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State Funds Next Steps in Restoration of Whiteman Cove

YMCA of Greater Seattle found its legislative champion in Sen. David Frockt (D-Seattle) who heard its message – The DNR plan will destroy the Camp Colman experience.

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Washington State Legislators appropriated \$900,000 in the 2022-23 state capital budget for the Department of Natural Resources to advance plans for removal of barriers to fish passage at Whiteman Cove on Case Inlet to comply with a 2013 federal injunction mandating state restoration of salmon habitat.

Two-thirds of that amount will go toward helping the YMCA develop a plan to save salmon and save Camp Colman.

Details of the funding from legislators represented a big win for the YMCA of Greater Seattle.

After the DNR finalized its plan in February to reopen a natural channel to the cove, allowing normal tidal exchanges with Case Inlet, and to build a bridge estimated to cost \$1.9 million over the channel to preserve access to the camp, the YMCA launched a lobbying campaign calling on state legislators to stop funding for the project.

In a promotional video available on YouTube to “Save Salmon – Save Camp,” the YMCA maintained that the lagoon should be left intact because the “DNR failed to include viable options that support both enhanced fish passage as well as preservation of critical environmental education, water safety and recreational programs of Camp Colman.” The video outlines the vision that YMCA’s fish passage expert consultants maintain, that new fish-friendly tide gate options could be designed to accommodate both objectives.

“Sen. Frockt was just a huge advocate for us and really helped us in that space and how we bring all parties to the table and such,” said Gwen Ichinose-Bagley, Youth Development Officer for YMCA of Greater Seattle.

Bagley said the YMCA has more questions than answers at this point. “The

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Lacrosse and Leukemia — Bo Clark’s Long Game

The Peninsula junior just finished a winning season in a year of chemotherapy.

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

The Peninsula High School Boys Lacrosse team won its final game of the season, beating crosstown rivals Gig Harbor High at Roy Anderson Field June 4 by 17-1 and ending the season with a 10-1 record after losing only to undefeated SPSL 4A Bellarmine Preparatory School in Tacoma.

It was a stellar night for graduating Peninsula seniors on the team who never lost a game to Gig Harbor in high school. But the most extraordinary season finish came for the team’s starting face-off player, junior Boden Clark, 17.

In October 2019, Bo and his family moved to Wauna from Spokane where he played a little football, a lot of lacrosse, and also wrestled. He joined the PHS wrestling team right away but was eager to get back to lacrosse.

Bo was psyched after meeting Coach Rusty Wilder at a preseason lacrosse event in early January 2020 and learned the team needed a face-off player.

Meanwhile PHS wrestling got Bo into great shape. But at the end of the first round in tournament play that January, he broke a couple of ribs and lost the match.

A month later, while visiting his dad in Spokane, Bo was overcome by what felt like horrible growing pains — so intense it landed him in the emergency room. By day’s end he was diagnosed with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and immediately started receiving high doses of chemotherapy.

“We had one conditioning practice for lacrosse before I was diagnosed. And within a week of coming out of the hospital, Coach Rusty and all the guys

“WHEN THE OTHER KIDS SEE WHAT HE’S DOING AND HOW MUCH HE LOVES THE GAME, HOW MUCH HE’S WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE AND HOW FAR HE’S WILLING TO GO TO DO IT — BO EARNED THEIR RESPECT.”



Boden Clark on the field. Tina McKail. KP News

on the team had signed a jersey and sent it to me. Rusty visited me in person and that really means a lot,” Bo said.

“I didn’t know any of these guys at all, but they all rallied. Which is more than I could ask from really anybody.”

Bo was on hardcore chemo but because he was in such good shape he was able to complete his first five-week treatment cycle in three weeks. He thought he might return to school, be a normal person, and did despite low energy and bad headaches, but he left after half a day.

The bad headaches came from spinal fluid leaking out of lumbar punctures where chemo was injected into his spine.

All told, he said he spent over 150 days in the hospital.

“I couldn’t eat. I had bad sores in my mouth because of chemo,” he said. “I swelled up like a balloon because of the steroids I was on.”

He weighed 145 pounds at the start of wrestling season but treatment took him up to 186. He said he put on nearly 45 pounds of fat and water weight and lost pounds of muscle.

“You can’t look in the mirror anymore because you don’t like the way that you look. Some days I’d have to use a wheelchair just to get 10 feet to the bathroom. And you just want to curl up into a ball and hide and never come out,” Bo said.

“It’s like all of the worst — stripping someone down to nothing, you take away everything they like to do, take away their

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GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN,
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

What began March 25, 2020 was unlike anything we have experienced in this country in living memory. The coronavirus pandemic restrictions that went into effect with the first statewide "stay home and stay healthy" orders issued by Gov. Jay Inslee have been lifted after 15 long months. Businesses that struggled and somehow survived have the green light to open at full capacity July 1.

Welcome back. We begin a new chapter in the dizzying reality that is COVID-19.

The time for summer reunions and celebrations is here at last. We can meet friends for dinner in crowded restaurants, or simply enjoy the air conditioned-cool of watching movies as intended on the big screen. We can go to baseball games in stadiums packed with unmasked cheering fans or revel in the power of live performance found in music, theater and dance again.

Many people will return to the office after working remotely and be among co-workers not seen in person for a long while.

It won't be quite the same, but not just for the obvious reasons.

Most of those people will have been vaccinated against Covid, while some can't be and some will have refused.

I think it is important to consider that each of us had a unique experience and most of us likely struggled to some extent over the last year and a half. After so much time spent in relative isolation, withdrawn into our homes and safe within our social bubbles, re-entry into society is bound to be a little awkward at first. The point is it's different for everyone, because the withdrawal was different for everyone.

Some of us are still recovering from Covid and left with lingering long-term effects like loss of taste and smell, and worse.

Some of us are grieving people we lost to a brutal disease that killed over 600,000 Americans and counting.

Some of us were left alone to mourn the loss of loved ones who died from other causes, denied the traditional comforts of ritual that funerals, memorials and celebrations of life provide.

Like the foreign terrorist attack of

9/11 and the domestic attack on the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6, Covid drove home the message to me that the unthinkable not only happens but is to be expected.

I am still awestruck by how much the pandemic divided us. What could have been a united, positive response to a mortal threat instead became a divisive and destructive wedge issue almost custom-built to divide and conquer us for political gain.

What so many of us still continue to call a personal choice — wearing a mask, social distancing, getting vaccinated — is by definition a civic duty because it has tangible, public consequences. The rationales behind refusal hardly matter; the damage is done.

Of course, not everyone can wear a mask or get a vaccine because of their own medical issues and the danger to

them continues because of those who are able but unwilling, happy to let someone else take the risk while they reap the benefit.

COVID-19 is real, it's dangerous, and it's preventable. Yet vaccine rates are slowing all over the country, and it is the unvaccinated who are now getting the disease and continuing to spread the even more contagious delta variant as the virus mutates.

Technically known as the B.1.1.7 variant, delta is about 60% more transmissible than the original alpha coronavirus that emerged in China in late 2019. Delta is now the dominant strain in the United Kingdom, where it supplanted the alpha variant in a matter of months, and it's expected to do the same thing here.

The delta variant now makes up around 20% of newly diagnosed cases in the U.S. It arrived in Pierce County in January.

Experts here are concerned because people infected by delta wind up in the hospital at twice the rate of alpha infections, and what treatments we have don't seem to work as well against it.

The good news we can do something about it.

Vaccines still offer protection against the delta variant ranging from 60% to 88%, slightly lower than rates against the alpha variant.

And it's working. At the end of June, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department found no COVID-19 outbreaks at care facilities, businesses or hospitals for the first time in more than a year. The county 14-day average daily case rate fell to 90 by press time, down from 350 in December. The average rate of residents who have received at least their first vaccine shot climbed to 61.6%, creeping up to the state goal of 70%.

But the vaccination rate remains low in younger age groups: It's just 40.9% for ages 18-29.

TPCHD continues to offer free walk-up or drive-through vaccine clinics around the county for anyone 12 years or older, or it can direct you to a local source.

Just go to tpchd.org/vaxtothefuture or call 253-649-1412, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., seven days a week. ■



Native People of Filicuy Bay

Native people visited Filicuy Bay for succulent clams and mussels, scallops, sea urchins, oysters, crabs, scorpions, squid, shrimp, sea cucumbers, kelp, flounder, ling cod, sole, Chinook, Coho and Chum salmon, tiny bait herring and for seals and porpoise. The best clams were from these beaches and seafood was so plentiful that canoes were filled with the bay's bounty for "big eater" contests between villages. When the legendary Transformer made the world, this place said, "No, I do not wish to change," and so it remained unchanged and was known as an "Ancient Place" by the people who lived here, the *Tlaka Lakahe*. As fishing ended in the fall, relatives of the *Tlaka Lakahe* came from the mainland and nearby villages to visit and trade, to dry clams for winter and pick the last berries of the season, lowland huckleberries. Families came by canoe and used overland trails between Taylor Bay and Filicuy Bay.

Local archaeological sites consist of dense shell middens with clam and mussel shells, fish bone, lithic (stone) tools, charcoal and rock cracked from the heat of fire hearths and cooking pits. These remains mark sites where, for at least 1500 years, people have celebrated with friends and relatives, met future spouses, feasted on seafood, told stories and remembered ancestors around the protected waters of Filicuy Bay.

Honoring the First Residents

A new historical plaque in honor of the Native People of Filicuy Bay was unveiled at the Longbranch Marina in a dedication ceremony May 26. Well-known archeologist and anthropologist Lynn Larson, a regular contributor to KP News, developed the concept and text for the plaque, displayed next to one commemorating early settlers.

Larson was honored by the Longbranch Improvement Club at the ceremony for her work as the LIC's longtime historian. See keypennews.org for larger image.

CAMP COLEMAN FROM PAGE 1

funding allows us the opportunity to dig into a more well-rounded plan that takes into consideration all the different stakeholders.”

The funding comes with a number of strings attached, as described in the capital budget:

First, legislators stipulated that \$100,000 of the appropriation “is provided solely for DNR to contract with a third-party facilitator for the purpose of collaborating with the YMCA of Greater Seattle Camp Colman on finding solutions for maintaining a high-quality camp experience while establishing a barrier-free passage for migrating fish species at Whiteman Cove.”

Second, that “\$500,000 is provided solely for the department to grant to the YMCA of Greater Seattle to retain expertise to scope, plan and advance the future of the Camp Colman experience given the restoration of the Whiteman Cove estuary.”

Third and lastly, “the remaining \$300,000 is provided solely for the department to fund the design of the fish blockage removal, and predesign enhancements for a new bridge and roadway across Whiteman Cove that are part of the barrier to the fish passage removal project and necessary as part of maintaining the primary route as access to Camp Colman.”

The planning must also include tribal input and participation from the departments of ecology and fish and wildlife, to create “a vision benefiting native flora and fauna, as well as serve as an environmental outdoor education opportunity that will serve youth and families, especially those from historically marginalized and under-represented communities, plus provide educational opportunity for youth and families to learn of native cultural heritage unique and specific to the natural and human history of the site.”

Any plan for restoration of the cove must identify projects and costs for improvements for the camp, such as water access or swimming facilities with recommendations for funding. DNR, on behalf of the YMCA, must submit the plan in a report to the fiscal committees of the Legislature by Dec. 31.

All told, legislators gave DNR and the YMCA a tall order. DNR had already consulted with local tribes and experts for eight years to create its first proposal to restore salmon habitat and maintain access to Camp Colman. The new plan must do the same while not affecting Camp Colman’s aquatic activities in the cove, which under the original plan would fill and drain with the tide.

Bagley said the YMCA focus has always been to find a win-win solution.

“We will be partnering with DNR and various departments, leaning on the Squaxin Island Tribe for their knowledge and their perspective in creating

this plan, so that we continue to honor all of our agreements and continue to meet our common goal.

“We feel like this is really a great milestone on what the future will be,” she said. ■

BODEN CLARK FROM PAGE 1

friends, take away athletics — your brain stops working because of chemo brain and you’re left with just this shell. And then you have to keep deciding every day whether you want to keep living. It’s really tough.”

After finishing the bulk of his treatment, Bo didn’t know if he would be able to continue being an athlete. He was chunky, had little strength, and his confidence was nonexistent. But he knew he wouldn’t be able to live with himself if he stopped doing what he loved.

By January 2021, lacrosse conditioning practices were approaching. Bo had his port removed early in the morning so he could show up for the first conditioning practice. He thought the odds he would get to play were low, but he was determined to be the best teammate he could possibly be.

“I don’t want to be a charity case that’s on the team just because everyone feels bad that I’m a cancer patient,” he said.

Having met Bo before he got sick, to see him as strong as he was then and to see his decline was heartbreaking for Wilder.

“That kid threw up every single practice at one point,” Wilder said. “When the other kids see what he’s doing and how much he loves the game, how much he’s willing to contribute and how far he’s willing to go to do it — Bo earned their respect.”

The first week Wilder was worried. But they made sure Bo stayed hydrated and when he did get sick, he stopped and that was it.

“I’ve never met a kid that had so much tenacity and fight in them, especially when they didn’t feel good,” Wilder said. “Bo is just a remarkable kid and it has been kind of a privilege to coach him.”

To Bo, the privilege was all his.

“I really don’t think I could have done it with any other group of guys. They all treated me like I was one of them. Nobody treated me like I was different. I remember one of our senior captains, in the beginning of our regular season practices, he was dodging around and put me on my ass. And I was like, ‘Great,’ ” he said.

“WE FEEL LIKE THIS IS REALLY A GREAT MILESTONE ON WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BE.”



Tina McKail, KP News

“I think without that — I don’t think I would have gone as far as I have. I don’t think I would have been where I am.”

Trulie Helgerson is proud of her son. She said Bo goes to practice or a game, comes home and takes chemo, goes to bed, and starts all over again.

“I think that takes a lot of courage, to

put yourself out there knowing that you might not be at a high enough level, but he’s still doing it and still trying,” she said. “He inspires us every day.”

Bo earned a berth in a select lacrosse league for the summer. He flew to New York June 24 to play in his first tournament.

He plans to be back at PHS this fall. ■

Derek Young COUNCIL UPDATE



Council Report

I first want to congratulate this year's graduating seniors. The end of your time in high school was unlike others, and this probably wasn't how you expected to experience these rites of passage, but you met the challenges and should be proud of your accomplishments.

The last year has been traumatic for everyone. Whether COVID-19 directly impacted your health, your work, or because you had to juggle it all with remote school, we're all ready for a return to normalcy. That's now happening as case counts and hospitalizations decline with more people getting vaccinated. As such, the Pierce County Council is transitioning its focus from emergency response to recovery.

With four new members, we've seen many changes. This year I was elected by my colleagues to serve as chair of the council and the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health.

I also continued to represent Washington counties as co-chair of our Legislative Steering Committee. With the Legislature's business primarily focused on services delivered by counties like justice, housing and public health, we were busy.

Over the next two years, Pierce County will receive nearly \$175 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). To address the emergent needs of residents, businesses and nonprofit partners, the council appropriated an initial \$50.5 million to help the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding highlights included our public health response, business grants, housing and homelessness, behavioral health, support for food banks, youth job corps and summer programming for kids.

The council is now turning its attention to our mid- to long-term needs: rebuilding Pierce County stronger than before the crisis. We're wrapping up plans to construct a fiber broadband network in under-served parts of the county, like the Key Peninsula. We also plan to make a significant investment in affordable housing. Unlike the CARES Act, which went entirely to counties, Congress split ARPA with cities, so we've begun meeting with them to ensure we coordinate our plans to stretch these dollars as far as possible.

Though our focus is on the pandemic and recovery, the threat of climate change didn't go away. That's why one of the first significant actions by the council was to adopt Sustainability 2030: Pierce County Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. We set a

bold target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% across Pierce County operations and the larger community by 2030. The next step is to implement strategies outlined in the plan.

More locally, thanks to seed funding provided by the council two years ago, and a recent state grant, our partners from the Recreational Boating Association of Washington are closing the purchase of Lakebay Marina. The purchase preserves a piece of the Key Peninsula's history, protects Puget Sound and improves access to the water for everyone.

We recently appointed a behavioral health advisory board charged with helping us improve our system with new funding. Expect to see investments in additional therapeutic courts, treatment, law enforcement co-responders and proactive mobile outreach.

Hard to believe, but we've already begun our biennial budget process with the council. These initial discussions will inform more focused deliberations this fall and give the county executive a chance to hear the council's priorities before submitting his own proposal. This will be my final biennial budget before term-limiting next year, so I plan to lay the groundwork to ensure my replacement's success.

While there's not much good that came from the COVID-19 pandemic, we did learn some new ways of doing business on the fly that we'll want to keep. The council is transitioning from remote-only meetings into a hybrid model that will enable the public and members to participate without traveling to Tacoma. Members will typically be in the council chambers, but we'll no longer feel compelled to come in sick or miss family obligations. For the public, particularly in more remote parts of the county, that means you can continue participating by computer or phone.

As always, if we can assist you with any aspect of Pierce County government, please feel free to call us at 253-798-6654.

Anna Brones FRESH TAKE



Float

A few weeks ago I was teaching a weekly creativity class. This class is often focused not just on making art, but on how we take time and create space for the activities that fuel us creatively. I asked everyone to write a list of the things that felt like their ideal summer activities. I made my own list too.

Then I asked them to consider how their usual summers compared to their lists, and whether there was anything we might be able to learn from our summers past as we

went into this one.

The specific activities listed offered up a few general themes. The main ones were related to rest (time in the hammock, reading a book), friends (long evening meals with good conversation), the freedom of time (no deadlines, no "to-dos"), food (fingers red with berry juice, fresh pies), and nature (salty swims, long picnics). We wanted these things, we craved these things, but — perhaps unsurprisingly — summers often went by with us having a sense that we had missed out on a few of them, or that we hadn't taken advantage of them when we could.

I have always thought back to my childhood and that feeling on the first day of summer vacation when I woke up and there was absolutely nothing that had to be done. There was no schedule, no expectations. Time was abundant, expansive, and it was mine. It was glorious.

There is an element to childhood that doesn't translate to adulthood — bills still need to be paid in summer, grocery shopping still has to happen — however, I still believe that whatever obstacles are in place, finding and creating moments of that expansiveness is still essential for us and our wellbeing.

I saw a meme recently on Twitter that said: European Out-Of-Office email autoreply: "I'm away camping for the summer. Please email back in September."

American Out-Of-Office email autoreply: "I have left the office for two hours to undergo kidney surgery but you can reach me on my cell at any time."

The humor in the joke didn't make the reality palatable, but it did serve as a reminder of how twisted our approach to work and time off has become, particularly in this season. Since the U.S. "continues to be the only advanced economy that does not guarantee its workers paid vacation," according to the Center for Economic and Policy Research, this reality isn't the fault of individuals, but it's an expectation and an approach that our culture has internalized, even for those of us who are able to take vacation. We keep checking emails, we keep giving ourselves projects and deadlines, we keep "busy" because "busy" is what society has deemed as culturally valuable.

Yet "busy" doesn't align with my ideal summer list, and I have come to realize that as much as winter has me craving slowing down, so too does this time of year. I don't want checklists; I want the time to savor.

My friend Paula made a watercolor illustration that said: "the days we spend floating are the days we will remember as summer," and that idea of floating rang true in a variety of ways. Floating on the water, floating in the hammock, floating in the moments in between where there isn't anything to do

except exist.

In the summer, my creative blocks and bouts of stress are best dealt with by getting in the saltwater, swimming out a ways, turning on my back, shutting my eyes, and simply floating. I am disconnected from land, which is where the to-do lists live. My ears are submerged, and unless there is a boat, the only sound is the muffled existence of the underwater world. My toes point to the sky and I float, my body an island. This is a magical place where things feel aligned.

In his book "Waterlog," UK writer Richard Deakin has this to say: "When you swim, you feel your body for what it mostly is — water — and it begins to move with the water around it. No wonder we feel such sympathy for beached whales; we are beached at birth ourselves. To swim is to experience how it was before you were born."

We want to find our way back to that place. We want to float, and summer is our opportunity to do just that, whether it's in the water or not. When we float we are untethered and unrestricted. I think that we need more time to float, physically and metaphorically. Floating through time, so that time feels endless. Floating through a conversation, so that it wanders with no end. Floating through a book, so that we are lost in another world. Floating into a summer evening, so that we can stare at the stars and feel our tiny place in an expansive universe.

None of this will magically happen to us. We have to make space for it, we have to take the time. Floating requires saying no. It requires turning off the phone, turning off the news.

But just like when we were children and the world was filled with a sense of potential, imagine what we might feel if we allowed ourselves the opportunity, if we gave ourselves permission, to just float?

Anna Brones is a writer and artist who lives in Vaughn.

Meredith Broward KEY ISSUES



History That Goes Untaught

My social media feeds were recently filled with people lamenting the fact they were just now learning about the Tulsa race massacre of 1921. Many of these friends were also publicly wondering how they hadn't even heard about the massacre until 100 years after it happened.

From May 31 to June 1, 1921, mobs of white residents, many of whom had been given weapons and were deputized by city officials, attacked Black residents and

destroyed the Greenwood District in Tulsa, Oklahoma. More than 35 square blocks of the most prosperous Black community in the United States had been leveled and we didn't collectively know about it.

I only learned of the massacre two or three years ago while reading a book that mentioned it in passing. I reread that paragraph multiple times because certainly I should have already known about this, right? Why didn't we know about such an event for nearly a century? Why wasn't it in our history books?

It isn't just me and my Facebook friends who are wondering why we collectively have varying levels of understanding about Black history. This is likely because the history that is most often taught is centered on whiteness and doesn't spend an equitable amount of time examining the history of other racial groups. If we singularly see our history through the lens of whiteness it's no surprise that racially motivated events like the Tulsa race massacre have long gone untaught.

But what can we do? We need to begin by insisting that the history we are exposed to, both in school and in life, isn't centered on whiteness. Reframing our country's history to include racial groups that have been oppressed, marginalized and exploited benefits all of us by acknowledging a true version of history.

How many of us knew the significance of June 19 before it became a federal holiday? Juneteenth has been celebrated informally since 1866, the first anniversary of enslaved people in Texas learning they'd been freed by the Emancipation Proclamation three years earlier. The Senate unanimously approved legislation for the new holiday as did all but 14 members of the House, and the president signed it into law June 17, 2021, creating Juneteenth National Independence Day.

One dissenter was Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.), who called Juneteenth part of a "hard-left agenda to enshrine the racial history of this country as the prime aspect of our national story." A conservative activist went further, tweeting "This is about replacing July 4th — just like The 1619 Project is about replacing 1776."

In 2019 The New York Times published The 1619 Project on the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in the English colony of Virginia.

The project aims to reframe the history of the United States "by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of our national narrative." This expanded look at our history was developed through essays,

photos, and a collection of fiction and poems in the August 2019 edition of The New York Times Magazine, a section in the Sunday New York Times, a podcast, and The 1619 Project Curriculum for schools, created in collaboration with the Pulitzer Center. Project creator Nikole Hannah-Jones won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for commentary for her introductory essay.

The 1619 Project Curriculum is more than just the essays in the magazine or photographs in the special Sunday section; it includes free online lesson plans, a network of teacher-created lessons to be shared and distributed, and it helps arrange speakers for schools across the country. It has caused controversy among historians and journalists grappling with foundational issues and methods of research and reporting in a rigorous public debate, which is all to the good.

There has also been a considerable amount of backlash.

Earlier this month nine U.S. Senators introduced a bill that would cut federal funding for schools that present lessons based on The 1619 Project. Parents across the country are angry with school districts that continue to supplement their traditional curricula with resources from the 1619 Project Curriculum.

But why? Are we so threatened by a closer look at history that challenges the long standing narrative viewed through the lens of whiteness? Are we afraid to admit that the history we've all been taught simply isn't enough?

If efforts like The 1619 Project make us reexamine long held beliefs about our history, it is a benefit to us all. We need to know more and we need to understand the interconnection of history and how it affects everything about our current world. We can no longer wait a century to learn about relevant historic events. We need to understand their impact now if we are going to learn who we are.

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

Dan Whitmarsh
WRITING BY FAITH



A Gift

On Sundays I rise early, enjoying a warm cup of coffee with my wife before heading out into the day. Driving toward Lakebay I experience little traffic; I tell myself that the few I pass are either on their way to church as I am, or heading out for a trip to the beach or breakfast with friends. It

seems to me a moment of quiet holiness in our frenetic world, a pause in the eternal turning of time before the world wakes up and everybody starts moving again.

One of the gifts handed down from religious streams is the idea of Sabbath, of regular time away from the pressures of life. It is a time to be refreshed, renewed and restored. The ancient Hebrew writers heard from their God and prophets a call to set aside one day a week to cease from their labor, and rest.

While the Hebrew Sabbath was, and remains, on Saturday, early Christians moved their Sabbath practice to Sunday, in keeping with the day they celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. For most this tradition carries on, although some, along with the Jewish people, practice Sabbath on Saturday.

Muslims, while not practicing Sabbath, break from work and other activities every Friday to gather for prayer. Different religious expressions have created time and space to step aside from the activities of life that keep us busy and scattered, pausing to recenter, renew and to remind each other that we are more than what we produce and consume.

The meaning of the word Sabbath, from the Hebrew "Shabbat," is often misunderstood. While it is sometimes translated "rest," a more accurate rendering is "to cease," or "to stop." While resting is a benefit of practicing Sabbath, the call is to cease from the usual work and grind of the other six days in order to mindfully live into the promise of deeper connections with ourselves, the land, loved ones, neighbors, and God.

Today, our world is in turmoil, as we try to find a way through a difficult season. Many of our old patterns have disappeared. Modern technology disrupts the rhythms of life. Boundaries between work and home have blurred. Electronic devices interrupt us at every turn and make us available to the world at any given moment. Like hamsters on a treadmill, we keep running faster and faster, with an existential sense that we are not getting anywhere.

As we begin to move into our post-pandemic life, I believe it is imperative that we reclaim a sense of Sabbath. While honoring its roots within the world of Judaism and Christianity, anybody can take the principle of Sabbath rest and apply it to our lives. Before we get back to the busyness of the previous world, this is a good time to consider what activities need to be cut back or cut out.

A healthy self-assessment includes asking

ourselves what brings us life, and what sucks our souls dry. What gives us joy, and what makes us irrationally angry? What causes anxiety, and what gives us peace at the core of our being? Once we know the answers, we can begin reordering our lives in a direction that leads to health for us and the world.

When was the last time you took a break? When did you last disconnect from technology, turn off your phone, shut off the TV and rest from all the noise? How long has it been since your last nap or long walk on a country road? Can you remember the last leisurely conversation you had with a friend or loved one? When did you last feel peace? What do you need to say no to, in order to say yes to more important things?

For me, that includes turning off my phone and taking a walk along the waterfront in Home. It means getting offline and out into the real world, connecting with friends at parks and local coffee shops. It involves making music, reading or sitting on my back porch watching the rain fall. I am committing myself to worrying less about the world, seeking instead to find ways to be part of creating a healthy community for all of us.

The world is coming at us incessantly. I encourage you to listen deeply to the cry of your heart and the craving of your soul. It is time to cease from the excesses that pull us away from each other and to lean into the gift of healing space and time. Sabbath is a gift, if we will take it.

Award-winning columnist Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church

Letters to the Editor

FROM AN OVERLOOKED SENIOR

I am a senior who just graduated from Peninsula High School. I spent all my life on the Key Peninsula but my name was not printed in last month's KP News as a KP Hawks Scholarship winner ("Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund Rewards 44 KP Seniors," June).

Apparently I didn't show up on the list of winners from the school with KP addresses because I don't have one. An address, I mean, because my family is experiencing homelessness right now.

These last few years have been super different because of Covid. I had a pretty rough time because my dad, brother and I got kicked out of our home a few months before the pandemic hit. From dealing with staying at other peoples' houses and

CONTINUED PAGE 6

LETTERS FROM PAGE 5

Happy grad on the beach. *Taralynn Perkins*

school being online, it has been a lot.

I pushed forward, telling myself, "You got this. You are going to do great things." I knew that for the career I want, majoring in psychology, I needed to finish out and do my best work. My friends have had a huge impact on me too. They always gave me a shoulder to lean on and endless support. I made sure to talk to my teachers more to keep me on track.

I am very proud of myself because I got through it and even without having a permanent place to live, still got a full ride to a university and earned four Hawk scholarships. I am also the first in my family to go to a university.

You may have to push yourself a little more but it is so worth it in the end. Every late night working on homework and catching up, it is all worth it. But do not forget to have some fun too.

Taralynn Perkins, formerly of Wauna

Letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters are used on a space-available basis. Obituaries are printed as a service to community members. Limit to 300 words and provide a high-resolution photograph. All submissions will be edited. Mail to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394, or email to editor@keypennews.org.

TIME TO REIMAGINE LEARNING

Our children will return to school full time this fall after an extremely challenging year of remote and hybrid learning. The silver lining, however, is they will have four new elementary schools, including the beautiful Evergreen Elementary and Hugh McMillan Community Center. Like many of you who helped pass the school bond that built Evergreen and the other new schools, I take pride in what our community has been able to accomplish together.

Evergreen specifically was completed a full year ahead of the original schedule that was promised in the 2019 bond. The Peninsula School District capital projects team doubled down on the time kids were not in buildings to move construction schedules ahead. As anyone in the building industry can attest, we are doubly fortunate, as the recent spike in construction costs could have put the projects at risk if the original schedules had been maintained.

Now that we have these new facilities and resources, our district has a rare opportunity to reimagine learning by bringing more real-world programs, like hands-on, project-based learning into our schools. I encourage our school district to maximize use of these new flexible meeting rooms, covered outdoor areas and shared spaces for our community. In addition, they should strengthen outside relationships with local businesses and organizations, many of whom are ready and willing to engage with students.

The district should not miss this chance to reset and reimagine learning, and to truly make our schools the center of our community.

*Jennifer Butler, Gig Harbor
Candidate, PSD School Board*

OBITUARY



Jean B. Christoffersen

Jean B. Christoffersen died peacefully at St. Michael's Medical Center in Silverdale March 18 at age 94. She was born March 13, 1927 in Seattle to Dr. Olaf and Norma Christoffersen, who preceded her in death along with her two brothers, Olaf and William; and is survived by several nieces and nephews. She had a beautiful voice and sang in the church choir, at weddings and on special occasions.

Jean attended private school and the University of Washington where she pursued a nursing career. She graduated from Wesley Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Chicago, in 1950, becoming a CRNA (nurse anesthetist). She worked with her father, a surgeon, in Seattle and then at Harrison Memorial Hospital in Bremerton from where she retired. Jean lived on the Key Peninsula until her move to Bremerton a couple of years ago.

Jean was an avid University of Washington Huskies fan and held season tickets. She loved the outdoors, was a hunter, and loved her horses, Fred and Cutter. She participated in the Great Montana Centennial Cattle Drive of 1989 herding approximately 2,800 head of cattle.

She served on the Rodeo Committee of the Kitsap County Fair and Stampede for 20 years. Jean was very active in the Key Peninsula Veterans Group, a service organization to benefit veterans in the local area. She was involved in the preparation and observance of Memorial Day at the Vaughn Cemetery.

At her request there will be no service. She would have loved a donation to any veteran organization. Those who knew her are glad she was in our lives and we miss her. Aloha dear friend. ■

In May, Angel Guild
awarded \$2,000 to Altrusa
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Cedar, the Life Giver

LYNN LARSON, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

The young girl gave one last swipe of her shinny stick to the hard cedar ball, burned for durability. Her paternal grandmother, mother and cousin-sisters were already gathering in preparation for a trek into the forest to peel cedars. The canoe specialist's trainee who would accompany them was anxious to start. Once the women arrived at the perfect cedar, and he had helped them peel the thick strips, he might scout further into the forest for a suitable canoe cedar.

The young girl raced into the longhouse, the double row of cedar roof boards overlapping to drain rainwater, the clapboards fastened with cedar withes. Scooting past her grandfather, who was sipping tea made from cedar cones to relieve his rheumatism, she headed for her father's section of honor in the longhouse, furthest from the door. Under the bed platforms of cedar were the family's big cedar bark storage baskets sitting on cedar mats, woven to be the length of the family's partition.

The young girl shifted the cedar bark clothing in the largest open work basket, searching for her waterproof cloak fashioned of shredded cedar bark woven with the downy feathers of waterfowl wings. Failing to find her cloak, she grabbed her cedar bark poncho and pulled it over her head.

She need not have worried; the party of women were soon deep into the forest where little rain could penetrate beneath the thick branches. The young girl had shown an aptitude for making the coiled, watertight baskets of cedar bark so treasured that they were handed down as heirlooms and given as special gifts by all Native families in Puget Sound. She hoped that today she would be allowed to start the cut from which the long strip of cedar bark would be peeled from the tree. While the party walked single file through the forest, the girl noted the site of a rotten Douglas fir nurse log that supported the young trees of his wife, Cedar. The long roots of cedar were the best for baskets. She imagined soaking the split roots. When they were pliable enough to bend easily without cracking, she would scrape the long roots with her favorite clam shell.

The women had a successful day, the young girl carrying on her back the strips of inner bark separated from the outer bark and rolled into coils. They were lucky. The sap was running, the bark was not sticky, and the peel from the first tree they tried was a good one, 20 feet long, with a straight grain. After a year of drying, the inner bark could be split into long strips for baskets and mats, or pounded and shredded to fibers as fine as silk.

As the party neared their village, the young girl sensed the change. People were bustling, digging cooking pits for steaming clams and venison, heating rocks to drop in the waterproof baskets to boil water and heat soups and stews, and bringing out the cedar splint baskets of salmon backbones and salmon eggs. Strangers were gath-



Skokomish cedar and reed basket, circa 1900, with wolves and dogs. The wolves have their tails down and the dogs have their tails up. This type of pliable basket was used for clothing or other soft items rather than food. In this region, remains of domesticated dogs date as far back as 1,000 BCE. *Museum of History and Industry, 1957.1239.6*

ered near their canoes pulled up on the shore, and one of the women wore a mountain goat wool skirt. The girl knew then that these were the relatives of the woman who would be her father's second wife, his bride from way upriver on the Green. Then she saw the baskets being unloaded from the canoes, full of gifts for the groom. She hoped that one of the gifts would be the highly sought mountain grass the Green River people dyed and used to imbricate designs into their baskets so different from those of her people.

At the end of the young girl's day, she sat with the other children around her grandfather's fire hearth while he told the story of the battle between the Sky People and the Earth People. While the battle raged, Beaver stuck a piece of fire into the alder, into the willow and into the cedar. Beaver said that the roots of those trees would be fire drills for the future people. As she dropped into sleep on piles of furs on her bed platform, the girl faintly heard the adults playing slahal, one gambler secretly holding a fungus that grew on cedar, bringing good luck to the owner.

This young girl knew the central role that cedar played in the culture of her people. Cedar, the Life Giver, permeated all aspects of Native life in Puget Sound — water-

proof clothing, hats, houses, canoes, tools, torches, buoys, baskets, mats, serving bowls, toys, diapers, toweling, parts of fish traps, fish nets and more. Native people on Puget Sound formed every element of the cedar into material trappings, and to use in ceremonial rituals and in healing.

Although cedar shaped one of the world's great cultures, the mighty and straight-grained Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) that can live hundreds of years, is rarely, if ever, seen on the Key Peninsula in the size that it can reach. At least two cycles of logging have removed the giants that lived here, reaching to the salt water. Occasionally, we see young remnants of those groves, with their understory of ferns and salal and, if swampy, skunk cabbage.

The Native people expressed gratitude and respect for the cedar each time they took its lifegiving roots, limbs, fronds and wood. In turn, I thank those land stewards that cherish their cedars and allow them to keep breathing, to provide homes for countless birds, creatures and insects, to scent the air after a rain, and to gracefully wave their sweeping boughs in a gentle breeze. And I thank the cedars for their sheer beauty, their steadfastness and the succor they offer on difficult days. ■

Redistricting Commission Reaches Out to the Public

Late census data provides a unique window for public input on the legislative redistricting process.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

If “unprecedented” described much of 2020, it also describes the opportunity for public input this year as Washington State redraws its legislative boundaries.

Census data will not be available until August 15 — the pandemic delayed results that historically have been available by April. Sarah Augustine, the nonpartisan, nonvoting chair of the Washington Redistricting Commission, said the delay has fundamentally changed how the commission is working. Rather than drawing maps based on census data and then asking for public input, the commission is asking for public input before drawing the maps.

Pierce County Councilman Derek Young said, “In 2011 the Key Peninsula came close to being moved to the Mason County legislative district. It was blocked by former 26th Legislative District Representative Tom Huff who was on the redistricting commission.”

Redistricting — the process of drawing new maps that determine legislative boundaries — takes place every 10 years as the census data documents population changes in the nation. It is the work of the Washington State Redistricting Commission to draw up new plans for both the 10 congressional districts and the 49 state legislative districts. Pierce County will redraw its district lines as well, but that process is done at the local level.

District boundaries have shifted over the decades, and both population shifts and political partisanship have played roles. In 1983, after decades of legislative wrangling and lawsuits over updated district maps, Washington established a redistricting commission. It is one of only seven states to have one.

There are five commission members. Two Republicans and two Democrats are each appointed by their respective caucus leaders from the state house and senate. The commissioners appoint a nonvoting, nonpartisan chair who then hires staff to support its work.

Augustine, the commission chair, is the executive director of the Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas counties and has worked as a mediator for nearly two decades.

“Redistricting is one of the most important ways to engage in democracy.



The commission has created a “get-to-know-us” video at <https://youtu.be/2-PVS8Q0Os0>

The lines that are drawn will define who votes together as a block, how you vote for a representative, and which representatives you have the option to vote for,” she said.

The commission began meeting in January and has been holding community outreach meetings since May. Lisa McClean, hired as executive director of the commission, said that as of June about 80% of staff time had been spent on community outreach — working to get input on what is important to community members, how they define their community boundaries, and what their concerns are.

“Each of the commissioners is rooted in a community, but none of them are rooted in every community,” Augustine said. “It is impossible for four individuals to know the needs and interests of every community in the state. So the public is crucial and key in informing those four individuals about their needs and interests.”

Community members can participate in scheduled virtual meetings or via mail, email, phone, video or recording. In addition, the commission has introduced a mapping tool that allows participants to draw their communities. Once the census data is available in September, individuals can submit proposals for district boundaries as well.

Staff is also working to organize public input. “The goal is to make the information knowable and useful, to synthesize and reflect back to the public,” Augustine said. “We want to make data-driven decisions.” Summaries of public commentary

are available on the commission’s website.

The process is bipartisan by design, but it is not nonpartisan, as the voting members are all political appointees. At least three of the four appointed commissioners must agree to the redistricting plan and present it to the Washington State Legislature by Nov. 15. The Legislature has 30 days to review the plan and any amendments must pass with a two-thirds vote and involve less than a 2% population variation.

Although the final census data is not available yet, information from the 2019 American Community Survey provided estimates about how district populations have shifted. The 26th Legislative District probably has about 11,000 fewer people than it should, and the 6th Congressional District is short by 35,000. Differential growth in the state has been in the greater Seattle area, King and Snohomish counties. Growth in eastern Pierce County outpaced that in the western part, which will necessitate a shift in district boundaries.

By law the districts should have populations as nearly equal as is practicable, coincide with the boundaries of local political subdivisions and communities of interest, divide counties and municipalities as little as possible, and be “convenient, contiguous and intact.”

“It is like a jigsaw puzzle,” McLean said. She said that the average size of legislative districts has gone from 137,000 to 157,000 and the average size of congressional districts has grown from 670,000 to 770,000. The commission is seeking input from the public as well as from legislators to help determine district boundaries.

To comment online go to www.redistricting.wa.gov ■



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Helen enjoying her favorite holiday.

How Penrose Harbor offers exceptional memory care for mother...and invaluable peace of mind for her daughter.

When Tracey W. and her husband started planning their move from Spokane to Gig Harbor to be near their son and his family, finding a memory care residence for her mother, Helen, was the top priority. Tracey’s online research included options in Gig Harbor, Port Orchard and Tacoma—and very quickly, Penrose Harbor rose to the top of the list. Located within Heron’s Key senior living community in Gig Harbor, Penrose Harbor is open to the public and offers the area’s most progressive concepts in assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care.



All roads led us to Penrose Harbor.



Tracey sent an email to Penrose Harbor about Alzheimer’s care for her mother and immediately got a response from Kathy West, marketing manager. Thus began an open dialogue covering every possible question about her mother’s care. “It was probably one of the most comprehensive things I’ve ever experienced in the way of just absolute availability of information,” says Tracey. The more she learned about Penrose Harbor, the more she knew it was right for her mother.

All-private suites and private baths set Penrose Harbor apart.



In addition to the home-like atmosphere, Tracey was impressed by the community’s focus on creating positive experiences for residents and their families. Starting with the day Helen moved in to Penrose Harbor, the staff went out of their way to make mother and daughter feel right at home. Tracey noticed a difference in her mom from the very start.

“When mom lived with us, she was often bored and unhappy,” says Tracey. “Now, every time I talk to her, she says, ‘Alright honey, I have to go. I have people here.’” Tracey gives all the credit to the exceptional staff at Penrose Harbor.



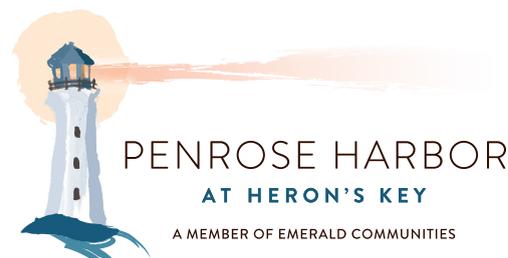
There’s not a night that goes by that I don’t say, ‘Lord bless them all, protect them all, keep them safe, whatever they’re asking you for,’ because the Penrose Harbor staff has made our lives and my mother’s life so much better.



In addition, Tracey appreciates the fact that Penrose Harbor doesn’t feel like a hospital or a “facility.” Instead, it feels like home—from her mother’s large, private room decorated just the way she likes to the comfortable living room, inviting dining room and beautifully landscaped, secure courtyard.

“Not only is it beautiful, but there’s also such a sense of family,” says Tracey. In fact, Penrose Harbor’s award-winning culture was recently honored by Holleran, which recognizes engaging communities with highly satisfied residents and staff.

As part of Heron’s Key senior living community, Penrose Harbor is a natural extension of the friendly, small-town Kitsap Peninsula lifestyle. For more information about assisted living, memory care or skilled nursing care at Penrose Harbor, call 866-765-8076 to schedule a personal tour.



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At Home with Moths, the Beautiful Bellwethers

Celebrate National Moth week: They are wildly diverse, intimately connected with plants and responsive to change.

CHRIS RURIK, KP NEWS

The days are hot and the nights are warm. By day I'm lucky to see two or three butterfly species. By night the moths swarm, pale shapes like prisms around the edges of my house. At my black light trap, where I catch moths for portraits before releasing them, I find 10, 15 species in a night. With a close look, their beauty matches that of their day-flying cousins, and their diversity, night after night as more species are revealed, each with its own pattern, is wild. A tiger moth arches pure white wings to hide an orange and black body. A lappet moth with cinnamon scalloped wings tucks its head next to leaflike flanges. A dozen micromoths rest like windblown flower petals; I hope to someday learn their names.

The third week in July is National Moth Week. To prepare I've been documenting the moths in our area.

In a way, this new practice of examining them, learning and photographing them, is a form of penance. I've had a long journey with moths. In the not-too-distant past you could find me shouting and cowering when I reached from the shower and one flew from my towel. I once killed a moth on a wall by throwing a book at it. It left a gray dust on the wall. Now I know that what looked like dust had been the scales that patterned its wings. I don't know why my fear was so intense. I even published a piece with the line, "They are night-riders birthed in Satan's closet." I was trying to be funny. And people laughed. But humor born in fear rarely stays funny. It's a dead-end street.

Penance, on the other hand, is supposed to be a mud pit. Yet these moths have opened to me a vista. After beetles, moths and butterflies are the most diverse order of insects, with 155,000 described species and counting. In North America there are about 700 species of butterflies. There are over 12,000 species of moths. Why such diversity? And what does it tell us about the world around us?

For an answer, it helps to pay attention to



Chris Rurik, KP News

Into the WILD
EXPLORING WITH THE KP NATURE GUIDE

the way moths spend most of their lives — as caterpillars. Caterpillars can be found on every kind of flowering plant, and they have adapted to chow down on leaves in unique and intricate ways. Most of them specialize on a single family of plants, or even a single species. The free-flying adults show up anywhere — they sip nectar here and there to fuel their flights in search of mates, or lack mouthparts entirely and do not feed — but the caterpillars are always near their plants of choice. And plant diversity is legendary.

Recent research supports a long-held hypothesis that flowering plants and moths diversified in tandem, each reinforcing the others' proliferation. Using the genetics of hundreds of moth species and models that calculate rates of evolutionary change, scientists have sketched out the moth family tree, peering into deep time to see when the major lineages diverged.

Sure enough, a major radiation happened in the Cretaceous period of 90 million years ago, the time of the dinosaurs, when flowering plants spread rapidly across the world, evolving into thousands of fantastic forms and challenging the reign of conifers, ferns and cycads.

The other night a moth of the genus *Pero* appeared, looking like a little hieroglyph, its wings stiff and crossed with a twiglike streak. In terms of numbers, *Pero* are similar to hummingbirds — the genus

has about 300 species, all in the Americas, in every conceivable habitat, with its highest diversity in the mountainous terrain of South America where bands of unique vegetation stripe valleys many thousands of feet deep. Topography and diversity go hand in hand.

But there are other reasons for diversity. Two megadiverse moth families with hundreds of representatives on the Key Peninsula, Noctuidae and Geometridae — the genus *Pero* is in the family Geometridae — achieved their incredible numbers 60 million years ago, long after the Cretaceous explosion of flowering plants. It's not a random number. It follows close on the heels of one of the most destructive events in Earth's history: the famed dinosaur-killing asteroid impact. So much dust went into the atmosphere that all photosynthesis stopped for months or years. 80% of animal species went extinct. The few survivors held on by a thread. When the sun returned and plants regrew, they spread into a landscape in which everything had been rearranged. With most of life reduced to ghosts, moths and mammals had space to radiate into a multitude of species.

So moths make great bellwethers. Scientists call them bioindicators: diverse, intimately connected with plants, responsive to change. You could blindfold me, spin me around, drop me off at night in a dark place and, assuming I had my black light

trap in my back pocket, I could get a pretty good sense of the terrain based on the moths that paid me a visit. By sampling moths over the coming years, identifying patterns, I hope to witness in real time the ways the wild life around us, from moths to caterpillars to flowering plants and right down to soil and moisture, is reacting to the changes rocking our landscape.

Scientists who study deep time talk about "the great adaptive radiations of the past," each following an asteroid-level trauma. Today the trauma is far more diffuse — patches of clear-cut and pavement and sprayed chemicals intermixed with preserved forest and overgrown margins. It's an ongoing freeform rearrangement of wild communities, with the losses far outweighing the rebirths. What will result from such trauma? How many species will slip away like ghosts beneath our notice? Will wildlife adapt, or will it take deep time for species to radiate again?

As I prepare for National Moth Week, I'm thinking about just how much of the rearrangement is akin to throwing a book at a moth on a wall. Ignorance and fear walk hand in hand. Our default preference is the blank wall, the mowed lawn, the simplistic idea of Moth, rather than the tangled wild filled with hundreds of moth species, each with its own story.

Having begun to appreciate the vista that moths provide, the blank wall sure seems like a lonely thing. ■

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SCIENTISTS CALL THEM BIOINDICATORS: DIVERSE, INTIMATELY CONNECTED WITH PLANTS, RESPONSIVE TO CHANGE.



NATIONAL MOTH WEEK

July 17-25 is the 10th annual National Moth Week. This event "celebrates the beauty, life cycles and habitats of moths," according to www.national-mothweek.org. "Moth-ers' of all ages and abilities are encouraged to learn about, observe and document moths in their backyards, parks and neighborhoods." A citizen science project, the event provides scientists with data about moths around the world.

Finding and photographing moths can be as easy as leaving a porch light on overnight and snapping pictures with your cell phone in the morning. More ambitious moth-ers might string up a white sheet, use a black light or mercury vapor light, or take a mobile setup to the beach or forest. The website lists ways of contributing sightings. Observers can also send images to Chris at nature@keypennews.org.

KP Lags Behind County, State Covid Vaccination Rates

Fear and disinformation seem to impede the effort to stop a pandemic that has killed 600,000 Americans and hurt half the population physically, financially or emotionally.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Vaccinations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have recently slowed all over the U.S., especially in Washington state and on the Key Peninsula, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the state Department of Health.

Pierce County residents were getting jabbed at a rate of 6,300 per day in April; now it's down to 2,600.

Some of the lowest numbers in the county are on the KP, according to the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

The highest percentage of KP vaccination was for residents living between Minter and Home at 53%. The lowest was north of Vaughn at 34%. TPCHD rates

"THE ABSOLUTE INSANE DESPERATION TO GET EVERYONE VACCINATED SHOULD GIVE EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US PAUSE."

in January to 5 in mid-June.

"Vaccines are playing a major role in these hopeful statistics," said TPCHD.

But Washington's infection rate for unvaccinated people in June was as high as its peak in January.

In a June 5 statement, DOH announced that "Over the two-week period ending May 9, the hospital admission rate for unvaccinated people ages 45-64 was about 21 times higher than the rate for fully vaccinated people of the same age. Among people ages 65 and older, the hospital admission rate was about 13 times higher in unvaccinated people."

The longer people remain unvaccinated, the greater the chance that more transmissible variants will

rapidly mutate and spread among them, especially if they have given up wearing masks and social distancing, according to DOH.

"Things are getting safer for those who are vaccinated," Umair Shah, Washington's secretary of health, said in May. "For those who are unvaccinated, they remain at risk... (They) are the ones who are not wearing a mask or washing their hands. Those are the very people who oftentimes will socialize and be around similar, like-minded people. You're going to have the pandemic continue in those clusters."

A March poll from the Monmouth University Polling Institute found that 25% of Americans are unwilling to be vaccinated. Partisanship was the main indicator with 36% of those being Republican and 31% independent compared to 6% Democrat.

Participants cited a variety of reasons: lack of access to vaccines, concern about side effects and the FDA approval process, disbelief that COVID-19 is dangerous, a belief in one or more conspiracy theories, and lastly, philosophical objections.

If vaccination rates stall, the U.S. would be vulnerable to a pandemic resurgence due to the spread of COVID-19 variants among the unvaccinated, including immunocompromised people who are unable to get vaccinated, according to DOH.

The RAND Corporation found in a new report that the spread of misinformation and

disinformation over social media has fueled vaccine hesitancy. In March the U.S. State Department's Global Engagement Center identified four publications as fronts for Russian intelligence. "Their websites played up the vaccines' risk of side effects, questioned their efficacy, and said the U.S. had rushed the (vaccines) through the approval process, among other false or misleading claims."

A report published earlier this year by the nonprofit Center for Countering Digital Hate found that just 12 individuals and their organizations were responsible for almost two-thirds of all vaccine disinformation posted on Facebook and Twitter.

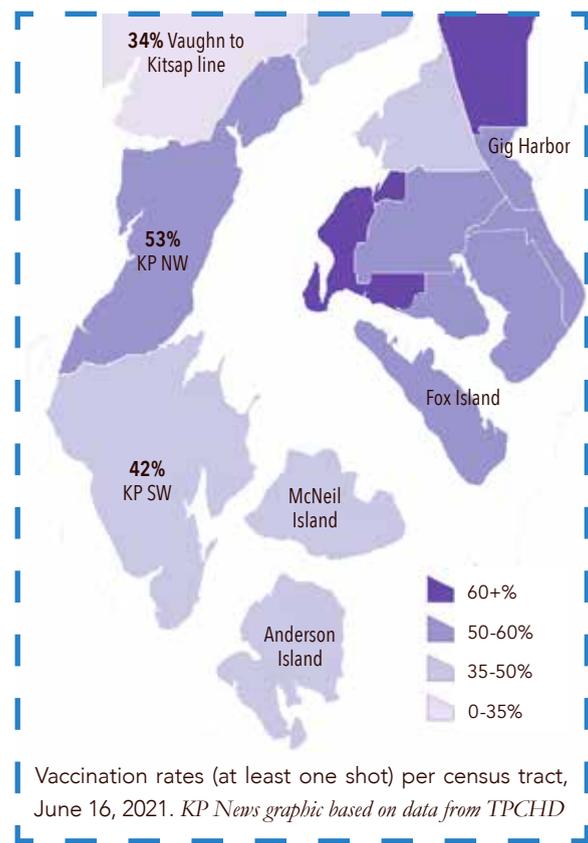
"Our research has proven that social media platforms are too slow to take action against disinformation networks with millions of followers, and remove just one in eight posts containing Covid or vaccine misinformation," it read.

One recent example was shared about "the gene therapy shot" to a KP Facebook group June 10. It read, in part, "The absolute INSANE desperation to get everyone vaccinated should give every single one of us pause: Actual scholarships & lotteries?! When in history has this EVER happened? For a non-FDA approved product? There is NOTHING normal about this.

In fact, it's terrifying."

In reality, lotteries and other incentives have been used to promote public health before, from a 1950s tuberculosis treatment in the UK, to anti-smoking efforts in the U.S. in the '80s, to AIDS-HIV prevention in Africa in the 2000s.

In addition, all of the COVID-19 vaccinations in the U.S. have been approved for emergency use by the FDA. They were developed rapidly because of concurrent clinical trials of mRNA (messenger RNA) technology that has been in use for a decade, instead of the traditional and more time-consuming live virus vaccine culturing, according to the FDA. The vaccines are also under



evaluation for permanent approval this year. Approval will allow marketing after the pandemic emergency has ended.

According to guidelines from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (part of the NIH), vaccines accepted by the FDA for emergency use authorization are overseen by a panel of scientists independent of the manufacturers and the government officials who would approve it.

In addition, Washington, Nevada, Oregon and California formed the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup to further evaluate the vaccines after FDA emergency authorization. It approved the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine Dec. 13 and the Moderna vaccine Dec. 20. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was approved April 24.

"The FDA is publicly sharing information about COVID-19 vaccines so you can see the evidence for yourself," according to its website. "The FDA's analysis of clinical trial data, as well as demographic information about the clinical study volunteers, is available in the FDA Briefing Document for each vaccine. You can also view the advisory committee webcasts where outside experts discuss the data. The FDA's reasoning for authorizing each vaccine is available in the FDA Decision Memorandum."

Anyone 12 years or older is eligible for a free Covid vaccine. Appointments are available at Cost Less Pharmacy, St. Anthony Hospital, Costco, CVS and Walgreen's in Gig Harbor. Vaccinations are available for homebound people through the TPCHD.

For more information, call 253-649-1412 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. seven days a week or go to www.tpchd.org/vax:tothefuture. ■

Happy 60th Anniversary Carolyn and David

Carolyn and David Wiley celebrated 60 years of marriage on June 10 and we're so glad they made it. They were married in Irving, Texas, though a longhorn steer on the highway tried to stop the whole affair.

As a young couple, David took a job with the 'Boney' Company of Seattle where he spent his days "dirtying papers." It is in Washington where they started their family. First came Alexandra followed a couple of years later by Sharon. In Seattle, Carolyn did young mom stuff and probably art. There was always art.

With two young children in tow, they were called back to Texas. David worked on some super-secret NASA/Boeing project. He won't tell you about it even if you ask. In Houston, the family was completed with the addition of Laura. The lure of the great PNW is strong so, in late '72 the Wileys finally left 'Old Hot Sweaty' for good. This was a good thing. We're not sure any of us Wiley girls would have survived in that climate anyway.

Washington state has been their home for



nearly 50 years. David continued to work for Mr. Boeing until his retirement sometime in the '90s. Meanwhile, Carolyn enjoyed a career of teaching elementary school and being a patron of the arts in Kent. Three daughters were brought up in Kent, and all moved north. Shortly after finally getting that last girl out of the house, they hightailed it out of town in the opposite direction and landed on the Longbranch Peninsula. They didn't get away quite far enough because the daughters and the next generation of five grandchildren still get down to see them every once in a while.

Retirement has been busy! Keep your eyes out around the peninsula, you might spot a Wiley in the wild. If you see Tai Chi happening in the parking lot of the Longbranch Improvement Club, attend the Fiber Arts Show or Farm Tour, catch the water aerobics class at Camp Easter Seals or that old guy hanging out at the Tom Taylor YMCA, make sure to wish that lovebird a happy anniversary, because after 60 years, we'd say, they made it.

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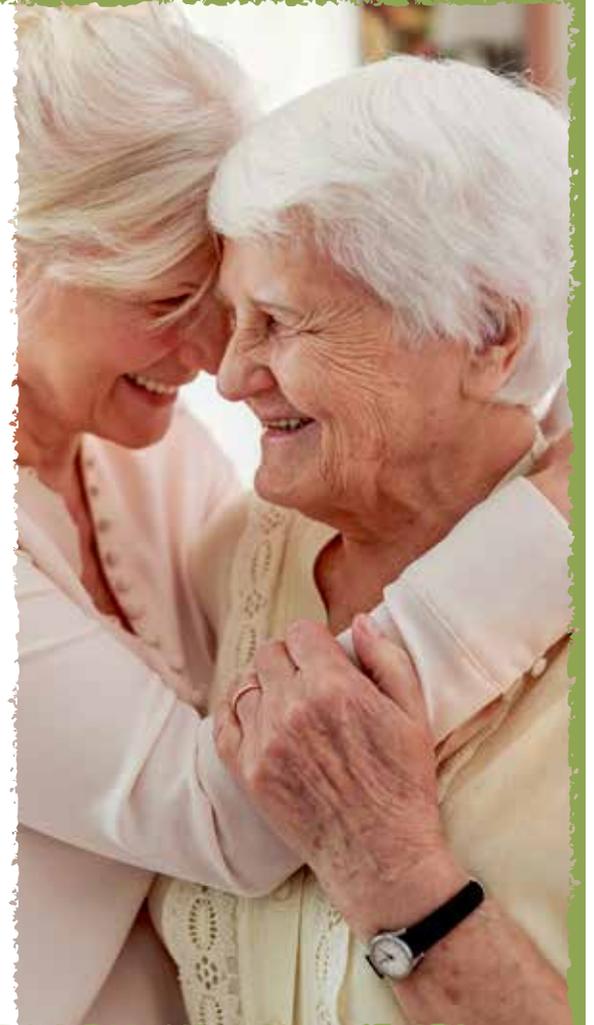
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Oyster Restoration and Algae Blooms Under Study at Penrose State Park

State, county and local groups are working to improve Puget Sound habitat.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Pierce County, the University of Washington Tacoma, Harbor WildWatch, Coastal Conservation Association and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are all working together at Penrose State Park to study restoration of native Olympia oysters in Puget Sound to improve habitat. The work also includes studying the impact of blue-green algae blooms from nearby Bay Lake.

Jeff Barney, watershed planner for Pierce County Planning and Public Works Floodplain and Watershed Services, is managing the pilot project. "We created a lab at Penrose. The partnerships have been amazing," he said.

The team selected five sites along the shore north of the Penrose spit. In September 2020 each 10-by-10 foot site was covered with a cubic yard of oyster shells. Twelve hundred juvenile oysters were laid on top and the site was monitored to evaluate oyster survival and the status of the oyster shell substrate.

Mike Behrens, professor of biology at Pacific Lutheran University, is the lead for the project.

"People walk the beaches, see oysters growing here and think everything is great," Behrens said. But most of those oysters are nonnative Pacifics, imported from Asia many years ago. A hot summer in 2015 made the water warm enough to allow Pacific larvae to survive, attach to substrate on local beaches, and grow.

The Olympia, the only native oyster in Washington, is a rarity. They were wiped out by overfishing in the late 1800s. Behrens said that Gold Rush miners in San Francisco, eager to show off their wealth, ate the diminutive bivalve mollusks by the dozens. "It takes a lot of Olympias to make a Hangtown Fry," he said.

The purpose of Olympia restoration is to improve the health of the Puget Sound ecosystem rather than growing oysters to harvest, Behrens said. Olympias grow much more slowly than Pacifics, rarely reaching the 3-inch size required for harvesting. But healthy beds filter the water, serve as habitat and provide foraging opportunities for other species, including salmon.

There have been a number of oyster restoration projects, but Barney said this is one of the few that focus on studying what happens over time when oysters are planted, and that further study would be helpful.

Behrens expected that the number of oysters surviving would be small but that the loss would be gradual due to desicca-

tion from exposure and temperature. The main predators would typically be sea stars, but that population has been devastated by a wasting disease, he said. What he did not account for was the number of red rock crabs that have moved in — a possible increase in population as a result of closing crabbing in the area for the last two years.

In the first month, between 85% and 95% of the oysters were gone, and by the fourth month the best bed had only 6% survival.

Behrens said mixing the juvenile oysters into the substrate shells could have a protective effect. The two most successful sites had better shell substrate stability. Water flow from tide and wave action dispersed the shells, and they sank into the sand. A site that is somewhat protected and has a rockier beach will likely be more successful.

In addition to the oyster restoration project, Behrens is studying oyster recruitment. Stacks of oyster shells are held in place with dowels at seven sites along the shore. Every two weeks his team evaluates them to see if oyster larvae — either Olympia or Pacific — have attached to the shells. Recruitment so far has been minimal, he said.

Behrens also said that having an adult population of Olympias may increase recruitment and survival, possibly from chemical interactions comparable to pheromone action. He said a restoration project in Fidalgo Bay showed slow growth for years and then suddenly took off.

In 2013, Harbor WildWatch established a community science program to monitor a swath of beach at the Penrose spit. Twice a year people go to observe changes in marine life and the beach slope. "We joke that our volunteers range from 8 to 80," said Behrens, who is one them.

"The project bolsters the work that Harbor WildWatch does with their community science program," Barney said. "The (pilot project) grant is not huge, but it included small stipends to pay for student projects."

Finally, in conjunction with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Barney is working to understand the impact of blue-green algae blooms from Bay Lake. TPCHD monitors Bay Lake weekly for the toxic algae from Memorial Day through Labor Day. If a toxic bloom is identified TPCHD will collect water samples weekly at Mayo Creek and Mayo Cove and collect tissue samples from mussels growing in cages in Mayo Cove. Barney said there were no blooms last year, and TPCHD has not reported any this season. ■

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THE GREATER ALARM

FIRE DISTRICT NO.16 NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Welcome to the latest edition of the Greater Alarm. Our newsletter is one way in which we try to keep the community informed about what is occurring at the District. In this edition, I want to share specific information about a very important request that the District will have in front of the community on the August 3rd ballot- the Multi-Year Levy Lid Lift.

The Multi-Year Levy Lid Lift is a renewal request for the expiring Levy the community passed in 2015. Since that time, the District's population has grown steadily. Call volume has increased by twenty four (24) percent from 1,996 emergency incidents in 2015 to 2,480 emergency incidents in 2020. Also, call complexity has increased, and the District has not had all of the emergency response resources needed to keep up.

In addition to increased service demand, costs to provide fire prevention, fire protection, and emergency medical services have increased over the last six (6) years. This is because of the need to purchase specialized lifesaving equipment, ongoing and advanced training, increased staffing needs, supplies for routine service delivery, or maintenance and repairs of the District's fleet and facilities.

With leadership and policy direction from the Board of Fire Commissioners, the District has prepared a ten-year financial forecast that emphasizes a "pay as we go" strategy for as many of these continued expenses as possible. The Multi-Year Levy Lid Lift is a critical element to this strategy. As such, the Multi-Year Levy Lid Lift will provide funding for:

ADDITIONAL FIREFIGHTERS CAREER & VOLUNTEER

Across the Levy's duration, the District plans to hire between six (6) and ten (10) additional Career Firefighters, EMT's and Paramedics. The District

will also add several Volunteer Firefighters to the staffing model. This additional staffing will be used to complement current unit staffing and add an additional staffed unit to the District's deployment. This added personnel will ensure that the lifesaving service you are entitled to arrive promptly.

UPGRADED LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT

To provide for your safety during a house fire, motor vehicle accident, or medical emergency, the District must provide its Firefighters with appropriate safety and response equipment. Over the life of the Levy, the District plans to replace its outdated Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, renew its vehicle extrication equipment, and increase its investment in advanced EMS equipment needed during cardiac arrests.

When you dial 911, we have to be able to get to your location. While our fire apparatus has served us well, maintenance costs are now starting to exceed replacement values, and the out-of-service time for some units is concerning. Over the life of the Levy, the District will use a variety of tactics (purchasing used and new) to upgrade its fleet.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

District buildings have aged, space has become cramped, and with limited resources, significant repairs have been deferred. The District feels strongly that our facilities must be available for public use whenever possible. The Multi-Year Levy Lid Lift passage would allow the District to make necessary repairs to several of its facilities and develop a Capital Facilities Plan that will guide appropriate upgrades for District facilities, and community spaces moving into the future.

SMALL CAPITAL REPLACEMENT, IMPROVEMENT & PLANNING

Mitigating emergency incidents require an inventory of small tools, equipment, and gear. The Multi-Year Levy Lid Lift will provide the continued funding needed now, or allow for the building of assigned reserves for items

like positive pressure fans, power saws, hand tools, personal protective equipment such as bunker gear and hose. It will also provide for administrative items that may be needed, such as computers and office equipment, that allow Staff to manage the District's business.

The bottom line, the Multi-Year Levy Lid Lift will allow the District to implement the pay as we go strategy that the Board of Fire Commissioners is expecting, and that is tailored to our community's needs. Having another six (6) years of stable, predictable funding will allow the District to provide the property protection and lifesaving services you and your family expect of us.

HOW WILL DISTRICT SERVICES BE IMPACTED IF THE MULTI-YEAR LEVY LID LIFT FAILS?

The District will stall and fall further behind in providing the critical services you depend on to protect your property and life. Current call volume, and the frequency of receiving multiple 911 calls at the same time already outpace our existing resources. The District does not want to be in a position where we cannot respond quickly or without the resources needed to handle your emergency.

HOW WILL THIS IMPACT MY TAXES?

Based on current assessed values, moving from the current \$1.25 per thousand to \$1.50 per thousand on a \$300,000 home, you will pay \$450 a year (currently \$375), or \$37.50 a month.

The Multi-Year Levy Lid Lift is for six (6) years and allows the District the option of raising its annual budget a maximum of six percent (6%) from the previous year's budget, regardless of an increase in assessed value.

Please vote on August 3rd.

Chief Morrow
Stay safe!
Chief Morrow

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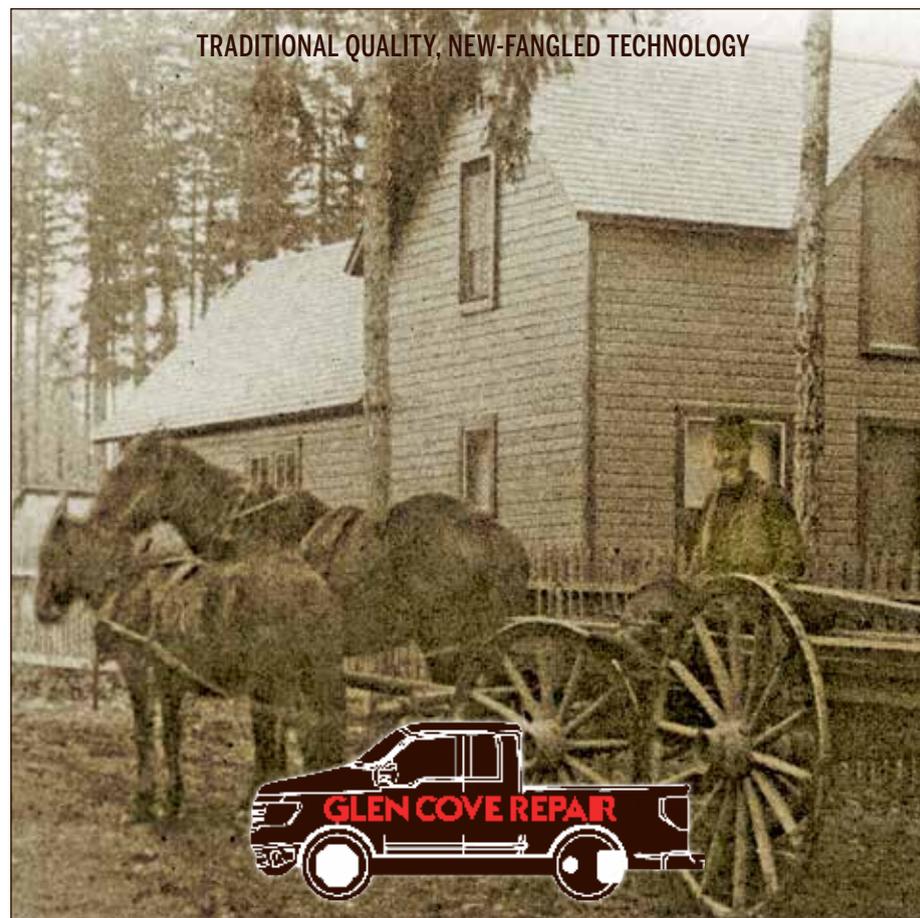
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J.A. Hall delivering Lumber to new library, 1893: Photo courtesy Key Peninsula Historical Museum

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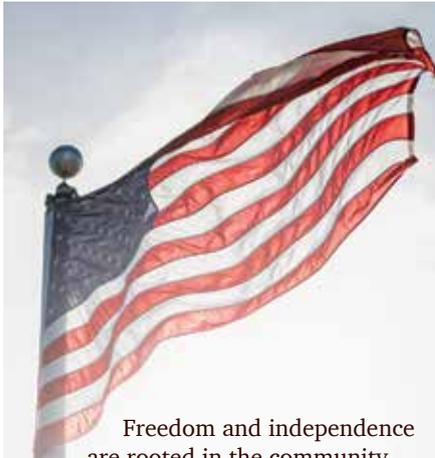
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It's been my honor to serve you this past 6 years and I hope I have earned your vote on August 3rd

sajensen@outlook.com

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Parks for People**



Freedom and independence are rooted in the community, based in relationships between neighbors, friends and even strangers. The democracy of everyday life is the bedrock of American life.

In the past year we've seen our community's generosity, selflessness and care.

Let's join together this Fourth and salute a shared devotion to our Key Peninsula community.



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Local Fraud Buster Inducted Into International Auditor Hall of Fame

After more than four decades, Joe Dervaes continues "leading through service."

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Vaughn resident Joe Dervaes, 80, became just the fifth person worldwide inducted into the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners Hall of Fame at a virtual global conference held June 19-21, capping a 43-year career in auditing and fraud investigation at federal and state levels.

The ACFE is an international organization of 90,000 certified fraud examiners, attorneys and law enforcement personnel that works to detect and reduce white-collar crime and train others in best practices. It was these same certified fraud examiners who brought down Bernie Madoff's \$65 billion Ponzi scheme in 2008.

The Hall of Fame award is the highest honor any CFE can receive.

"I was just astounded," Dervaes said. "It's not an award you compete for, it finds you."

But it's not the first of its kind for Dervaes, who also received the ACFE's lifetime achievement Cressy Award in 2003 for fraud deterrence and detection, the organization's highest honor at the time, presented to him by then Washington State Auditor Brian Sonntag.

"My whole life is about service — leading through service — service to the nation, to the state, to the community," Dervaes said. Even in retirement, he is still active in the ACFE, is president and sexton of Vaughn Bay Cemetery, and treasurer of the Key Peninsula Historical Society and Museum.

"The ACFE and CFE designations are two of the most important things that ever happened to me in my career, besides these two awards," he said. He joined the ACFE in 1988 to further his own education and share his knowledge.

Dervaes was elected to the ACFE board of regents in 1998 where he spent four years, including three as chair; he joined the faculty, taught at conferences worldwide, served on the board of review for disciplinary action, wrote 80 columns on fraud for the ACFE magazine over 13 years, and was the first to be appointed to a new fellowship program created to produce a manual on fraud — a project he'd already done once when he literally wrote the book on fraud examination for the Washington State Auditor's Office.

"All of my experience in fraud comes from working for the state for 22 and a half years," where he was the audit manager of special investigations. "But I was trained

for it in the Air Force," he said.

Dervaes joined the Air Force in 1963 after graduating from the University of Tampa, where he grew up, with a double major in accounting and business administration.

"They were going to make me an air traffic controller, but when I got to officer candidate school, the resident auditor walked in and said anybody with accounting experience follow him, and I started auditor training right then. I was 22."

Dervaes spent his entire Air Force career in the audit agency, retiring in 1983 as a lieutenant colonel, including a five year tour at the Pentagon examining accounts for "sensitive compartmented information" (also called "above top secret"). "That was a very important assignment for me," he said.

He also served on Okinawa, in Korea, and bases stateside including McChord, where he met his future wife, Peggy.

"An Air Force base is a city; we audit everything in the city," he said. "Gas

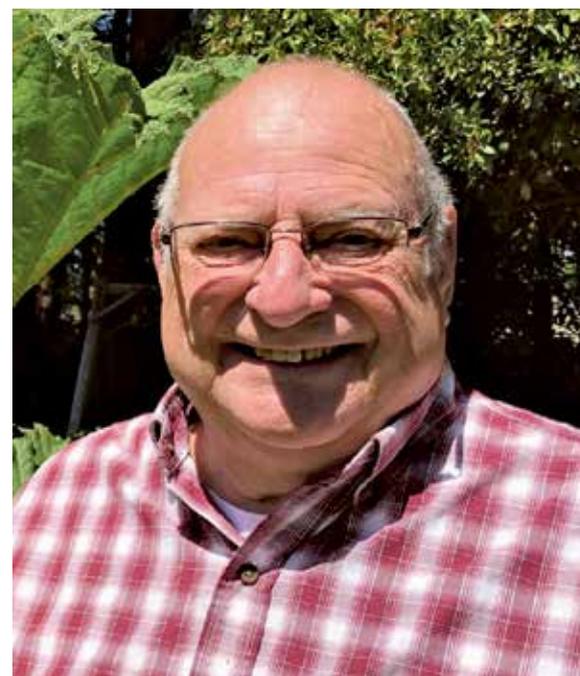
stations, flight lines, clubs, anything that can go wrong. We're not auditing because we think something is wrong, but to make sure everything is going right."

That was the approach Dervaes brought to his job with Washington state in 1983.

"The auditor's office is the watchdog of the public dollar: That's their mission," he said. "My specialty is employee embezzlement in state agencies and local government. If somebody found a fraud during an audit, my job was to help them. If it became big, bad, ugly or politically sensitive, then I did it."

Dervaes conducted the most difficult interviews with fraud suspects himself. "I was on point. If something happened and we had to go to court, then I would be the person testifying as an expert witness. Because of the quality of the work we did, I probably had to go to court no more than a dozen times." Their cases were usually so overwhelming the suspect would confess and strike a plea bargain.

"One of the things that an auditor is never trained to do is to try to talk somebody out of suicide," he said. "That's something you



Ted Olinger, KP News

have to learn. When you catch somebody by surprise and they know that it's over, their next thing is 'how will I live after this? My family will hate me, my friends will hate me.' I've had to do that a number of times."

Dervaes found that many in state government were doing what they were told but didn't know why, which limited their performance.

"I used my job to reach all the financial people in the state of Washington, in government," he said. "At that time we

DERVAES WAS INVOLVED IN 730 INVESTIGATIONS UNCOVERING LOSSES OF OVER \$13 MILLION.

had over 300 auditors statewide and 10 or 11 regional offices, and I went every-

where. If we could teach them to do their work correctly and understand why they were doing it, they could find fraud themselves quicker. That became my focus for 20 years of training all over the state."

Dervaes was involved in 730 investigations uncovering losses of over \$13 million and received the Outstanding Auditor of the Year Award. He also managed the statewide whistleblower program in Olympia. When he retired, the Washington Finance Officers Association gave him a lifetime membership as an appreciation, one of the few rank-and-file members to receive that honor.

He and Peggy got married in 1965. In 1983, they moved to the Davidson family homestead in Vaughn, where Peggy grew up. Her family has lived there since it was established in 1889, six months before Washington became a state. They have three adult children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

"I've been here longer than any other place in the world, including my 22 years growing up in Florida," Dervaes said. ■

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Tina McKail, KP News

'Earthonauts' Land on Purdy Spit

Their mission: Make a difference.

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

In recognition of World Ocean Day, five Key Peninsula Middle School students organized and hosted a community beach cleanup on the Purdy Spit June 12. The students, Gregory Parshall, Paige Powers, Sophia Sewell, Carson Shipman and Dylan Shipman, are members of the Earthonauts club at KPMS.

The Earthonauts club was initiated by two students, sixth-grader Paige Powers (who is now the social media manager for the club) and her friend, Leighton Starr, who approached Environmental Science teacher Mandie Thorne with the idea of forming a club that would turn what they were learning in class into activities benefiting the environment and the community. Thorne followed up to secure Associated Student Body coverage and the first official meeting was held Jan. 14.

From the end of February through May, the Earthonauts made four trips to Purdy Spit and removed over 270 pounds of beach litter. On June 12, with help from community friends and family, another 155 pounds was added to the total. Since that included a lot of styrofoam, fast-food containers and lids, the volume of trash removed was significant.

The club used a color-coded sorting method for the trash to document what was collected and report it to Pierce County.

Club President Dylan Shipman said, "Environmental stewardship is one of my great passions and it feels good to have a positive impact on the environment and on our community."

While marking off beach sections to be made litter-free, eighth grader Gregory

Parshall echoed Shipman's ecological and community service message. Parshall added that for him it was a "fun club."

Vice President Sophia Sewell became interested in community service as a Girl Scout. "I have lived on the beach my whole life; I love being by the water. Dylan is my best friend and we have been doing beach cleanup in Dutcher Cove."

Sewell, an eighth-grader who plans to prepare for a career in medicine (neonatal care), was frustrated by online learning but credited Covid-related school closures for giving her the opportunity to look at how she learns and why she found school frustrating. She has chosen to be home-schooled and plans to continue home-schooling in high school. She said that she likes the control she has with the "ability to design my own program, and create my own structure and schedule."

Sixth-grader Carson Shipman, the club photographer, documents Earthonaut activities and posts his work online. His first cleanup photos were taken on a snowy day at the end of February.

The Earthonauts' mission is to create an awareness of damage caused by pollution in schools and communities, so the club is extending an invitation to the public to join them on the Purdy Spit July 5 to help clean up firework debris. They also plan to follow up the initial sweep to get "late-arriving" trash.

There are also plans for celebrating International Coastal Cleanup Day with another community event Sept. 18.

Updates on Earthonaut activities can be found on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube. ■

After Surviving Pandemic, Brookside Veterinary Hospital Changes Hands

Dr. Woods is handing over the reins after 27 years.

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

Brookside Veterinary Hospital, owned and operated by Dr. Lisa Woods for nearly 30 years, has survived over a year of Covid protocols and restrictions. Brookside has been busier than ever and a second veterinarian, Dr. Justine Zingsheim-Nadeau ("Zing-shime Nedd-oh"), who graduated from Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine in May 2013, recently joined the practice.

In April 2021, Zingsheim-Nadeau and her husband Michael Nadeau, who has a back-ground in wildlife

management, purchased the hospital.

"We'd been talking about purchasing a practice at some point and it happened a lot faster than we initially thought it would," she said. "We fell in love with the culture and the family environment Lisa has created here. The staff is absolutely amazing. They put their heart and soul into everything they do."

At the start of the pandemic, Woods had trouble getting gloves, masks and medical supplies she needed, but sick pets kept coming.

"It's been a challenge," she said. "We've been here through the thick of it on the

front lines, just like the human side, but we haven't gotten much credit for being on the front lines."

Staying on top of an increased caseload while keeping clients and staff safe left little time outside of work.

"I literally have been going to home, to work, to home, to work, and no life, just back and forth for a year and a half," Woods said. "But I did that because I wanted to make sure we were here for the community."

"WE'VE BEEN HERE THROUGH THE THICK OF IT ON THE FRONT LINES, JUST LIKE THE HUMAN SIDE, BUT WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN MUCH CREDIT FOR BEING ON THE FRONT LINES."

Brookside's Covid protocol requires owners to wait outside during appointments, aside from first-time visits.

Everyone inside the

building is masked. A sign outside instructs visitors to call the front desk upon arrival and Brookside staff bring pets into the clinic.

"Pet adoptions have been way higher than they ever were in the past," Zingsheim-Nadeau said. "We've become actually much busier, with people being at home and being around their pets more to notice small things they may have missed before. It's been a bit rough, I think, on the field in general."

Woods said Brookside's clients, for the most part, have been supportive.

"ERs are booked four to six hours out, so when people come here and we're running

Dr. Justine Zingsheim-Nadeau and Dr. Lisa Woods *Lisa Bryan, KP News*



"I'M TIRED, BUT I LOVE VETERINARY MEDICINE."

15 to 20 minutes behind, that's actually really good," she said. "But I used to never run behind, so some people are used to me being on time, but it's a lot harder when you're trying to do it with the Covid regulations."

Zingsheim-Nadeau relocated to Port Orchard in 2016. Prior to Brookside, she worked at Ridgetop Animal Hospital in Silverdale while Michael managed Kitsap Veterinary Hospital.

"I've joked with them that I feel like I gave birth to this, raised it up to college level, and now I'm passing my college child on to them so they can take it to the next level," said Woods, who was 24 years old when she finished veterinary school and 28 when she started Brookside in 1994.

"It's a very stressful profession," she said. "The veterinary profession has the number one rate of suicide among professionals and burnout is really high. We're expected to be pouring out and pouring out all the time, and most every one of us that has ever gotten into this, we have a heart for what we do, so we pour out. But an empty vessel can't pour out very much."

The reasons behind suicides in the veterinary profession are complex, with theories including emotional stress, fatigue, frequent exposure to death, perfectionism, financial difficulties and access to lethal drugs.

"Sometimes people can be a little harsh to us. That's what's sad," Woods said. "There are a lot of keyboard warriors who take out their aggression behind the keyboard and they really don't know what a day in the life is like. And words hurt. I've had classmates and local associates — they're gone."

Zingsheim-Nadeau said the hardest part of her job has always been when she tries her absolute best, doing everything in her power that she was taught to do, but can't save the animal. Even veterinary success stories can have a dark side — she once treated a pit bull mix with a mass above her eyes who had been found abandoned with her bed and food.

"They took her in, they rescued her, they had the surgery to remove it," she said. "To watch her recover into a new family that loved her was super awesome."

Woods looks forward to having "a little freedom to have a life beyond veterinary medicine" now that she is no longer the business owner.

"I'm tired, but I love veterinary medicine," she said. "I don't have any intention of retiring in the next 10 to 15 years, but maybe just work less because I've been working an awful lot of hours." ■

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We always strive for accuracy; we apologize if your name is missing, and ask you to let us know about the omission.



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If you donated an item, made a gift, bid in the auction, were a sponsor, bought meals, were part of our Facebook Live event, tuned in to watch it, or encouraged others to do so – we are so grateful!



The ART WALK is a GO!!!!

Two Waters Arts Alliance is excited to announce that the **ART WALK** will return after a 24 month 'hiatus'. It will be held on **August 4th** from 5:00pm until 8:00pm in downtown Key Center.

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AUGUST 3, 2021 ELECTION

Fire District No. 16 - Key Peninsula Fire Department has three primary funding sources- Regular Fire Levy, EMS Levy, and the Maintenance and Operations Levy. All three are critical.

The Multi-Year Levy Lid Lift was last passed in 2015 and since then the rate has dropped from \$1.50 to \$1.24 per thousand. In order to provide the lifesaving services you expect of the District, resetting the rate to \$1.50 per thousand is essential.

Our community continues to grow! 911 call volume is on the rise and the frequency of multiple 911 calls at the same time are occurring. All of this leads to the need for more resources.



Passing this levy will allow the District to add both career and volunteer staffing, increase the number of units that are staffed, purchase essential lifesaving equipment and have adequate funds to maintain or upgrade its fleet and facilities.

A "no vote" will place the District, it's Firefighters and the community further behind.

Renew the Multi-Year Levy Lid Lift on August 3rd - it's about YOUR safety!

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County to Boaters: 'Pump Your Poop'

KAMRYN MINCH, KP NEWS

Pierce County, in partnership with Washington State Parks, The Recreational Boaters Association of Washington and Minterbrook Oyster Farm, will provide a free mobile pump-out service vessel for boaters in the South Sound this summer.

The 26-foot vessel, built by Washington State Parks, will be operated by NW Mobile Pump Out and Marine Environmental Services, and can hold approximately 400 gallons of waste.

Until recently, boaters could dump human waste from their vessel holding tanks directly into the water so long as they were three miles from shore, or by using fixed pump-out stations miles apart on the Puget Sound shoreline. But in May of 2018 the Sound was designated a "No Discharge Zone."

While it is now illegal for private vessels to dump sewage (commercial ships have been allotted a five-year grace period), the Department of Ecology's primary approach to enforcing this new rule is through education and outreach with their "Pump Out, Don't Dump Out" campaign.

"I'll compare pumping-out boats to recycling," said Jeff Barney, the watershed planner for Pierce County. "You live in Seattle; they make it super easy. The further out you live, the opportunities are less."

While sewage pump-out stations and services can be easily accessed in more frequented areas of Elliot Bay, Lake Union and Lake Washington, boaters will find that when traveling to a South Sound destination, docks with fixed pumps are few and far between. Though apps such as "Pumpout Nav" exist to help locate these stations, there's no guarantee the pumps will be readily available or even working.

Penrose Point State Park currently has the only marine pump-out station on the Key Peninsula, but access to the pump head at Penrose for some vessels is dependent on the tides and volume of boaters at the dock. Even in the most ideal conditions, the excess stress on the system that comes with summer crowds can mean there are periods when the pump is out of order.

"Penrose (pump out) is closed until further notice," according to a Washington State Parks and Recreation email May 27. The pump out station has been out of service since April 2019.

"This doesn't provide a lot of opportunity," Barney said, referring to options for disposing of waste while visiting the area.

The next closest pump is located at the Tacoma Narrows Marina, across the Sound.



The pump out station at Penrose Point has been out of service since April 2019. *Ted Olinger, KP News*

"My division, along with our partners, have been looking at how else we can support the pump-out system (at Penrose) and the vessel seems to be the most cost effective," Barney said.

The boat will operate from mid-June until Sept. 30 on weekends and holidays by appointment and will service locations around Key Peninsula as well as Anderson Island, Cutts Island and Wollochet Bay.

Permits are currently being reviewed by the Pierce County hearing examiner to install a new marine pump-out system in Filucy Bay at the Longbranch Marina. Barney said there is funding for the project, but construction won't begin until 2022.

Monitoring water quality and managing pollution around the Key Peninsula is a priority for the South Sound Clean Water Partners, which include the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Pierce Conservation District, and Thurston, Kitsap and Mason counties.

High levels of fecal coliform caused Pierce County to designate Filucy, Vaughn and Rocky bays as well as Burley Lagoon, as Shellfish Protection Districts to enhance protection.

While various factors such as failed septic systems and general runoff contribute to water pollution, the pump-out vessel should prevent over 10,000 gallons of waste from being dumped into the water annually.

Christina Rohlia, a public information specialist with Pierce County, said "We're trying to create an opportunity to break down barriers to being good stewards and make it as easy as possible for boaters to pump-out, and this vessel is a key tool to do that."

For more information about the mobile pump-out program or to make an appointment for pump-out go to piercecountywa.gov/pumpout. ■

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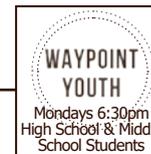
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THE TREES ARE MORE ALIVE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK



“The Overstory” by Richard Powers

Where trees and humans share the stage in an appeal to view both in new ways.

CHRIS RURIK, KP NEWS

This spring I found myself replanting cedars in a clear-cut. This summer I will be carrying water to them. It’s tough walking through the slash and brush. As I slosh water on each sapling, I imagine how different the place will look when a forest canopy again casts shade. The foxglove and blackberries will be replaced by starflower and trillium. The cedars at my knee will one day have trunks big enough to make ten canoes. Then I have to remind myself that I won’t live to see it. At best I’ll see these trees just coming out of adolescence.

The mental time warp of being around young trees inspired me to pick up “The Overstory” for a second read.

Richard Powers’s 12th novel won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Among my circles of artists and writers, it’s had a far-reaching ripple effect. The story follows nine people and five trees and the unexpected ways their separate arcs intersect across the American landscape.

The simplest way to describe it is as a novel where trees are just as active as people. It’s an admirable feat, considering that the novel is perhaps the most human-obsessed literary form, as idiosyncratic and serpentine as our emotions. Again and again the book measures the dramas of a person’s life against the more tectonic scale of forests, civilizations, blights, orthodoxies. It constantly toys with time scales. In a time when most literary novels offer closely bounded visions of the world through the limited perspectives of their characters, it is a marvel to read such an expansive work.

Alongside multigenerational stories of the families that lead to the book’s main

characters, early chapters tell the epic of the American chestnut, the genesis of a fig with 300 trunks, the smell and taste of a pawpaw in Ohio — “the only tropical fruit to ever to escape the tropics,” which settlers called prairie bananas — and a hundred other details about trees that were there long before the characters and will be there long after they exit the stage. Or will they?

The characters, it soon becomes clear, are a select handful of Americans for whom a veil is lifted, and they learn to see trees as living beings. For some it is instilled over time, as for a Vietnam War veteran who finds work replanting Douglas firs. For others it is a full-fledged conversion moment, as for a crippled computer programmer who has a psychedelic encounter with the exotic trees planted in Stanford’s Inner Quad.

Trees have always marked American art. They are omnipresent in renderings of human exploits as scale-creators, shadow-casters and measures of men’s beaver teeth. Their bodies literally create the frames of our canvases and set designs. But what if they are not passive? What if they have agency in how stories of life play out? From their perspective, we must look pretty hectic and futile.

“The Overstory” explores this and then goes much further. Through its many stories spanning many decades, it seeks the ramifications of the existential loneliness that comes from reducing the rest of Earthly life to passivity in our backdrops. In an interview with *The Guardian*, the author said, “Environmentalism is still under the umbrella of a kind of humanism: We say we should manage our resources better... They’re not our resources, and we won’t be well until we realize that.”

In one of the stories, a Chinese student attempts to carry his family’s treasure through U.S. customs. It’s a priceless ancient manuscript showing arhats, Buddhist holy people, under the trees where they found enlightenment. The customs agent finds it and forces him to unroll it. “Who are they?” she asks. “What’s wrong with them?”

In broken English he attempts to explain that they have seen the True Thing.

“And what’s that?”

He’s not even Buddhist. Yet he says, “The True Thing mean: human beings, so small. And life, so very big.”

The agent snorts. “And this makes them happy?” She waves him through.

It’s hard not to feel a contact glow of happiness reading this book, a tantalizing brush against the thought that the arhats did not find enlightenment near trees solely because of their shade. On every page discoveries await: The intense amount of life that fills a nurse log in the centuries it takes to rot; that trees and humans share a quarter of their genes; a tree’s unexpected intelligence.

For some of these revelations, no special tools are required. In one storyline, a man pioneers a farm in 1800s Iowa, planting a chestnut as his ceremonial first act. Many years later, in middle age, an aficionado of every new gadget, he buys one of the first cameras available. He makes a habit of taking a photo of the chestnut on the first of every month. Somehow, his descendants continue the practice for three generations. After 75 years, the flip-book shows a tree “rousing itself and shaking free,” swelling into “a sky-probing giant,” independent of a litany of marriages, divorces, feuds and redemptions.

Other revelations are as intricate and fresh as modern scientific research. Trees in a forest communicate through chemical signals. They cooperate to ward off infestations. They share resources through fungal networks, even across species. Old trees subsidize the growth of young trees.

One character is based on real-life ecologist Suzanne Simard, a Canadian researcher whose pioneering work uncovered this “wood wide web,” as it has come to be known. In a field dominated by foresters operating under the assumption that forests are sites of intense competition for resources, where “waste” must be cleared to give desired species space, Simard fought an uphill battle to have taken seriously the idea that cooperation makes a forest possible. Her work has sparked an incredible reorganization of our understanding of forests, a far more detailed picture of the competition and cooperation that interpenetrate them, much of which has found its way into “The Overstory.”

It might sound like a slow book. It’s not. The influence of trees on the beings around them, including humans, may be prolonged, subtle and often missed, but the sudden shifts and violence of human life remain the lion’s share of the story, for they are always capable of shattering the lives of trees. The book culminates in our neck of the woods, in a series of protests patterned after the timber wars of the 1990s, when several of the characters find themselves fighting to save the 3% of American old growth that remains.

Powers has said, “Until it’s exciting and fun and ecstatic to think that everything else has agency and is reciprocally connected, we’re going to be terrified and afraid of death, and it’s mastery or nothing.” ■

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sunny side
9:34 21st St SW @193rd Ave SW
shady side of lake
9:39 KPCS Senior Center/Food Bank
9:43 KP Hwy NW @167th Ave Ct NW
9:47 Food Market @Key Center
9:49 Wright Bliss Rd NW
@Hall Road NW
9:50 Wright Bliss Rd NW
@104th St Ct.NW
9:52 SR 302 NW
@4 Corners Gas Station
10:00 Lake Kathryn Shopping Center
10:05 Purdy Park & Ride

TUES, WED & THURS PM ROUTE

4:05 Purdy Park & Ride
4:15 Lake Kathryn Shopping Center
4:23 SR 302 NW
@4 Corners Gas Station
4:24 Wright Bliss Rd NW
@104th St Ct.NW
4:25 Wright Bliss Rd NW
@Hall Road NW
4:27 Food Market @Key Center
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A LOT TO LOVE ABOUT THESE FLOWERING FRIENDS


All About Fuchsias

SARA THOMPSON KP NEWS



There is something about fuchsias, especially the upright hardy varieties.

Ask Lorrie Moulton, Barb Rowland and Dale Skrivanich — all members of the LakeBay (sic) Fuchsia Society — what draws them to these plants.

Hummingbirds love them. They come in all shapes and sizes. Heights range from 5 inches to 6 feet. Leaves may be soft and velvety or shiny and smooth, with colors from chartreuse to dark green, solid to variegated. Flowers come in countless shapes and configurations and range from the size of a small fingernail to several inches. Popular flower colors cycle from year to year, and they come in every hue but yellow. “The first person who breeds a yellow fuchsia will be the next Bill Gates,” Skrivanich said.

You can plan a whole garden around fuchsias. “What is fun is that you can do far more with them than with dahlias. With a dahlia you are just stuck, and they can get earwigs,” Rowland said. “Fuchsias are just pretty. If you are careful, they don’t get blackspot or aphids like my roses do. They are relatively easy to grow. If you take reasonable care, you will be well-rewarded.”

If you don’t have a large enough garden, they do well in containers. “Lorrie is a master at containers,” Skrivanich said. “And she has bonsai fuchsias, too.”

In addition, they can be used in kokedama — a Japanese art of packing roots in a mud ball then covering the ball with moss. The plants can then be displayed as part of floral arrangements or as hangings. Skrivanich hangs hers from trees in her yard.

Although hardy fuchsias will survive the northwest winters, some need to be protected in cold frames or greenhouses. Others do fine if they have the protection of surrounding ferns or maple leaves. “You have to remember, ‘the right place for the right plant,’” Skrivanich said.

Fuchsias were first described scientifically in the late 1600s by a French monk and botanist visiting Hispaniola — now Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Most species are native to South America, but they have

been found in Central America, Mexico, New Zealand and Tahiti. Hybridizers got to work and both careful crossbreeding and lucky accidents have led to more than 1,000 varieties. Gardeners in Great Britain once lined driveways with plants that grew 8 to 10 feet high. Their popularity peaked during World War I until the greenhouses used to grow them were taken over for food production. Interest continued, though, and the American Fuchsia Society was established in 1929.

The LakeBay Fuchsia Society is one of 13 members of the Northwest Fuchsia Society and although Skrivanich — who is also a Pierce County Master Gardener — is one of the local resident experts, she credits Sharon Miller with much of what she knows.

“She is a walking encyclopedia,” Skrivanich said. “I wouldn’t know a fuchsia from a tomato if it wasn’t for her.”

Miller, who now lives in Tacoma, founded the group when she moved to the Key Peninsula. After meeting informally for several years, the Society became official in 1995. A few years later it took over a former parking area at the Key Peninsula Civic Center and transformed it into a garden. “It took heavy equipment to loosen the dirt, it was so hard-packed by years of cars,” Skrivanich said. The Society still maintains it, weeding, trimming and replanting as needed.

“We have always gone on, despite illnesses, deaths and now a pandemic,” Skrivanich said. They have about 30 dues-paying members. “We are like a family. We had our first meeting in over a year in June and it was like we had never not had a meeting. We would be friends without the fuchsias.”

Meetings, held the first Thursday of each month at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, include a presentation on a gardening topic of general interest and a “fuchsia corner” to talk about fuchsia-related issues. “New members are welcomed right in,” Rowland said. “We have a welcome packet and if you come knowing nothing about fuchsias you won’t be intimidated. We want you to grow fuchsias and enjoy them.” ■



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Mike Riegler's last day in the KP Fire Department *Anne Nesbit, KPFD*

29 Down: KPFD Firefighter-Paramedic Mike Riegler on Retirement and Redemption

Three decades on the line taught this firefighter about service, community and himself.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

After 31 years starting as a volunteer EMT, then a 29-year career firefighter-paramedic, a lieutenant, battalion chief, and then back to the line as a firefighter, Mike Riegler, 57, finished his last 48-hour shift serving the Key Peninsula on Memorial Day.

"Good way to go out," Riegler said. "The last two calls of the career were a house fire and a vehicle driven into a structure. Minor injuries, but he did some pretty good damage to his house. We had to cut a section of the wall out so we could open his passenger side door."

Riegler found his way to the KP after serving as an Army combat medic and working at Fort Lewis. In 1988 he and his girlfriend bought a house near Wauna and got married.

"We were cleaning up the back of the property one day and doing some burning in a burn barrel and the next thing I know I've got firefighters at the front door," Riegler said. "So we put it out and got to talking.

Come to find out they were volunteers and I said I'm an EMT out at Madigan, how would I join out here? That's how I got started, 1990, under Chief Kano."

Riegler was hired and became a paramedic in 1991.

"There were only three active firefighters per shift in those days, so nine paid guys plus the chiefs, 15 total, if that," he said.

"Back then we would average three calls in a 24 hour period, usually all at once. I

don't know how many times I told my wife they needed me to work. I put the job ahead of her, which was probably why we got divorced." Riegler remarried, divorced and married again over the years, becoming stepfather to seven children. He is expecting his 17th grandchild next fall.

Retiring firefighters get driven to work in a fire truck on their last day. "It's a ritual we have, and I was remembering all the calls at all the places along the way," Riegler said. "You have some good calls that you remember, but most of it is bad stuff that didn't go well."

There was the guy making illegal fireworks that blew up his trailer, killing himself and a young friend Riegler knew.

There was the house fire that burned almost to the foundation before they stopped it and found a deceased family member inside.

There was the baby Riegler tried to resuscitate early one morning, the child of a fellow firefighter.

There were also those six babies he delivered.

"I've had some emotional ups and downs and I've had some ups and downs career-wise," he said.

Riegler was on track to become the medical services officer for KPFD until his career hit a roadblock.

"I came up through the ranks in the organization," he said. "I became a battalion chief. But then we had an incident that happened several years ago where a group of us were at a conference and one of our volunteers, who was a minor, came into one of the hotel night clubs and proceeded to

"THE DAYS BACK WHEN I WAS HIRED, YOU DIDN'T TALK ABOUT THIS STUFF, YOU TURNED IT OFF. BUT YEARS LATER GUYS END UP TAKING THEIR OWN LIVES."

drink with us. He got too intoxicated and caused some damage.”

During a subsequent investigation, Riegler said he knew the volunteer was 20.

“When I served in the military, we were allowed to drink at 18, and here I’ve got a volunteer who goes into house fires with me, working side by side with me doing the same job I’m doing. I’m not going to stop him being with us. But it was a bad decision.”

Riegler was demoted from battalion chief to firefighter-paramedic. A second officer involved was fired.

“When I came back to the shift and started working for guys who used to work under me, I would tell each of them ‘This doesn’t have to be awkward, you’re my boss, I expect you to be my boss.’ In a way it was a relief because I was back doing what I loved doing,” he said.

“On the emotional side, the bad calls tend to stay with you if you don’t address them.”

One point got pretty deep, he said.

“This was back in the mid to late ’90s. We had a call in the Wauna curves where a motorcyclist went down. I intubate the patient right away because he’s not breathing. The volunteer is bagging him, ventilating him, the other two paramedics are trying to get an IV in each arm and we’re doing CPR on this guy and the next thing you know we’ve got a pulse back. We call for an airlift to get him to Seattle because he’s a level 1 trauma.

“When we loaded him onto the chopper he had a pulse. After they took off, the guy ended up dying. That was a tipping point for me, when I started having suicidal thoughts. It seemed like everyone I touched ended up dying.

“I went to see a psychiatrist we work with who specializes in PTSD in firefighters and law enforcement. I felt bad for having to go to the chief with this, but for years the fire service has had a high suicide rate of retired and active-duty firefighters, law enforcement officers, taking their own lives because of the stuff they’re seeing out on the streets, and we’re starting to recognize that.

“The days back when I was hired, you didn’t talk about this stuff, you turned it off. But years later guys end up taking their own lives. Everybody at some point is going to have a call that’s going to have a lasting effect if they don’t address it. I hope to serve this organization in my retirement as a volunteer in that respect.”

In the meantime Riegler plans to go fishing for a while but has no plans to leave the area.

“I just want the Key Peninsula to know it’s been a great place to serve and I was honored to do it,” he said.

“I also got to deliver those six babies.” ■

D R O P T H A T C O O K B O O K A N D S T A R T C O O K I N G



No-Recipe Summer Recipes

KPCooks

Food photos: Anna Brones

ANNA BRONES

My cookbook shelf is overwhelmingly full. There are the tried and true staples, the vintage community cookbooks, the bread-and-sourdough-specific cookbooks, and the cookbooks featuring recipes from places I have never been, which are usually more about fueling my wanderlust than setting the scene for a meal.

This is to say: I love cookbooks and I will probably always buy more cookbooks. But I don’t always follow or even want to follow recipes.

Certainly, there are recipes that I pay attention to and they help guide me. Baking in particular is not very friendly if you entirely avoid recipe guidance. But for me, the cookbook shelf is most often a shelf of ideas—a place to go when I need a little inspiration. An interesting combination of ingredients will catch my eye and that will be the base for a new creation.

I don’t think I am alone in this. There are recipes everywhere, not just in books, but on the internet, in videos, on social media. We are swimming in a glut of recipes, but I have started to notice a shift in food

media. I see more articles about how to cook without recipes, and even The New York Times came out with an entire cookbook this year dedicated to “no-recipe recipes.”

To those of us who are food curious, this is a call to come back to trusting ourselves. It’s about making food a little more intuitive. It’s about using what we have available in our kitchen and our pantry. It’s about infusing the process of making food with a little more lightness, a little more fun.

In these warmer days we are craving fresher, lighter foods, so I have rounded up a few of my go-to seasonal no-recipe recipes. These are simple recipes that embrace summer but don’t require exact measurements. They are a jumping off point, an entryway into enjoyable summer days when it’s less about the food prep and more about sitting down with friends to enjoy time together.



Salty Watermelon Juice

Because of its sweetness and texture, watermelon easily lends itself to a very simple and tasty drink. Just find a blender and mix away.

Ingredients: Watermelon and salt

Cut up a bunch of watermelon (compost the rinds!) and pop it in the blender. Purée. Add a pinch or two of salt. Taste. Mix in anything else, like freshly squeezed lime, or a sprig of mint or basil leaves. Drink right away or store in a glass jar or bottle in the refrigerator.

Good on its own, mixed with sparkling water, or with the addition of tequila or mezcal.

Strained Yogurt with Fresh Herbs

Want an easy appetizer dip? Use a coffee filter to strain yogurt for a few hours. Mix finely chopped garlic, shallots, fresh herbs, olive oil, and salt and pepper into the thickened yogurt. Great as a dip, great as a white pizza sauce, and also works well served with roasted vegetables and fish.



Summer Squash Salad

Have an abundance of summer squash? This recipe is for you. It works with any assortment of fresh herbs you have, and you can make it as garlicky as you wish.

Ingredients:

A little lemon juice

A few tablespoons of olive oil

A couple of garlic cloves, minced (or thinly sliced shallot or a little onion)

Handful fresh basil and mint (chives are nice too), chopped

1 or 2 summer squash

Salt and black pepper

Sunflower seeds or chopped hazelnuts (optional)

Nasturtiums for a pop of color

In a bowl, mix together the lemon juice, olive oil and chopped garlic. Peel the summer squash into thin strips directly into the bowl. Add the freshly chopped herbs and toss together. Want a spicy version? Add some crushed red pepper flakes. Serve immediately. ■



We'd love to feature a dish from your KP kitchen that friends and family ask for. Email the details to editor@keypennews.org with your phone number; we'll be in touch. PS: There's a printable, shareable pdf with the complete recipe on keypennews.org

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Hugh McMillan center, with school board directors Lori Glover, David Olson, Deborah Krishnadasan, Natalie Wimberley and Chuck West. *Lisa Bryan, KP News*

The Hugh McMillan Community Center is Born

One local institution honors another.

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

In a brief private ceremony at Evergreen Elementary School June 16, just one day shy of his 95th birthday, Hugh McMillan of Lakebay was honored by the Peninsula School District board of directors with the official naming of the gymnasium building as the future home of the Hugh McMillan Community Center.

With construction nearing completion on the new Evergreen, outgoing Interim Superintendent Art Jarvis said the existing gym will be retained by the school district, thanks to the school board, so it can serve as a community center for many years to come.

“This is a living memorial, a living tribute,” Jarvis said. “Hugh has never varied on one thing: Hugh McMillan is all about kids. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts in the school system.”

After a few words, board President David Olson presented McMillan with an inscribed plaque he read aloud:

“Through your words and photographs, you shined a light on the students and staff of the Peninsula School District. You believed our stories were worthy of being told and we will carry that with us forever. Thank you for your inspiration. Your legacy will live on in the many lives that you have touched.”

McMillan, who is nearly blind now, stood proud throughout the ceremony.

“I sure would like to believe I was worthy of all these accolades,” McMillan said. “Being with the kids, being with the teachers, being with the schools and making our country ... has been a huge part of my life. Next to my wife, it’s the

most important thing.”

“There is no way for me to express my gratitude,” he said. “But you know what? I get the credit — but you’re the ones who made it possible for me to do whatever it is that you think I did.”

Hugh Maxwell, in his eighth year as principal of Evergreen, said if he had a dollar for every time he has been introduced as “Hugh McMillan” he could retire himself.

“But what it really tells me, and shows everyone, is how ingrained you are in peoples’ lives,” Maxwell said as he faced McMillan. “If I can do half for kids what you’ve done Hugh, I will be just proud.”

McMillan said, “Well you do a helluva fine job, young fella.”

Jarvis said the ceremony intended to keep the speeches short and sweet, just the way McMillan liked it.

Following a round of applause came the customary photos of McMillan, first flanked by the school board members, then a moment with his old friend, board member Chuck West, followed by shots with a few friends from the Peninsula Education Foundation and finally with his son Lance, daughter-in-law Sheri and grandson Cameron.

The focus this day was on the newspaper man, the tireless old guy with a camera, who seemed to be at every community and school event for decades, on the other side of the lens now, with the sounds of camera shutters whirring to capture hundreds of pictures with smiles on every face.

To learn more about his work, see “Hugh McMillan: Four Decades of Impact on the Key Peninsula,” *KP News*, Feb. 2020, at: <https://keypennews.org>. ■



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Scenes from Key Pen Parks opening day of the new splash pad at Gateway Park, May 29. Record-breaking temperatures at the end of June prompted extended hours. Normal hours are from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Learn more at www.keypenparks.com Photo essay: Tina McKail, KP News

