighborhood teams for emergency preparedness. The next meeting is at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16, in Whitmore Room at the civic center. For information, contact Peggy Gablehouse at 253-686-7904.

**Santa Claus** is coming to town...

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

Look for the Complete Santa Schedule in the December edition of the Key Peninsula News Here's a sneak peek...

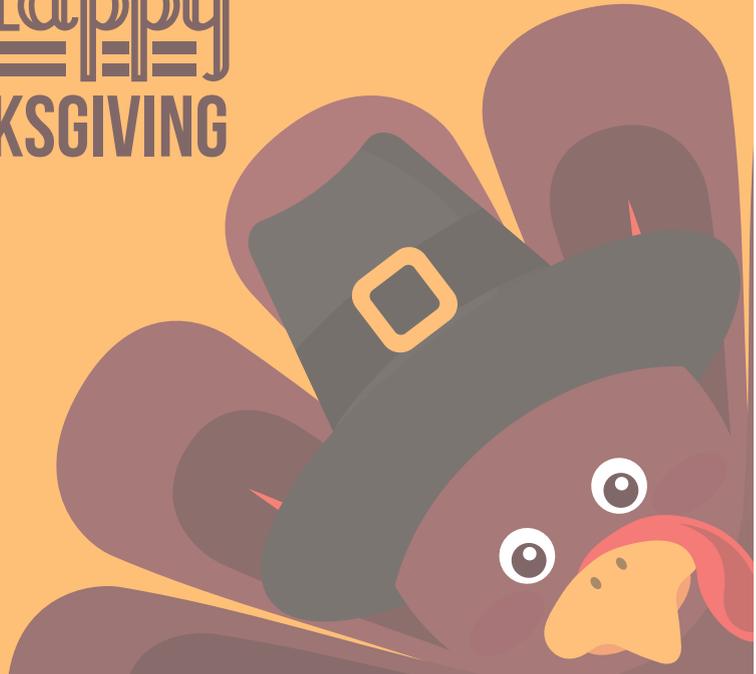
**Sat, December 2**  
 7th Annual Santa Breakfast at Key Center Fire Station 8:30am

**Sun, December 3**  
 Tree Lighting - Key Center KC Corral 4pm (dusk)  
 Christmas Carols, Cookies and Hot Beverage  
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## USING ONLINE CALENDAR

Click on "Submit an Event" and fill out the form at [keypennews.com](http://keypennews.com). Update with new information as needed. Everything posted by the 15th of the month will be printed in the following month's edition. Send questions to [editor@keypennews.com](mailto:editor@keypennews.com), or call 253-884-4699.

NOV. 2

## LAKEBAY FUCHSIA SOCIETY

"How Houseplants Clean the Air" presented by Carol Kight-Heeren at 7 p.m. in the Whitmore Room of the KP Civic Center. Peggy, 253-686-7904

NOV. 3 &amp; 4

## USED BOOK SALE

Friends of the Key Center Library Book Sale is at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the library. 253-548-3309

NOV. 4 &amp; 18

## DEPRESSION &amp; BI-POLAR SUPPORT

The Lakebay Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group meets 11:15 a.m. to noon at KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN. Kimberly, 253-753-4270 or [DBSALakebay@gmail.com](mailto:DBSALakebay@gmail.com)

NOV. 6

## LEARN CODING

Use online tools like Scratch to learn basic coding and create an animated program 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Ages 10 to 18. Register at [www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar). 253-548-3309

NOV. 6 &amp; 20

## VETERANS MEET

The KP Veterans meets 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church; membership is for veterans and military service members and families with children over 16 years old. 253-225-5130 or [keypenveterans@outlook.com](mailto:keypenveterans@outlook.com)

NOV. 7

## HOPE RECOVERY TOWN HALL

Public discussion on the progress of Hope Recovery Center with audience Q & A 6:30 to 8 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church. 253-884-3312

NOV. 11

## WINTER WARM-UP FAIR

Over 60 booths of handmade crafts will fill the KP Civic Center at its 10th annual fair 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Performances

by Vaughn Elementary Drums & Choir, the Bluegrass Minstrels and the KPMS Jazz Band. Santa will arrive around 1 p.m. for free photos taken by KP News staff. Food and treats throughout the day. 253-884-3456

NOV. 13

## STUDENT AID

Learn to navigate the financial aid process and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 253-548-3309

NOV. 14 &amp; 28

## CROCHET OR KNIT

The Loving Hearts group meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations welcomed and appreciated. [Lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com](mailto:Lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com) or Virginia, 253-884-9619

NOV. 15

## TECH CLASS

Learn the basics of cloud storage and how it can help manage and protect personal data 10 to 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Register online at [www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar).

NOV. 16

## BOOK DISCUSSION

"Brave New World" is the subject of the Friends of the Key Center Library book group 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All are welcome. Ask for a copy at the help desk. 253-548-3309

## EMERGENCY PREP

Members of Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams (PC-NET) will discuss how to prepare households and neighborhoods for disaster. Meetings on various emergency prep topics are the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center (except December). Peggy, 253-686-7904 or [gablehouse@aol.com](mailto:gablehouse@aol.com) (Put E Prep in the subject line)

NOV. 18

## EVERGREEN HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Start your holiday shopping at the Second Annual Evergreen Elementary School Winter Holiday Bazaar 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jewelry, wooden crafts, local authors and more. Potential vendors contact [evergreenholidaybazaar@gmail.com](mailto:evergreenholidaybazaar@gmail.com). Spaces are \$30 each. All booth rental fees benefit Evergreen students.

## LIFE OF BIRDS

West Sound Wildlife Shelter presents insights into its work caring for injured, orphaned and sick wildlife at the Key Center Library 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 253-548-3309.

NOV. 19

## BLUEGRASS GOSPEL JAM

The session at Longbranch Community Church 6 to 8:30 p.m. is for all acoustic instruments, ages and skill levels. Everyone is welcome to play, sing or simply listen. Bring music stand and finger food to share; music and beverages are provided. 253-884-9339

NOV. 27

## MAKE PUPPETS

Create a cast of puppets for a puppet show 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Register at [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org). 253-548-3309

## OFF THE KEY

OCT. 31 - NOV. 17

## PENINSULA GUILD HOLIDAY SALE

Peninsula Guild No. 1 Thrift Shop will have its annual holiday sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. All proceeds benefit MultiCare Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. Located in the shopping area behind Kitsap Bank at 3622 Pioneer Plaza, Gig Harbor. [www.gigharborthriftstore.org](http://www.gigharborthriftstore.org)

NOV. 4

## SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Practical steps for those who have experienced a deep loss from either the death of a loved one or a painful divorce. Get real tips, words of strength and encouragement to face and survive the unique stresses of the holiday season. Harbor Covenant Church, 9 to 11 a.m. 253-851-8450

NOV. 5

## LIGHTS OF REMEMBRANCE

A time of reflection, prayer, singing and candle lighting for those who have lost a loved one; 5 to 6 p.m. at Harbor Covenant Church. 253-851-8450

NOV. 6

## DEMOCRATS MEET

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

NOV. 7, 14, 21 &amp; 28

## TOBACCO-FREE SUPPORT

The Freedom from Tobacco Support Group meets 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital. 253-223-7538

NOV. 11

## EVERGREEN STATE IN WWI

Renowned Northwest historian Lorraine McConaghy describes the dramatic pre-WWI period of immigration, industrialization, women's rights and social change at 2 p.m. Also on display will be a one-day-only pop-up exhibition of a new traveling exhibit, Washington's Great War. Washington State History Museum. [www.washingtonhistory.org](http://www.washingtonhistory.org) or 253-272-3500

## OLALLA CLUB CONCERT

Potluck dinner starts at 6 p.m. Concerts at 7 p.m. Community Club is located at 12970 Olalla Valley Road, Olalla. Suggested donation \$20. [olallahouse.org](http://olallahouse.org)

NOV. 16

## LOYAL OPPOSITION PHOTOS

Washington photojournalist George Hickey will deliver a gallery talk about work he recently donated to the Washington State Historical Society, including images from the Seattle WTO protests of the late 1990s, protests about animal rights, gay pride and antiwar demonstrations. Washington State History Museum, 5:30 p.m. Free admission to event. [www.washingtonhistory.org](http://www.washingtonhistory.org) or 253-272-3500

## FATHERHOOD CHALLENGES

What does it mean to be a father in today's world? Dr. Ed Chamberlain will explore connections between fatherhood, sexuality and struggle, including the challenges faced by gay fathers, famous dads and parents who are economically disadvantaged. Washington State History Museum, 6:30 p.m. Free admission to event. [www.washingtonhistory.org](http://www.washingtonhistory.org) or 253-272-3500

## WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS &amp; FRIDAYS

## PLAY TO LEARN

Play to Learn 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Provided by Children's Museum of Tacoma. This is a free drop-in program for preschoolers age 5 and under and their adult caregivers. No session Nov. 24. 253-884-3456

MON, WED, FRI

## SENIOR EXERCISE

The S.A.I.L. senior exercise class meets 10

to 11 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Participants must register with Marilyn Perks at 253-884-4440. No class Nov. 24.

## TUESDAYS

### SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior tai chi meets 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. 253-884-4440

### STORY TIMES

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

### BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible study 11 a.m. every week at Grace Church, 2406 McEwan Road KPN in Home. Bring a Bible and sack lunch. 253-884-4854

### PNW CHILDREN SEW

Children's sewing classes taught near Purdy Spit for ages 6 and up. Each student will have a sewing machine and set of tools during class. \$15 per hour. pnwchildrensew.blogspot.com or 253-255-9842

## TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

### PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME

The Children's Home Society/KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. Caregivers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. No session Nov. 23. Tami, 253-884-5433

## TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

### KP MUSEUM OPEN

The Key Peninsula Historical Society museum features an exhibit titled "Then and Now" focusing on the Vaughn Library Hall and also contains artifacts, pictures and stories from the entire Key Peninsula. Closed for winter after Nov. 21. Located at the KP Civic Center. Free admission. 253-888-3246

## WEDNESDAYS

### READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS

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

## KP YOUTH COUNCIL

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

## LAKEBAY WRITERS

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

## BLEND HOOKERS AND TINKERS

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

## WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

### SENIOR MEALS

Nutritious meals for ages 60+ are served at noon at KP Community Services; \$2 donation is requested. Guests (ages 50-59) of senior attendees are requested to donate \$2.50. Closed Nov. 24. 253-884-4440

## THURSDAYS (EXCEPT NOV. 23)

### TOASTMASTERS

Have fun improving your public speaking ability and leadership skills at the Key Center Library 8 to 9 a.m. 253-858-5761 or 253-548-3511

### QUILTERS MEET

Key Peninsula Quilters meets 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the KC Library. This is an open group for quilting, embroidery, general sewing, knitting and crochet. Come for the whole time or drop in. 253-548-3309

### SENIORS LUNCH

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

## FRIDAYS

### SKATE NIGHT

Skate Night at the KP Civic Center, 7 to 9 p.m. (closed Nov. 24). Admission \$5. 253-884-3456

## SATURDAYS

### WRITERS GUILD

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

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Nov. 1 & 15, KP Lions**, 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

**Nov. 8, Bayshore Garden Club**, 11 a.m., fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 253-332-4883

**Nov. 8, KP Community Council**, 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-432-4948

**Nov. 9, Ashes support group** for Fire District 16, 10:30 a.m., Key Center fire station. 253-884-3771

**Nov. 9, KP Civic Center Assn. board**, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 253-884-3456

**Nov. 10, Peninsula School District board**, 6 p.m.; call for location. 253-530-1000

**Nov. 13, KP Parks**, 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

**Nov. 14 & 28, KP Fire Commissioners**, 5 p.m., Key Center fire station. keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

**Nov. 15, Longbranch Improvement Club**, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting. 253-884-6022

**Nov. 15, KP Advisory Commission**, 6:30 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center. Go to co.pierce.wa.us for agenda or call Toni Fairbanks at 253-798-7156.

**Nov. 16, KP Citizens Against Crime**, 7 p.m., KC fire station. kpcitizensagainstrime@gmail.com

**Nov. 20, KP Democrats**, 7 p.m., Home fire station. johnpatkelly@aol.com

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



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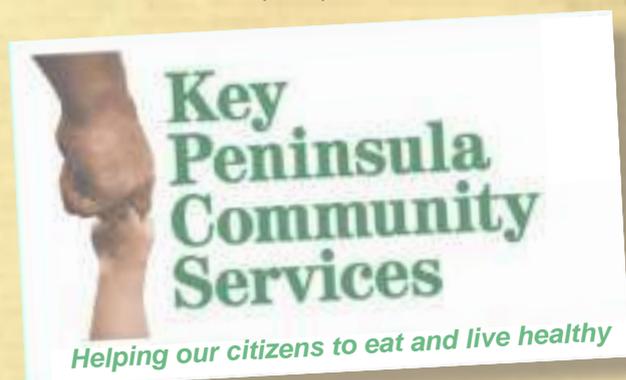
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## Vaughn Couple Weathers Category 5 Hurricane (Twice)

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

Vaughn residents Indyrá and John Miller were 11 days into their three-week vacation when Hurricane Irma made a direct hit to the island of Cuba. The storm, which developed on Aug. 30, eventually moved through the Caribbean, several U.S. states and other Atlantic areas, causing catastrophic damage and resulting in more than a hundred deaths.

“We got to experience the hurricane twice, once at Varadero and again in Havana,” John Miller said.

The pair ended up with an unfinished vacation — but luckily, they’ve experienced the country before. They had visited Cuba in 2016 and stayed in an Airbnb rental when they participated in a salsa dance festival.

“Cuba feels so safe. Tourism is their major source of income,” Indyrá said. “Every block is guarded to protect tourists from ‘enterprising’ street vendors. The government allows a few cigar sellers but restricts other sales. Even the dogs are trained to protect the tourists.”

This summer, they booked a hotel at Varadero. As the hurricane intensified in the Atlantic Ocean, the airport in Varadero closed and outbound airline flights were canceled, so they couldn’t leave.

While they awaited the arrival of the storm, the couple went to Coral Beach to get in some snorkeling.

“Two days before it hit, they wouldn’t take us out. There was too much churning already,” Miller said.

Hotels along the beach evacuated 5,000 tourists from 100 miles away and bused them to Varadero, which has 70 hotels and housed 14,000 tourists from all over the world. The stores sold supplies “mostly for tourists,” Miller said. “The average Cuban can’t afford to buy them,” he said.



John and Indyrá Miller watch clouds mounting on the horizon at Varadero Beach as they wait for Hurricane Irma to arrive in Cuba. **Below:** The Millers’ room was on the second floor behind the fallen trees. They had moved to the second floor the day before in anticipation of the coming surge from the beach. **Bottom:** Varadero Beach after Hurricane Irma’s wrath. *Photos courtesy the Millers*



Sixteen hours before the hurricane, they had a water aerobics show with formal dancing. “The show must go on,” Indyrá said.

“The hotel took such good care of everybody,” she said. “They removed the lounge chairs from the pool, took down the chandeliers from the lobby, boarded and taped up windows and held a meeting with the guests to give instructions. They evacuated the first floor and doubled the occupancy of the guest rooms on the second floor.”

The hotel also provided cold meals and cautioned guests to lock their doors and stay in their rooms. Guests were asked to be in their rooms by 2 p.m. and remain until 8 a.m. the following morning.

“We shared our accommodations with two 30-year-olds from Glasgow, Scotland. With the AC (air conditioning) out, electricity out and no water, it was hot,” Miller said.

Even with the sliding door open 3 feet, the tempera-

tures climbed into the upper '90s.

"We talked. We tried to sleep," Miller said. "The palm trees were bending in the wind, which broke a tree early. There was flooding in lots of ground-floor rooms. They had guards to keep people off the beach."

"(Before the storm), there were military and a police presence and we knew they were going to take care of this situation," Indyrá said. "Cuba is prepared for hurricanes."

After the storm passed over Varadero, the couple tried to get back to the airport.

"We were lucky our bellman knew a private cab driver who would drive us back to Havana with five passengers and all their luggage. There were no government taxis running and 100 buses had been canceled. The streets were too cluttered with debris," Miller said.

The Cuban government is the largest employer on the island and owns the hotels, restaurants, the beef and lobster industry, and most businesses including a portion of the taxicab service. Miller — a registered nurse who has a bachelor's degree and teaches nursing students — explained that because the average salary of professionals like physicians, nurses and educators is \$10 to \$30 a month, many people become creative in how they make a living. Entrepreneurs can earn more by renting rooms (called casa particulares) or running restaurants (paladares) in their homes, or negotiating prices for tourists to ride in their private cars.

"You have to be careful what kind of car you hire. Some lack door handles, some exhaust carbon fumes and some might not make it the 85 mile, 1½-hour drive back to Havana," Miller said. "Some private cabs are passed down from generation to generation. They make replacement car parts from scratch. An American car might have a Russian engine. They make it last. Some private cab drivers earn more in a day than others make in an entire month."

Their airport ride ended up being a '51 Chevy that barely ran and had primer instead of paint. To dodge the jetsam that

the storm created, the driver zigzagged back and forth.

"Driving along the Malecon, we saw huge chunks of concrete from the sea wall that had been blown into the road. The locals were pulling stuff, wet mattresses and debris out of their houses," Indyrá said.

The couple saw police and military, along with hundreds of citizens, clearing debris and trying to save belongings.

"They were doing manual cleanup with machetes and axes," Miller said. Among the debris that washed up on the beach was a deceased giant tortoise more than 3 feet wide.

When they arrived at the airport, there were no flights. "Maybe tomorrow," they were told.

The bed and breakfast the couple had originally booked one block from the beach had flooded so they moved into the Tryp Havana Libre Hotel, the old Hilton that Fidel Castro took over a year after it was built.

"You can't book a hotel from inside Cuba," Miller said. "You have to contact someone outside the country and have them book it for you."

The Havana airport finally reopened at midnight on Wednesday after the storm surge on Saturday. There was no power; then the lights came on, then went off. There was no air conditioning, no security scanning, no X-rays.

"People couldn't leave before the storm; some had to stay a week longer," Miller said.

The couple caught the first scheduled flight, which was on Sept. 14, several days before their originally scheduled return home.

When asked if they were afraid or anxious about the hurricane, Indyrá said, "I was kind of excited. We were prepared."

She said the hotel was structurally sound and they had bottled water and some essentials, as well as headlamps, vacuum-packed tuna, salmon and breakfast bars they brought as gifts.

"I had a fear for other people," she said. "With John's medical training, I knew we could help others."



Above: Candidates for November races in a forum Oct. 10 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, answering questions from the public about their positions. The annual candidates forum was sponsored by the Key Peninsula Business Association, Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, Key Peninsula Community Council and Key Peninsula News. Below, KGHP station manager Spencer Abersold, a.k.a. "The Walrus," broadcasts the forum live. Photos: Ed Johnson, KP News



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# Update on Recent State Lawsuits: Q&A with State Attorney General Bob Ferguson

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson was the featured guest of the Gig Harbor Mid-Day Rotary on Sept. 26. Following the meeting, he met with the KP News one-on-one to answer a few questions related to some of the recent cases his office is pursuing on behalf of Washington residents.

**KP News:** In less than a month, the AG's office filed three separate lawsuits against CHI Franciscan, St Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma and Capitol Medical Center in Olympia. What's happening in the nonprofit healthcare arena from your perspective?

**Ferguson:** I've asked the team to ramp up our work on the healthcare industry in general, which is not an area the AG's office has historically been involved in. With CHI, we thought they engaged in businesses practices that were unlawful during a merger acquisition.

Both St. Joseph Hospital and Capitol Hospital unlawfully put obstacles in the way of tens of thousands of patients seeking access to affordable health care. As attorney general, I'm committed to fighting for access to affordable care for all Washingtonians.

All hospitals must follow state charity care laws; whether nonprofit or for-profit, they must follow the law. We feel the end result in all these cases was harm to consumers who have to navigate the complex world that we know as healthcare. In my view, the facts of those last two lawsuits, in particular, were really egregious.

**Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)**

Washington joined 14 other states and the District of Columbia to sue the Trump administration's move to rescind the Obama-era DACA program that protected from deportation undocumented immigrants who arrived as children under age 16 before 2007. Some 19,000 DACA recipients living in Washington state are under the threat of deportation.

**KP News:** What's happening on DACA now?

**Ferguson:** We are appealing Donald Trump's rescission of DACA. We filed our lawsuit in the Eastern District in New York. Washington is the lead in that case, along with Massachusetts and New York. We had to figure out the best place to file.

There is a hearing today (Sept. 28), but

the judge won't decide the DACA case today — it's more like the judge determining what the schedule is going to be and how much information will we be able to get from the federal government in terms of depositions and information. It's an important hearing that was going to be argued and we hope for some clarity soon on when we are likely to have a hearing on that.

**The Opioid Crisis**

The interview took place a few days before he announced the lawsuit against Purdue Pharmaceuticals, which was the announcement Ferguson alluded to below. (See related story on page 5.)

**KP News:** Your office held a two-day conference on the opioid crisis last spring. What did you learn from that and what can we look for next?

**Ferguson:** I have to tell you to stay tuned on that. There will be an announcement very soon this week.

When we held that conference last June, every seat was sold out. They were holding the event at a lecture hall on the University of Washington campus. When they told me, I said, wait a minute, do you realize how big that is? That holds like over 500 people.

They filled all those seats. People came from all across the state. Now, we're building off that. I will have proposals for the state Legislature to adopt policy changes, to help address the epidemic that we're seeing, but I'm not at liberty to preview those for you quite yet.

**The 'Culvert Case'**

The Attorney General's Office recently asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review a decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in the so-called "culverts case," officially known as United States of America et al v. State of Washington. The case, which began in 2001 when 21 tribes and the federal government sued the state, involves the interpretation of the meaning of 1850s treaties between the federal government and western Washington Indian Tribes. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals interpretation of the phrasing of "the right of taking fish...sufficient to... provide a moderate living to the tribes" contradicts previous interpretations by the U.S. Supreme Court on the 1850s era treaty.

**KP News:** Can you tell us a little bit about the so-called "culvert case"?

**Ferguson:** The tribes sued the state



Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson speaks at the Gig Harbor Mid-Day Rotary.

*Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

of Washington in order to shorten the timeline and ultimately require the state to have culvert replacements in place by 2030. We lost in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals so we are seeking an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has to decide whether they will take the case or not. We've told them they really need to take up this case.

Once the tribes sued, my office got the job of defending the state, so now I'm going to defend it. For us on the legal side, the case is more than just about culverts. The 9th Circuit opinion was very, very broad and would apply in many circumstances. There are huge implications for the state, financial and otherwise.

We also think the federal government should be paying for some of this too because they were the ones that told us the designs to use for the culverts. When those culverts didn't work, the federal government is actually now suing us, which we find somewhat ironic.

**KP News:** In your petition, are you arguing that the state shouldn't do culvert replacement or are you petitioning the court for a more refined matrix to logically prioritize some culvert replacement projects and perhaps not replace others at all?

**Ferguson:** Well, you're right, that's one potential outcome. Every culvert is different. Will that particular culvert replacement make a difference for salmon downstream? If the answer is yes, then yes, it should be replaced. In other situations, if something is not going to make any difference for salmon, then that makes no sense to us as well.

We think the 9th Circuit's court decision was too broad but it is important to point out that the state can and should fund culvert replacements that need to be replaced; we are not suggesting they shouldn't be replaced — that's not at all what we are arguing.

I find it ironic that certain elected officials have said to me, "Bob, you shouldn't have appealed that decision." But they're the ones in charge of setting a budget that would fund these things and it's been an issue for a very long time. However, I'm not in control of the budget. I'm in charge of the legal side.

Nothing prevents the state from moving forward much more significantly to debate for these replacements. They need to be done.

To read Attorney General Bob Ferguson's remarks from the Rotary meeting (not related to the lawsuits), read the online version of this article at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com).

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dedicated volunteers, generous donors & funders, responsive service providers & partners. *Together* we are building an elder-friendly Key Peninsula, serving hundreds of senior individuals each year, and helping them to age in place in this community we all cherish.

**We wish you *all* a Happy Thanksgiving!!**

## Pierce County Library Recognized as Innovative Community Leader

The Pierce County Library System has been recognized with an Innovative Initiatives Award from the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) as an innovative leader in building communities. ULC is the premier membership association of the leading public library systems in North America.

The Pierce County Library System (PCLS) received an honorable mention at UCL's annual forum Oct. 11 in St. Paul, Minnesota, for being a top-performing 21st century library, a community leader and pioneer for positive change.

"It is an incredible honor to be recognized by a national organization and to be in the company of some of the best libraries throughout the nation," Georgia Lomax, the executive director of Pierce County Library System, said in a release. "We are proud of the progressive and innovative work we are doing, and getting recognized as standing out among libraries across the country is a fabulous acknowledgement of our team."

Pierce County Library was selected by a panel of expert judges from a pool of over 250 submissions.

The recognized innovation of the library system was the result of requiring skills in the organization's leaders with the focus on achieving results and facilitating change and innovation. These skills included building trustworthy relationships and effective communication.

These expectations for the Pierce County Library's leadership led to the establishment of the PCLS' leadership academy, with the end result of improved service to the communities served by PCLS.

With constrained funding around the nation, libraries are working to leverage the investment by the public through finding innovative approaches to strengthen the communities they serve.

"Now, more than ever, libraries must act as leaders in their community to provide resources that many have taken for granted," Susan Benton, ULC president and CEO, said in a statement. "During times of economic and social difficulties, these libraries have stepped up to the challenge of inspiring change while helping their communities thrive."

Visit [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org) for more information on Pierce County Library System.

## Health Department Urges Flu Vaccines for Upcoming Flu Season

The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department has reported that this year's flu season is expected to be similar to last year's season, the deadliest flu season of the last three seasons combined.

In the 2016-2017 season, 49 flu-related Pierce County deaths were reported, up from 15 in 2015-2016. In 2014-2015, there were 25 flu-related deaths in Pierce County.

"Everyone should get a flu shot, but it's especially important for the elderly, pregnant women and those with other health conditions," Nigel Turner, director of Communicable Disease Control at Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, said. "It's good community stewardship. People who get vaccinated also help to protect those around them."

Though the vaccine is not 100 percent effective, the health department says a flu shot is an important step to help avoid the flu or reduce the severity of symptoms if you become infected. Vaccinating against the flu also helps prevent the spread of illness within a community.

Flu season typically runs from October to April. Symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat and body aches.

Though flu season has begun, it's not too late to get vaccinated. Healthcare providers and many local pharmacies offer vaccines, and many insurance plans pay for it. Locally, both Cost Less Pharmacy and Key Medical Center offer the vaccine to the general public.

"When more people take the simple proactive step of getting a flu shot, it can keep them out of urgent care and the emergency room and at work or at school," Turner said.

The flu spreads through droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets carry the flu virus and can infect a person directly or through contact with contaminated surfaces or objects.

Ways to prevent contracting or spreading the flu include washing hands often with soap or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, covering coughs and sneezes and staying home if sick.

The health department recommends the flu vaccine for people 6 months of age and older. Flu vaccines can take up to two weeks to take effect. Side effects of the flu vaccine are mild and short-lived and can include soreness, redness, tenderness or swelling at the injection spot. The flu vaccine cannot cause the flu.

To learn more about side effects, complications, medical conditions that create a higher risk from the vaccine, vaccine providers and other facts, go to [www.tpchd.org/flu](http://www.tpchd.org/flu).

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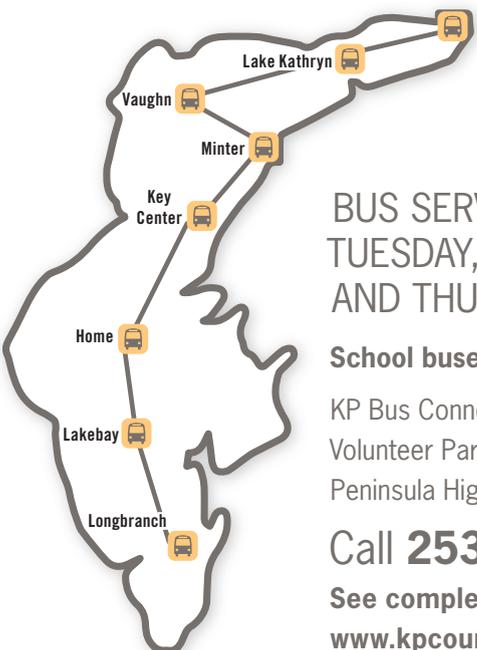
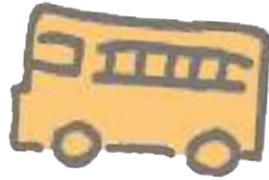



**CROSS-COUNTRY COMES TO MIDDLE SCHOOL** Peninsula School District offered a cross-country program this year for the first time at the middle school level. The Key Peninsula Middle School families only had about four days to get their paperwork in but despite the rush, 38 students participated. Participation was strongest among sixth-graders. The team practiced twice a week at Volunteer Park for six weeks and had four districtwide meets at Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor. Coach Paula Grandy said that at the final track meet, on Oct. 11, 26 of the runners had personal records and finished strong with their best time. Top KPMS runners (all finished in top 15 in district): 8th grade — boys: Austin Hansen (team, captain, MPV and 3rd best time all ages at district); girls: Annika Brown; 7th grade — boys: Colin Rinnels; girls: Eliza Brown; 6th grade— boys: Caden Wade; girls: Anne Shipp **Above:** Runners from all four Peninsula School District middle schools at the start line during the final district meet for the season. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

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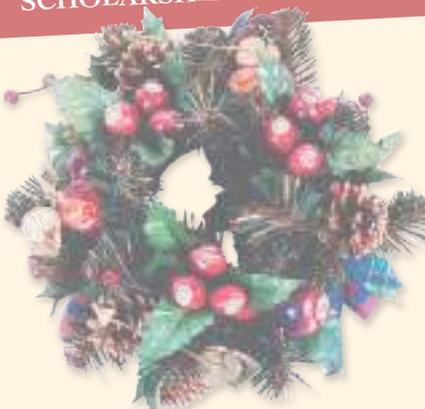
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A partnership with the KP Community Council, Puget Sound Educational School District and the Peninsula School District. See complete 2017 school year schedule at [kp.council.org](http://kp.council.org)

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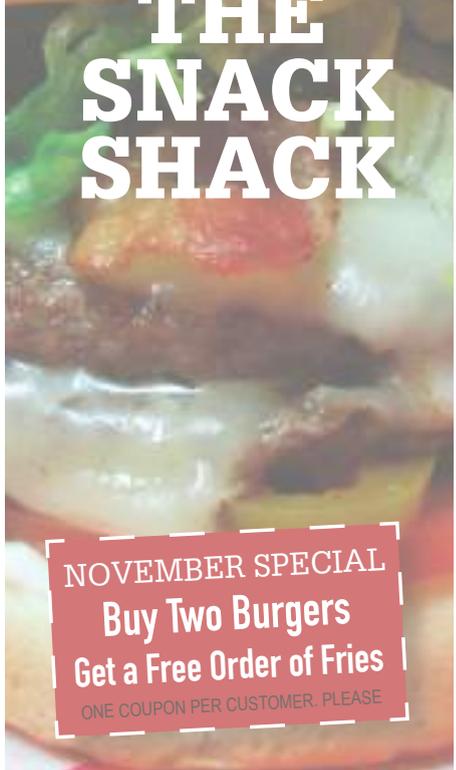
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## Annual Meeting and Election of Officers November 9

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association announces its annual election of officers and board November 9, 2017. The public, as always, is invited to attend. These individuals have already been nominated—

**OFFICERS NOMINATED: ANNUAL TERM**

- President.....Tim Kezele
- 1st Vice President .... Phil Bauer
- 2nd Vice President .. Pat Medveckus
- Secretary..... Kris Barton
- Treasurer ..... Bruce Macdonald
- Past President..... Mark Roberts
- At Large..... Keith Axelsen
- At Large..... Tracy Geiss
- Human Resources .. Peggy Gablehouse

**GENERAL BOARD MEMBERS:**

- NOMINATED FOR RE-ELECTION  
2-YEAR TERM**
- Keith Axelsen, Phil Bauer, Peggy Gablehouse, Claudia Jones, Dale Loy, Claudia Loy, Patricia Medveckus, Jud Morris, John Nichols, Ted Ralston

**EXISTING BOARD MEMBERS:**

- ONE TERM LEFT**
- Kris Barton, Scott Dervaes, Norm Gannon, Tracy Geiss, Erik Geiss, Sharon Kaffer, Tim Kezele, Bruce Macdonald, Kirsten Roberts, Mark Roberts, Rick Sorrels, Ed Taylor



Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road 253/884-3456 www.kpccivcenter.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.

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## KPMS Students Exceed State Scores

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Key Peninsula Middle School seventh graders were the top scorers in Peninsula School District on the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) test in math last year. At KPMS, 62 percent of seventh graders met the standard, while the district average was 58 percent.

“This exceeded our expectations,” said KPMS Principal Jeri Goebel, who is thrilled with how her students are doing academically.

KPMS students often have more hurdles to clear than the other middle schools in the district —52 percent of the nearly 400 students qualify for free and reduced lunch, which is more than double the poverty rate of the other middle schools in the district.

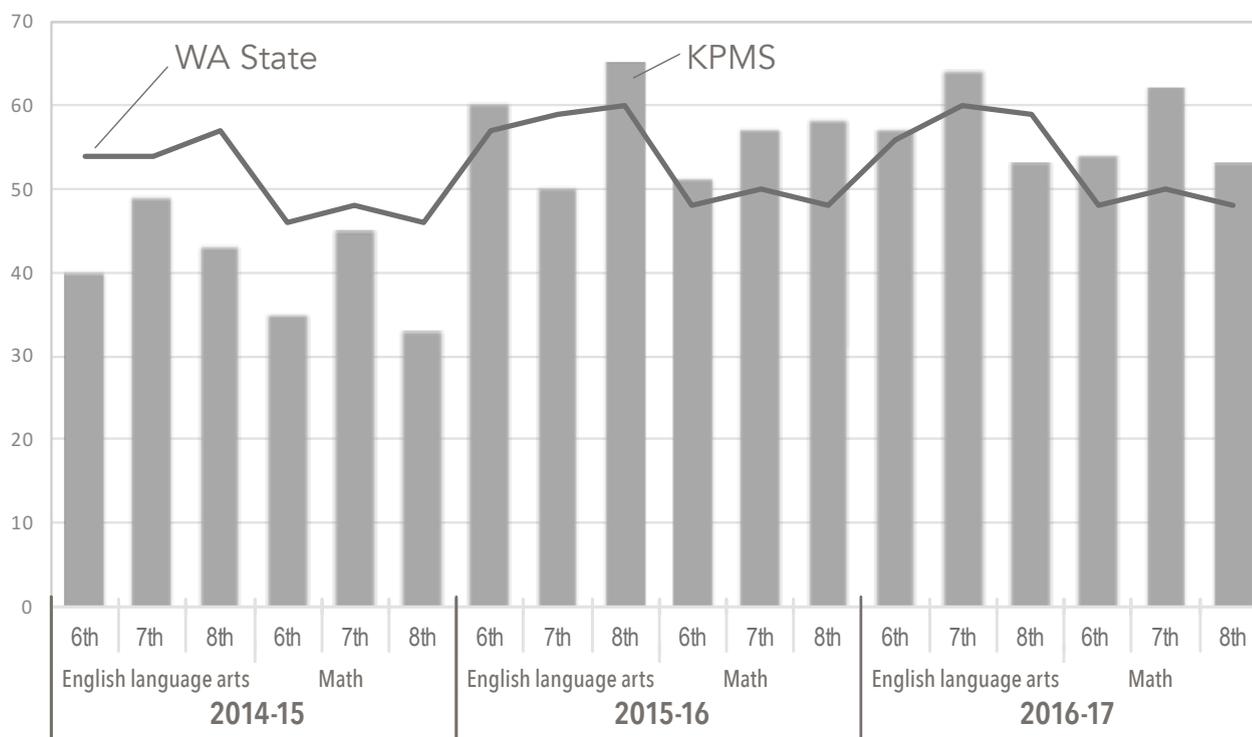
Despite those hurdles, the school has shown steady academic improvement each year. It went from underperforming when compared to middle schools across the state to consistently doing better across all grades in both the language arts and math assessments.

The SBA was used for the first time in 2015, and Goebel notes that in addition to grade-specific scores improving overall each year, individual students have improved as they moved to the next year.

“We are always making them better, and not every school can say that,” she said.

Goebel has been the principal at KPMS for nine years. She credits students’ success to many factors.

First, the school environment has focused on positivity for 10 years, participating in the Positive Behavior



Interventions and Supports program. It uses a proactive approach to establish the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success.

“If our students are in a good place emotionally, they are better able to learn and the staff is in a better environment to teach,” Goebel said.

In addition, for the last three years, the staff has been working with the Tacoma Development Group to use its curriculum strategies, especially in math. The strategies focus on critical thinking, not just memory testing,

Goebel explained.

Another important factor is the collaboration time the staff has each Wednesday. School starts an hour later than usual and teachers sit down together and look at data, drilling down to discover at a basic level what concepts the students are struggling to master. And then they can look at instructional strategies to teach those concepts.

Goebel credits her “amazing teaching staff” with being ready to build on the school’s success.

“I’d pit my staff against that of any school in the state,” she said.

## Goin’ Postal More Than a Shipping and Mailing Service

DON TJOSEM, KP NEWS

Chuck Ellis purchased the Goin’ Postal business in Key Center shortly after he moved to the Key Peninsula in 2009 from Bloomington, Minnesota, to join his family. Since that time, he has been serving Key Peninsula residents with shipping and related services at times when the U.S. Postal Service was not available. He’s also become known for his generosity as a supporter of many local organizations.

Ellis’ background includes e-commerce, customer service and programming for an email systems company, and computer graphics for a comic book store. Those nine years of customer service work positioned him well for his new business on the Key Peninsula. So did the master of business administration degree in marketing from Capella University that Ellis obtained shortly after buying the business.



Chuck Ellis has been a community supporter ever since he moved to the Key Peninsula and became owner of Goin’ Postal. *Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News*

He also has a bachelor’s degree in interior design from North Dakota State University. When asked how he ended up doing computer graphics, he said, “That is the position that came up, and I took it.”

Goin’ Postal is a chain of retail shipping and receiving stores that has hundreds of locations across the United States. It works seamlessly with FedEx, DHL Global Forwarding and United Parcel Service. The

Key Center location is a member of the USPS Approved Shipper Program and is inspected by the Lakebay post office occasionally to maintain this approved status.

“I don’t think of myself as a competitor to the U.S. Postal Service. I extend additional services and hours,” Ellis said.

Locally, the business is a one-person operation, with no additional employees. This means customers have a continuity of service. In addition to shipping, services that Ellis provides include packaging, photocopying, laminating, passport photos, notary, email, fax and digital photoprints. He also offers selling services on internet sites such as eBay and Craig’s List.

Ellis has been active in the community through the Key Peninsula Business Association and has often offered his services at near cost or a pro bono basis, when the situation warrants it. However, he’s a private person and prefers to stay behind the scenes, so he doesn’t like to talk about his contributions.

He has extensive roots in the community. His sister, Laurie, is a past president of the Key Peninsula Business Association and

co-owner of Ellis Accounting with their mother, Genevieve. His retired father, Larry, and his mother are longtime residents of the Key Peninsula.

## Longtime Writers Workshop Ends

The Watermark Writers group, which has been meeting for many years at the home of founder Jerry Libstaff, has been discontinued. In an email to thank the writers in the group, Libstaff wrote that despite having a solid base of writers in the group, it has become more and more difficult to attract new writers to replace those who move on. “I’m proud to say, the effort has been instrumental in bringing about and publishing more than 15 books and members of group have been a huge encouragement... We have been active for nearly a dozen years in three locations and served more than 40 writers. In that time I have come to know the fantastic talents of so many of you.”

Libstaff will continue other endeavors that are part of the Watermark Writers umbrella.



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## Former ‘Makin’ Bacon’ Lot for Sale Again

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

About three months ago, Marnie Kirk noticed a “For Sale” sign in front of her business. That was her first indication that the property on which she earns her livelihood could soon be sold.

The owner of Marnie Farmer’s Vintage and Antiques shop found herself wondering where she could set up her business if the new owner should choose not to continue her tenancy. She dreads the notion of packing and transporting her inventory of collectibles, art and household items.

Kirk leased the space in 2015 after moving her inventory from a previous location on Harborview Drive in Gig Harbor. She said that during her first year at the current site, where 134th Street meets the Key Peninsula Highway, “most people who came in said, ‘You’ll never make it. Nobody ever does.’”

Over the past two dozen years, the property has housed a meat-smoking business, a veterinary clinic, a video rental store, a pizza parlor, a variety store and a retail shop that sold glass paraphernalia for vaping and smoking marijuana products.

The property was listed for \$429,000 and is now listed at \$419,000. It contains a residence and two commercial spaces. The three-bedroom home, built in 1978, has 2,204 square feet. Two commercial spaces total 1,600 square feet. It is zoned and taxed as residential property and is being advertised for its income potential. Zillow estimates the property value to be \$342,762.

Kirk met the listing agent, Seth Courtney, who works for Windermere Real Estate-Key Realty. Courtney said the owner had moved to Bellevue and decided to sell. He said he has shown the property a few times but no offers had been received at press time. The residence is being leased to a new tenant.

Kirk had spent two years looking for a location on the Key Peninsula. She is trying to stay optimistic about the future of her business.

“We hope the new owners will want to keep us. We don’t want to lose this location,” she said.

Her son and store manager, Dylan Kirk, said, “We just hope to be able to stay here. We enjoy working with the community.”

The shop will have an anniversary/holiday open house the first weekend in November.

“This holiday season, I would like to offer great deals to my wonderful customers, who allowed us to get this far,” she said. “I am truly grateful to you all.”



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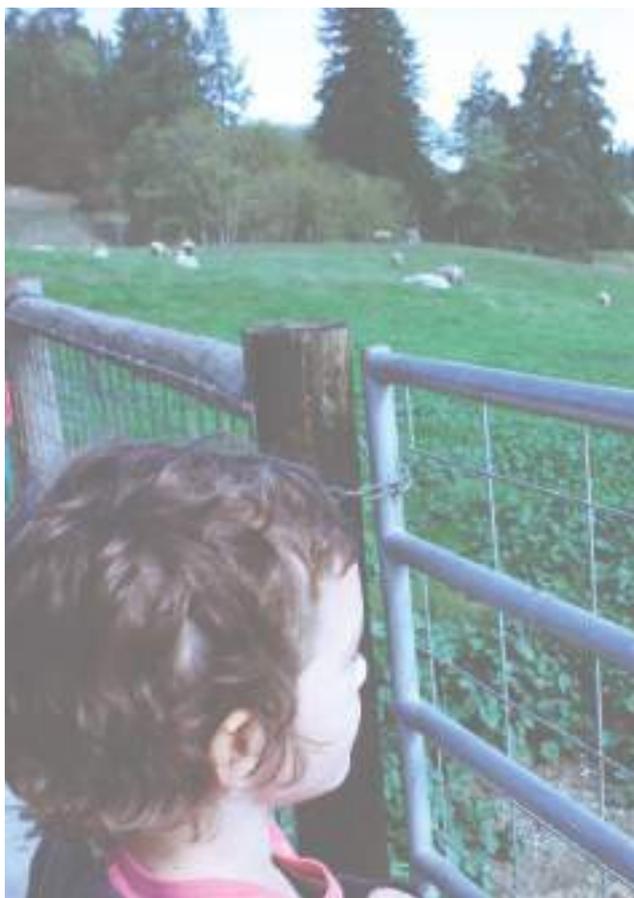
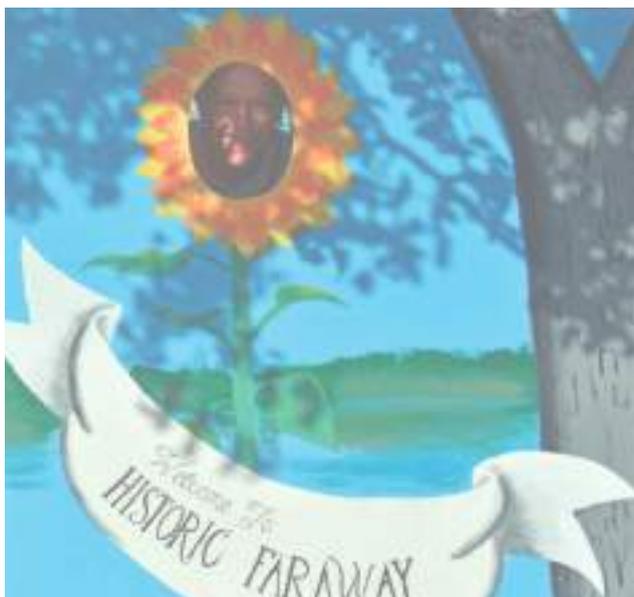
# Where in the world



Diane Yorgason-Quinn of Wauna, Faye McAdams Hands, formerly of Lake Holiday, and Laurel Parshall of Key Peninsula at the Playa Giron war museum on the Bay of Pigs. Photo by Liz Gordon of the American Birding Association.



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**VISITORS FLOCKED TO LOCAL FARMS AND VENUES FOR THE ANNUAL KEY PENINSULA FARM TOUR OCT. 7** **TOP CENTER:** Becky Alexander enjoys herself at Faraway Farm. *Photo: Don Tjossen, KP News* **RIGHT:** Seasonal decorations amuse young visitors at Faraway. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **CENTER:** Filucy Watkinson, age 8, of Longbranch, looks over the field at Kaukiki Farm. *Photo: Alice Kinerk, KP News* **LOWER LEFT:** A display of antique tractors at Longbranch Improvement Club, which hosted the Fiber Arts Festival. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **LOWER RIGHT:** Needlecrafters demonstrate their art at the Fiber Arts Festival. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* See more photos in our online gallery at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com).



**TOP:** A view of historic Faraway from the water. *Photo: Richard Hildabl* **CENTER RIGHT:** Luke and Jonah Fritsch, of Boy Scout Troop 220, sell popcorn in front of Buck's in Key Center to raise money for their troop. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **CENTER:** Anna Brones shows off one of the items that was auctioned at this year's Two Waters Arts Alliance Colors of Autumn fundraiser at the Civic Center in September. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **RIGHT:** Harvest Moon near sunset taken from Cliff Avenue in Longbranch. *Photo: Richard Hildabl* **LOWER LEFT:** The two Gig Harbor U13 girls soccer teams played each recently, with the Thunderbirds scoring two goals in the second half for a 3-1 victory. Shown here is Thunderbird Raina Hyde, of Key Pen, booting the ball toward the United goal. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* See more photos in our online gallery at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com).