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Of Roads and Bridges: The Third Purdy Bridge

In this second of a three-part series we learn that barely 15 years after it was built, the second bridge at Purdy had become obsolete.

JOSEPH PENTHEROUDAKIS, KP NEWS

It was 1919, and the age of the automobile was in full swing. The nation's rural roads and bridges, until then built for and used primarily by farmers, were gradually catching up with the requirements of a car-based economy.

Washington was no exception.

In 1906, at the dawn of the new century, there were 700 cars registered in the state; by 1919 that number had grown to almost a million. Automobile clubs were busy organizing weekend jaunts to the countryside, and advertisements for the newest models appeared regularly in the pages of newspapers. There were even car rentals: in July of that year the Tacoma Garage advertised "fine automobiles offered for rent without drivers" that could be rented by the hour, day or week.

In the spring of 1919, Pierce County inaugurated its long-delayed ferry service from Tacoma to Gig Harbor and from Titlow Beach to Wollochet, generating great excitement. "This is the season when dreams come true," the Bay-Island News, the precursor to the Peninsula Gateway, wrote in March of that year. Arriving motorists would benefit the area's economy, whether in town for a day visit or on their way to tour the country to the west.

And by 1919 the Washington legislature had begun to allocate to counties the state's share of funds that Congress appropriated in the Federal Aid Road Act of 1916 to help with the construction and improvement of state highways. Washington's Permanent Highway Act, passed in 1911, had transferred responsibility for the construction of many county roads to the state, to be paid with tax levies. The federal government's assistance was instrumental in accelerating the pace of those projects.

The rapid developments in transportation and infrastructure had a profound effect on



A humpback whale lunge feeding in Case Inlet in June. *Tina McKail, KP News*

A New Day for Lakebay Marina

The last of the derelict vessels, the old fuel pump and finally the docks were removed from the marina.

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz visited Lakebay Marina June 4 in part to celebrate the partnership to save the iconic facility and to see for herself what the Department of Natural Resources now owns.

"This was a long, long haul here," said Bob Wise, president of the Recreational Boaters Association of Washington. "There were a lot of ups and downs, a lot of very dark days. Number one, I thank Hilary Franz for having the courage to do this."

Doug Levy, lobbyist for RBAW, said "This is the first boating facilities program application they've done on the aquatics side of the (DNR). It's like going off the



The boatside view of Lakebay Marina without any docks. *Tina McKail, KP News*

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

253-884-4699

www.keypennews.org

www.facebook.com/KeyPenNews
PO Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Lisa Bryan
editor@keypennews.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Ted Olinger

STAFF CONTRIBUTORS: Krisa Bruemmer,
Ed Johnson, Tina McKail,
Joseph Pentheroudakis, Chris Rurik,
Dave Stave, Sara Thompson,
Carolyn Wiley

CONTRIBUTORS:
José Alaniz, Anna Brones, Britta
Brones, April Godwin, Richard
Gelinias, John Pat Kelly
and Sharon Oswalt

CALENDAR EDITOR: Meredith Browand
calendar@keypennews.org

PAGINATOR: Heather Meier

SOCIAL MEDIA: Joseph Pentheroudakis

OPERATIONS MANAGER: Tim Heitzman

BOOKKEEPER: Linda Grubaugh

AD SALES: Deanna Hunter
sales@keypennews.org

DISTRIBUTION: Anna Brones, Norm
Brones, Bill Dietz, Bruce Macdonald,
Jay Stewart, Bob Wilkins

PUBLISHING BOARD: Sara Thompson,
president, Michele Gorman, Bruce
Macdonald, Jeff Minch, Herb O'Niell,
Dave Stave, Bob Wilkins

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AFTER THE STORM: LIFE IN A SMALLER PLACE

Here's What He Think About That

TED OLINGER,
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

I rise early this time of year, too early, because a woodpecker starts the day banging its head against the side of my house. What at first I took to be gunshots or a jackhammer when we moved out here is a Northern Flicker declaring his love for his territory, his mate, and our siding.

This started almost 20 years ago, often followed by another explosion: our six-year-old flinging open the bedroom door followed by his daily full-throated inquiry: "IS IT SCHOOL TODAY AGAIN?" He'd do homework over oatmeal, or under oatmeal, as it were, using the worksheet as a placemat, filling in blanks. One directs: "Describe your favorite color."

"RAIN," he writes.

We spent years together every school day waiting for the bus on the side of a narrow road walled in by evergreens.

Even now that he is gone to college, I am still often there walking the dog, picking up garbage. The bus still emerges from a tunnel of trees, but the driver is wearing a mask now, as are most of the kids. They've never known different. I still wave as they go by.

Later, I tutor students at a local school. A disheveled fourth grader eating cold cereal from a plastic bowl drops into the chair opposite me, dragging a book on beetles or dinosaurs or robots. I decide to be inspirational and joke, "Pull yourself together, man. You look like you slept in your clothes."

"I did sleep in my clothes." His eyes glisten above his mask.

On the way home I make a detour for a popular fixture who is hitchhiking, all masked up on the side of the road. He is jubilant because the library is open again. He pulls down his mask to talk. "They let people check out 50 movies at a time!"

He directs me down a series of tree-walled gravel roads to the land his family homesteaded over a century ago. Most of it was sold off, but he somehow retained a hidden scrap and put a trailer on it among

looming second and third growth trees. Even now, whenever I drive to some place new to me on the KP, I wonder whether I will find it or find my way out.

One may start out heading south on the Key Pen highway and turn off onto any number of gravel side roads with legitimate-sounding names like "165th Court North NW" before plunging into forest or through

naked clearcuts, over salmon streams and around kettle lakes, up and down berry-choked ravines lost to memory, twisting left and right at street signs that read "East 165th Court Ave Place West For

Now," or "Died of Measles Drive KP South," or "Trespassers Will be Shot, Pickled, and Eaten," only to come to rest at some hidden cove close to your still inaccessible destination under a sign reading something like "Joe's Bay," which will never appear on any map.

My passenger disembarks at such a spot and lumbers into his garden, shifting an armload of books and videos and bottles. He pulls some plants from the ground and hands them to me. "Golden Beets! Fry 'em up and don't spare the salt!"

The KP has been home to anarchists, millionaires, poetry loving loggers, and remains the summer refuge for whatever the opposite of a snowbird is. I have lived here a scant 18 years now — longer than anywhere else in my life — and imagine I've met everyone at least once. But we all lead separate and even solitary lives in private circles, and that's been made worse by the pandemic. Residents on the south end may have little to do with northerners like me. Those on the water may never visit the many who live inland, encircled by towering trees or on the edge of clearcuts in simple homes rented

month to month.

When we did run into each other during the pandemic, we were separated by our masks and how we wore them (nose in or nose out?), if we had one at all. We kept our distance like strangers from rival gangs, and so it has remained.

But we do know one another. We stand next to each other at the coffee place, at the library, at bake sales, fundraisers and funerals.

We have worshipped together, served together, and fought one another across plates of fried eggs and gravy, over cups of coffee and glasses of beer. We walk the same aisles in our market, the same trails through our parks, and all those other, steeper trails that wait for every one of us. We have stood to welcome the joining of families and the birth of new life, we have stood to join our voices together in celebration and protest, and we have stood side by side to bury our dead.

The outside world periodically pulls me across the narrow bridge clinging to our peninsula, then over a larger span to distant cities where houses are built closer together than trees can grow. I begin to recall what it was like to live in that world instead of the island nation that is the Key Peninsula. I begin to forget the color of rain.

At home in the evening, a neighbor emerges from the woods with a half empty bottle of homemade wine. "Where's the other half?" I ask. "It was a long walk," he says. We sit on my deck and sample his work. Forty or 50 crows glide across the twilight sky to their nearby roost, all silent to protect its location. "Crows are notoriously proud and possessive of their home territory," I point out, adroitly.

"So is everyone else on the KP," says my neighbor.

Associate Editor Ted Olinger steps in this month. ■



PURDY BRIDGE FROM PAGE 1

the farmsteads and rural communities of the yet-to-be-named Key Peninsula, which quickly became popular touring destinations. Even at the leisurely 30-mile-per-hour speeds reported on gravel roads, the peninsula's quaint hotels and resorts and even more distant destinations like Hood Canal were now a relatively short day trip from Tacoma and Gig Harbor. Travelers no longer had to rely on the steamers of the Mosquito Fleet, which were slowly losing out to ferries and the automobile. In the Oct. 17, 1919, edition of the Bay-Island News, Edith Delano, the owner of the Delano Beach Resort and Hotel in Lakebay, credited the Tacoma ferry for what had been her busiest season in many years.

Even though it had only been built in 1905 when it replaced the original bridge from 1892, the narrow drawbridge at Purdy and its manually operated swing span already belonged to the past. With money now available for road construction and plans in place for a state highway from Purdy into the peninsula, Pierce County could use its own funds to build a new, wider and sturdier fixed-span bridge to accommodate automobile traffic. There would also no longer be a need for a bridgetender to open the bridge whenever a boat needed to pass through.

This time the county commissioners decided to be proactive and discuss their plans for the road and the bridge with the community.

A notice in the Nov. 16, 1919, edition of the Tacoma Daily Ledger announced that a hearing to discuss the proposed twin road and bridge projects would be held on the Orcas, the county engineer's boat, on the Springfield side of Henderson Bay; the old name for the town continued to be used for several years after the post office was renamed Wauna in 1906. The county's plan called for a single, 100-foot fixed steel span with a clearance of 18 feet above high water to allow the passage of marine traffic.

No record of the meeting has survived, but by March 26, 1920, the design was finalized. On April 5 the commissioners issued a call to contractors for road construction consisting of "clearing, grubbing, hurdles, pile and brush bulkhead, grading, draining and surfacing with gravel" and for "one Howe Truss bridge, (concrete) piers and approaches." Invented by American architect and bridge builder William Howe in 1840, the Howe truss was a lattice of vertical, horizontal and diagonal members and was popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s and can still be seen in many historic bridges. The spans of the 1892 and 1905 Purdy bridges



1926 photo by Marvin D. Boland of the third bridge over Henderson Bay, completed in January 1921. The first phase of the Potlatch (Cushman) transmission line was completed in 1926. The four towers are on the left. *Washington State Historical Society*



The third bridge under construction in 1920, south of the old bridge. Two pile drivers working on the new bridge can be seen on the right. This view is from Wauna looking east.

Harbor History Museum

had also been Howe trusses.

The contract for the two projects went to the Rutherford Pile Driving and Construction company of Tacoma for \$82,200; Rutherford was also awarded the contract to build a concrete wharf in Longbranch.

By the summer of 1920 the road on the sandspit was widened to about 22 feet and raised several feet, and two pile drivers were at work on the new bridge.

Construction continued for the rest of the year. Motorists still detoured north through Burley and then back south to Springfield/Wauna; the Tacoma Daily Ledger warned them that the 2.5-mile stretch from Burley to Springfield was "very rough."

While the county's design for the bridge called for a steel truss, a departure from the wooden structure in the two earlier bridges, engineering drawings of the bridge from

1936 mention a wooden truss. That may support anecdotal and undocumented accounts of objections by locals to the look of the steel truss, said to have been brought in from Puyallup, which may have forced the county to switch to a wooden structure.

By January 1921 the bridge was finally completed. The old structure, left up during construction, was not condemned and taken down until a year later, in February 1922, and the lumber was used for a bulkhead along the spit.

Work on the road was still ongoing, however. On January 21, the Bay-Island News complained that the bridge would stand in "solitary grandeur, a picture on the landscape, since the roads to either approach have not yet materialized." A winter storm a few days earlier had washed out a large

portion of the road on the sandspit, and there was yet no proper connection of the eastern approach to the road to Gig Harbor a few hundred feet away. "Speed up, Mr. Commissioners, cut out the fooling and tend to business," the article concluded. "Don't make us feel like we had used poor judgment when we voted for you."

That work was completed by March, and the bridge and the new road were open to motorists.

And they were enchanted. A reporter out on a Sunday outing in a Maxwell automobile from Tacoma to Hood Canal by way of Gig Harbor commented admiringly on the "splendid bridge over a branch of the sound ... at Wauna," adding that "(the) bridge is substantial and beautiful, and it offers one of those views of saltwater that never grows old to the resident of the Northwest and that invariably enthuses residents of sections far removed from the ebb and flow of the tides."

A 1926 photo by Tacoma photographer Marvin D. Boland, known for his images of industrial and other man-made structures, shows the bridge viewed from a short distance south of Purdy. That same photo documents for the first time the four towers carrying the Potlatch (Cushman) transmission lines built by Tacoma City Light that year. The towers remained an iconic part of the landscape in Henderson Bay for over 90 years until being replaced by a single pole in 2018.

But while the towers survived for decades, the 1921 Purdy bridge did not. Fifteen years later a new bridge took its place.

And this time it was here to stay. ■

Voters Head to Polls Aug. 2 for Primary Elections

KP News asked each candidate in local races to answer the same question.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Key Peninsula will help choose candidates for two federal, one state, three legislative district and two county positions in the primary elections Aug. 2, in addition to judicial offices and local precinct committee officers.

At the federal level, Sen. Patty Murray (D) is up for reelection against 17 challengers across the political spectrum. U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-6th) faces five opponents.

In the statehouse, legislative district 26 Sen. Emily Randall (D-Bremerton) is being challenged by Rep. Jesse Young (R-Gig Harbor). Two Democrats will vie for Young's seat while Rep. Michelle Caldier (R-Port Orchard) is up against Democratic Gig Harbor attorney Matt Macklin.

Closer to home, five candidates are after the seat to be vacated by Pierce County Council Member Derek Young (D-7th), who will be term-limited out of office.

Pierce County Auditor Julie Anderson (NP) is running for secretary of state with seven other candidates. The Republican incumbent Kim Wyman stepped down from the post last year to serve in the Biden Administration. Wyman had repeatedly refuted former Pres. Donald Trump's false claims of election fraud, and she now leads the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to protect elections from hacking and voters from disinformation. Gov. Jay Inslee appointed Democratic state Sen. Steve Hobbs to replace her, and he is on the ballot seeking a full term with seven others, including Anderson. Three county-wide candidates are vying to succeed her in Pierce County.

Precinct committee officer candidates will also appear on the ballots of their respective KP precincts. They are not included in the Voters' Pamphlet, but PCOs are the main point of contact for voters in their neighborhoods. They elect party leadership, help fill vacancies in elected office, and lead their precinct caucus every two years.

Key Peninsula News asked each candidate in local races to answer the same question: "What is the greatest need on the Key Peninsula and, if elected, how will you meet it?" Their answers appear below, edited for length. If there was no response from a candidate, biographical information from their website appears instead.

FEDERAL - 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Chris Binns (R)

Bio: Served three years in the U.S. Marine Corp. Attended Seattle Central Community College and the Trident Institute for Marine Technology; received an associate degree in marine engineering. Worked as a commercial fisherman, merchant marine and an able-bodied seaman with the Washington State Ferries until October 2021.

Todd Bloom (R)

Bio: Small business owner; Navy officer with 11 years' post-9/11 active service; Big Four experience working with national and global public companies and private clients; sectors: energy, finance, technology; CPA, CFA, CFP, attorney.

Incumbent Rep. Derek Kilmer (D)

Answer: "The people I meet on the Key Peninsula say their number one issue is being squeezed by inflation, so I've voted to crack down on price gouging by oil companies and to lower gas prices. I helped write legislation to reduce dependence on China and boost American manufacturing, which would reduce inflation. I voted to make prescription drugs more affordable and sponsored legislation to expand Social Security to give seniors relief from rising prices. I've secured funding to help people being squeezed by rising housing prices by building more housing in our region. There is a lot more work to be done, so I will continue visiting the Key Peninsula and listening to people's needs."

Elizabeth Kreiselmaier (R)

Bio: Successful career in program evaluation and research at WestEd/Far West Laboratory (program director) and Oregon Research Institute (research scientist). Wrote and directed federal grants in special and general education. Taught university and professional development courses, consultant to National Science Foundation, universities, state education departments, school districts and nonprofits.

Rebecca Parson (D)

Answer: "As I see it, and after talking with friends who live on the Key Peninsula, the greatest need is a connection to services. Having to cross at least one bridge, if not

two, to get medical treatment, have a wider selection of restaurants, see a movie, or access entertainment and services (especially for kids and seniors) is expensive and time-consuming. It's even more so for people without a car. As a member of Congress, I would seek to get more federal funding for small businesses, local services, and transit on the Key Peninsula. Peace and quiet is one of the things that makes the Key Peninsula so special, but that should not come at the expense of vital services."

Tom Triggs (I)

Bio: Evergreen Service Station Association – a chapter president Kittitas County; Vietnam Veterans of America – cofounder and first president Kitsap County; campaigned for state representative 26th legislative district; campaigned for state representative 23rd legislative district; Gulf Oil Station Operator; Union Oil Station Operator; automotive repair and towing business; insurance agent at American Insurance Kitsap County; NAPA sales rep. for Silar Auto Parts-Kitsap County.

STATE SENATE - LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 26

David Crissman (R)

Bio: I haven't been elected to any position since grade school. Anything's got to be better than my current job though, including being a politician, so I might as well give it a shot. I honorably served in the Army, doing tours of duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Incumbent Sen. Emily Randall (D)

Answer: "Before I was elected in 2018, I heard from neighbors that the Key Peninsula had been underserved and overlooked by politicians. For the last four years, I've worked to turn that around — increasing healthcare access with Peninsula Community Health Services and KP fire department, prioritizing rural broadband, and investing in affordable housing like The Mustard Seed Project. I'll prioritize getting working families back on their feet — making sure folks can afford to stay in their homes, get where they need to go, access the education and career training they need, and put food on their tables. My job is to make sure the hardworking people of the Key Peninsula have the tools they

need to build a stronger future."

Rep. Jesse Young (R)

Answer: "Public safety and supporting our first responders are the number one issues affecting us all. This year, state patrol has reported that over 900 drivers have refused to stop for troopers. Car theft in our district is up over 400%, and drug use and crime are rising across the board! We shouldn't have to fear when our spouse goes to the store for groceries, or our kids wait for the school bus in the morning. We need leaders who unapologetically back the blue and stand up to the radical groups out of Seattle. I will be your voice of reason, not only with crime, but also with fiscal responsibility and fixing gas prices and inflation."

STATE REPRESENTATIVE - LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 26 - POSITION 1

Spencer Hutchins (R)

Answer: "The residents of Key Peninsula have long enjoyed a high quality of life, independence, and elbow room. But that lifestyle is at risk with increasing crime. Shoplifting, vehicle prowls, property theft, vandalism, and drug use are skyrocketing. The law has been watered down so much that police aren't able to do their jobs effectively. There are only two sheriff's deputies west of the Narrows Bridge full-time. We shouldn't have to feel like we're on our own when it comes to our safety and security on the peninsula. As a state representative, I will work to pass a common sense pursuit bill that returns to our police the ability to chase down and arrest fleeing criminals. I will work to increase law enforcement funding and expand the police presence here."

Adison Richards (D)

Answer: "The issue I hear about the most from Key Peninsula citizens is public safety. The Pierce County Sheriff's Department is understaffed, which contributes to slow response times on the KP. The legislature has tools to provide support, like funding the courts, victim advocates and state patrol. Public safety also involves education and increasing the opportunity to work and pay the bills to retire with dignity, which for many feels impossible. We should grow wages, not taxes. I used to live on the KP. I love it here, and I want you to get the attention you deserve in Olympia."

July 15: Ballots mailed to all eligible registered voters. Ballot drop boxes open the next day.

July 25: Deadline to register or change a mailing address online. People may also register and vote in person through election day. Confirm voter registration at <https://VoteWA.gov>.

Aug. 2: Ballots must be mailed or returned to drop boxes by 8 p.m.

Nov. 8: General election.

For a complete list of county primary races, go to <https://voter.votewa.gov/CandidateList>

STATE REPRESENTATIVE - LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 26 - POSITION 2

Incumbent Rep. Michelle Caldier (R)

Answer: “The greatest need on the Key Peninsula is to ensure their elected leaders prioritize Key Pen residents. When I became elected, I fought to bring equity to the Key Peninsula and helped procure funding for the Key Pen Civic Center, Longbranch Marina, Gateway Park and Mustard Seed Project’s senior center. Every vote I take in Olympia takes into consideration how it will impact residents on the Key Peninsula. This includes increased response times of law enforcement and the ability for people to stay safe from criminals, the impacts of rising gas prices on rural drivers, and the effect of exorbitant property taxes and rental costs on struggling families.”

Matt Macklin (D)

Answer: “The Key Peninsula needs a representative who is present in the community and will make the investment in critical service infrastructure, especially broadband internet, a reality. The KP addressed its power stability issues long ago through local solutions like Peninsula Light Co. They shouldn’t be expected to address the connectivity and transportation issues that continue isolating students, limiting working families’ opportunities, or shutting off seniors from needed healthcare appointments.”

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL - 7TH DISTRICT

Mitch Anderson (R)

Answer: “The greatest concern on the Key Peninsula that I’m aware of is the lack of law enforcement and long response times. Currently, full staffing for the Pierce



In 2020, Pierce County Auditor Julie Anderson told KP News other states look to Washington as a leader in safely voting by mail or drop box.

Ted Olinger, KP News

County Sheriff is two deputies — three if they’re lucky — to cover everything west of the Narrows Bridge. One of my goals is to fully fund the sheriff’s department to bring staffing levels back to where they need to be. This will eliminate having to pull deputies from property crimes enforcement and other special units just to get cops on the street. I will also lobby Olympia on behalf of Pierce County to restore the law enforcement tools our state legislature took away, including the ability to pursue bad guys.”

Robyn Denson (D)

Answer: “Over my years of involvement on the KP, residents have shared with me concerns about development and growth, fears about losing rural character, increased crime and the need for quicker law enforcement response, road and intersection safety, inadequate broadband, lack of mental health services, transportation, damage to the environment, homelessness, and the need for better access to county services. I’ll work to bring much-needed resources and services to the Key Peninsula by utilizing my unique experience as a highly effective local government public servant, my trusted relationships at the county, state and national levels, and my understanding of what makes the KP so special.”

Josh Harris (R)

Answer: “The greatest need I see from talking with friends and folks on the Key Pen is infrastructure and resources. I was out with deputies and code enforcement throughout the Key Peninsula. Pierce County is doing a good job of cleaning up distressed and derelict properties. It was also good to see their compassion for people living on these properties and more so the elderly that are being taken advantage of. We need more deputies per shift. I plan on making sure that Key Peninsula is not forgotten by holding open house forums to table the concerns and issues of the peninsula and ensuring a budget is there to support it.”

Editor’s Note: Harris is under investigation for a May 30 alleged self-defense shooting. If he is charged and convicted of a felony for that incident, he would not be able to serve on the council unless certain conditions are met. Harris already has several theft convictions, including one felony count for theft. He had his right to possess firearms reinstated and legally obtained a concealed weapons permit, according to the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office.

Paula Lonergan (R)

Answer: “Crime is up in every part of our county, and Key Peninsula is not exempt. We desperately need to increase sheriff staffing and visibility in unincorporated Pierce County. I would like to represent Pierce County on the South Sound 911 Board to help provide oversight of this vital dispatch service. There are a number of other areas where the courts, alternate bail options and pre-trial services may not be serving our citizens well. We must also take a very hard look at increasing our jail staffing and capacity to reduce the number of career criminals on our streets. For a safer community, career criminals must know they face a real crime deterrent, and know what options are available when they’re ready to change their behavior.”

Chuck West (R)

Answer: “The greatest need on the KP is to be heard. We need many things, from improved law enforcement presence, transportation improvements, and services for our diverse population. The KP pays more than our share in property taxes to Pierce County that we don’t see an equitable return on. I’ll be a loud voice demanding our share of the services.” ■

April Godwin TECH TALK



Cryptocurrency

When bitcoin first appeared on my radar in the early summer of 2012, it was already three years old and had a small but dedicated cult following. Back then, one bitcoin was worth roughly \$5 but rumors hinted at unlimited growth.

When I mentioned bitcoin to my husband, a software engineer and all-around technophile, he laughed. He said it was a fad that wouldn't last, and we shouldn't waste our time or our money. Usually, he has impeccable instincts about these kinds of things.

As that summer transitioned into fall, the talk around bitcoin ramped up. Advocates and early-adopters were busy posting about it on social media. There was chatter about early transactions, including a pizza purchase that cost the buyer 10,000 bitcoins. That would be worth more than \$200,000,000 today. A few mainstream media outlets mentioned bitcoin once or twice and when the first bitcoin documentary came out, my husband finally had to admit something interesting was happening. We jumped on the small but growing bitcoin bandwagon.

Bitcoin is the original cryptocurrency. In some ways, cryptocurrencies are like stocks — intangible financial assets traded through exchange markets. The value of an individual unit of cryptocurrency, or coin, is established by the market. Coins are worth what consumers are willing to pay based on market value.

Unlike stocks, cryptocurrencies are largely unregulated, decentralized and untraceable, in part because they are secured and verified using cryptology, the science of encoding and decoding data. New coins are added to the market through mining, which involves a sophisticated computer solving a complex math problem. The first computer to solve the problem is rewarded with a block of coins.

Rather than exchange dollars for cryptocurrency, my husband and I opted to build a small mining computer. The idea was that even if we didn't find any coins, it would be an interesting experiment and a great learning opportunity. And we could resell the computer components later to recoup some of our costs.

Our mining computer consisted of a three-tier aluminum shelf from a hardware store that housed 12 high-end gaming

graphics cards, the workhorses in this process. However, one of the downsides to mining cryptocurrency is power consumption. To be effective, you must mine constantly, 24-hours a day, every day. Even a small mining computer consumes a significant amount of energy.

We mined for a few weeks without any luck. With every passing day, the computer consumed more power with zero return. It didn't take long for us to realize that a small machine like ours was already obsolete in the growing bitcoin market. So, we pivoted and started mining altcoins instead.

An altcoin is any cryptocurrency that's not bitcoin. It turns out, anyone with enough interest and the right skill set can create an altcoin, and many people have. As of this writing, there are more than 5,000 altcoins on the market. New altcoins are usually easier to mine and cheaper to buy. Most are initially valued at a fraction of a dollar.

The first time we found a block of altcoins, it was like winning a very small lottery. We jumped for joy. But, like all technology, cryptocurrency changes fast. After a few months of mining altcoins, it became clear that the cost of small-scale mining outweighed the benefit. It had become cheaper and easier to buy crypto. We decided to sell our mining computer and use the proceeds to buy coins.

Since then, we've made a few good trades and a lot of bad ones. We're still curious about the market and we're watching intently to see how things play out. It's exciting and we want to participate, but we're also acutely aware of the risks involved. The market is still largely unregulated, and the value of individual coins is determined by supply and demand. Because humans are fickle by nature, things can change quickly and without warning. Some investors have made millions or billions of dollars, others haven't been as lucky. And, unfortunately, scammers and schemers run rampant in this kind of environment.

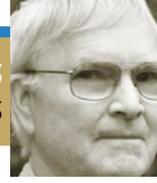
On May 13, something bad happened. A wildly successful and heavily traded altcoin called Luna collapsed. It quickly dropped from an all-time high of more than \$100 to almost zero. This had a ripple effect on the entire cryptocurrency market. Investors across the board have suffered significant losses.

The cryptocurrency market is still young and volatile and we're all still learning. Personally, I think it's here to stay. There's a lot of opportunity for financial gain but there's also a lot of risk involved. My best advice for now is to be curious but tread

lightly. And, as the saying goes, never put all your eggs in one basket.

April Godwin is an IT administrator who lives in Lakebay.

Richard Gelinas EMPIRICALLY YOURS



Better Cement Can Save Us

Thin sheets of carbon, one atom thick, called graphene dramatically improve the strength of cement and concrete. A pinch or two of graphene can also improve the properties of other materials — from batteries to tires. But adding graphene to cement could be the “killer application” for this form of pure carbon since the world makes so much cement and concrete each year.

This is important because 5 billion tons of cement are made each year by the traditional process (known even to the Romans) which is responsible for 8% of world-wide carbon dioxide emissions. It has been calculated that if the production of cement were a country, it “would be the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions.” So, making cement stronger with a simple additive means less of it would be needed in a typical construction job and less energy derived from burning coal or natural gas would be required to make it in the first place.

Cement is typically made by heating a mixture of limestone, sand and clay by burning coal or natural gas. When limestone is heated, CO₂ is dumped into the air from both the limestone itself and from the fossil fuel used to do the heating. Concrete is a mixture of cement, gravel, sand and water. Worldwide we pour 30 billion tons of it annually. Several companies and laboratories now know that with the addition of only 0.1% of graphene, the concrete becomes 30% stronger so less of it is needed, leading to a reduction in CO₂.

James Tour, Ph. D., at Rice University in Houston is studying concrete made with graphene. He suggests that a trace of graphene acts somewhat like a molecular glue that binds cement components to one another, resulting in greater strength as the concrete cures. Greater strength means not only that less concrete is needed for a given application but that the final structure should last longer.

Graphene-enhanced concrete is expected to reduce corrosion of steel rebar in the concrete by reducing water infiltration and thus preventing crumbling. Perhaps such improved concrete might have prevented

the collapse of the Surfside Condo building in Palm Beach, Florida, that killed 98 people in October 2020. A British construction company recently used graphene-enhanced concrete for the floor of a new gymnasium in Southern England without any rebar, saving one third on the cost of the materials and a similar amount in CO₂ emissions.

Graphene is one of the basic forms of pure carbon like diamond and graphite that have different crystal structures with different physical properties. At the atomic scale, graphene is a flat sheet of six carbon atoms arranged in a regular pattern, like chicken wire or honeycomb. Each carbon atom is attached to three others. Graphite consists of many graphene sheets stacked together.

Other current applications of graphene include water filters, types of armor, or improved batteries that may have higher capacities and faster recharging times. Small amounts of graphene may also improve asphalt (fewer cracks), tires (better resistance to abrasion), and other composite materials.

But if we start adding it to all concrete, how will it be made since 0.1% of 30 billion tons is 30 million tons?

Happily, making graphene could become an enabling technique for other decarbonization processes. Graphene can be made by vapor deposition from methane (the main component of natural gas, having one carbon atom and four hydrogen atoms) released from landfills, farms, sewage treatment plants, oil wells and refineries. By this method, graphene comes out as a fluffy black powder while the hydrogen can be captured and resold.

A water-based method is currently being used by Canadian and Chinese companies to make graphene from graphite, although the graphite must be mined. Dr. Tour and team have shown they can make graphene by the “flash process,” in which a short, intense electrical discharge liberates graphene from almost anything: coal, petroleum coke, discarded food, old tires and mixed plastic waste.

Graphene can be made from a variety of sources and if the electricity is from renewable sources, it is green. Several of these processes could be scaled up to the levels needed for cement manufacturing.

Richard Gelinas, Ph. D., whose early work earned a Nobel prize, is a senior research scientist at the Institute for Systems Biology. He lives in Lakebay.

Sources for more information including a list of the companies that are working on graphene see the online version of this article.

John "Pat" Kelly
GUEST COLUMN



Emily or Jesse?

Our legislative district, the 26th, has the distinction of having the most-watched and hotly contested legislative race in the state, between incumbent Democrat Sen. Emily Randall (Bremerton) and Republican challenger Rep. Jesse Young (Gig Harbor).

It is a difficult situation for me because I consider both of these fine people to be my friends, and I have endorsed both candidates in the past.

I was Sen. Randall's first point of contact before she even returned to the 26th, where she grew up. As chair of the 26th LD Democrats, I saw her as a breath of fresh air blowing across the Salish Sea to our western shores. Here was a candidate — young, photogenic, educated, successful and very intelligent. Most importantly to me, she knew exactly what her goal was and set out with amazing determination. Later, as I watched her campaign, it was easy to see she had a knack for communicating with voters. You could tell that she listened and cared. Nobody was prouder than me when she was elected because I was the first Democrat committee chair to bring home a winner in a long time.

I was helping the Capt. Larry Seaquist campaign before I met Jesse Young. I did my best to ridicule him in the public court of Facebook with cartoons and memes and tried to get under his skin. I feel foolish now admitting I thought I could push Jesse to lose his cool. It didn't work, but it got Jesse's attention.

While serving as a Key Pen Parks commissioner, I was impressed by Jesse's willingness to help with funding to develop Gateway Park, including my pet project, the splash pad. I could see that while we might take different paths to get there, we shared a lot of common goals.

I have the utmost respect for Jesse as a father. He and his wife are raising some amazing kids. I would be happy to have my daughter married off to one of Jesse's boys, after I'm dead, of course, because I know they were raised right. Even as chair of the opposition, I had to admit Jesse was the better choice in 2018.

I was drawn and quartered and suspended from the Democratic party for two years. I have been denied membership by the state party even after the suspension.

But I am still here and forced to make a decision about November.

A couple of Supreme Court cases now under consideration helped clarify things. First, I resent any blurring of the constitutional separation of church and state, and Jesse's support for Bremerton's prayer coach incensed me.

Secondly, while Jesse and I are in 100% agreement that we are personally against abortion, I don't feel it's my right to make that decision for someone else. It goes against the notion of individual liberty that his own Republican Party was founded upon.

For me, these two issues represent a dangerous trend in America that threatens our freedoms. I do not want to go backwards on civil rights. While I am a Second Amendment supporting Democrat, I found the display of firearms by Jesse's supporters at a protest organized by local high school girls to be not only inappropriate but down-

right scary. This is not the America I want for my daughter, who may be organizing her own protests in a few years.

But what do I want for my daughter? I want someone who I feel is looking after her best interests and her rights as an American. I trust Sen. Randall to do that. I want my daughter to be paid the same amount as the man working next to her. I know Emily is working on that. Most importantly, I want my daughter to grow up to have the freedom to make her own decisions about how she defines her family, including her own medical decisions. There is nobody I would trust more to protect my daughter's right to choose than my friend Emily Randall.

I see the way my daughter and other girls look at Emily. I want that for my daughter. She sees Emily as an example of how she, too, can be successful if she works hard enough. She sees Emily stick up for those who have long been bullied in our society.

I need her to see Emily succeed.

You can bet that whoever wins, I will be holding their feet to the fire to spend more time listening to our needs on the KP, and to ensure that we get a fair return locally on our tax dollars. It's what I do.

I encourage everyone — Democrats, Republicans and Independents — with an interest in discussing issues in government and politics and meeting their public officials and candidates to join us at the Home Fire Station at 7 p.m. every third Monday of the month. While the group is called the Key Peninsula Democrats, it is not affiliated with the Democratic Party. In fact, they want me to change the name, which is the reason I don't.

John "Pat" Kelly lives in Wauna.

Sharon Oswalt
GUEST COLUMN



Letter from Prague, 1968

The column "1968" by Joseph Pentheroudakis (May 2022) compelled this response. It is the first time in about 54 years that I have read of anyone else experiencing the same kind of thoughts and intense feelings as I had regarding Prague Spring.

My sister and I were on a 75-day minimal budget tour of much of eastern and western Europe, at an age that was hit very hard by the events of 1968.

We were in Prague for several days, troubled a bit by the ubiquitous loud speakers in public squares and by the fact that we could not turn off the radio in our dorm room and suspected it was also a listening device. Czechoslovakia was also the first country we had visited where our mail had been opened. A further detail was the griminess and emptiness of the commercial buildings.

But the rest of my memories are very different. It seemed that everywhere we walked in Prague, people would guess we were from the U.S. and stop us on the sidewalk to talk about Prague Spring and democratic socialism. I remember a lightness and maybe optimism and certainly joy. Each person made it very clear they believed in socialism, but a socialism based on democracy.

On the last evening five of us went to the oldest brewery in the city, built about 1400, for drinks and dinner. To our disap-

CONTINUED PAGE 8

José Alaniz WE LIVE HERE: STIR CRAZY (ANGEL OF DEATH FLUTTERING OVERHEAD EDITION)



VIEWS FROM PAGE 7

pointment, the staff would not let us sit in the main section with other patrons, which we much preferred, and insisted on taking us to a large basement room by ourselves. The beer was some of the best I had ever tasted, so on that note we were reasonably happy.

Three other customers came in. The staff tried but were unable to keep them out. We were told they were a popular Czech actor, his wife and his sister-in-law, who was celebrating her name day.

After a while we got fairly tipsy and uninhibited and started singing. The actor asked if we could sing his favorite song — “John Brown’s Body,” an anti-slavery march sung to the tune of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.” We could and did. They joined us in singing and then joined us at our table.

We talked for the next hour or two. All of a sudden, the actor shut us all up instantly. He indicated that we were being listened to. There was a lot of fear in the air and our party broke up soon after. The next morning, I had my first hangover. It was very much worth it.

We left Prague and soon crossed the eastern border for a 10-day stay in the USSR. The border crossing was hostile and worrisome. And then, for eight hours, we passed a convoy of troops headed to take over Czechoslovakia.

Soldiers had small bonfires by the side of the road and were obviously well prepared. Prague Spring and its hope were over. As a 32-year-old then, I remembered with anguish the self-immolation of Jan Palach several months later. His name blended with those of other heroes of 1968 as Prague Spring blended with Arab Spring and so many other bright openings extinguished decades later.

I wanted to somehow share these long ago but intense memories. The crushing of Prague and the often challenging time in the Soviet Union were followed by a grim visit to Poland, where Warsaw was being rebuilt mostly by hand after the unspeakable destruction of the Warsaw ghetto, the systematic destruction of Warsaw itself, among many eternal flames burning to memorialize WWII reprisal assassinations of Poles.

That summer of ‘68 and the rest of the year shaped so many of us, for good and ill. But among my most vivid memories of that time are those brief, almost ethereal visions of Prague Spring and what it promised.

Sharon Oswalt lives, loves and writes from Gig Harbor.

Letters to the Editor

LETTER FROM UKRAINE

Thought I’d check in and say hello. (“Local Man is Saving Animals in Ukraine,” June.)

I am currently in Kyiv at a home of two fabulous people who went from contacts to friends. They ran a pet hotel before the war and now it’s a refuge shelter for dogs and cats. It has become a safe house for the Kitty Cat Underground Railroad that has evolved.

The cats come from a shelter in Dnipro. To get them out of Ukraine into Poland and beyond, the cats must have an animal passport and a Ukrainian owner. The cats are examined at border control and if documentation is in order for them as well as the Ukrainian owners, we can bring a maximum of five cats across at a time. Then we meet in Przemysł, Poland, with someone who takes them to Vienna for adoption.

The catch is that a Ukrainian owner can only do this once. So, every time I cross the border, I have a different Ukrainian with me. So far none of them speak English and it gets very interesting spending four or five days together.

Tom Bates, Lakebay

To donate to Tom Bates’ animal rescue efforts, look for his letter at keypennews.org.

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 ELECTION

District 7 is a unique and diverse district that includes urban University Place, Gig Harbor and the rural Key Peninsula and its many miles of shoreline.

As is true for all council districts, Key Peninsula residents rely on our Pierce County Council person to both understand the needs of the Key and to be an effective advocate within the Pierce County Council. Our current Council Person, Derek Young, both understands our needs and has effectively advocated to ensure they are met.

The current campaign for a new District 7 representative offers the opportunity to build on the quality work of previous council members.

Robyn Denson has both the experience in local government as a Gig Harbor council person and a Pen Met Park commissioner, and a deep understanding of the issues affecting the Key Peninsula and possible solutions to meet priority issues and needs. Moreover, Robyn has demonstrated the ability to work with

staff and other elected officials to advance the quality and effectiveness of local government.

Robyn Denson has our wholehearted endorsement as the next District 7 Pierce County Council representative.

Marcia and Jeff Harris, Lakebay

ABOUT THAT CLIMATE CRISIS

In response to the guest column in the June edition, “Climate Change Comes Home,” here are a few interesting facts.

The Earth was formed roughly four billion years ago and has been changing in weather, tectonic plate movement, continental drift and overall climate variations ever since.

In A.D. 623, one of the worst climate disasters happened when an area around Krakatoa caldera in the Indonesian province of Lampung erupted. The eruption went on for years, disrupting weather in both hemispheres with diminished sunlight, colder temperatures and summer snow.

Krakatoa erupted again in 1883, killing 36,000 people.

In 1910, after four months of drought in the Pacific Northwest, a steam engine spark ignited what became known as “the Big Burn” outside of Wallace, Idaho. The U.S. Forest Service was formed by Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot to fight the Big Burn and all future forest fires. A hero emerged, Ed Pulaski, who saved a dozen of his fellow forester-firefighters, and lived to talk about it. (A great read is Timothy Egan’s “The Big Burn,” 2009).

The year 1996 brought huge floods to the Pacific Northwest due to warm temperatures and heavy rainfall. The tab was \$800 million.

June of 2009 saw record temperatures of 100 degrees in Pierce and King counties. Not quite like last summer, but close.

The column authors are correct in their approach to community involvement, green spaces, education, local farming (organic), and most importantly, helping one another in a weather or other crisis.

But let us put into perspective that the United States has only been measuring climate since the early 1900s while Earth’s climate disasters and changes have been happening for millions of years. The ebb and flow of the Earth and its peaks and valleys of changing climate will be with us forever.

Victoria Nelsen, Lakebay

OBITUARIES



Marilyn Hartley

Marilyn Sue Hartley died peacefully surrounded by family at her Gig Harbor home near Rocky Creek June 10, 2022. She was 80 years old. She was born and raised in Alliance, Ohio, the same place she met and later married Jerry Hartley. The couple shared their love for nearly 58 years.

Marilyn enjoyed a long life of service to her community and being a loving wife to her husband, Jerry, and devoted mother to their son, David.

In the early years of their marriage, Marilyn helped raise David while Jerry served in the U.S. Air Force. After working in the Inspector General’s Office at Norton Air Force Base in California, she retired from Northrop-Grumman in 2006. Soon after, she and Jerry moved to the Key Peninsula to be closer to their son and granddaughters Sophia and Maddy.

Retirement allowed Marilyn to become active in her community and charity events. A founding member of KP Cares, she will be fondly remembered as generous with her time and passionate in her quest to improve the lives of many in the community.

Later in her life, she also became a member of the Imagine Guild, one of the many fundraising guilds of Seattle Children’s Hospital.

She also shared her son’s passion for Seattle Sounders FC. As a member of the Emerald City Supporters, Marilyn quickly became beloved among the group. One of her proudest moments was shaking the hand of head coach Brian Schmetzer during pre-game warmups.

Instead of flowers, Marilyn’s final wish was to request a donation to Seattle Children’s Hospital. This can be done at www.seattlechildrens.org. When doing so, please designate the Imagine Guild from the dropdown menu.



Marilyn Love Davis

Marilyn Love Davis of Seattle passed away May 19 at the age of 95, peacefully and with family members at her side.

Marilyn was born Oct. 15, 1926 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She attended the University of Colorado and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a math major — the second woman ever to do so. In her freshman year, she met A. John (Johnny) Davis III, whom she married the day after graduation. They raised two sons together in Littleton, Colorado.

Marilyn was pragmatic, direct and often said that “every young woman needs a good education and her own set of tools!” She was the first homemaker in her suburban neighborhood to go back to work, earning a Master’s of Education and teaching elementary school in Littleton for 20 years. After retiring together in 1984, Marilyn and Johnny purchased a historic house on Puget Sound in Home, Washington, which they restored together over several years.

Marilyn fished, hunted and backpacked. She was an avid gardener and a voracious reader. She was competitive, independent, hard-working, an outspoken conversationalist, and had close friends wherever she lived. She loved football and successfully made the complicated transition from being a Broncos buff to a Seahawks fan.

After leaving Home in 2016, Marilyn moved to Gig Harbor and then to Seattle to be closer to her two sons and their families. Marilyn will be remembered for her outgoing personality, lively and sometimes-barbed humor, energy, intelligence, and for her pies.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her brother, Bill. She is survived by her two sons and their wives (John and Susan, Charlie and Nancy); four grandchildren; three great-granddaughters; sister-in-law Elsa; and three nieces, three nephews and their children, with whom she remained close.

A memorial will be held at a yet-to-be-determined date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho.



Marcy Sparks

Marcia “Marcy” Coefer Sparks, 62, of Longbranch died unexpectedly May 22 in Lakebay.

She was born in Frankfurt, Germany, Feb. 4, 1960, to parents Margaret Coefer and U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. George Coefer, who was stationed there. Marcy attended Bob Jones High School in Madison, Alabama, and Frankfurt American High School in Frankfurt.

In 1979, she married Joseph Sparks in Madison and they welcomed their son Daniel in 1981, daughter Ashley in 1987 and daughter Kelsey in 1989.

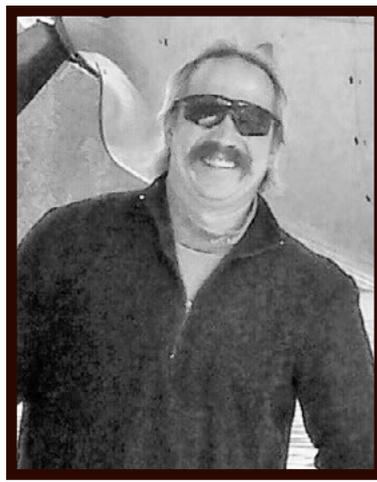
In 1997, Marcy moved with her children to Federal Way. She worked as a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service from 1981 until her retirement in 2015. She moved to Longbranch in 2016 where she raised her granddaughter Isabella. She was proud to have beaten breast cancer, twice.

First and foremost, Marcy was a dedicated mother and grandmother. She loved to spend time with her family. She enjoyed outdoor activities, including gardening, kayaking, hiking and skiing. She was a big fan of Alabama football. She was involved in her church and enjoyed spending time with her Longbranch community.

She loved to decorate for holidays and was known for her elaborate Halloween displays. She loved with her whole heart and was an advocate for others who needed help. Marcy will be deeply missed by her family, friends, community and all who loved her.

Marcy is survived by her three children, Daniel, Ashley and Kelsey Sparks; her three grandchildren, Collier, Coen and Isabella Sparks; and sisters Patricia Tatum, Barbara Biles and Sandra Smith.

A funeral service was held at WayPoint Church June 11. Please honor Marcy by making a charitable donation in her name to the Longbranch Foundation at www.longbranchfoundation.org.



Robert Newkirk

Robert (Rob) P. Newkirk, long-time resident of Gig Harbor, passed to heaven surrounded by love May 15 at age 54 from esophageal cancer.

Rob was born in February 1968 in Groton, Connecticut, to Robert H. Newkirk and Patricia Miller. They later moved to University Place, where Rob graduated in 1986 from Curtis High School. He received his Associate Degree in business from the University of Washington.

Rob worked many jobs, including press foreman at the Pierce County Herald and as assistant production manager at Webcraft, before starting his own business, Newkirk Handyman Services, and then sole proprietor general contractor. He built vacation cabins, did home renovations, repairs and new home construction throughout Washington. Rob built a beautiful home on the Key Peninsula with Michele, where they enjoyed making many memories with friends, family, and especially the grandchildren.

An avid outdoorsman, Rob enjoyed hunting, fishing and gardening. His life was full of fun adventures, purpose and meaning. He always had a smile and was quick to help others. Throughout Rob’s cancer battle, he faced each day with courage, hope and God’s grace. Thank you to all of the friends and family who stayed in touch with Rob through his illness. It meant so much to him and lifted his spirits.

Rob is survived by his parents Robert and Patricia; brothers Doug and Dennis; sister Tami; son Robbie and daughter Kolissa of Galesburg, Illinois; and nieces and nephews Matthew, Nicole, Heather, Justice and Jasper. Rob is also survived by his loving partner of 18 years, Michele Willoughby; Kevin Willoughby; Kelsey Willoughby Baydo (Adam); his beloved grandchildren Kodi Carley of Illinois and Wyatt Willoughby, Laila Willoughby, Aubrey Baydo, Abigail Baydo, all of Gig Harbor; and numerous dear friends that became family.

Special thanks to Franciscan Hospice for their compassionate care.



LuVerne Petersen

LuVerne Lois Wilson Petersen was born May 17, 1925, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and died May 29 in Tacoma at age 97. She moved to Washington with her parents at the age of 17.

After graduating from Stadium High School, LuVerne attended Tacoma General Hospital School of Nursing and graduated as a registered nurse in 1946. Later that fall, LuVerne married John Richard Petersen. They raised three daughters in Tacoma and spent their summers at Sunrise Beach in Gig Harbor. The couple moved to Longbranch in 1975, where they lived a wonderful and active life for over 40 years.

Not one to sit idle, LuVerne was an independent thinker and a lifelong learner. She pursued her dreams and interests with a strong, sensible approach.

Her nursing career took her from hospital work to a doctor’s office to the student health center at Pacific Lutheran University. She worked to put her girls through college and after the last check went to Washington State University in 1978, she retired the very next day.

She was a talented and beautiful seamstress and an avid birdwatcher, her binoculars never far out of reach. She had a passion for genealogy and spent years researching the family trees, leaving her family a precious gift of history.

LuVerne knew the secret of balance — she pursued her dreams but always had time for her family.

LuVerne was preceded in death by her loving husband John Richard Petersen. She is survived by her daughters, Jeanette L. Petersen, Karen M. Prim, Lisa A. Parker (Dave); seven grandchildren, Jenae, Lisa, Tara, Brady, Brett, Matt, Scott; and three great-grandchildren, Corbin, Sloane and Logan.

She was laid to rest June 7 at the Longbranch Cemetery.

Donations can be made to The Mustard Seed Project in memory of LuVerne Petersen at P.O. Box 182, Vaughn, WA 98394.



Join the LIC July 16 and 17 to celebrate Centennial Marina Days.

Ahoy! And welcome aboard!

Cruise from Tacoma to Longbranch Marina July 16 aboard the historic Virginia V. Tickets include bus to Tacoma, box lunch and LIC shuttle for \$125.



Tour the Virginia V in the afternoon or dress up for the Longbranch Foundation's period party, *Step Back in Time*. Tickets include food and live period music for \$75.

At noon on July 17, join the Marina Days Pavilion Party at the marina. \$15 includes shuttle from LIC, live music, catered food and a cash bar. And at 4pm don't miss the Centennial Boat Parade on Filucy Bay.

For tickets and info on Centennial Events go to www.licweb.org.

The Longbranch Improvement Club | 2021 CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

Can You Spot Every Phishing Scam?

Online scammers have become far more sophisticated and aggressive in recent years.

APRIL GODWIN, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

Can you spot a phishing scam?

Email-based phishing scams have been around almost as long as the internet. Bad actors regularly send malicious email messages disguised to look like they're from a legitimate company. They often target huge swaths of people using stolen email addresses. Their goal is simple: they want to get their hands on your personal information and, ultimately, your money.

Even though email providers have gotten really good at filtering out dangerous messages, phishing techniques are ever evolving. As they become more sophisticated and complex, it becomes increasingly important that people work together to stop scammers in their tracks by spotting and reporting suspicious emails. The recipient is the last line of defense against attacks that make it past the safeguards and into their inbox.

The good news is that anyone can learn how to spot the clues scammers hide in their phishing emails. Here are some of the most common red flags to watch out for.

Who is the email from? Check the sender's email address. Were you expecting the email? If not, where did it originate? Is the address spelled correctly? Scammers often make small spelling changes that are easy to miss. For example, can you spot the misspelling in this address: appstore@googleplay.com. If you noticed that Google Play has an extra "p" in it, great job, you might be a phish-buster in the making.

Who is the email addressed to? Always check if the email was sent directly to you or if it's addressed to someone else. If you're on the cc line and the message is from a sender you don't recognize, that's a red flag. It's also a red flag if your email address appears in alphabetical order next to a bunch of similar addresses.

When did you receive the email and when was it sent? If an email looks like it was sent from a legitimate business but outside normal business hours, that could be a red flag. Phishing campaigns are often automated, and they can be sent from any corner of the globe at any hour of the day or night.

Does the email call for urgent action? The subject line on a phishing email is often used to grab your attention with an inflated sense of urgency. Is the offer too good to be true? Does the message

threaten negative consequences or a missed opportunity? There is often a push for the phishing recipient to do something right away.

Does the email contain bad grammar and spelling mistakes? Phishing emails often contain misspelled words and inaccurate "facts." Scammers use this approach to find trusting targets who are more likely to fall for their scam. Legitimate communications are usually checked for spelling and grammar. Carefully read the content of any email you find suspicious.

Does the email contain hyperlinks or attachments? A great way to tell if a hyperlink is legitimate is to hover over it without clicking. Does the targeted address match the address displayed in the text? If not, that's a bright red flag. Also check for spelling in hyperlinks. Never open attachment unless you are 100% certain the email is legitimate. Scammers regularly attach documents to phishing emails containing embedded malicious code that is activated when the attachment is opened.

We may not be able to prevent scammers from sending phishing emails, but we can protect ourselves against common threats by paying close attention and staying vigilant. ■

Local Leader Wins Rotary Star Award For Years of KP Volunteering

STAFF REPORT

The collective Rotary Clubs of Gig Harbor conferred the Rotary Star Award on Sara Thompson during a ceremony May 20 at Canterwood Golf and Country Club in Gig Harbor.

Award winners are selected for outstanding volunteer service to the community and includes a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow for exemplifying "service above self." Membership in Rotary is not a requirement for nomination.

Thompson spends her volunteer hours working primarily for The Mustard Seed Project of Key Peninsula and Key Peninsula News, respectively. She is board president of each organization, in addition to the regular volunteer work she performs to benefit the community.

Thompson was nominated for the award by Gig Harbor Rotary North Club. Funds raised at the annual dinner dessert dash were donated to the nonprofit organi-



Sara Thompson thanks Rotary Club members June 17 for their donations to her favorite nonprofits. *Tina McKail, KP News*

zations of the winner's choice. The KP News and The Mustard Seed Project each received a \$1,000 donation to support and continue work in the community they serve.

In her brief acceptance speech, Thompson said "I feel like it's just been an honor to be part of both these organizations; these are my people. I get at least as much as I give and then some." ■

MARINA FROM PAGE 1

top of the mountain without any skis on. “Hey, is this going to work?”

“We have two significant responsibilities,” Franz said. “One is to steward those aquatic lands for salmon habitat and the critical ecosystem that thrives in our waterways but also to provide access for the people of Washington state, so they can get out on our waters and enjoy them.”

Franz said Lakebay Marina has a huge history of recreation opportunity and access. “And at the same time, you look around, we’ve got an estuary up here that can help restore our salmon runs and protect aquatic species.”

She gave credit to the community surrounding Lakebay Marina for having been so active in raising environmental issues and safety concerns at the local and state level.

“This is an example of community engagement and activism,” she said. “To be honest, I’m all over the state. I’m not in every corner all the time. Our aquatics team is also limited. We’ve got a lot of ground we have to cover and a lot of challenges.”

The boating association purchased Lakebay Marina from Mark Scott in December 2019 in a deal with many twists and turns that finally closed for \$1.6 million Dec. 28, 2021. From the beginning, the goal for RBAW was rehabilitating and preserving it in perpetuity as a marine park by donating it to the state, something the group did successfully in the past in the northern San Juans with Sucia Island State Park.

“Knowing it’s not in private ownership, there’s no one doing this for a profit motive anymore, we need to restore this building,” Wise said.

“It’s expensive to maintain your history, that’s all there is to it,” he said. “But the reality of it is, if money is the only blocker we have, that’s not that hard. It’s not insurmountable.”

Aquatic Resources Assistant Division Manager Michal Rechner was deeply involved in the negotiations for the acquisition of Lakebay Marina and helped convince Franz this was a worthwhile project for the agency.

Rechner indicated some of the next steps. “When the tide gets low you can really see the condition of the pilings are pretty bad,” he said.

DNR will bring a consultant onboard to help with the public process, some of

“IT’S EXPENSIVE TO MAINTAIN YOUR HISTORY, THAT’S ALL THERE IS TO IT.”



On her first tour of the building, Hilary Franz asked lots of questions as she marveled at the vintage nature of the place.

Lisa Bryan, KP News



Cleanup continues at the closed restaurant.

Tina McKail, KP News

the design work and the design for the shoreline restoration.

“One of the things we’ll also have them do is to get an engineering consult on the pilings, to see how good or bad it really is, so we’ll know what we’re working with,” Rechner said.

As one of the last remaining fuel stops for boaters in South Puget Sound, Franz said she understands that preservation of Lakebay Marina as a fuel dock is important too. How long it will take to restore fuel service at the site remains unanswered at this point.

“If we don’t have access to fuel then our boaters can’t get out in the water and in the South Sound,” she said. “If you look at the history, one of the things we’re doing aside from protecting the environ-



After years of neglect, facility rehabilitation will take some time. *Tina McKail, KP News*

ment and providing access is preserving a part of history, and Washington state has always been a boating community.”

Wise said he thinks public access to the water is going to continue to be something that shrinks.

“We want to make sure that properties like this, which are historic in nature and have been a part of the community for the last 130 years, to make sure we preserve them for the public and multiple generations to come,” he said.

It’s going to take a lot more time and money but now, three years into the project, Wise said he is confident there is enough interest to raise the money that’s needed to rebuild the property.

“This building is actually on the historic registry,” he said. “We think it’s a unique part of the property that dates back to when this was an egg cooperative many decades ago. We’d love to see it saved and we hope we can do that.” ■

The Beautification of the Key Peninsula in Full Bloom

A visible sense of pride and ownership grows in the community.

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

When driving along the Key Peninsula Highway through Key Center, pay attention to the litter-free roadside and notice the hanging baskets, large flower-filled pots and weeded beds along the road. The people behind these bits of color are volunteers working with Kathy Lyons, who leads the Key Peninsula Beautification Project.

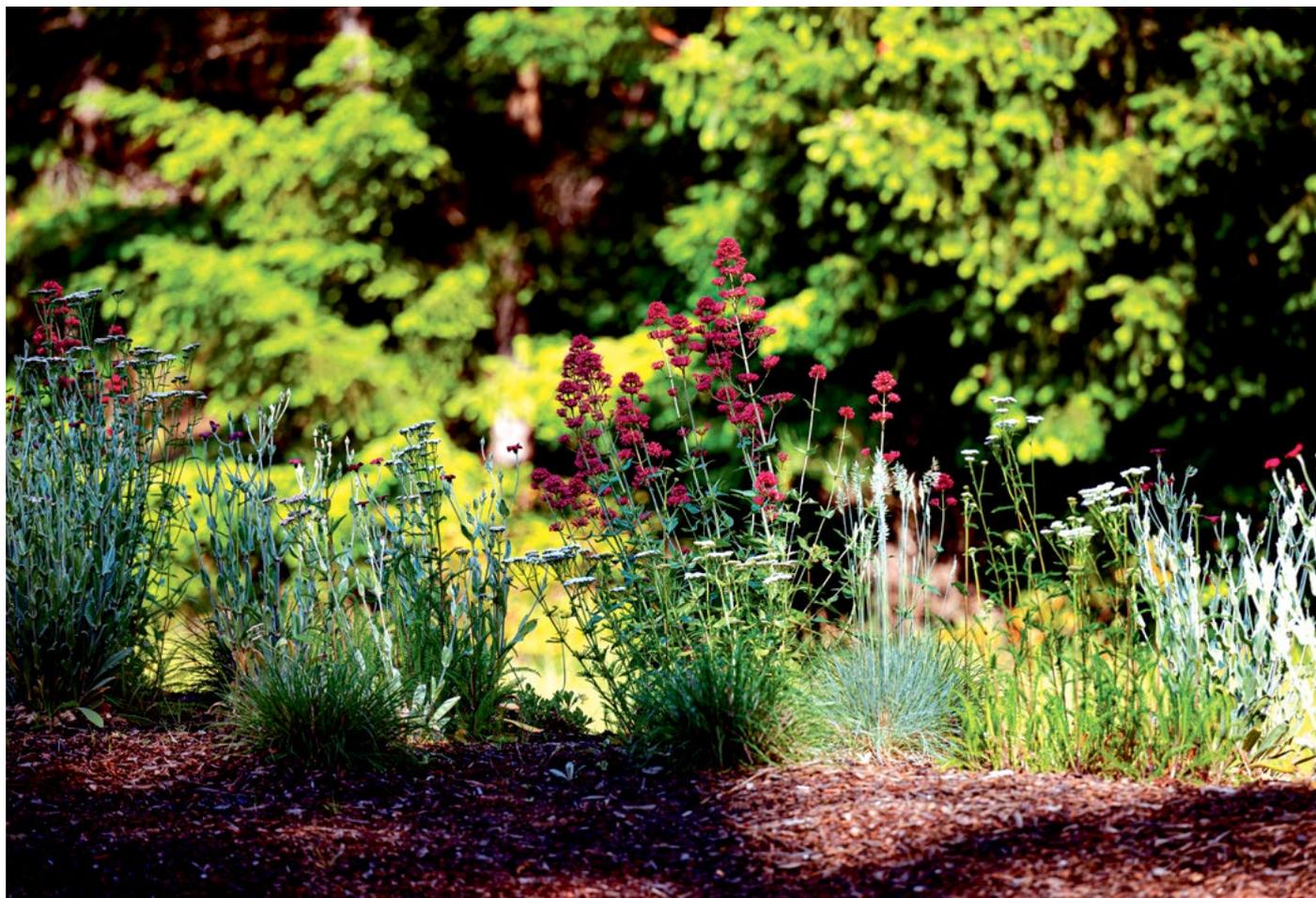
Lyons has been recruiting volunteers and raising money to pay for the hanging baskets in Key Center for years. “My inspiration was from the YouTube video ‘Castle Rock America in Bloom 2018,’” she said.

Lyons has a history of community volunteerism. She has been a member of the Key Peninsula Community Council since 2020. Before that she volunteered to organize the Scarecrow Contest for the Farm Council to promote interest in the KP Farm Tour. Like the Farm Council in 2006, the KP Beautification Project was assigned committee status by the KPC in June 2021. Both function under the nonprofit umbrella of the council, which provides a degree of sustainability and allows for long-range planning.

While the focus of the group of over a dozen volunteers is gardening, another beautification project encouraged photographers to submit their best local photos to the Pierce County Arts Commission. Heidi Hooper of Lakebay won \$500 for her “Seashells by the Seashore,” that now ennobles a utility box in Key Center on the southwest corner of the KP Highway and 92nd Street NW.

The most recent improvement was the return of flower baskets along the roadside through Key Center. “This is a low-budget operation,” Lyons said. “I made and sold calendars to raise money to buy the flowers for the baskets. I raised about \$1,000 and this was supplemented by a grant from the Angel Guild.”

Lyons listed two other projects enhancing the approach to the Vaughn Post Office. The first was the restoration of painted wooden animals on the fencing around the retention pond, a decades-old Two Waters Arts Alliance project for Key Peninsula Middle School students. “I engaged amateur artists, professional artists like Tweed Meyer,



The traffic island at SR-302 and KP Highway became a colorful oasis. *Tina McKail, KP News*



Just a few spots of hanging color improve the corridor through Key Center.

Tina McKail, KP News

and families to (repaint) the animals,” Lyons said.

The second project was the landscaping along the east side of Anker Lane NW, the access road to the post office. Volunteers put down a weed barrier, added new bark and planted small trees.

Lyons and volunteer Kamryn Minch

completed the most involved project and perhaps the most visible. Now that it is in full bloom, the intersection island at State Route 302 and the KP Highway has generated interest and feedback, Lyons said.

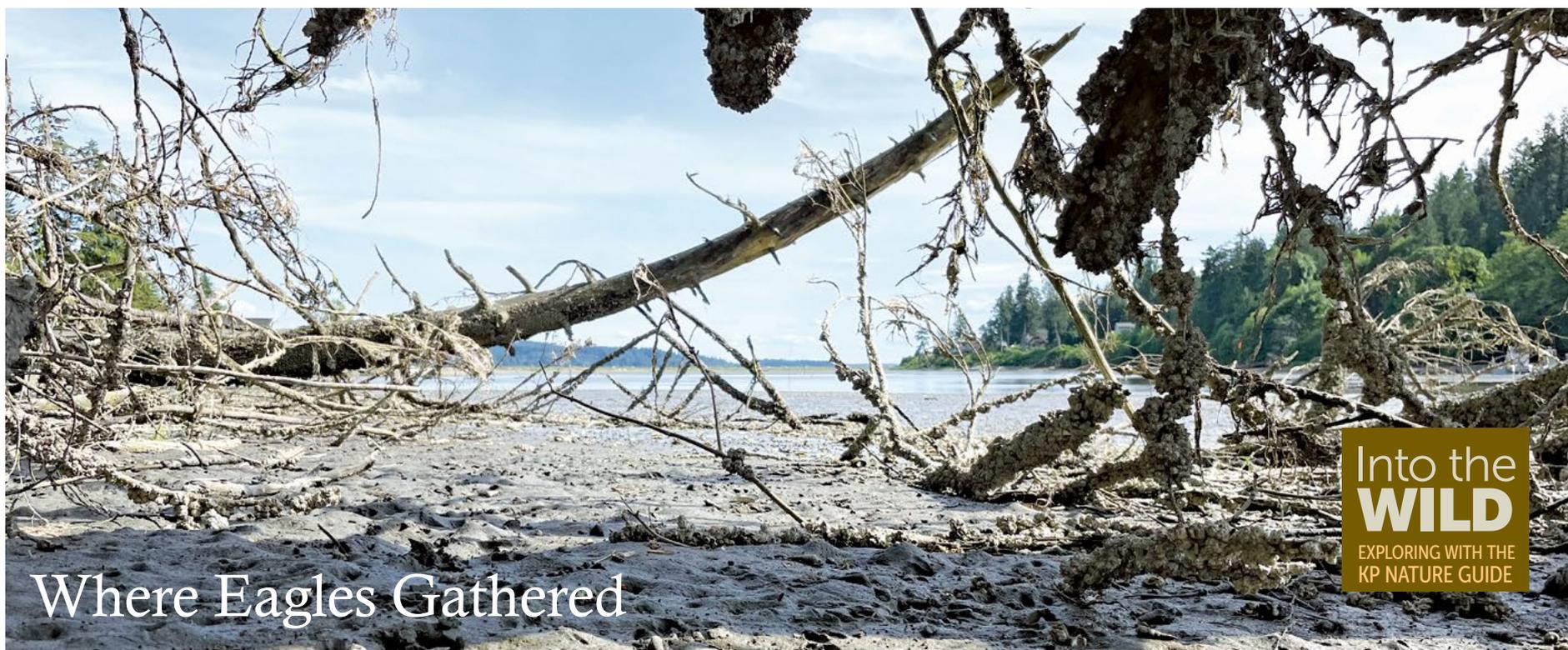
It took over a year to obtain the required permission from the Wash-

ington State Department of Transportation to plant the flowers. Lyons worked with the county and state to secure support. A budget was provided by WSDOT, and Minch developed three different designs submitted for consideration. In the end, WSDOT provided equipment and materials to replace soil and auger holes for 100 plants. Purdy Topsoil and Chuck West donated bark to finish the project.

The heat dome event of June 2021 occurred shortly after the planting. Some feared that these volunteer efforts would be wasted. However, volunteer Jim Monnerjahn found a way to handle watering with garbage cans and a portable pump.

“The feedback I am getting from people driving by has been really positive and gratifying; not just because I designed it, but because people appreciate it. It shows that we are making a difference,” Minch said. “Kathy is the legs behind all of it, I am able to provide my designs and my hands for weeding, but she is our leader.”

More projects are on the drawing board, including a possible welcome sign in Key Center with a sitting area or even a small park. ■



Where Eagles Gathered

Into the
WILD
EXPLORING WITH THE
KP NATURE GUIDE

Under a downed tree, a footpath for deer and raccoons. *Chris Rurik, KP News*

CHRIS RURIK, KP NEWS

This is a tale of two homes. They sit side by side above me, a low old house among big trees and a nearly finished new construction.

I am here to watch the eagle show. The homes overlook one of the Key Peninsula's main salmon-bearing coves. At low tide, I have been told, eagles swarm.

But my attention has been arrested by muck. A footpath of raccoon tracks weaves along the shoreline's top edge. I follow it through leaning and fallen trees, their limbs crusted with seaweed, and find deer prints as well. And tiny deer prints. A fawn with hooves scarcely larger than the raccoon's palm.

Furtive, darting. Lately I've been feeling about that small, unable to grasp the changes being wrought in the world around me, the developments. On the mudflat are the winding trails of mudflat snails, crossing without logic. At the end of each lies a snail in what looks like a tiny impact crater.

I'm below the old house now. Above a margin of beach grass and fallen limbs, a medium bank rises, tangled with all kinds of native plants. A hummingbird appears for a moment to probe honeysuckle trumpets. A towhee dives into salal. Above the bank soar the trees: hemlock, redcedar, Douglas fir up to five feet in diameter. An eagle arcs through a patch of cloudy sky. It vanishes.

The property's owner has been here nearly 40 years. Blue collar, frank, hardly the image of a tree-hugger, he uses a flame weeder on

his paths because he has seen that chemicals end up in the cove. Wildflowers and moss grow in his lawn. When trees fall on the beach, he leaves them for fish and birds. His home is as embedded in its surroundings as a fawn curled on the mossy side of a log.

Compare that with the lot next door. I'm no student of architecture and could take or leave what I can see of the angular new house, but around it a mosaic of patios and rocks and water features and young palm trees pushes out to every edge of the parcel, where new privacy fences stand. A pile of dirt spills over the bank. Rock stairs lead to a patio built in the beach grass.

The owner of the old house tells me that the parcel held trees as big as his. Soaring limbs, high perches, a staging ground for eagles. Three years ago, when he returned from time away to find that his new neighbor had cut them, he says he lost his mind. He went over there screaming and cursing.

Later, others on his street may have speculated that he must have been drunk to cause such a scene. It wasn't alcohol, he tells me. It was rage.

This is a man who had never run afoul of the law. Now, for his act of sorrow, he had a restraining order issued against him.

All of this has me thinking of the poet Theodore Roethke and a line he wrote at the end of his life: "There are those to whom place is unimportant, / But this place, where sea and fresh water meet, / Is important."

Roethke wrote the lines on the shore of Puget Sound, far from the midwestern

ponds and towering greenhouses of his youth, yet not so far psychologically. He was talking about landscape — like the owner of the old house is when he fixes me with his blazing blue eyes and says, "As powerful as this place seems, it's fragile," his voice raw after watching three years of sprawling construction and constant landscaping labor — but Roethke was also talking about a mental terrain from which his self and soul might rise.

Throughout his life Roethke had an exquisite ability to turn to snails and lakes and other things unarmored and vulnerable when searching for his solace. Letting his doubts and fears go naked in the underbrush, his poetry came out in short prodding lines and questions that rarely made sense but teased at bonds formed by the unconscious. His was not a poetry of vistas; his was a poetry pushing through tangles, full of fragments in which beetles loomed like dragons and birth and rebirth demanded constant returns to the muck.

And then, in this final long poem (called "North American Sequence"), the lines lengthen. Small streams run under downed firs. Salt and fresh water meet. He watches the "flash of the kingfisher," the "eagles sail low over the fir trees," "the gulls cry against the crows." It is pure description. Instead of posing unanswerable questions he speaks of wearing "a crown of birds." Seeing his surroundings for what they are, he can for a moment "sway outside myself."

For a good 10 feet above high tide line, the

bank of the new house looks like that of the old. Beach grass gives way to salal. Firs lean out. Above, however, everything has been shorn to dirt. A parapet of cottage stone running the width of the parcel supports patios and lawns. It looks like a castle wall ready for a siege. The house gives me the overall impression of a god's-eye perch, a human sphere separate from the entanglements of local life — not to mention the aesthetic of Carmel implanted onto the Key Peninsula. The irony is that such development hinges on selling points like view and eagles and an architecture that supposedly brings the outdoors in. The terror is that this lexicon of real estate development might dictate our sense of place.

Toward the end of the cove, I catch the flash of wings. A splash in the water. A kingfisher settles on a branch protruding from the mud. Another joins it. A third zooms around, makes an awkward dive, and ends up in a dead tree leaning over the water. Youngsters, I think. Looking up and down the leaf-loaded shorelines, the new house stands out for its aggressively purified view. This is a beautiful estuary loaded with leaning trees. Kingfishers depend upon such things.

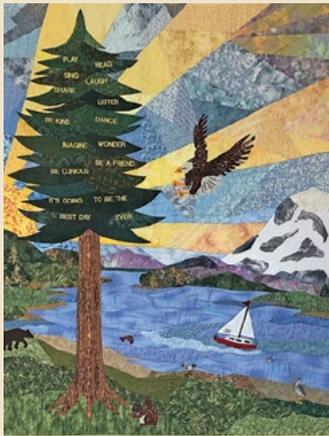
I think I'll take the crown of birds over the high human lookout. Let the eagles be only half-glimpsed beyond trees that still stand. To have my feet in the mud of a world that looms and shifts, demanding respect, may make me feel low and mean on days like this, but as Roethke knew there are worse things than feeling small. ■

THE LONGBRANCH FOUNDATION: ANNUAL UPDATE

Investing in Key Peninsula

With a mission to improve life on the Key Peninsula, the heart and soul of our work is supporting local students and schools.

By inspiring collaboration and generosity, we're working to make meaningful change for educational opportunities while fulfilling our responsibility to maintaining local history and improving the natural environment.



Better life starts in school.

When **Evergreen Elementary** opened its new facility in the fall, Longbranch Foundation volunteers created a quilt "dedicated to the students and staff of Evergreen Elementary on the opening of their new school in 2021." The Foundation continues work started in 1921 by the Longbranch Improvement Club to 'encourage any activity for the betterment of schools.'

Support was expanded to **Key Peninsula Middle School** in 2021 with a new TLF Mini-Grant program granting teachers up to \$1,000 to provide special learning opportunities. In December, the first was awarded to the KPMS On-line Cooking Club.

The Mini-Grant program was implemented for Evergreen teachers at year-end; ongoing operational support included supplies for STEM education and containers for sanitary student supplies storage.

Five **high school, college and tech school** students received first-time and continuing scholarships of \$10,500 in cooperation with Peninsula Hawks.

In 2021, despite Covid challenges, the community donated \$91,999 through fundraising events with \$21,862 added by new endowments and foundation grants. Revenues from the successful "Brighter Futures" online auction helped raise our 5-year educational budget to \$100,000.

We delivered \$19,000 of support to educational and community organizations and retained a restricted reserve of \$175,277 for all our charitable purposes. Details on programs and grants to partnering organizations are at mytlf.org.

We can only invest what we are given, and for that we thank the Key Peninsula community.

Every bit of good we are able to offer is made possible by volunteers and donations. We're looking for new volunteers to help enrich ongoing programs at Evergreen, KPMS and Peninsula High.

Join us at the heart of the Key Peninsula community, we welcome your help.

mytlf.org

The Longbranch Foundation
PO Box 111, Lakebay WA 98349

Nonprofit organization EIN 81-1147078



Summer at the Red Barn Just Got More Fun

A Key Center resource can keep the kids busy when school is out.

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

At the end of the school year, the big question for parents is: "How will my kid spend the summer?"

The Red Barn Youth Center's summer program may have an answer.

Starting July 6 and ending August 25, the Red Barn Youth Center in Key Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

Executive Director Kellie Bennett secured program funding through the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and School's Out Washington, enabling the Red Barn to offer free drop-in services to youth in grades six through 12. While there is no cost, pre-registration is required.

"We focus on making the center a place youth enjoy coming to during their summer vacation," Bennett said. "In 2021, we changed our summer program opening time to 8 a.m. from the pre-pandemic summer program start time of 11 a.m. Youth are now able to be dropped off as parents or caregivers head to work."

Any youth between sixth and 12th grade is welcome, even if they do not live in the local district. The program provides a safe, supervised place for youth to hang out with other youth, take part in a wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities, and have access to a healthy breakfast, lunch, and snacks.

The program operates with an on-site staff of three. Besides Bennett, there is a new hire, Nathaniel Reeves, who fills the role of summer program assistant. Red Barn Assistant Director Jolene McCarthy who, according to Bennett, is the kitchen guru, plans and prepares breakfast, lunch and snacks. She encourages participants to submit suggestions for favorite foods even though it may require some modifications in her planned menus.

Bennett credits community support and partnerships for the success of the Red Barn programs and referenced three specific partners related to the summer program: Windermere Professional Partners, Key Pen Parks, and the Pierce County Library System.

Windermere Professional Partners held their annual volunteer work day at Red Barn June 10. They cleared out all the weeds and blackberries on and around the volleyball and basketball courts.

Arrangements with Key Pen Parks have been made for a mountain bike ride at



Some first-time mountain bikers from Red Barn Youth Center on 360 Trails last fall.

Kellie Bennett

Gateway Park July 14. There are tentative plans for a second ride in August.

The Pierce County Library System will provide support programming through the Key Center Library. The relationship was initiated by the Friends of the Key Center Library shortly after Red Barn opened. This community outreach effort is unique in the Pierce County Library System. Throughout the school year, Youth Services Librarian Holly Smith presents programs at Red Barn twice a month; four dates are scheduled for July and August.

Smith arrives armed with materials and equipment needed to facilitate a range of activities from virtual reality experiments to make-and-take duct tape projects. Supplies for these activities are provided by Key Center Library, and when extra hands are needed, Key Center Youth Specialist Barbie Swayze joins in to help.

Smith said the Red Barn "is a great place to be, everyone who works there has a great heart, and getting to know the kids has been a lot of fun."

Bennett said she is pleased the Red Barn is available to local youth. "While there is no rigid, formal plan of activity, we strive to provide a safe, friendly environment where youth can pursue their own interests, a place where they can use the art materials, engage in STEM activities, be outside or just hang out with others."

Registration information is available online at www.redbarnkp.org. Print copies can be picked up at the Red Barn Youth Center, 15921 84th Street NW, Lakebay. For more information call 253-884-1594. ■

Longtime KP UPS Driver Retires, Reflects and Builds

After long days and many miles, the last stop was retirement but he's keeping up with his KP customers turned friends.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Greg Matson of Tacoma, 67, retired from the United Parcel Service June 10 after 43 years, 37 spent driving.

Seventeen of those years were delivering packages on the Key Peninsula.

"I always wanted to work outdoors," he said. "I drove a route in Tacoma for most of all those years, and being out on the peninsula was kind of like a dream come true."

In 1979, Matson was earning his Master of Divinity degree at Northwest Baptist Seminary in Tacoma when he heard UPS was hiring. He went to the center in Fife and was hired on the spot.

The pay was good, but "I never left my studies," he said. "I was involved in a church in Gig Harbor for 20 years, and a lot of that time I was on staff there."

Matson drove years in Tacoma and the tidflats before the KP route became available. A more senior driver got it but didn't like it, and he took over.

"Everybody knows this but there's just a plethora of wildlife out here," he said. "There's a place down at Yeazell Road that has a big carved bear. I was in there one day and the guy says have you seen my bear? And I said yeah, I've seen your bear. And he says, not that one, and points to the backyard, and there are two black bears 30 or 40 feet away just sitting there looking at us."

Matson made 80 to 100 deliveries a day, driving about 130 miles over 10 or 11 hours. "There would be days where something would go wrong and I'd put on another 30 miles," he said. "If you make a mistake at Devil's Head and you've gotten all the way up to Key Center, that's a big mistake."

Drivers are required to take one 30-minute break and to work no more than 14 hours. If the weather was poor, Matson would doze in his driver's seat.

"When the weather's good, I'd go to the end of Rouse Road, before you get to Whisky Beach," he said. "There's a nice, quiet place there with a little hill where I could take a nap, use my vest as a pillow and my jacket as a blanket. I'd literally dream for a few minutes, and I'd feel refreshed and ready to go ahead again."

When Matson first started on the KP, he was responsible for every delivery south of Lackey Road. "Now in the last couple years,



Greg Matson with his madrona slab. *Tina McKail, KP News*

as the population has grown, my route has shrunk to where I've lost everything north of Home," he said. "I would begin at the Home post office and do everything south, and that would still be 80 stops and 130 miles. I even lost Herron Road."

He also lost contact with many regular customers. "Occasionally when there's a day that's much lighter, my route will expand further north and I kind of like that

because I get to go back to areas and people I haven't seen in a long time. There's a lot of people that I haven't had a chance to stay in touch with," he said.

And Matson has many friendships to maintain on the KP.

"There's hundreds of people out there that I know," he said. "I was invited out for one couple's anniversary celebration. Another guy has a portable mill. I'm interested in that. That's one of the things that I liked about the area. People would have these great ideas or they're trying something, and I get a chance to see what they've done and how they like it."

That customer with the mill helped Matson transport a downed madrona given to him by another customer from the other side of the peninsula. "We trailered it back over to his place," he said. "We put his portable mill on it and slabbed about half of that. I'm coming back out there with my own equipment, and he's graciously agreed to help me learn how to do that."

The biggest challenge Matson faced on the KP wasn't the long days or lost packages; it was snow.

"It's kind of an unspoken rule that you don't return to the building with packages; you're out there until everything is delivered," he said. "At Christmas time, the load can just be incredible. Ten o'clock at night I was on a hill and suddenly I'm losing it. It took me 45 minutes of inching back and forth without braking to get back down."

But sometimes great memories are made in difficult times.

"I was putting on chains at the Key Center Corral one night," he said, laying in the snow. "Someone passing by stopped and gave me a hand. People will help you out. People pulled me out of the mud many times. I had a lot of opportunities for things

like that."

Like that time he locked himself in the back of his own truck.

"There was a hole in the bulkhead door that separates the driving compartment from the package compartment. If I could reach through it, I could pull the chain and release the lock on the door, but my hand wouldn't fit. So, I stayed in the truck until I spotted somebody outside through that hole. I started banging on the walls and yelling, and he opened the door from the outside for me."

Matson said he has no immediate plans for retirement but is thinking about a small home with a large shop. "I'm really interested in milling maple and madrona and making furniture. I'd like to take a class in doing stained glass. I want to put all of my own stained glass in (a shop) in strategic sunrising and sunset places. I don't know how to do it, but I'd like to learn," he said.

"I've thought about leaving Tacoma and buying somewhere that's more rural, but I'm not really sure yet. If I found what I wanted (on the KP) I'd certainly look at it." ■

"PEOPLE PULLED ME OUT OF THE MUD MANY TIMES."

Keep Calm and Garden On! Yes You Can Do It!

Both home and community gardens have the potential to be pillars of local stability.

KAMRYN MINCH, KP NEWS

Before I started my garden, I was constantly daydreaming about starting my garden. I don't know what sparked this mild obsession, but I assume one Pinterest post led to another and after a while the algorithm plastered my feed with enough homesteading content that my psyche gladly adopted it as my destiny.

I sat with this dream for years while living in a studio apartment in Tacoma and would secretly judge homeowners with a sunny yard for not utilizing their space "properly." Ironically, I was also constantly driving by the community gardens in various neighborhoods around Tacoma and would acknowledge them by thinking something along the lines of "what a great idea," but never considered them as something I could or would participate in. Between not having any gardening experience and not wanting to pay for a plot where that lack of experience would be showcased, these spaces existed in abstraction.

Cut to three years ago. During the height of pandemic panic, I moved back home on the KP and finally had the chance to put seed to soil. I was certain I would be able to grow enough food for my family of five if the lockdown lasted indefinitely. I really built it up in my head that I was going to be this garden savant able to tap into ancestral wisdom of subsistence traditions and the endeavor would be nothing short of a spectacular triumph resulting in astounding and abundant success.

But despite all the arrogant soul-searching and books I ended up ordering, my harvest was comically bad considering the situation. Things grew, but nothing turned out great. I made some rookie mistakes that could have easily been hashed out on a much smaller scale had I started my gardening journey a lot earlier during a less intense time.

Unbeknownst to me up until recently, the Pierce County Conservation District has a great urban agriculture program called Harvest Pierce County that aims to build food security networks through education and volunteer efforts. They currently sponsor 80 different food projects, including the four gardens in my old neighborhood and three in Gig Harbor proper.

Joining a community garden when I was living in that apartment would have been a great way to develop my green thumb,



Don't have space for your own garden? The KP does. *Lisa Bryan, KP News*



but more importantly a great way to make connections with people who had similar goals and the wisdom I desired.

And even now, though I've been primarily working in semi-isolation to develop my skills in my own garden the past couple years, becoming more involved with community gardens and working to create these collaborative spaces is more appealing than ever.

A few community gardens have been started on the KP, including at the Longbranch Improvement Club, Herron Island, Lakebay Community Church and at Food Backpacks 4 Kids in Key Center. But given that the peninsula is a large landmass with a decent-sized population, establishing more neighborhood spaces that can coordinate efforts may be the key to building a foundation for an ongoing community tradition.

On the Harvest Pierce County webpage (www.harvestpiercecounty.org) there are resources for groups that want to start their own gardens, such as outlines for

the garden management structure. They also offer online educational workshops throughout the year. Upcoming lessons include composting, seed saving and growing fruit trees in the PNW.

If you're interested in starting a home garden but are unsure about where to begin the process, the best way to go about it is just to be curious. Start with asking "What do I like to eat?" and from there search for where to buy those seeds and go down the rabbit hole of varieties you would have never guessed existed. I'm talking pink celery, red celery, purple bok choy, strawberry spinach and black nebula carrots, just to name a few. After that all you need is some quality soil, water and sun.

Home gardens don't have to be massive to be highly productive. There are various methods that can easily be worked into your schedule and skill set. If your porch or deck gets a good amount of sun, consider keeping a few containers of herbs and salad greens among your flower pots. Tomatoes, peppers, beans and cucumbers are also great for container growing.

But, alas, life is busy, and if you don't have the time for an excessive amount

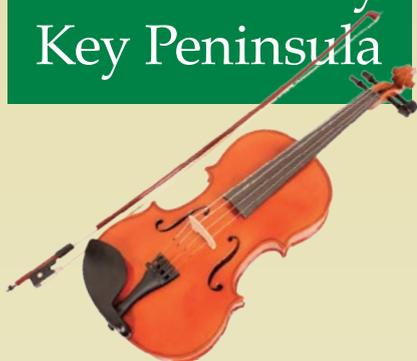


Don't know how to garden? The KP can teach you. *Lisa Bryan, KP News*

of annual crops, planting perennial crops among your existing landscape is a great way to ensure there will be something to harvest at some point during the growing season. Herbs like mint, thyme, oregano, rosemary, sage, Roman chamomile, as well as fruiting trees, berry bushes, artichokes, asparagus, strawberries and rhubarb can all be mixed into established landscapes to add an extra element of interest. It all makes a difference. ■

Join us! Community Volunteer
Senior Ride Program | Key Senior
Information Center | Assisted Living Project
Support Groups, Forums and Classes

Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula



Hootenanny!

Calling all folksong enthusiasts.
If you enjoy singing or playing,
come on down! Third Tuesdays,
2 to 4 pm.



Gentle Yoga

Wednesdays 11:15 am to 12:15



SAIL Exercise Class

65+ Stay Active & Independent for
Life. Mon-Wed- Fri 10 to 11 am.



The
Mustard Seed
Project

253 884-9814

Office open Monday-Friday, 10 am to 4 pm
information@themustardseedproject.org
www.themustardseedproject.org
Follow us on Facebook!



Taking Flight

Thank you for helping us soar!

Our Taking Flight event brought so many people together to help us raise more than \$125,000 to support our elders.

If you donated an item, made a gift, bid in the auction, volunteered to help, were a sponsor, or bought a ticket, you were a vital part of this success. Thank you!

Here, in no particular order, are some of those we need to thank:

Korsmo Construction
James & Dee Adams
Columbia Bank
Alisa Ahearn-Spector
Nancy Ahrens
Morton McGoldrick
Carl Albrecht
Gregory Anglemeyer
Allen & Marcel Ballinger
Tracey Barbee
Jake Barton
Kathy Bauer
Carolyn Benepe
Beatrice Berry
Gray Lumber
Meg Blyler
Noel Blyler & Marion Sharp
Barbara Boettcher
Stephanie Brooks
David & Sally Brower
Longbranch Improvement Club
Don & Donna Blegen
Jan Brown
Warwick & Janice Bryant
Julie Crane
N L Olson & Associates
Ron Cummins
Robert D'Acquisto
Jennifer Davis
Jim Davis
Bayside Animal Lodge LTD
Robin & Bill Deleo
Robyn Denson
Susan Detloff
William Drenik
Barbara Floyd & Barb Doat
Xoe Frederick
Alan Golston
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Donald Graham
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Jo Jensen
Dean Kelly
Charleen Kenyon
Tim Kezele
Peggy Kirk
John Korsmo
Marsha Kremen
Ellen LeVita
Sound Credit Union
Barry & Louise Lipnick
Lynn Lloyd
Claudia & Dale Loy
Robert McCrossin
Dingus Zarecor & Associates
Norman McLoughlin
Diane Jones
Eric & Matthew Melendez Blegen
June Mercer
Heidi Michaelson
Rice Fergus Miller
Laura Michalek
Sarah Anderson
Kathy Barrett
The Brones Family
Rod Collen & Shannon Garrett
Adam DeLeo
Robert Wheaton
Patti Ghiossi
Vicki Hall
Margo Macdonald
Delia McGinnis & Susan Quigley
Tweed Meyer
Anne Nesbit
Grace Nesbit
Ted Olinger & Beth Porter
Chris & Herb O'Niell
Mark Runions

Chris Rurik
Ann-Marie Ugles
Cathy & Ted Williams
Gail Webb
Traci Michel
Jerry & Patti Nebel
Pat Nelson
Sandy Newhouse
Georgia Nieto
Susan & Ben Paganelli
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Brynn Rydell
Patricia Scott
Sallie Shawl
David Shinnars
Jim Sobieck & Ann Morris
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Janet & Peter Stanley
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Tom Welch
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Pamela Yee
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Taylor Shellfish - Erin Ewald
Two Fox Winery
Aluel Cellars
Wild Birds Unlimited
Sunnycrest Nursery
Aspen Land Surveying
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Shea & Tiffany Hawkins
Heidi & Jason Peck
Barb Schoos & Scott Reichard
Stephanie Warren
The Mind Blenders
Roger Gemelle
Terrence Wallace
Steve Nieto
Nick Berry
John Schmidt
Steve Taylor
Joni Leiding
Mary Brennan
Lisa Bryan
Lynn Hallowell & Rolf Torgerson
Sharon Brooks
Brian Chamberlin
Sheryl Mirenta

If we've missed you, we apologize. Please let us know about our omission - and know that we appreciate you!



The
Mustard Seed
Project

253 884-9814



Key Peninsula Community Connection

Peninsula School District 401 Newsletter - July 2022

End of year fun!

Check out some photos from our Key Peninsula schools at the end of the school year!



Key Peninsula Middle School ASB Leaders help celebrate the new 200 wing.



STEAM students at Evergreen Elementary test out their hand-made straw rockets.



Evergreen Elementary students learn about constellations with a visit to the traveling Sky Dome Planetarium.



Students enjoy fun activities at Vaughn Elementary School's STREAM Night. Photos by PSD Intern Bryce Carithers

Enrollment Now Open For the 2022-2023 School Year

- School Starts August 31
- Online Options Available
- Student COVID-19 Vaccinations Not Required
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THE SOLUTIONS ARE NOT OUT OF REACH. THEY ARE WITHIN US.

'The Violence Project' by Jillian Peterson and James Densley

How to stop a mass shooting epidemic that has grown far worse in recent years.

VICKI BIGGS

When it comes to murder and mass shootings, America is a freak among nations. Murder rates are highest in countries with the most income inequality, and the U.S. is high on that list with the likes of Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Guatemala, according to a 2018 peer-reviewed study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Our culture of guns and violence has no comparison among wealthy nations.

Professors Jillian Peterson and James Densley examined the histories of mass shootings in the U.S., 172 at the time of their publication in 2021, and compiled data sets from every aspect of these events. They interviewed hundreds of people, including some of the shooters. This book is a product of their work for The Violence Project, a nonprofit and nonpartisan research center based in St. Paul, Minnesota, but known worldwide.

The authors identified four factors common to most mass shooters: childhood trauma; an identifiable crisis point; a script to follow with someone to blame; and opportunity.

They begin with a chapter called "Monsters." The authors argue that although the shooters have committed crimes that are monstrous, to simply label them as monsters is wrong and limiting. They are humans with tragic stories, creating more tragedy. The label enables some to dismiss these murders as just the acts of a "nut case" with no way to predict or prevent these crimes, justifying a lack of movement toward ending gun violence.

Mental illness played no part in 70% of mass shootings. The research reveals that psychosis played a part in only 30% of cases, with 10% of that group experiencing psychosis prior to and during the crime, responding to delusions or hallucinations that were the major factor in the murders. Promoting a view blaming mental health illness serves to wrongfully stigmatize others affected by serious mental illness, who are far more often victims of violence instead of perpetrators.

Instead, the researchers found that 80% of shooters had reached a crisis point in the weeks, days or hours before their shootings that they were unable to overcome with their usual coping tools. Throughout the book the authors use the illustration of a balloon inflated beyond



Psychologists Peterson and Densley created the first mass shooting database in the U.S.

Abrams Press

its ability to contain air. Stretched with tension and stress, a fully inflated balloon must be handled with care or it will break. In the same way, these people in crisis, stretched too thin, exploded. Half of all shooters had been in trouble at work, others had relationships fail, or experienced sudden financial ruin.

The book discusses the often violent, unstable early lives of shooters, frequently abused by their own parents, leading those traumatized individuals to become suicidal and murderous. Those experiencing childhood trauma were most likely to be school shooters. Those experiencing trauma as an adult tended to choose workplace locations, restaurants or other public places for their shootings.

The research also shows that most shooters "leak" their plans, especially if they are young. They signal their intentions in advance. They will tell a classmate, or an adult, or a workmate. But the message is often missed or dismissed. The leak is, in reality, a cry for help. In one case, 34 people knew a shooter had plans for mass murder, and reported nothing.

In addition, most shooters do not intend to survive their mass shooting event, because it is an act of suicide. They leave messages, notebooks and social media posts detailing the planning they have done and their motives for shooting and suicide. The shooting will be their last act. A "good guy with a gun," such as police officer at a school, is therefore no deterrent.

Idealization of the Columbine

murderers is common among young potential shooters. In 1999, two high school students shot 12 children and two others, then took their own lives. Young, aspiring shooters study every detail of this event, visit the site, and make references to "going Columbine." They also study other mass shootings to better prepare their own. They desire notoriety and they look for ways to work around potential obstacles. The shooters look for a script for their crime.

Another strong motive for mass shootings is hate. White nationalists, for example, believe that whiteness itself is under attack, and that there is a conspiracy to replace white people with people of color. Even in the absence of any proof, the belief exists, reinforced by internet sites aplenty. The ideology found there helps the shooters to feel "part of the pack." The locations of the shootings also are intended to send a message. When a young white man killed nine African Americans at a church Bible study, he was sending a message.

In 2020 the rate of mass shootings fell dramatically. The reason? No opportunity. COVID-19 shut down the contagion of violence — mass shootings fueling other copycat shootings.

The authors also discuss the availability of guns and ammunition in relation to suicides and murders. Two heavily armed countries, Switzerland and Israel, greatly reduced murders and suicides by restricting the availability of either guns or bullets when not needed by their citizens for mili-



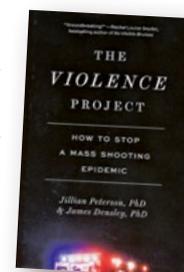
tary service. The Swiss found a reduction of suicide by 40%. Suicide in the Israel Defense Forces dropped 57%. Lack of opportunity is a form of prevention.

The book gives considerable space to teaching readers how to de-escalate crisis situations and create mentoring relationships with students. It lists protective factors that may stop violence against all odds. It helps readers understand how small but meaningful actions may prevent violence and death.

The book ends with hopeful and practical suggestions for individuals, institutions and members of society to stop mass shooting episodes. It emphasizes that violent actions are not inevitable if one learns to become aware of the signals from a person in crisis and has the willingness to act.

"The Violence Project: How to stop a Mass Shooting Epidemic" by Jillian Peterson, Ph.D. and James Densley, Ph.D. Abrams Press 2021.

Jillian Peterson is a professor of criminology and criminal justice at Hamline University. She has led large-scale research studies on mental illness and crime, school shootings and mass violence. James Densley is a professor of criminal justice at Metropolitan State University. He is known for his international work on gangs, criminal networks, violent extremism and policing.

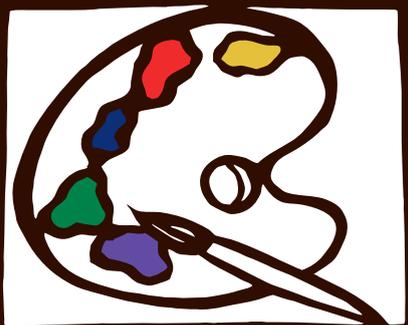


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Hastkaka and Drottningsylt: Not just for Swedes Anymore

Swedish specialties sound difficult, literally, but are easy to make and pleasing to enjoy.

BRITTA AND ANNA BRONES

Summer offers us the chance to slow down a bit, spend a little more time in the garden, linger in the extended daylight hours. It's a time to be outside with friends, to gather and converse. What better way to gather than with food?

These two Swedish recipes from mother and daughter Britta and Anna Brones celebrate the best that the season has to offer, taking advantage of summer berries and leaving you with treats that are best shared with friends.

Hastkaka is a Swedish cake whose name literally means “hasty cake.” The name is apt, as it's very quick and easy to put together. Its simplicity makes it perfect for summer baking or when you need a treat in a pinch, and with a wealth of variations that allow you to use what you happen to have on hand.

Britta got this recipe from her sister Lotta over 47 years ago when she still lived in Sweden.

Daughter Anna has it in her cookbook, “Fika: The Art of the Swedish Coffee Break.” She calls it blackberry almond cake, which is one variation. She also thanks her aunt for the recipe. But when Britta's sister read it in the book she was surprised and asked why it wasn't put together the easy way, in one pot. No bowl necessary.

“What?” Britta said, “You never told me that.”

For over 40 years, she cleaned a bowl, besides the pan.

When Britta told her sister over the phone that the recipe would be featured in Key Peninsula News, Lotta told her something about it that she had never heard. Lotta had been on a visit to see their mother in Sweden, and the two naturally shared fika.

Fika is a very important daily ritual for most Swedes; essentially coffee with a baked goodie, often enjoyed twice a day.

Lotta told Britta she had complimented their mother on her cake. It was made with rhubarb and cinnamon at the bottom of the pan, and she asked for the recipe. “Well, it's your recipe,” Mom said. Lotta was thoroughly surprised. She had never put the fruit in the pan first, so the cake would have a smooth top.

Hastkaka

- 6 tablespoons butter
- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup natural cane sugar (or less to suit your taste)
- 1 teaspoon pure almond extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour or almond flour and/or almond meal for gluten-free version
- 1 cup fruit, can be berries, peaches, apple, pears, peaches or rhubarb

Variations like chocolate chips can be added to the batter. Cinnamon mixed with a little sugar is nice sprinkled on top. Cardamom is good too.

Preheat oven to 400. Grease and flour a 9-inch round pan. If making it gluten-free, use almond flour.

Melt the butter in a saucepan. Remove from heat, add sugar and vanilla, then stir in the eggs and finally the flour. Mix until the batter is smooth and creamy.

Pour the batter into the baking pan, scatter or arrange berries or fruit slices on top. Frozen berries are great. Or start with the rhubarb on the bottom, like Grandma did.

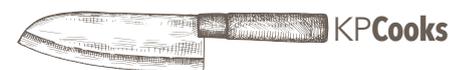
You don't need to press the fruit into the cake, their weight makes them sink in during baking.

Bake for 20 to 30 minutes until golden brown on top. Let the cake cool before serving.

A final variation: It's great served straight from the freezer. But cut the slices before you freeze them.

Drottningsylt - Queen's Jam

Drottningsylt, or “Queen's Jam,” is a staple of Swedish preserves. Made with part blueberries and part raspberries, the color is rich, and the taste is like summer in a jar. Serve it on toasted bread with



butter, spoon some on top of yogurt, or even serve it with crackers and goat cheese for a sweet and savory appetizer.

- 2 cups fresh raspberries
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- ¾ cup cane sugar

Place the raspberries, blueberries and sugar in a medium-sized saucepan. Bring to a boil and cook over medium heat until desired thickness, 15 to 30 minutes depending on the juiciness of the fruit.

To test the consistency, place a small plate in the freezer. Once the plate is cold, drop a spoonful of jam onto it. Let it sit for a few minutes, and then push the jam with your finger. If it has gelled and the skin wrinkles, then it is set. If it's still liquid, continue cooking it down until you reach the consistency you want.

Remove from heat and pour the jam into a clean, sterilized jar. Screw on the lid and turn the jar upside down to create a vacuum. Let cool completely.

Store in the refrigerator and eat within a month.

Originally published in “Fika: The Art of the Swedish Coffee Break” (Ten Speed Press, 2015). ■



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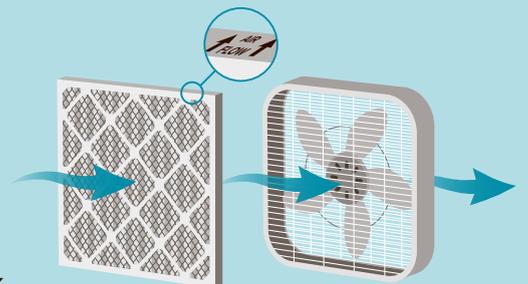
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Dan Wehmeier and John Jaggi at the pole they installed at Gateway Park in 2018.

Lisa Bryan, KP News

The Show Must Go On! New Venue for KP Logging Show at Port Orchard Airport

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

The 33rd Annual Key Peninsula Logging Show & Festival has seen its share of change and growth since it began in 1985. The longest running annual community event on the KP will take place this year in South Kitsap County August 20 at the Port Orchard Airport, 1.8 miles north of the Pierce County line.

Like many community events that benefit local nonprofits, COVID-19 restrictions forced the annual logging show into hiatus in 2020 and 2021.

Before the pandemic hit, the logging show enjoyed its new home at Gateway Park where the single-day event operated successfully in 2018 and 2019 with record-setting attendance.

The event previously survived a two-year pause for lack of a venue in 2016 and 2017 while Key Pen Parks was still developing and improving Gateway.

“No matter where we have it, the money will come back to the KP,” said local organizer John Jaggi of Fell Rite Timber Co., whose grandmother Loretta started the logging show.

The one-day event was created to celebrate the pioneering heritage and importance of logging to the Key Peninsula but also to raise much needed funds for the food bank and senior center at Key Peninsula Community Services, where Loretta Jaggi served on the board of directors.

In its infancy, the event was part of Key Peninsula’s Pioneer Days, a community parade that began in Key Center and marched along Olson Drive NW to the KP Civic Center.

It eventually moved to the Longbranch Improvement Club where the event was

renamed “Old Timers’ Day and Logging Show Festival.” It became the local keystone fundraising event for KPCS.

This year Food Backpacks 4 Kids, based in Key Center, joins the volunteer team to help produce the show as well as share in the festival’s net earnings to support their efforts in combating hunger on the KP.

Local business owner Stephanie Brooks is a member of the coordinating committee managing the event this year. She and others told the Key Pen Parks Board of Commissioners at its meeting June 13 they expected some challenges due to expansive changes at Gateway Park since the last show. But after meeting with the parks department in late May, the group lacked the confidence to go forward and decided to go elsewhere.

“For someone who was born and bred here, to take the 33rd Annual Logging Show off the Key Peninsula, I lost a lot of sleep,” Brooks said. But despite the change in venue, she said the festival “will still have that KP feel.”

“Our sponsors have been absolutely fantastic,” Brooks said. “Everyone is excited to see the show come back; they are happy to lend their support in any way they can.”

The last show in 2019 drew a crowd of roughly 2,500 visitors.

In addition to the logging show action that includes competitions in pole climbing, axe throwing and chainsaw events, Brooks is excited about being able to host more vendors and nonprofits, with lots of free games and fun activities for kids.

“We’ll have tractors, old cars and trucks, Model Ts, two big tugs-of-war, as well as ample parking for everyone at the airport without the need to run shuttles like we would need to do at Gateway Park.” ■



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8:54 Palmer Lake public
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8:56 Palmer Lake 21st St
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9:01 Home Gas Station @KP Hwy N

9:08 Food Market in Key Center

9:10 Wright Bliss Road @
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9:13 State Route 302 NW @ 4
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9:16 Lake Holiday bus shed

9:23 Lake Kathryn Shopping Center

9:28 Purdy Park & Ride

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4:47 Lake Kathryn Shopping Center

4:53 Lake Holiday Bus Shed

4:56 State Route 302 NW @ 4
Corners Gas Station

4:59 Wright Bliss Rd NW
@ Hall Rd NW

5:01 Food Market @ Key Center

5:08 Home Gas Station

5:14 Palmer Lake Public
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5:15 Palmer Lake 21st St
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5:20 Evergreen Elementary School

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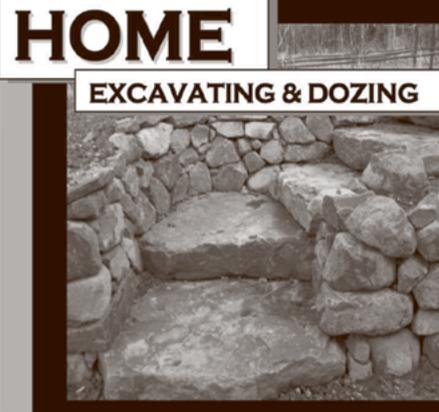


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**Angel Guild would like you to know
That without you our store wouldn't go.**

Please donate items in the shed out back Tuesday-Saturday 9:30-3:30.

Sometimes due to circumstances we have to close the donation shed — please drop off items *only* when someone is there.

Please check us on eBay at www.ebay.com/usr/angel_guild_thrift or visit the shop in Key Center Corral Thursday through Saturday, 10 to 4.

Our new raffle item will be posted in July.

PRINT AND ONLINE CALENDARS ARE UNDERWRITTEN BY A GRANT FROM THE ANGEL GUILD

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To add a listing for your event or find the latest details, visit www.keypennews.org/calendar

July 4 Home Parade. Celebrate the Fourth with friends and neighbors. On A Street in Home, 10 a.m.

July 4 Kitsap Live Steamers. Holiday Run, free train rides at South Kitsap Regional Park. 10 a.m.

July 6 Gig Harbor Literary Society Book Club. "Hollow Kingdom" by local author Kira Jane Buxton, Harbor History Museum, 6 p.m.

July 7 Animal Adaptations. Explore life in the intertidal zone. Open to elementary, middle and high school students. Outdoor event, bring chairs or blankets for sitting. Gateway Park, 12:30 p.m.

July 9 & 23 Family Garden Days. Join Food Backpacks 4 Kids for fun, sun, gardening and crafts: 9127 154th Avenue Court near The Mustard Seed Project, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

July 9 Skate with Emily. Free skate party with state Sen. Emily Randall. KP Civic Center, 6 p.m.

July 12 GH FISH Food Bank. Grand opening. Get answers about eviction, rental assistance, tenant protection and assistance: 4303 Burnham Drive, Gig Harbor, 4 p.m.

July 12 TacomaProBono. Housing help. Get answers about eviction, rental assistance, tenant protection and assistance. KP Community Services, 10 a.m.

July 14 Water's Incredible Journey. Explore water's path on the globe. Open to elementary, middle and high school students. Outdoor event, bring chairs or blankets for sitting. Gateway Park, 12:30 p.m.

July 15 Baby Lounge. A safe space for all families with babies up to 1 year to connect and learn with other parents. Expecting parents also welcome. Key Peninsula Civic Center at noon.

July 15 Expo & Bite of Mason County. Street Fair in downtown Shelton, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

July 17 LIC Marina Days. Centennial celebrations include pavilion part at noon, Enders Bros Ban, food and cash bar. Boat parade at 4 p.m. with decorated boat contest. Adults 21+, details at licweb.org.

July 21 Africa at Your Doorstep. Gansango music & dance from West and South Africa. Open to all ages. Outdoor event, bring chairs or blankets for sitting. Gateway Park, 12:30 p.m.

July 21 Gig Harbor Adult Fiction Book Club. "The Most Fun We Ever Had" by Claire Lombardo. Outdoors at Pierce County Gig Harbor Library, 2:30 p.m.

July 27 Low Tide Beach Walk. Penrose Point with Harbor WildWatch. Meet at firepits, dress for the weather with sensible wet beach footwear. Discovery Pass required for state park. 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

July 28 As Close as the Nearest Downspout. Explore rain harvesting. Open to all ages. Outdoor event, bring chairs or blankets for sitting. Gateway Park, 12:30 p.m.

Aug 3 KP Artwalk. Stroll Key Center and discover arts, crafts, activities and vendors, 4 p.m.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday AI-Anon Keys to Sanity family group. KP Fire Station, 5 to 6 p.m. bit.ly/3v2Vx5s

M-W-F SAIL (Stay Active and Independent for Life). 10 to 11 a.m. Call The Mustard Seed Project at 253-884-9814.

T-W-Th HeartFit Women's free fitness classes at WayPoint Church. Tue 6 p.m., Wed 5 p.m., Thur 10 a.m. heartfitwp@gmail.com

T-TH Open Activity Hours. 2 to 4 p.m. Call The Mustard Seed Project at 253-884-9814.

Wednesday Gentle Yoga for Older Adults. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call The Mustard Seed Project at 253-884-9814.

Thursday KP Toastmasters. 8 to 9 a.m. WayPoint Church, 425-243-2618.

Thursday Fresh Express Mobile Market. 11 a.m. at KP Community Services.

Thursday Waterfront Farmers Market 1 p.m. at Skansie Park, downtown Gig Harbor.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

26th Legislative District Democrats. First Thursdays, Zoom, 6:30 p.m. 26thdemocrats@gmail.com

Key Peninsula Advisory Commission. Third Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Details at piercecounitywa.gov/5937.

KP Business Association. Luncheon, third Fridays, noon at El Sombrero.

kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com

KP Business Association. Business meeting, first Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. DK Property Management or Zoom. kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com

KP Community Council. Second Wednesdays on Zoom, 7 p.m. keypencouncil@gmail.com

KP Citizens Against Crime. Third Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Key Center fire station.

KP Civic Center Association. Board meeting. Second Thursdays 7 to 8:30 p.m. Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 253-884-3456

KP Democrats. Third Monday, 7 p.m. Home fire station, johnpatkelly@aol.com, 253-432-4256.

KP Fire Commission. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 5 p.m. on Zoom. keypeninsulafire.org, 253-884-2222.

KP Lions Club. First and third Wednesdays, 7 p.m. on Zoom. 253-853-2721 keypeninsulalions@outlook.com

KP Parks Commission. Second Mondays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

KP Veterans. First and third Mondays, 7 to 8 p.m. KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. Ray Flowers 253-884-2626

Lakebay Fuchsia Society. First Thursdays, 7 p.m. KP Civic Center, Whitmore Room. 253-884-2283

Longbranch Improvement Club. Third Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Longbranch Improvement Club. 253-200-0308 or licweb.org

Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition. Second Wednesdays, 6 p.m. on Zoom. 6ftwav@gmail.com, 253-720-0662

Peninsula School District. Board meeting 6 to 7:30 p.m. 253-530-1000

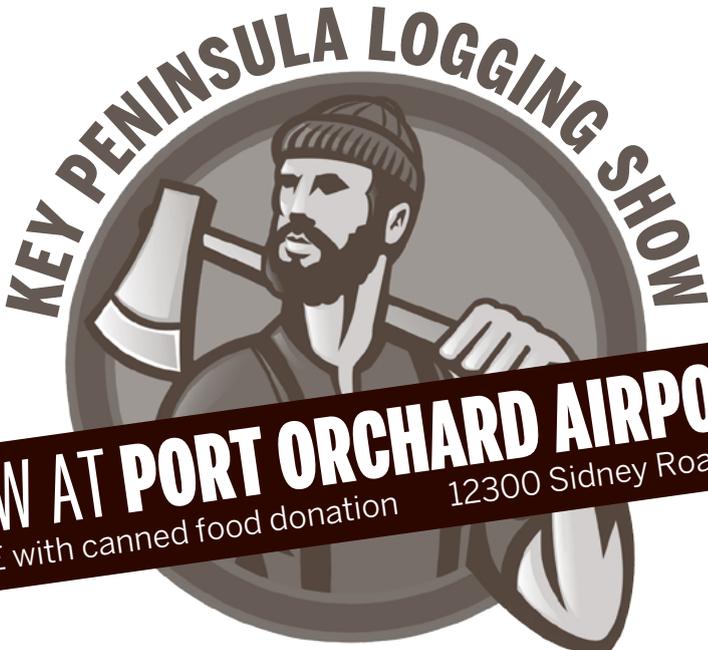
Suicide Prevention Coalition. Survivors Support Group. Second Tuesdays, 9 a.m., Heron's Key, hope4you.org

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Key Center Corral. Call 253-432-4948 for the schedule for Air Quality, Triple P, COVID-19, General HD, Water/Wells and Healthy Housing advice.

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6th-12th grade
SUMMER Program
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JULY 5TH - AUGUST 25TH
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
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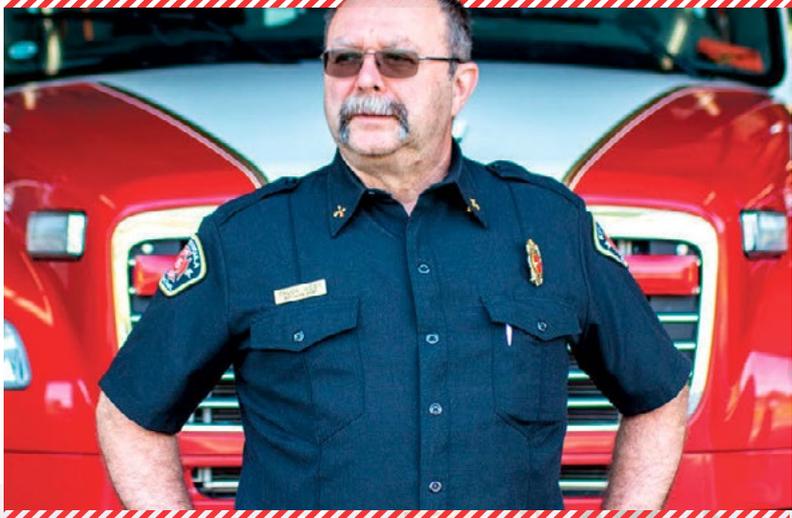
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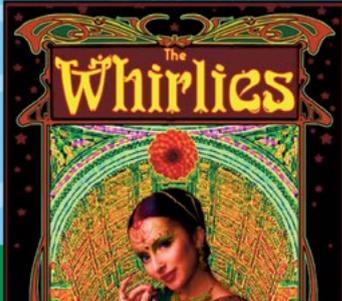
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Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road 253/884-3456 www.kpciviccenter.org The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, fosters and promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community



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Top: A happy constituent celebrates the second, post-pandemic, grand opening of the splash pad at Gateway Park May 27.

Tina McKail, KP News

Middle left: Aisle of Honor Memorial Day celebration at Vaughn Cemetery May 29, the largest such event in the western U.S. *Tina*

McKail, KP News

Middle right: A meet-and-greet, Heron Island style.

Heather Meier, KP News

Bottom right: Two locals contemplate the arrival of summer, eventually, at Penrose State Park.

Tina McKail, KP News

