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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

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Photo: Anne Nesbit

Supermajority Passes Permanent EMS Fire Department Levy

In the days before the election, voters expressed concern to the fire department about paying more permanently, but the public retains control.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Key Peninsula voters approved an emergency medical services levy run by the KP fire department in the Aug. 6 election. Out of 3,729 votes cast, 63 percent were for approval of the levy, with all precincts voting yes. Despite the low voter turnout, the 60 percent supermajority threshold required to pass a levy was reached.

The existing EMS levy, approved by voters in 2010, will expire in 2020 but the board of fire commissioners that oversees the department wanted to ask for a permanent EMS levy to add predictability to the budget and save the expense of repeatedly putting it on the ballot, according to Fire Chief Dustin Morrow.

"The board felt that the public resources we were using to run those campaigns could be better used for direct EMS services," Morrow said. "We're going to be close to \$15,000 for this election."

KP Fire Dept. Public Information

Officer Ann Nesbit said, "We have a significant population that lives on a fixed income and the concept of another 25 bucks a month could have a very big impact, and we get that. There was anxiety about 'permanency' too, but that doesn't mean you never have a say."

Making the levy permanent will require a new level of transparency for the department and the levy is only permanent until a voter-initiated referendum to change or remove it, she said.

"Every two years we'll now have to put a report card in front of the community that says we collected X amount of revenue dedicated toward EMS activities, this is how we applied it, and here's where we're at," Morrow said. "There was no reporting requirement like that for the last 10 years; when you go permanent, you have to provide it every two years at no cost to the public and make it readily available. And if they don't like it, a referendum can make it all go away."

The new levy has the same rate as the existing levy that will expire next year, charging property owners 50 cents per \$1,000 of the current assessed value, but as the value goes up and down, the rate of collection fluctuates.

"The current levy of 50 cents per \$1,000 was set nine years ago," Morrow said. "Right now, we're collecting at about 40.2 cents per \$1,000 based on how the assessed valuation has climbed. When we reset it with this approval back up at 50 cents per thousand it's going to ping against the new assessed value, and that will generate new money for us."

The department estimated that under the expiring levy property worth \$250,000 costs the owner \$100 per year. Under the new levy, that annual cost would be \$125. The annual EMS budget is a little over \$1 million, about 20 percent of the overall budget, Morrow said. The new levy is expected to generate about \$63,000 the first year.

"Everybody here is either an EMT or paramedic on the crew side and we have some volunteer EMTs as well," he said. About 80 percent of KP emergency calls are medical, consistent across the fire service.

"We have a model that immediately

CONTINUED PAGE 5



Kayaking chicken crosses from Longbranch to Anderson Island for family reunion. Lakebay resident Doug Paterson's pet chicken, "Surprise," is an Ayam Serama, a breed originating in Malaysia, the smallest chickens in the world. Photo: Dorene Paterson

Five Roadwork Projects Begin on SR-302

STAFF REPORT

The Washington State Department of Transportation was scheduled to start work August 26 on State Route 302 stretching from Elgin-Clifton Road to Purdy. Five separate projects are expected to continue until the summer of 2020.

Crews will begin by creating a two-lane bypass near Minter Creek allowing traffic to move through the area while work is done to build a bridge and replace two culverts to improve fish passage, opening up nearly 25 miles of habitat.

Additional work throughout the fall and winter will include repaving nearly 8 miles of SR-302 from Elgin-Clifton Road to SR-16 and rebuilding sidewalks from the intersection at 94th Avenue NW in Wauna to Purdy.

The most disruptive work will be replacing the deck of the Purdy Bridge, which is expected to require at least three weekend closures when traffic will be detoured around the north end of Burley Lagoon. That work has not been scheduled but is expected to begin in the summer of 2020.

Paving and bridge repairs require warm, dry weather. Paving operations will occur overnight, when there is less traffic. Any additional highway closures will be announced in advance.

WSDOT said in a statement that drivers are encouraged to sign up for email alerts. Real-time traveler information is also available by going to wsdot.com/traffic, or by dialing 511, and on the WSDOT smart phone app.

Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN,
EXECUTIVE EDITOR, KP NEWS

My first solo rescue call was an injured bald eagle spotted on the ground near the Stillaguamish River. The bird's broken wing prevented any flight risk. But eagles are tough and he made for good chase. By the time he exhausted himself evading capture, he paused just long enough for me to toss the sheet over him, and I'm sure my heart was pumping as hard as his. The adrenaline felt electric.

Running my hands lightly over his body to orient the eagle under the thin layer of cotton and eyeballing the sheet to ensure his head would remain safely covered, I wrapped my arms around him like a surprise hug from behind. With his wings restricted, my fingers worked down his legs and into position holding his feet firmly under control. Rising up and pulling the eagle into to my chest, we stood tall together with his head merely inches from mine.

As I walked back to the truck where I'd left a crate prepped for the eagle, the caller saw the leather gloves still tucked in my pocket and asked, "Weren't you supposed to wear those?"

Blew that safety protocol—I forgot. We both survived but the experience hooked me.

That was over 20 years ago, when my days revolved around the care and feeding of injured, sick or displaced wildlife. Beginning as a "baby season volunteer" at a wildlife recovery center, my time there evolved into an internship focused on raptor care. The center's intern program provided the training and experience needed back then to safely respond to wildlife rescue emergencies and initiate supportive treatment measures, in the field and in the clinic, while participating in raptor educational outreach

programs during the slower pace of fall and winter.

Wildlife rehab is not glamorous. Much of the work is daily maintenance—scrubbing cages, disinfecting perches and dealing with "endless stinky poo."

The attributes of a good wildlife rehab volunteer include the ability to handle rats and mice, dead or alive. I would have flunked that challenge in the beginning, but learned to let it go. Raptors love rodents like candy bars.

The baby season arrived all at once something like this: A solemn man walked in holding a shoe box. His three young daughters trailing behind like ducklings. He opened his mouth to explain but the girls beat him to it, bursting out at once: "Daddy ran over these baby bunnies with his lawnmower." The tearful father held the box out to me and said, "Please, tell me you can save them."

Opening the box revealed four baby cottontail bunnies, roughly half the size of my fist, minus the tops of their ears. "We'll do everything we can, sir." And we did.

People deliver orphaned animals in cardboard boxes, mixing bowls, stocking caps, coffee tins, paper sacks and carriers. Tiny robin siblings arrive neatly, still tucked in their fallen nests. Orphaned Douglas squirrels with their eyes still closed, chipmunks discovered after the chainsaw stopped, baby raccoons found underneath a wooden deck. There are even folks who stop to check the pouches of roadkill mama opossum. Otter pups, coyote pups, and even seal pups crossed the threshold of the wildlife center.

As entertaining as the sight of four fluffy baby barn owls perched in a row could be, cocking their heads in unison at sounds or movement, we took precautions to avoid ruining them with our attention. Young birds easily imprint on human faces, a risk to be conscientiously avoided for the sake of the owl.

Hunters volunteered by delivering wild game to feed the carnivores. Combinations of commercial and tribal fisheries support wildlife rehabilitation efforts as well.

My time working directly with wildlife delivered a world filled with wonders I never could have experienced otherwise. To appreciate the incredible lightness of being in osprey in comparison to solid eagles; to have seen the beautiful red lining of cedar waxwing nestlings opening their dainty mouths wide to be fed. To have felt an inexplicably powerful connection with an injured and rehabilitated great horned owl.

The initial inspiration for all volunteer work is always the same: I want to help. But almost as important is experiencing the camaraderie and fellowship of humans gathering to accomplish goals beyond self-interest. We can overcome obstacles and do together what we could never achieve alone.

We face a changing world with extraordinary new challenges. The thing I learned most from wildlife rehabilitation is how remarkably well adapted these creatures are, each with a special niche, the importance of which we may not recognize until they aren't here anymore.



[A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY]

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The KP News invites community information, concerns or complaints at editor@keypennews.org or 253-884-4699. You're also invited to post public meetings or events on our online calendar at keypennews.org. Entries received by the 15th of the month will be printed in the next edition.



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Art Walk Transforms Key Center

The annual tradition grew out of a desire of local artists to get to know each other into one of the most popular public art shows on the KP.

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

Downtown Key Center overflowed with locals, visitors, artisans and artists for the fifth annual Key Peninsula Art Walk August 7, organized by the Two Waters Arts Alliance in partnership with the Blend artists group. Music filled the air as folks mingled, chatted and appreciated our vibrant art community in the warm evening sunshine.



"It's awesome," said part-time Vaughn resident Joe Mercado. "What a great turnout."

"It's nice to see your neighbors," added Mercado's wife Nancy. "Ones we haven't seen in years, who we saw when our kids were little. It's so much fun to come out here and run into people."

Forty artists and nonprofit organizations participated in the 2019 Art Walk, up from 33 last year.

"The number of people was amazing. We had more artists than we anticipated," said TWAA President Delia McGinnis. "I'm very, very pleased."

"We had about 20 participants the first year," said Kathy Bauer, who founded TWAA with Margo Macdonald. Bauer's daughter, Taylor Reed, inspired the creation of the KP Art Walk during a TWAA meeting in 2015.

"The people were engaged with the art and having a good time and that's what we wanted. I was really pleased with that," Macdonald said.

In the Key Center library meeting room, 14-year-old Morgan Dunham sat perfectly still while people mingled and chatted, marveling at how three artists, Chris Bronstad, Adria Hanson, and Sandy Dunham brought the model's image to life using charcoal.

"He's very, very, very, very talented," said Addie Hoverson about Bronstad, an award-winning portrait artist who retired from teaching at Key Peninsula Middle School last year.

Hoverson's nieces, Norah and Charlotte Lystad, said their favorite part of the Art Walk was the bubbles at the Sound Credit Union booth. The girls' mom, Hailey Lystad, settled on the wine and complimentary clams from Taylor Shellfish.

In addition to the talent on display, the Art Walk throbbed with history and stories beneath the surface

of a thriving artistic community that expands outward globally.

"I had a dojo in Japan contact me and ask me to make two cedar paddles," said Shana Lukinich, a Native American artist. "Those leave tomorrow to be gifts to the grand masters at this dojo that's been there for 200 years."

Gretchen Shepherd will soon head to Botswana to photograph elephants with her mentor, the photographer and conservationist Art Wolfe.

"He's doing a book on the plight of elephants," Shepherd said. "It should be pretty spectacular because we're going to photograph them in a way that has not been done."

In July 2015, Shepherd took her first trip with Wolfe to Katmai National Park in Alaska to photograph bears. At the Art Walk, Shepherd regaled her visitors with tales of close encounters with mother bears and their cubs.

A former elementary school teacher and K-5 librarian, Shepherd said of her photography, "I gave it all up for a long time when I was raising my kids, then picked it back up again a few years ago when Art Wolfe looked at my stuff. I'm really excited to be part of this art community."

The Animal Art of Maranda Cromwell was a space filled with whimsy and a touch of darkness. Her featured pieces included a brightly colored, fully clothed coyote painted on a whorl of a juniper tree, a wolf smoking a pipe against a backdrop of snow-covered alps, and a serval cat "channeling the blood moon to go on a hunt."

"I made art out of rocks and stuff as a little kid," said Cromwell, who has a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Washington. "It takes a long time to get (an art career) going, especially if you're not catering to an audience," she said. "I'm certainly not catering to anyone, except myself."



The Gray family of Vaughn, Sara and her two sons, Evan and Charlie, had arguably the most heartwarming setup at the Art Walk.

"I've done the Art Walk as a jewelry vendor for four years and they've always tagged along with me," Gray said. "It just made sense that they should make their own items and bring them with, because this is community."

Charlie, 8, is a painter who uses a pouring method. "You have to tip it around," he said, picking up one of his paintings to demonstrate how he tilts a canvas covered in wet acrylic paint. "You can swirl a Q-tip around and it changes the design."

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity, a perfect place in our own community to show people what they can make," Gray said.



TOP LEFT Renowned artist Beverly Pederson supporting pom-pom critter creator Evan Gray, age 10. **CENTER** Pieces from Buffalo's Art & Custom Work by Native American artist Shana Lukinich and family. **TOP RIGHT** Artist Maranda Cromwell with her animal art piece, The Guide. **ABOVE** Portraits of model Morgan Dunham by Adria Hanson (left) and Chris Bronstad (right) Photos: Krisa Bruemmer, KP News

Local Man Summits Mount Rainier

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

Key Peninsula resident Roger Youngchild said he crossed a major item off his bucket list by summiting Mount Rainier at the age of 60 in July.

He was on a short hike near the mountain last summer when he spotted a fork in the road that led to Camp Muir. "I thought, heck, let's give Camp Muir a try, because I'd always wanted to do it," he said. "What a beautiful day it was; I thought I could do it without having the right gear." That spontaneous decision led to an arduous hike that wound four miles through snowfields and gained 5,000 feet of elevation. "That was one hell of a challenge, just to do Camp Muir," he said.

Although Youngchild said he already accomplished a major goal by reaching the camp, it was a conversation with some fellow hikers that inspired him to investigate the climb to the summit. He contacted Rainier Mountaineering Inc., a guide service that provided him with training, gear rental and expert advice. He scheduled an ascent for Fourth of July 2019, hoping for good weather.

Youngchild said he spent many years running but

was an infrequent hiker and decided serious preparation was in order for the long climb. He began setting daily step goals with a fitness tracker and ascending long flights of stairs to build endurance. Over the course of the intervening year, Youngchild traveled throughout the Cascade mountain range, trekking up Mount Si over a dozen times and practicing on summits like Mount Teneriffe and Mount Ellinor. Other training included sit-ups and weightlifting, as well as wearing a 40-pound pack during hikes and exercises. "You've just got to be in the best shape of your life," Youngchild said. "There's no preparing for the steepness and the cliffs you're walking on."

On the first day of the hike up Rainier, Youngchild, his fellow climbers and their RMI guides ascended from the Paradise Visitor Center to Camp Muir, where they stopped to rest. The groups started for the top at midnight, headlamps lighting the way. Although the route Youngchild took from Camp Muir doesn't require any technical rock-climbing, the trail winds its way through shifting snowfields and up treacherous rock faces.

"It was really something, to do that in the dark," said Youngchild. "These slopes are amazingly steep, and I



Photos courtesy Roger Youngchild

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OCTOBER 5
10AM - 4PM

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 6
10AM - 4PM



Firehouse Pancake Breakfast
8am - 11 am @ Key Center fire station

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- Foxglove Farm
- Trillium Winery
- Bliss Manor Farm
- Grand Farms
- Minter Creek Hatchery
- Longbranch Marina
- Fiber Arts Show
- Soundview Camp
- YMCA Camp Seymour
- Kaukiki Farm

FOOD

- Eat Street (Foxglove Farm)
- Thirst Responder (Foxglove Farm)
- Europa Pizza (Grand Farms)
- Murphs BBQ (Trillium)
- Local Chef Ann-Marie Ugles (LIC)
- Bertolinos coffee (LIC)

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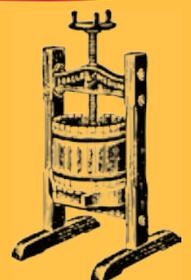
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- Grand Farms
- Bliss Manor
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- Key Center fire station



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was telling myself, 'I don't know what you were thinking, Roger.'"

The climbers also faced Mount Rainier's famously temperamental weather, as high winds and snow hampered their progress. "Mountain climbers from around the world train on Mount Rainier because of its nasty weather," Youngchild said. "(Storms) can come in in a heartbeat."

Even with precautions and expert training, not every participant was able to complete the journey. From Youngchild's group of nine, only three reached the top. "It was so hard; when I finally got up there, I fell to my knees and kissed a rock," Youngchild said. Clouds and snow at the summit kept the group from seeing the view from the top, but they still managed to take a few photos before starting back down. For Youngchild, those photos included a snapshot of himself with a thank-you flag for his wife for her support during the adventure, as well as a photo holding the Key Peninsula News. The group accomplished the 8-mile descent during the remainder of the day, picking their way carefully down the mountain slopes.

While Youngchild is proud of summiting the mountain, he said he felt that he accomplished more than crossing an item off his bucket list. "I cannot express how much I enjoyed climbing mountains and meeting people in that year. It was way more than one day on Mount Rainier, that was really just checking a box," said Youngchild. "The journey means as much if not more than the summit."

EMS LEVY, FROM PAGE 1

increases staffing based upon the new revenue," Morrow said. "If we can get everything else to pencil out, we're going to hit 'go' as fast as we can."

Those plans include adding a third ambulance. "Right now, the data suggests that needs to be in the south end of the peninsula, but I don't have it all mapped out and I don't have approval for that yet; it all looks good but we won't know probably until late this fall if we can actually do it," Morrow said.

"I don't plan to wait until the end of the two-year cycle to report on what we're doing, I want to keep it in front of the community," he said. "The bottom line is this is our opportunity to demonstrate how we're going to perform. The community has provided us with the resources and now it's our job to be thankful and improve the service we provide now. I want to get busy and have people see within the next 12, 24, 36 months that we're on an upward trend and that passing the EMS levy was well worth it."

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Ted Olinger

ANOTHER LAST WORD



I Like Guns, But...

I like firearms—let's get that straight. When my eyes were sharper and my back was straighter, I was a crack shot.

Among other things in my safe, I have the Colt .45 my grandfather carried in France in World War I. I've got a cap-and-ball pistol from the Civil War with the date of Lincoln's declaration of the first national Thanksgiving engraved in gold on its battered walnut grip.

I had an AK-47 pointed in my face in eastern Kenya some years ago, and similar weapons in other locales in other awkward encounters.

Then there was that time I was shot at in Seattle. I walked in on a bank robbery in Wallingford and the guy raised a long barrel revolver and fired at me. Me! Ted freakin' Olinger! "Don't you know who I am? Don't you know what I've been through?" I thought, later.

So, I know some things about guns.

Here's one thing. We all face problems every day and we all find resolutions of one kind or another, but when we have a gun in easy reach some of us will look at those problems in a different way.

I was invited to shadow some security professionals in a small arms tactics course a while back. The final exam was to get in and out of a tight spot—without the weapons they'd been training to use.

That test was the most valuable part of the course. It really messed with our minds. We learned it's not about the gun, the knife, the hammer or whatever ordinary everyday object that can be used as a weapon. It's about the need or desire to use it.

Addressing that reality required problem-solving or—as they called it back then—strategy.

In the spirit of developing a strategy to counter what I think we can agree is a national crisis of gun violence that endangers us all, here are some facts to consider:

There are approximately 120 privately-owned firearms per 100 people in the U.S. In Canada, it's about 35 per 100 (Small Arms Survey, Geneva, 2017).

In 2017, the most recent year of complete data, 39,773 people died from gun-related injuries in the U.S. (Centers for Disease Control). That's a mortality rate of about 12 per 100,000. In Canada, that rate is 2.1 per 100,000 (UW Institute for Health Metrics

and Evaluation).

Of those 39,773 deaths, 60 percent were suicides, overwhelmingly boys and men between the ages of 10 and 34 (National Institute of Mental Health). Gunshots are the second leading cause of death in children in the U.S. (CDC).

We have the highest rate of gun ownership and the weakest restrictions among wealthy countries. Waiting periods to get firearms, universal background checks, restrictions on carrying in public and mandated gun locks may not prevent an individual incident, but all have been repeatedly proven to lower gun-related death and crime rates (CDC).

Chicago's crime rate is often cited as proof that restrictions on gun ownership don't work. Chicago has an enormous gun violence problem and some of the strictest gun laws in the country. But more than 60 percent of guns used in Chicago gang-related crimes and 31.6 percent used in non-gang-related crimes between 2009 and 2013 were purchased in Wisconsin, 30 miles away, or Indiana, 50 miles away, neither of which require licenses, permits or waiting periods (University of Chicago Crime Lab, 2017).

Advocating for the Second Amendment, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, among other founders, opined that "well-regulated militia" actually meant "well-regulated militia," not unfettered access to deadly weapons. They envisioned proper civilian corps regulated by the states for self- and common defense (Federalist Papers, No. 46).

After a massacre of college students in California in 2014, Samuel Wurzelbacher, better known as Joe the Plumber, wrote in an open letter to the mourning families, "Your dead kids don't trump my constitutional rights" (Washington Post). But the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, a personage about as liberal as an axe handle, wrote in a majority opinion that while owning a handgun for self-defense was a "core" meaning of the Second Amendment, "It is not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose" (District of Columbia v. Heller, 2008).

Video games and violent movies do not cause gun violence according to Justice Scalia, who wrote in another majority opinion: "These studies have been rejected by every court to consider them, and with good reason: They do not prove that violent video games cause minors to act aggressively... They show at best some correlation between exposure to violent entertainment

and minuscule real-world effects" (Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Association, 2011).

In summation, I want to keep my guns. But the data says restricting gun ownership means fewer innocent people maimed or murdered. Some of my best friends are innocent people. I think they should live their lives as untroubled as the Fates allow. If that means people like me have to wait around or get a permit to provide a shield to protect them, I will accept that. If I have to pass a test to prove I know how and when to use a firearm, I will accept that. And if I fail to qualify and have to bend my swords into plowshares, I will accept that too.

Ted Olinger lives in Vaughn.

Meredith Browand

KEY ISSUES



Other People's Children

The world recently lost one of the most profound voices of our time, Toni Morrison. This Nobel laureate and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom once said, "When a child walks in the room, your child or anybody else's child, do your eyes light up? That's what they're looking for." Toni Morrison knew and understood that there was no such thing as other people's children.

Recent months have brought one example after another of atrocities inflicted on children in this country. Children separated from their parents at the border, a pharmaceutical company charging \$2 million for a drug that can save a child's life, workplace immigration raids leaving children with no idea where their parents are, and mass shootings resulting in children without parents and parents without children have been all over the news. We cannot simultaneously be the nation that espouses the belief that we'll do anything to help children but also allow these atrocities to continue. There is no such thing as other people's children.

You don't have to read the national news to understand this to be true; right here in our local communities are children who need us all to care a little bit more. Understanding the needs of the children around us can help us to build more empathy and create a healthier community for all.

Family separation isn't just happening at the southern border, it's happening right here in our local communities due to parental incarceration. There are currently around 8,000 inmates in Washington state prisons with one or more minor children.

Incarcerated parents are most often dependent upon their children's caregivers to help them parent their children from prison and they face numerous barriers to access meaningful visits. Current laws even allow the state and other family members to prevent reunification of parent and children after incarceration ends. Caring for these families and advocating for their well-being can help ensure successful reunification, increase family stability long-term, and improve public safety.

Right here on the Key Peninsula we have families struggling to provide adequate medical care for their children. The care these children need may not be as complicated as a \$2 million drug treatment, but it is just as vital. There are nearly 15,000 residents on the Key Peninsula and far fewer primary care doctors than the national standard of one doctor to every 3,000 people. Access to high quality primary care for children is one indicator of a community's overall health and a predictor of a child's physical and mental well-being for years to come. Supporting initiatives aimed at increasing access to medical care, such as the Key Peninsula Free Clinic, is a simple way to ensure children in our area are both healthier and happier.

You don't have to look far to see both the needs of children and the potential they possess. Our communities are better off when we care for all and we understand that there is no such thing as other people's children.

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

Phyllis Henry

COAST TO COAST



Sunny Yellow Flower Garden

As I walked down the dusty gravel road, carrying my brown paper lunch bag, happily anticipating the first day of school in the second grade, I twirled around from time to time, delighting in the way my full skirt billowed around me. I was wearing my new dress my mom had fashioned out of feed sacks. The fabric was a white background almost completely smothered by small blue flowers interspersed with large yellow daisies. Blue crocheted lace circled the collar.

Choosing the bright fabric was easy for me. The difficult part was getting two matching feed sacks so there was enough fabric for the twirly skirt I wanted. Mom cut a four-by-four swatch of the fabric

and gave it to my dad with instructions to get chicken feed in a sack that exactly matched the sample. My dad was macho enough to handle his friends' comments while he sorted through sacks of chicken feed until he found the sack that matched the swatch my mom had given him. I was delighted when the folded bag was ready for my mom's sewing magic.

When I walked into the schoolhouse that first day, my teacher Miss Andrews smiled, admired my dress, commented on the Peter Pan collar and big bow in the back, and then said, "Oh my, you look like a sunny yellow flower garden." Stunned by the unexpected compliment, I ran back outside, too embarrassed to respond. In my home a comment like "you look nice" was extravagant language. Compliments, I had learned, would only make me "think above my station."

"You look like a sunny yellow flower garden" was poetic and exotic, and I glowed inside when I realized she was talking about me.

Words matter. Words really matter.

For me, spoken words never disappear, are never totally silenced. Somewhere in the atmosphere every word that has ever been spoken floats and bobbles and spins, waiting to be recalled. Many words lurk in dark, dangerous clusters, but others gambol in light, protective clusters.

In word purgatory, hateful, angry words printed with grave black ink ominously billow on stained sheets pinned to invisible clothes lines. As we live, we must be alert to these harsh, hurtful words that can attack at any moment, spoiling a good conversation or deliberately making someone desperately unhappy. We must guard against the uncomfortable dismay we feel when evil words tumble from the lips of those we want to love and respect. "I hate you." "You're so stupid." "Go back to where you came from." Once said, no apology can erase the ugly residue of these words. The pain that is felt by the one who is pummeled by these words never goes away.

Competing for space in the atmosphere are all the kind, comforting words printed with lovely calligraphy on silken scarves draped from silvery hooks. Words like: "How can I help?" "I am so sorry." "It's not your fault." "You are loved." Gentle words are as soft against the skin as a loving hug. They convince us that we have value, that we are not taking up space that could be better used by someone else. Soothing words pop into our hearts and minds to drive out despair and grief.

At school that day when I first wore my new dress, I tried to hide my special feeling of pride, but admit I did spread out my bright flowery skirt over the bench

where I sat so everyone would notice it. It didn't matter that my sensible brown shoes were dusty from the long walk on gravel, that my white anklets were a bit grimy, and that the yellow ribbon tied to a hairpin my mom had clipped to my hair was untied and dangling. I wrote in the back of my notebook: "Oh, my, you look like a sunny yellow flower garden." Eighty years later as I see those lovely words printed on this page they still nurture and comfort, and I hear Miss Andrews' warm voice, and I smile.

Phyllis Henry writes from her perch overlooking a retaining pond in Gig Harbor.

Dan Whitmarsh
WRITING BY FAITH



For Want of Silence

In July I spent a week in the North Cascades, in the shadow of Mount Baker. It reminded me that we are blessed to live amid some of the most astounding scenery in the world.

We camped beside a pristine lake, with snow-covered peaks rising overhead. At night the stars shone brightly while satellites traced their orbits along the Milky Way. Ice cold streams trickled through grassy meadows as osprey and eagles hunted in the piercing blue sky. Teenagers swam in the water while fathers taught their children the art of trout fishing. Conversations ran long and deep. It was paradise.

Perhaps the most wondrous aspect of the trip was the silencing of the world's clamor. With no cellular connection, we missed the daily news of mass shootings, the latest Twitter outbursts of our president, and traffic Tuesday rants on Facebook. We were left out of all the anger, accusation and vitriol that marks so much of American society. Instead of a constant barrage of electronic noise, we had time to stop, to listen, to explore, and to think. It was marvelous.

The trip was part of a longer sabbatical I was granted by the Lakebay Church, during which I've been intentional about slowing down, disconnecting, and resting. I've seen firsthand that the modern pace of life is unhealthy and unsustainable, and, as a society, we are suffering for it.

Our media and entertainment won't let up vying for our attention, hammering us with so much noise and meaningless clutter. Social media addiction is transforming us into mindless bodies, parroting talking points as we divide into warring political tribes. Everywhere we go radio or television is always on, and the only way to block out

the noise is to stuff ear buds in our ears and listen to our individual play lists. It's killing us.

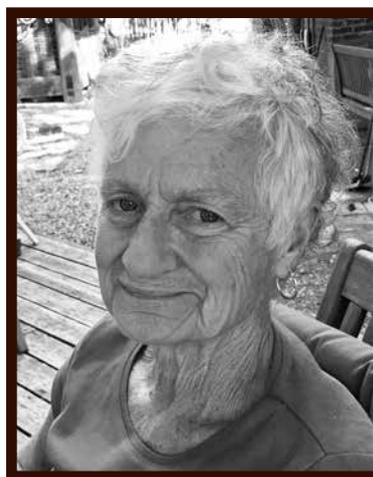
Our souls cry out for silence, for quiet spaces of refreshment, deep thinking, and healing. We are assaulted with chaos and noise every day, and with no room to process it, we grow numb to the world around us and the reality of our own selves. In brokenness we medicate our pain with mindless drivel and the constant electronic stimulation that feeds our addictions.

On the other hand, when we allow ourselves to experience silence, we hear anew the voice of God speaking into our souls, bringing healing and hope and rest. In quiet spaces we often find the answers to whatever is vexing us. For my own sake and the good of the world, I am committing myself to the art of disconnecting, in order to reconnect with what's more important, such as friends, books, walks in the woods, prayer, art, and play.

Finding silence requires drastic action. Turning off our phones seems almost sacrilegious to our electronic world. The trade-off, however, is worth it. Walks in the woods, meaningful conversations, and reading a good book on the patio are simple benefits, yet they will change us, and, in so doing, they will change the world. If silence is the best medicine, then it is imperative we all find some quickly, before the noise drowns us all.

Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church.

OBITUARIES



Voski Dawn Sprague

Born March 13, 1945, to John and Marie Chakirian in Bryan, Texas, Voski grew up in Cashmere, Washington. She died peacefully in her home in Lakebay June 9.

Following graduation from the University of Puget Sound with a degree in occupational therapy, Voski had a long career in Tacoma Public Schools as a therapist

and provided pediatric clinical training for other therapists. After retirement, she devoted her life to art, music, granddaughters and her beloved South Salish Sea.

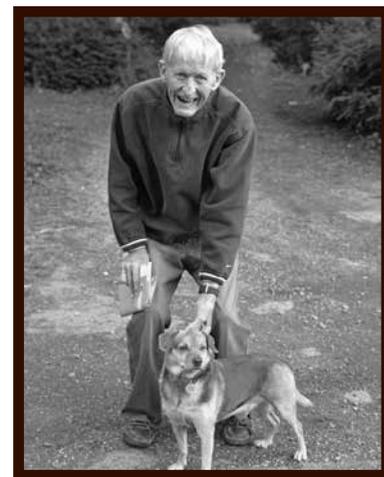
Voski's life was a book of stories. Her interests were many and her passions strong. Whether she was rowing, drumming, writing, drawing or learning alongside her granddaughters, she was passionate. She was an avid rower among an elite and talented group of women on the Gig Verite. She was an accomplished Sumi artist, studying under her beloved teacher and friend, Fumiko Kimura. Her weekly drumming group became lifetime friends, as did her sorority sisters from UPS.

Voski was interested in life and sought instruction from masters. Everything she did was done with love and the roots of this love began in childhood. An incredibly strong person, she persevered through three cancers in six years, and said "cancer gifted me with meeting so many wonderful people."

Voski is survived by her husband Robert; son, Boshon; grand daughters Arianna and Alexandra Sprague; and daughter-in-law Beth Griffith. She is also survived by her sister Candace McFarland and brother-in-law Dan of Kent; sister Mari Beckley and brother-in-law Paul of Cashmere.

The family wishes to thank CHI Franciscan Hospice and nurse Rachel for providing a steady guiding hand on Voski's final journey.

A celebration will be announced following her instructions that "I don't want a big deal." Memorial donations can be made to the Puget Sound Sumi Artists scholarship fund (sumiartists@gmail.com), Cashmere Museum (info@cashmeremuseum.org) or CHI Franciscan Hospice (chifranciscan.org).



Richard Allan Van Cise

Born June 20, 1934, in Neah Bay, Washington, a community he talked about throughout his life, Richard Allan Van Cise died peacefully July 25. He treasured his family, each of whom he dearly loved.

CONTINUED PAGE 8

OBITUARIES, FROM PAGE 7

Dick graduated with a degree in mathematics from Oregon State University and served 33 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring as a captain. He later enjoyed a successful career at Boeing where he specialized in arranging delivery flights of Boeing aircraft around the world. He traveled extensively for business and pleasure. He married Marlies Klomp in 1983.

Following retirement, Dick and Marlies relocated in 1996 from Mill Creek, Washington, to a parcel of land on the tip of the Key Peninsula where they built their dream house. Dick cherished their home, the view of Mount Rainier, their neighbors and surrounding community.

Dick was active in the Longbranch Improvement Club, serving as president for four years, and loved every minute of his activities.

He was an avid boater. His children and grandchildren have many stories of times on the water as well as weekends on the beach.

He loved people, animals, and was always ready to lend a hand to help anyone. He will be missed by his large family, great many friends and former co-workers.

Dick is survived by his wife, Marlies; two sons from his first marriage, Rick Van Cise and daughter-in-law Shari, and Eric Van Cise and daughter-in-law Leah; stepdaughter Celia Kemper and stepson Oliver Klomp; as well as eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren by whom he was well-known and well-loved as "Opa."

Services will be held at noon, Saturday, Sept. 14, at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church in Lakebay with a reception to follow.

Memorials may be made in Dick's name to Franciscan Hospice House in University Place or The Mustard Seed Project of Key Peninsula.

YMCA Camp Seymour Revises Water Tower Plans

The new proposal was welcomed by neighbors opposed to a taller 60-foot tower permitted by the county hearing examiner last year, despite community objections.

STAFF REPORT

YMCA Camp Seymour applied to the Pierce County Department of Planning & Land Services for a permit July 12 to construct two concrete water tanks a year after public opposition to a proposal to construct a single 60-foot tall water tower visible from Thompson Road NW, a road abutting the camp. The complaints targeted the proposed height and visual impact on the rural community.

Each tank in the new proposal will be 35 feet tall. The tanks will store water for both fire and domestic use.

"This decision is a testament to the YMCA's commitment to our community and to their mission, vision and values statements," Peter Stanley of Vaughn wrote in an Aug. 7 email addressed to neighbors and friends. He called the Kitsap-Pierce County YMCA board of directors' response to community concerns "extraordinary."

The original application, made by Camp Seymour in 2018, was necessitated by building projects outlined in the camp's amended 2012 master plan. Any new building permit applications require the camp to meet all current Pierce County Fire Marshal codes. The camp sought to improve water flow to meet the code requirements while retaining the advantage of long-lasting low maintenance gravity-flow water systems. Without improved water flow to meet code, Camp Seymour would be unable to build any new structures.

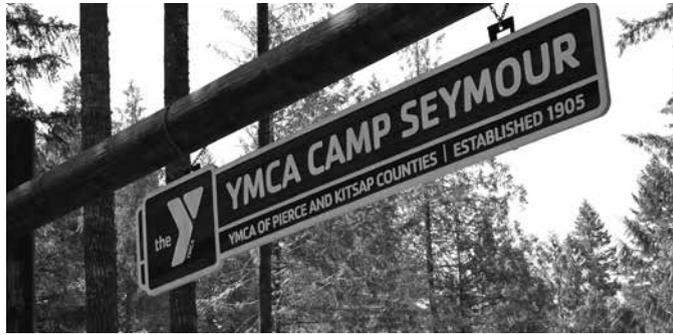


Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

Neighbors testified on July 18, 2018, against the project in a public hearing before the Key Peninsula Advisory Commission (See "YMCA Camp Seymour Plans Draw Opposition from Neighbors," KP News, August 2018). In a unanimous vote, KPAC recommended the county examiner reject the proposal.

The hearing examiner instead approved the 60-foot tall tower in late August 2018, allowing the YMCA to implement its plans as soon as weather permitted in spring of 2019.

In an unanticipated move from Camp Seymour, instead of pursuing the approved permit, a different approach is underway—with

some appreciation from the community that surrounds the historic camp.

While the new application does not require a public hearing for approval, the bulk of community comments on the project received by PALS as of Aug. 14, 2019, demonstrate support for the two shorter tanks set further back on the site, well hidden from public view. According to the Notice of Application for Environmental Review for Camp Seymour's building and site development permit, should the shorter tanks be constructed, the approval for the taller tank would be relinquished.

"THIS DECISION IS A TESTAMENT TO THE YMCA'S COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY."



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Tip Toland— Genuine Life in Sculpture

The local artist took a long inward journey to find her vision and her mission.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Tip Toland, a sculptor renowned for her arresting, realistic, life-sized figures, moved to the Key Peninsula with her husband nearly two decades ago from Seattle. “At the time I thought it would take me from all my connections in town and I would feel very isolated. But I wouldn’t go back to Seattle for all the tea in China,” she said.

Toland’s spiritual life is central to her work. She follows Mata Amritanandamayi, a Hindu spiritual leader and humanitarian, known throughout the world as Amma, who offers a hug to all who seek comfort from her. Amma began conducting programs around the world in 1987, and Toland first met her in 1990. She said, “I wasn’t looking for anything per se. I was dubious and skeptical and then I got one of her hugs and something really happened.

For some people it’s just a hug. For others it is a spiritual awakening. For me, it was like a spear right to my heart and changed my life.”

Toland said she was feeling self-indulgent as an artist. She needed to hear directly from Amma that teaching and making art had her approval. If she did not get it, she was ready to leave her career and work with Amma caring for the poor. At a program with followers, which went into the small hours of the morning, Toland submitted her questions to Amma in writing. When she saw Amma was reading her questions she went to hear her answers directly. Is it OK to be an artist? “Yes,” said Amma. It is OK to teach art? Again, yes. How do I keep my ego out of it? “Be a brush in God’s hands,” said Amma. Toland plunged back into her work, creating striking images of the vulnerable and teaching in workshops all over the world.

At the time she was living in the Magnolia neighborhood in Seattle with her husband and working in her studio in Pioneer Square. Parking at her studio was a nightmare. She had to constantly feed a meter. “I’d get into my right brain while I was working, would forget to go to the meter. The parking violations department knew me by my first name,” she said.

When Toland received a small inheritance, the couple considered a move. In Seattle, they could afford a “small house in the Rainier Valley with bars on the windows.” They had never heard of the Key Peninsula, but when members of Toland’s satsang, or spiritual community, told them about a place owned by other followers of Amma, her husband paid a visit. “Kenny took one look and said, ‘We’ll take it,’” Toland said. She was a bit more hesitant. “I didn’t want to live in an ashram,” she said. “I’m not so spiritual so that I can’t enjoy my life.”



Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

But not long after, Toland and her husband purchased the 5-acre property and never looked back.

A few years ago, a grant allowed her to build a small studio filled with light. Her kiln and other working space is in a daylight basement. “I love that we have a place to park every day. I have dogs and they can just go. It’s like ‘don’t fence me in.’ I’m a happy camper,” she said.

Toland’s early works were wall reliefs in ceramics and wood. She transitioned to three-dimensional work in the mid-1990s. “It just seemed to happen. I was getting antsy, and at one point I just got impatient with the process of doing wall reliefs.”

At first, she said, “I had no real grasp of anatomy and so I went back to school.” She attended Gage Academy in Seattle, taking sculpting classes based on classical observational training. Her first sculptures were dolls. “They were sort of frozen and purposely stiff at first, until I got more confident.”

She said of her choice of subjects, “I tend to gravitate to people who have been marginalized and the vulnerable. I gravitate to honesty. And the vulnerable are stripped down to their basic humanity. Expression means a lot to me in portraiture. Any kind of underdog will grab my attention.” Her current work features the very young and the very old, and a recent exhibition focused on albinism in East Africa.

Toland works from live models. They pose, she measures them and takes photographs, makes sketches and then creates the sculptures, usually from stoneware, in her studio. She works with solid clay, using an armature of plumbing pipe as support. “I have to see the whole thing, to pound it and work with it,” she said.

Once the figure is complete, she cuts it into segments,

hollows it and removes the armature, and fires it in the kiln she designed to accommodate the large pieces. She said it takes as long to finish the surface—making skin and eyes eerily realistic—as the sculpting itself. She uses house paint, flecking colors in multiple layers with toothbrushes. She’ll add chalk pastel to a few areas, paint a fixative, and then add wax where she wants to have a sheen. The eyes are painted with clear nail polish.

It takes Toland about four months to complete a sculpture. She said at a lecture at the Bellevue Arts Museum, “At times one wonders in the many months of making work in one’s basement alone, if this is nuts or not. My belief is that it is nuts and at the same time a calling.”

Toland is now working on a show scheduled next year at Traver Gallery, the gallery that represents her in Seattle. Typically, a show will feature five or six new pieces. If all

are not life-sized, she can produce up to four in a year. She said, “Small is almost more of a pain. I fantasize about doing little quick things but then I know how I am. The ball continues to roll, and I follow it wherever it rolls.”

Toland has been featured in exhibitions internationally, including a 2008 to 2009 retrospective at the Bellevue Arts Museum. Her work is in collections around the world, including at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Portland Art Museum, and the Renwick Gallery at the Smithsonian.

She has won multiple awards. This year she was selected by the NW Designer Craftsmen to be featured as part of The Living Treasures Project, described as “video profiles of individuals with lifelong involvement in the arts and a history of personal generosity and outstanding leadership.” The video will be presented Oct. 20 at Broadway Performance Hall in Seattle.

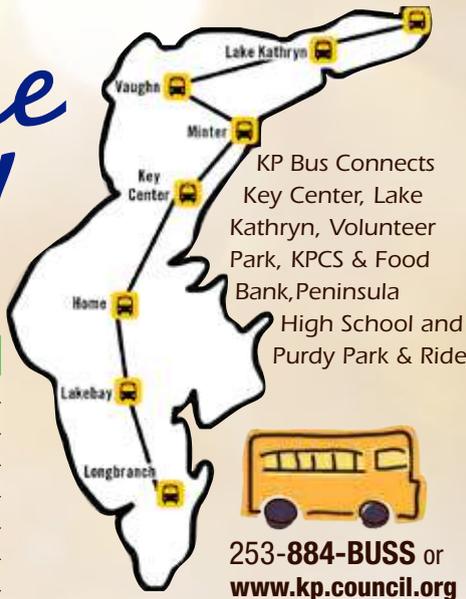
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EVERGREEN TUES & THURS AM

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

EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY AM

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

VAUGHN TUES & THURS AM

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

VAUGHN WEDNESDAY AM

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

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

TUES, WED & THURS PM

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

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Photo: Zach Potts

Remembering Ron ‘The Apple Man’

STAFF REPORT

Ron “The Apple Man” Nelson, 88, of Burlington, formerly of Rock Island, Washington, died July 28, 2019.

Nelson never lived on the Key Peninsula but by most accounts he spent nearly 40 years selling Wenatchee-grown apples on the KP at affordable prices.

Driving toward Wauna along State Route 302, the sight of his box truck prompted squeals of delight from countless backseats, “Look Mama! Look! The Apple Man!”

Nelson set up his old wooden roadside stand and parked in his customary corner spot just east of 118th Avenue NW, inside Charboneau Construction Supply yard.

Tom Main, manager of the yard since 2008, said he got to know Nelson pretty well over the years. “He was a great guy; a very generous man and not without his own opinions.”

September 2018 marked Nelson’s last visit to the KP. His health in decline, his truck stopped coming and people wondered whatever happened to the Apple Man.

“I bought fruit from him for over 20 years,” Leonie Potts said. “He was a sweet man and loved telling jokes; ‘Have you ever tried a Pink Lady?’”

Years ago, Potts and her teen-aged son Zach stopped to buy apples. Potts said Nelson wasn’t feeling too well that day and asked, “Say, how about leaving your boy here to help me finish the day?”

Zach Potts, 18, spent over three summers working for the infamous Apple Man.

“The average stop was five or 10 minutes,” Zach said. At first, he said he recognized people by what they drove and later by what they purchased.

Eventually he remembered some people’s names.

“I’d say to him, ‘Here comes the lady who buys horse apples for the deer,’ but it seemed like Ron already knew everyone.”

“I BOUGHT FRUIT FROM HIM FOR OVER 20 YEARS”

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Peninsula High School Meets New Principal Joe Potts

The veteran administrator and teacher mentor became a Seahawk in July.

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

One of the new staff members at Peninsula High School this year is its principal, Dr. Joe Potts.

“Dr. Potts brings experience and knowledge that makes him a good match for Peninsula High School,” Peninsula School District Superintendent Dr. Art Jarvis said. “He has a vision of what high school can and should be. He knows what students need to have in order to build a path to success in life.”

Potts comes to PHS after 10 years in high school administration in the Kent School District, including eight years as principal and two as an assistant principal. Previously, he had been involved in teacher mentoring programs at California State University in Long Beach. His academic research involved participating in defining the national Common Core standards and developing evaluation protocols for student achievement and teacher effectiveness. However, Potts returned to high school education because he enjoys working with teachers and considers himself “a teacher first and foremost,” and wanted to have a direct impact on student learning.

Jarvis said Potts has the ability to plan for the changes that will be required to

respond to the complex needs of students and teachers moving into the next decade. “Educators owe it to the kids to give them everything they have,” he said. “We sense that level of enthusiasm in Dr. Potts.”

Potts said that the position at PHS was attractive because of the reputation of the district, the academic standing of the school, the dedication of staff members, and district leadership that gives everyone the opportunity to work and contribute to the goal of preparing students for college and careers. Potts also said he appreciates that PHS has a comprehensive extracurricular program that includes all facets of development from performance arts to sports.

“Vocational opportunities are very important because not everyone wants to go to college,” Potts said. “The more we invest in these programs, the better



Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

prepared our students will be. The wood shop we have here is wonderful and the pre-apprenticeship programs give opportunities to those kinds of things that allow students to connect with the workplace early in their high school career and gives students the opportunity to explore new pathways.”

A traditional four-year academic program “is not what a lot of students are looking for; they are looking for an opportunity to contribute to the community in different ways and to develop skills that will give them a living wage job without having to rack up thousands of dollars of debt.”

Potts said he respects the legacy PHS has established over the years and wants to further the image of the school as part of the community.

He would also like to provide greater recognition for students who do something—academically, socially or in the community—to make a difference.

Because much of his academic experience was in developing better instructional alignments for K-12 Potts also wants to connect with feeder middle schools to better refine the transition from middle to high school.

Potts said he appreciates the different facets of PHS but particularly the academic programs, and credits its good reputation to the work of the staff. “I am very impressed with everyone I have met in terms of their commitment and dedication to kids,” he said. “The district is a really good place to work with opportunities to contribute and I see my role as a promoter of student achievement and Peninsula pride.”

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SEPT. 5**KEY FREE CLINIC FUNDRAISER**

Join us for the annual Key Free Clinic fundraiser. Come support your community. Blend Wine Shop in Key Center, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

SEPT. 5 & 19**COUNTY ON WELLS**

Tacoma-Pierce County Environmental Health Specialist in drinking water and Group B wells answers questions about drinking water or shared well. KP Community Council office, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 253-798-6470

SEPT. 9**SPLASH PAD GROUNDBREAKING**

Join Key Pen Parks commissioners and staff, local dignitaries and supporters for the official ceremony at Gateway Park, 5 p.m.

SEPT. 12**COUNTY ON WASTE**

Tacoma-Pierce County Environmental Health Specialist on household waste management answers questions about household hazardous waste, garbage haulers and recycling. KP Community Council office, KC Corral, 253-798-6470

MUD & MANURE

Learn good mud and manure management from Pierce Conservation District. Prepare your farm for rain, make your management good for livestock, good for the environment and good for you. KP Civic Center, 6 to 8 p.m. RSVP at pierccd.org or call Paul Borne at 253-845-9770 ext. 105.

SEPT. 14**MOON WALK CELEBRATION**

Debbie the Science Lady revisits Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon 50 years ago. Discover how a space treasure was found on Earth, learn about great women at NASA, play with puzzles and much more. All ages. Key Center Library, 1 to 2 p.m. 253-548-3309

SEPT. 16**COFFEE WITH SEN. RANDALL**

At The Mustard Seed Project in uptown Key Center, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

SEPT. 18**SAVE SALMON**

Climatologist Nick Bond explores the past, present and possible future for salmon in our state and sees room for optimism. Explore the history, science and story of this cherished Northwest icon. A Humanities Washington event. Longbranch Improvement Club, 7 to 9 p.m. 253-884-6022

SEPT. 20**COFFEE WITH A LIBRARIAN**

Have questions about your library? Want to learn about ebooks or events coming up? Just want to express your thoughts about the library? Here's your chance. Key Center Library 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 253-548-3309

SEPT. 21**STOMP ROCKETS**

Make and decorate your own paper rockets and launch them from homemade pipe launchers powered by stomping on two-liter plastic bottles. STEM event for preschoolers (ages 3 to 6) and elementary school (ages 5 to 10). Key Center Library, 11 a.m. to noon. pierccountylibrary.org/calendar or call 253-548-3309

SEPT. 23**FOIL SCULPTURES**

Create a foil sculpture and play with light to trace its shadow. STEM event, perfect for ages 5 to 12. Key Center Library, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Register at pierccountylibrary.org/calendar or call 253-548-3309

SEPT. 26**COUNTY ON WATER, SHELLFISH, SHORELINES**

Tacoma-Pierce County Environmental Health Specialist in surface water answers questions about shellfish, local lakes, streams and shorelines. KP Community Council office, KC Corral, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 253-798-6470

VETERANS SERVICES

A forum on services available to veterans. All veterans invited; get questions answered and concerns addressed. KP Community Council office, KC Corral, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 253-432-4948

SEPT. 28**BETTER EVALUATING**

Kyle Hall shares truths and tricks for better evaluating via an interactive presentation. Sponsored by KP Toastmasters. WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Register online at better_evaluating_key_peninsula_tm.eventbrite.com.

OFF THE KEY

SEPT. 12**HARBOR WILDWATCH**

Fifth Annual Make Waves Fundraiser to raise \$30,000 for youth environmental education. Lively raise the paddle, food, drinks and live music. Tickets (\$100 non-member) can be purchased online or in-person. Gig Harbor Yacht Club, 6 to 8 p.m. harborwildwatch.org or 253-514-0187

SEPT. 18**CLIMATE CHANGE**

Dr. Kristie L Ebi from the U.W. Department of Global Health leads a discussion about her research on human health risks from climate change. Ocean5, 268 Point Fosdick Drive NW, Gig Harbor. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., presentation 6 to 7 p.m. Harbor WildWatch, 253-514-0187

WEEKLYEVENTS

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS**YOGA AT KPCC**

Bring your mat, blanket or towel. Drop-in \$12.50 or four classes for \$40. Cash or check only. KP Civic Center, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. 253-884-3456

MONDAYS, WEDS AND FRIDAYS**SAIL EXERCISE CLASSES FOR 65+**

Improve balance and mobility and prevent falls. For any fitness level—you can even participate sitting down. \$70/15-class punch or \$5/drop-in. Preregistration required. Limited scholarships. The Mustard Seed Project, Mondays 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. 253-884-9814

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES

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

TUESDAYS**KEY SINGERS REHEARSALS**

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

COUNTY ON SEPTIC

Tacoma-Pierce County Environmental Health Specialist in sewage and septic systems will answer questions about septic systems or help submit applications for design or repair. KP Community Council office, KC Corral, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 253-405-6815

STORYTIMES

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

LOVING HEARTS

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

OASIS YOUTH CENTER

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME**

The Children's Home Society of Washington KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool and toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. Caregivers stay with child. Drop-ins welcome; stay as long as you wish. A \$1 per child donation is suggested. Weekly except during school breaks. Resumes Tuesday, Sept. 24. 253-884-5433

REFIT FREE WOMEN'S EXERCISE

Refit is a fitness experience designed to engage the heart as a muscle and a soul. Childcare provided. WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays; 10 to 11 a.m. Thursdays. waypoint-church.org or 253-853-7878

SENIOR TAI CHI

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

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS**KP HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN**

Key Peninsula Historical Society museum at the civic center is open 1 to 4 p.m. Free admission. 253-888-3246 or keypeninsulamuseum.org

WEDNESDAYS**READY SET GO!**

Free early learning program for 3- and 4-year-olds. Limited to 16 children with parent or caregiver. Focus on kindergarten readiness and lots of fun. KP Civic

Center, VFW room, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. 253-884-5433

LAKEBAY WRITERS

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

BLEND HOOKERS AND TINKERS

Does your fiber diet include skeins of yarn? Join in at Blend Wine Shop for a rollicking good time. Bring projects, show-and-tell, or hang out with a fabulous group of Key Penners. All skill levels and fiber interests welcome; 21 and over, 5:30 to 8 p.m. hannah8ball@gmail.com, 817-929-3943

KP YOUTH COUNCIL

Key Center fire station, 2:30 to 5 p.m. Keypercouncil@gmail.com

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

SENIOR MEALS

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

THURSDAYS

TOASTMASTERS

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

REV & FLOW FREE WOMEN'S EXERCISE

An easy on the joints workout. WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW, 11 a.m. to noon. waypoint-church.org or 253-853-7878

SENIORS LUNCH

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

FRIDAYS

TRIPLE P PARENTING CLASSES

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

INTRO TO GENTLE YOGA

Older adults encouraged to move at their own pace. Yogic philosophy, range of motion, strength and balance, breathing techniques and relaxation. Limited space; call to register. Instructor: Lisa Dunham. \$12/drop-in or \$100/10 class. At The Mustard Seed Project, 8 to 9 a.m. 253-884-9814

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Sept. 2 & 16, 7 p.m. **KP Veterans** group, KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. Veterans, military service members and families with children 16 and older are welcome. 253-884-2626

Sept. 3, 11 a.m. **KP Historical Society** board meeting in the museum at KP Civic Center. All are welcome. 253-888-3246

Sept. 3, 6:30 p.m. **KP Business Association** business meeting, Blend Wine Shop. kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com or 253-312-1006

Sept. 3 & 17, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. West of the Narrows **Depression and Bipolar Support**-Lakebay Group, KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. Kimberly 253-753-4270 or dbsalakebay@gmail.com

Sept. 4 & 18, 6 to 9 p.m. **KP Lions Club**, Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

Sept. 5, **26th Legislative District Democrats**, 6 p.m. social; 6:30 p.m. meeting. Public invited. Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard. 26thdemocrats@gmail.com

Sept. 7, **Writers Guild**, 10 a.m., KP Community Council office, KC Corral. 253-884-6455

Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. **KP Parks Commission**, Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

Sept. 10 & 24, 5 to 7 p.m. **KP Fire Commission** at Key Center fire station. keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

Sept. 11, 10 a.m. **Bayshore Garden Club**, Longbranch fire station. Wendy, 253-332-4883

Sept. 11, 10 a.m. **Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition**, Gig Harbor Fire District Headquarters, 10222 Bujacich Road NW, Gig Harbor. PEP-C.org, curtescott45@gmail.com, 253-380-7240

Sept. 11, 7 p.m. **KP Community Council**, Key Center fire station. 253-432-4948

Sept. 12, 10:30 a.m. **Ashes** support group for Fire District 16, Key Center fire station. 253-884-3771

Sept. 12, 6 p.m. **Peninsula School District** board, district office in Purdy. 253-530-1000

Sept. 12, 7 p.m. **KP Civic Center Assn.** board, Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. kpciviccenter.org, 253-884-3456

Sept. 16, 7 p.m. **KP Democrats**, Home fire station, johnpatkelly@aol.com

Sept. 18, 6:30 p.m. **Key Peninsula Advisory Commission**, KP Civic Center, reviews applications for proposed developments and makes recommendations to Pierce County. Verify meeting details at piercecountywa.gov/5937/Key-Peninsula-Advisory-Commission.

Sept. 19, Noon to 1 p.m. **KP Business Association** luncheon meeting, El Sombrero. kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com or 253-312-1006

Sept. 19, 7 p.m. **Key Peninsula Emergency Preparation**, speaker Anne Nesbit on wildfire, Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center, 253-686-7904 or gablehousep@aol.com (Put E Prep on the subject line)

Sept. 19, 7 p.m. **KP Citizens Against Crime**. Discuss what's happening in our community with

Pierce County Sheriff. Key Center fire station. doloresstarr@centurytel.net or 253-884-3105

Sept. 20, 1 p.m. **Two Waters Arts Alliance** board welcomes artists and art lovers to join its meeting, VFW Room, KP Civic Center. twowaters.org 253-884-1163

Sept. 21, 10:30 a.m. to noon. **Key Peninsula Caregivers Support Group** at The Mustard Seed Project. Please call Debra Jamerson before attending, 360-621-1110.

Sept. 23, 6 p.m. **KP Farm Council** planning meeting, KP Community Council office, KC Corral, 253-432-4948 or keycouncil@gmail.com; kpfarmtour.com

Sept. 23, 6 to 7:30 p.m. **Relatives Raising Kids** support group. Grandparents and relatives raising children meet at Evergreen Elementary. Potluck dinner and childcare provided. 253-884-5433

Sept. 26, 11 a.m. **Book discussion group** at KC Library. Book list at the library. 253-548-3309

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

Date TBD 6 to 8 p.m. **KP Discussion Group**. Discuss issues that affect the KP. Blend Wine Shop. Contact Ted Ralston, tralston1232@gmail.com

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Mary Mazur, Historian

TED RALSTON, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

Mary Mazur of Longbranch is well-known on the Key Peninsula for her civic and community activities in the 1990s and 2000s. What is less well-known is her role as a scholar in the 1970s. Her work underscored the role of history in uncovering why human events and actions occur, their significance to the collective human future, and how to confront that future.

When asked why in her 40s she took up Ph.D. studies in Chinese History, Mazur did not hesitate in answering: “To realize a small girl’s dream.”

The result was one of the most important books written in the 20th century about the causes and costs of political upheaval; a monumental work whose shadow reaches into our own times.

Born in 1931 in Detroit, Mazur graduated from Carleton College with an undergraduate degree in biology and went to work in a research lab in the greater Chicago area. She roomed in a boarding house with three other young women who worked at the lab. She and her co-workers would take the bus to the lab—until a young man who also worked there offered to give them rides. Mary would end up getting married to the young man, Robert Mazur, in 1954.

The couple came to the Key Peninsula in 1996 when Robert retired from a distinguished career as a research chemist. They had raised three children and were attracted to the Puget Sound after family camping and hiking vacations, and because their children lived out West.

The 40 years from Chicago to Longbranch were eventful ones for Mary Mazur. She began taking classes at some of the local Chicago colleges and was increasingly drawn to history. Partly through the influence of Asian art, Mazur began to read and take classes in Chinese language. She found she wanted to know more about the history, culture, politics and society of China, which in the mid-1970s was becoming more open to Americans.

Mazur was accepted to the Ph.D. program in Asian history at the University of Chicago in 1970, one of the premier history departments in the U.S. Excelling at research, her doctoral thesis proposal was to write a biography of a Chinese historian named Wu Han.

Largely unknown to the West, Wu Han was a major intellectual figure during the time of the 1949 Chinese Revolution and subsequent consolidation of the commu-

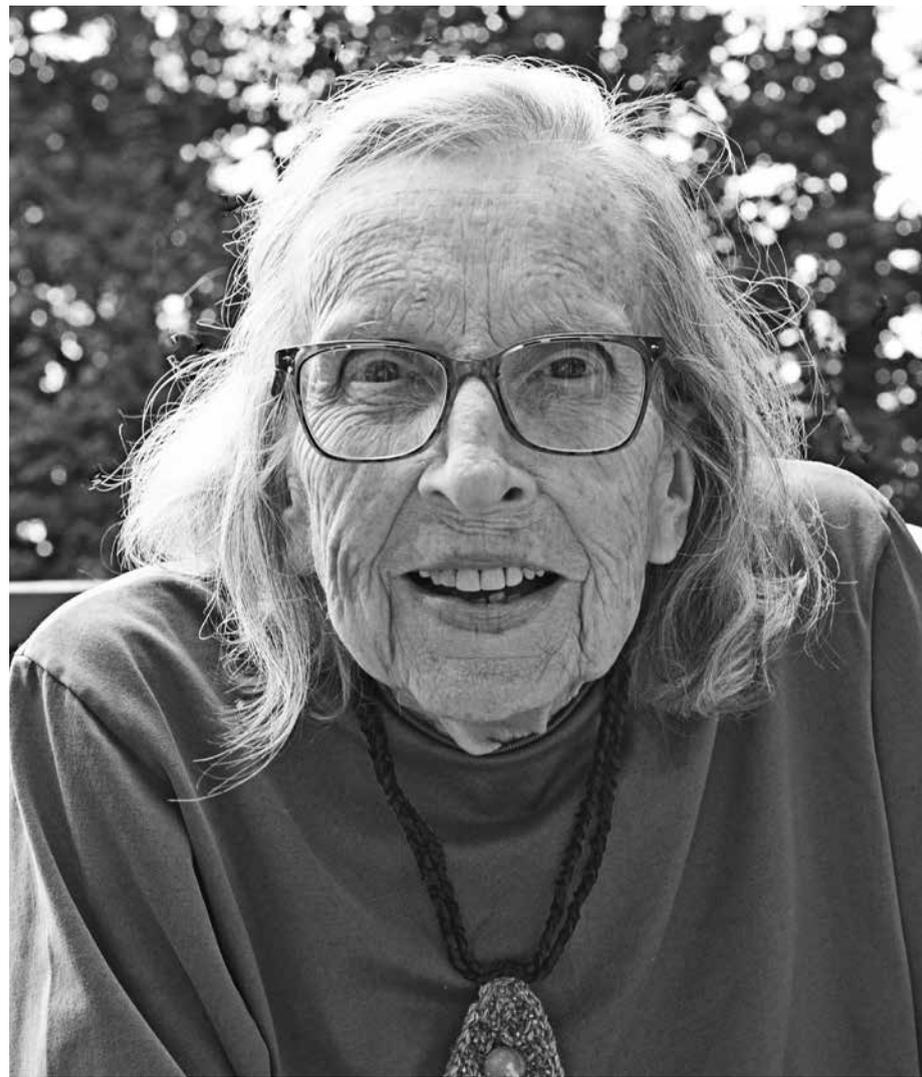


Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

nist government of the People’s Republic of China. Twenty years later, in 1969, Wu Han became the first victim of the Cultural Revolution, when Chairman Mao Zedong turned on his former allies and colleagues and purged most of them. It also became one of the most terror-filled social and political upheavals in world history—a 10-year period of arbitrary imprisonment, torture, public humiliation, forced labor, harassment, seizure of property, and executions, ultimately accounting for some three million deaths and misery for many millions more.

The result of Mazur’s research was a dissertation of extraordinary scope, depth and erudition published as a book entitled “Wu Han, Historian: Son of China’s Times.” It is regarded by many China experts as the quintessential piece of scholarship on the birth of modern China.

Mazur’s book exemplifies how history can delve into the actual life of a famous figure, rather than rely on myths and second-hand recollections, to tell a larger-than-life saga. Mazur spent years in China throughout the 1980s conducting a large number of in-depth interviews with Wu Han’s remaining family, neighbors, colleagues and politicians who lived through the Cultural Revolution. She enjoyed a

degree of access almost unparalleled for Western scholars.

In telling Wu Han’s personal story, the historian in Mazur captures the monumental upheavals and fundamental changes in China as it passed from 2,000 years of imperial rule to first becoming a republican democracy in 1912 and then a communist dictatorship in 1949. In describing the details of Wu Han’s life story, the human being in Mazur brings to life the historical and political ferment of those years in greater relief than typical historical narrative or reportage, explaining this era in China’s history in very human terms.

Mazur does more than chronicle the story of the early 20th century civil war and revolution in China. Through incredible research and interviews with many of the key participants, she tells the fascinating story of Wu Han’s life as he lived it in a society undergoing fundamental change. She tells the story of an autonomous life lived in the cauldron of what Mao would undoubtedly call “interesting times.” More than that, Mazur’s story of Wu Han teaches how to understand the winds of change, whether they blow across the northern Chinese steppe or across Case Inlet to Purdy and beyond.

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KP Solar Power Offers Options, Drawbacks

Technology, tax incentives and a desire to combat climate change are making solar power more popular in the Northwest despite relatively inexpensive hydro power.

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

The stereotypical Puget Sound overcast leads many to believe that solar arrays simply won't produce meaningful power locally, but the reality is more complex. Sunlight can still provide energy through clouds, Washington summers often have weeks of clear skies, and the long days mean that arrays have more working hours in the summer than similar facilities in southern states.

According to KP resident Jim Bellamy, a longtime solar advocate and recently retired head of Peninsula Light Co.'s Energy Efficiency program, solar panels actually operate more effectively at lower temperatures.

"We get more watts on a summer day here than in Arizona or Southern California. It's a matter of physics, and how the silicon and other things react to high temperature and sunlight," Bellamy said. "We really get a lot of good output in this area."

Solar power may be a viable option for the Northwest in terms of raw energy production, but it struggles to keep up with the competition. Washington has some of the lowest electricity costs in the nation thanks to the state's extensive hydroelectric power network. While solar panels may work as well here as anywhere else in the nation, it's hard to justify when many residents already have access to cheap, renewable power.

"Boston's got about the same weather we have, but their energy costs about twice as much, so putting on a solar system in Boston is a better deal in the long term," Bellamy said. "And they're displacing coal and oil, while we have the run of the rivers."

Despite challenges, many citizens in the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor area have invested in solar, some as a move toward greater sustainability and others as a long-term investment. According to Bellamy, with current technology and pricing, an average household's 6-kilowatt solar array will pay for itself in about 20 years, with a rough startup cost of between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Bellamy also assisted with the creation of a 60-kW system on the grounds of the Harbor History Museum. The array was energized in 2015 and serves as an example of larger solar farms that can be jointly owned by community members.

"People can buy a share, as though some of those panels had gone onto their roof," Bellamy said. "All of that power is aggregated, the output of the power of course goes into the system, and then folks that have invested in it get the benefit of the energy that's being produced by way of a billing credit for their own power system."

A residential array functions in a similar fashion, using a concept known as net metering. Electricity generated by a customer is subtracted from their bill, even if the power goes to other sources. This essentially allows customers to roll their meter backwards during high-production summer months.

KP landmarks also sport a few solar panels. A 5-kW system at the Key Peninsula Civic Center helps to offset the facility's energy costs, as well as provide a teaching tool for the Peninsula School District. The largest local solar array is a 99-kW system on top of the Food Market in Key Center.

Although several incentives are offered to help homeowners and businesses get off the ground with solar, their future is in doubt. The federal government currently offers a 30 percent tax credit for solar installations on residential and commercial properties, but this rate is being stepped down to 22 percent by 2021.

The state, through Washington State University's Energy Program, previously earmarked \$110 million in tax credits to utilities to support solar incentive payments, but the program reached its cap in June and is currently not accepting new applications. While not a direct incentive, the state senate passed a bill in 2019 providing 100 percent sales tax exemption to solar systems under 100 kW.

"Our 5.8-kW system on the roof and garage of our 2,600 square foot, all-electric home makes about one-third of all the power we consume over the year," Richard Gelinias of Lakebay said. "In fact, our typical electric bill in winter months is about \$200, including heat, while in the late spring, summer and early fall the bills are below \$20 or even show a slight credit, all thanks to net billing."

"We are glad to be Pen Light members, since they support home solar systems quite unlike some utilities in Arizona and Florida that lobby to limit its adoption," he said. "We are now looking into battery-based storage systems, since their costs are declining."



September 2019
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Thank you to our sponsors!

Cinema Under the Stars 2019 was made possible by Peninsula Light Co., Sound Credit Union, and Shawn & Sami Jensen family. Thanks too to Marilyn & Jerry Hartley for their help during the crafts.



Gateway Park Splash Pad Groundbreaking!
Join us for groundbreaking ceremony on Monday September 9, from 5-6 pm

Key Pen Parks

All Hallows Eve Celebration

Saturday, October 26, 2019
6-8 pm at Gateway Park

Join us for a spooky celebration! It's free family fun! Costume contest, Live DJ, S'mores, Hot cocoa, Creepy touch boxes, Trunk or Treat with NW Mopar Mafia, & Take a stroll through the spooky barn!

Visit us at: www.keypenparks.com

Off-Leash Dog Park

A new dog park is coming to Gateway Park this fall with two areas for dogs and owners to roam, one for large dogs and one for smaller dogs.

For only \$300, sponsors can have a color banner with your company name, logo and message in the dog park for a year! Sponsorship funds will help add park enhancements. For details and sponsorship form, visit our keypenparks.org and click on the dog banner graphic.



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

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Comedy, Juggling and Physics— the Zaniac Delights Young Scientists

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

Professional Zaniac and two-time Guinness World Record holder Alex Zerbe used his world-class juggling skills, retro dance moves and goofy humor to teach essential concepts of physics at the Key Center Library as part of the Pierce County Library Summer Reading Program on July 10.

"I love the way that he dispenses this amazing knowledge about physics and science in a way that's approachable for kids," said KP Librarian Carol Dike, who donned an oversized Albert Einstein mask as part of Zerbe's performance. "Alex has this wonderful way of making difficult concepts come alive."

Zerbe has appeared on the television shows "Last Comic Standing" and "America's Got Talent." The Brones Room overflowed with 59 attendees. From babies to big kids, local children of all ages fidgeted on the floor eagerly awaiting the Zaniac's return performance.

The Zaniac ran and danced, zipping back and forth across the room beat-boxing, juggling, making silly faces and jumping impressively high, breaking a sweat showing off the skills that rank Zerbe Seattle's Third Best Air Guitarist.

"I liked how zany and wacky fun he was!" said Chloe Granger, age 8.

Chloe's mom, Kimberly Granger, said she thought the Zaniac was hilarious. "I was surprised I enjoyed the show just as much as the kids."

The Zaniac dropped wadded-up paper and hardback books while chanting about gravity. He tossed confetti and shouted about air pressure and the lack of gravity in space. A preschooler raised his hand and excitedly repeated the facts about gravity he'd just learned, adding that he thought "the book would fall faster" than the paper ball. Children and parents around the room nodded.



Alex Zerbe transforms into a life-sized dancing bobblehead, triggering laughter and squeals from his young audience. *Photo: Krisa Bruemmer, KP News*

"Have you ever wondered about anything at all?" Zerbe rapped as an introduction to the scientific method. "Is there something in your mind that's a nagging concern? Well, then ask yourself a question about what you'd like to learn."

A self-described "human cartoon," Zerbe pointed at kids and cracked jokes, made wildly exaggerated facial expressions and never stopped moving as he sang, "The scientific method—what's it all about? It's an organized way of figuring things out!"

As a giant yo-yo shot up and down on a string, appearing to move as if by magic, Zerbe said, "It's friction!" and continued on to explain the importance of consistent practice and effort over time when learning new skills, like how to use a yo-yo or juggle.

Zerbe called for a volunteer and transformed Samara Wilson, 9, into "a miniature version of the solar system." The Earth and Mars spun on the tips of sticks held in Samara's hands while Mercury and Venus orbited around her spiked metal

hat. Before setting "the sun" on top of Samara's head, the Zaniac cheered, "This audience is Gonna. Go. Crazy!"

As Zerbe shot smoke rings from a vortex he'd built out of a garbage can covered with plastic wrap and blew toilet paper around the room using a leaf blower, turning the place into a giggling dance party, the children of the peninsula caught a glimpse of why Zerbe was voted Seattle's Funniest Prop Comedian.

"Your local library is an excellent location for gathering information," shouted the Zaniac to the room full of squealing, energetic young scientists.

"Science is fun!" Zerbe insisted, then stuck a tiny rubber hand on the tip of his tongue and waved his hands around in a maniac finale. Even the shyest, quietest kids erupted into a chorus of giggles, and the most bored looking mom in the room set down her phone to laugh.

"The Key Peninsula is amazing," said the Zaniac. "You have such a fantastic community with a great sense of humor. I can't wait until the next time I can return."



County officials meet with residents to discuss library programs and performance. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

Library Trustees Hear Praise for the Key Center Branch

Representatives from KP organizations expressed gratitude for the local library at a meeting of Pierce County officials.

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

The Pierce County Library System Board of Trustees met Aug. 14 at the Key Center Library, giving locals the opportunity to share what the library means to the Key Peninsula community. The trustees and PCLS staff talked to residents about the scope of county services and future plans.

While construction plans are not in the immediate future for Key Center, data is being collected across the county to guide planning and expanding the footprint of full-service libraries. Plans are already underway for building new libraries in Lakewood and Sumner.

Board President Rob Allen said that having meetings at each of the 18 full-service libraries in the system promotes better understanding of facility needs and the needs of the communities. Libraries are “much more than a warehouse for books,” he said, they are also a portal for people to explore what libraries have to offer.

Internet access has become one of the main reasons people visit libraries, Allen said. Users can access no-cost educational programs that allow technology certification in Adobe, Microsoft and QuickBooks; to find resources and help with job searches; and to access research tools for students.

Corrine Weatherly, the supervising librarian at Key Center, said, “The Key Center is a small but mighty library that works hard to meet the needs of all the residents of the Key Peninsula.”

From a modest start, the Key Center Library has become one of the busier libraries in the system, with circulation rivaling that of mid-sized county libraries and a meeting space that is in almost constant use, she said.

Weatherly also said the KP community is unique in its commitment to helping its neighbors. The library participates in this endeavor in a number of ways. In cooperation with Food Backpacks 4 Kids the library has distributed free sack lunches on Tuesdays and Fridays throughout the summer. The Angel Guild is one of the organizations that regularly uses the Brones meeting room, and also provides generous support to local organizations such as the library to purchase furniture and to support programs. The Mustard Seed Project is another reciprocal resource, and Two Waters Arts Alliance helps facilitate monthly exhibits by local artists.

Danna Webster, speaking on behalf of the Key Peninsula Community Council, thanked the trustees for coming out to get better acquainted with our “little bit of paradise.” She also shared results of a

community-wide survey conducted by the Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community. Citizens were asked to rate 23 things on a scale of 1 to 5 “based upon how important they are to our quality of life on the Key Peninsula,” (5 being very important). The library received a score of 4.38—the highest of the 23.

Retired librarian Rosina Vertz spoke on behalf of The Friends of Key Center Library. She praised their strong sense of civic responsibility and keen understanding of what is needed to create a successful community.

Vertz credited the Friends for funding “all the little extras—and big ones, for that matter—to enhance story times, STEM programs, as well as supplies and equipment for staff” through the labor-intensive, twice-yearly book sales.

“For me as former supervisor of the Key Center branch, it meant I had a group that supported and helped implement my vision and the vision of the PCLS,” she said.

Vertz also commended the can-do attitude and supportive energy the group showed in a 2012 fundraising campaign to remodel the meeting room. “They raised \$47,000 in record time and turned a dingy room into a light, airy room with cabinets, new rugs and furniture.”

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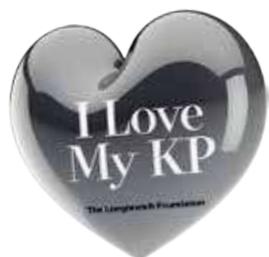
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Taming Zucchini

ANN-MARIE UGLES



It's that time of the year when your zucchini is taking over the garden. You can't give it away because your friends and neighbors have their own glut of zucchini to contend with. After a few years of overabundance, many gardeners part ways with cultivating this amazingly versatile vegetable. It's not the zucchini's fault that it thrives in our Northwest climate. I encourage you to keep growing zucchini; but do it with an action plan, so its proliferation doesn't sneak up on you.

We have local food banks that would love your fresh zucchini. Put them in your weekly errand plan. Zucchini is the perfect vegetable for young gardeners to cut their teeth on. Make garden time with them and watch how proud they are as they harvest their bountiful crop. Do you like to preserve or can? You get the idea.

Here are a few recipes to help when your counters are covered by this week's haul.

Zucchini Fries

My son and his first squash garden inspired this recipe. You need to use a good mandolin slicer and zucchinis with small seeds.

Cut off the ends of your zucchinis and be extremely careful as you run the zucchini length-wise through the mandolin to make thin planks. It will take a couple of tries to get the right thickness. Spray a broiler pan, lay the zucchini planks on it and drizzle your favorite heart-healthy oil with a sprinkle of good salt.

Set oven rack one level lower than the broiler level. These are thin and will cook fast, so watch them carefully. Cook until golden brown on both sides, adding a drizzle of oil if they look a little dry. Put on paper towels and then move to a warming platter as you do batches.

Tempura Zucchini Blossoms served with Ponzu Sauce

My favorite plan is to cook as many zucchini blossoms as possible before the season has passed. I love this simple tempura batter but you can use a box of tempura mix just as well.

First, reach inside the blossom and pinch to remove the stamen or pistil. Next, mix 1 egg yolk with 2 cups cold water and keep chilled. Dredge blossoms in 2 cups rice flour, ½ cup all-purpose flour, salt and pepper. Make batter with 1 cup flour mixture and 1 cup of yolk water (stirred to mix yolk and water). Keep egg water cold if you plan on making another batch.

Heat several inches of peanut oil to 370 degrees. Dip flowers in batter by the stem, letting excess batter drip off. Put in the oil carefully. Cook for only a few minutes and place on paper towels.

Ponzu Sauce

- 1 part light soy sauce
- 1 part rice wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon orange zest
- Fresh-squeezed orange juice to taste



Zucchini Relish

This is my German mother-in-law's answer to gads of zucchini.

- 10 cups grated zucchini
 - 4 cups grated yellow onion
 - 5 tablespoons kosher salt
 - 2 cups apple cider vinegar
 - 6 cups sugar (or to taste)
 - 1 tablespoon dry mustard
 - 2 tablespoons celery salt
 - 1 tablespoon black pepper
 - 1 tablespoon crushed red pepper flakes
 - 1 tablespoon turmeric
 - 1 tablespoon fresh grated nutmeg
 - 1 cup diced roasted red peppers
- Combine zucchini and onions and sprinkle with salt. Toss together and let sit overnight in the fridge. The next day, rinse with cold water and drain well. In the meantime, heat vinegar and stir in remaining ingredients until sugar dissolves. Add zucchini and onions and bring to a boil. Turn down and simmer for 30 minutes. Seal in hot sterilized jars. Boil in canning pot for 10 minutes. Turn jars upside down briefly as you pull them out.

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Second-graders Evelyn Hand and Graycie Bump with CISP mentor Mike Fay. Photo: Tricia Endsley

All-Day Summer STEM Camp at Evergreen Elementary

Students practiced skills, engaged in learning and discovered more in pilot program.

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Representatives from Communities in Schools of Peninsula and the Children's Home Society of Washington described a successful collaborative effort delivering an all-day summer program in a presentation to members of the Gig Harbor North Rotary Club at its Aug. 6 meeting.

The club provided \$7,000 for the pilot program. Nearly half the Rotarians in the club volunteered as reading mentors and lunch helpers for 35 students enrolled in the three-week STEM camp at Evergreen Elementary School. At the end of each week, the club provided students with two new grade level reading books to take home.

"What I would say to anyone in the community is how impactful it is for us to come in, run programs at the school, so that kids are safe and parents feel comforted that their kids are at their home school," CISP

Program Director Laurel Schultz said.

"Many teachers will tell you that kids lose three to four months, because they haven't been reading, they haven't been practicing those skills at home over summer," Schultz said. "The social skills are just as important as the academics. Art, science, keeping kids engaged is really awesome."

CISP runs half-day summer enrichment programs at Vaughn Elementary, Minter Creek Elementary and Harbor Heights Elementary schools.

"We heard from the principal at Evergreen (Hugh Maxwell) that he wanted an all-day program. He spoke from experience and said half-days didn't work for parents at his school," Schultz said. "But

we didn't have the capacity to do all day. It takes planning, money and volunteers; it takes a lot. Children's Home Society of Washington stepped up with us, and our friends from Food Backpacks 4 Kids had a little chunk of separate money."

"Together we worked out a deal where we could provide the kids free breakfast, literacy support in the morning, outdoor time, and they'd have an awesome lunch. In the afternoon they would do fun activities and run around and then have a really good time with CHSW staff. For some STEM education we would loop in some science," Schultz said.

"PSD funded a full-time paraeducator for the program and, combined with funding from Rotary, inspired us to do more," CHSW Program Manager Gina Cabbidu said. "Laurel and I said, 'Let's take this a step further.'

"We each gave up half of our budget for this summer

enrichment program to be able to bring in an Evergreen STEM teacher to be there with these kids all day so they can get excited about science, technology, engineering, math—these are the careers of the future," Cabbidu said.

"What I'm so excited about is that the kids who are coming are feeling so good about their skills and so good about coming into the school over the summer," Schultz said. "They want to stay, not just all day, but all summer. That to me is amazing. This has been off the charts successful."

"CISP and CHSW have been partnering for years. Now we're just going deeper," she said. "How else can we help kids in the community?"

"Imagine what summer must be like for a single parent with a \$15 an hour job," Bob Anderson, president of Gig Harbor North Rotary said. "Your kid is home alone unless you can afford someone to sit with him or her the whole day. How much does it mean to that family to be able to have not only a free resource, but a free educational resource for that child? This is what we're providing."

Scott Wunsch of Longbranch, whose 6-year-old daughter Aniya attended the summer program, said, "She comes home exhausted and talks about her day all night long. The extra reading and activities they do are so developmental."

"I want to come back next summer," Aniya said. Her visiting sister, Ariana, 5, said, "I want to come too."

"This year we only opened it up to our K-3 students we already knew needed the extra literacy support," Tricia Endsley, the CISP site coordinator at Evergreen said. "We had 35 students enrolled within a week, and a dozen on the waiting list once people heard about it."

Cabiddu said she asked one student if there was anything that she wanted to change about the summer camp, and the student replied, "I want to do it every day. Monday through Sunday."

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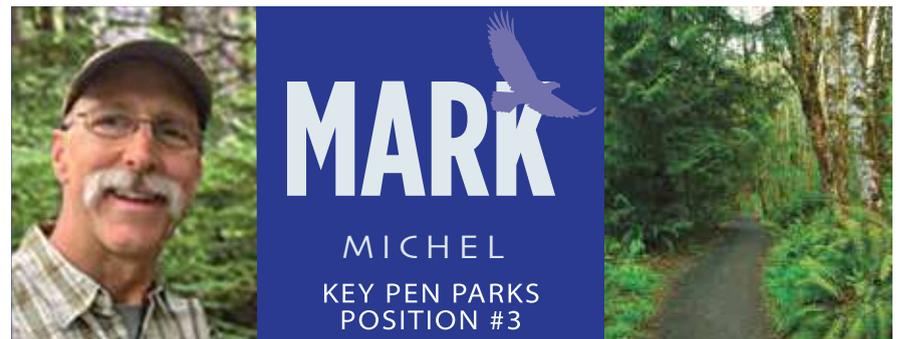
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TOP LEFT Paul Bunyan and his ox Babe greet visitors at the KPCS Logging Show Aug. 17. *Photo: David Zeigler, KP News*
TOP RIGHT A harbor seal pup learns relaxing with mom isn't as easy as it looks. *Photo: Ron Cameron* **LEFT MIDDLE** High climbers and round cutters compete at the logging show. *Photo: David Zeigler, KP News* **CENTER** A late blooming Matilija poppy, *Romneya Coulteri*, a native of California and Mexico, grows happily near Devil's Head. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*
LOWER RIGHT Hundreds gathered for the 2nd Annual KP Outdoor Worship at Gateway Park July 27 *Photo: Glen Erhardt*
BOTTOM LEFT Selfie with "Timber Beast" sculpture by Jeff Samudosky. *Photo: David Zeigler, KP News*