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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

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Eddie Vannausdle adds anchor pegs to joints in new open-span timber structure. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

Pavilion at Gateway Park Nears Completion

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Children, families, hikers, bikers and equestrians have been flocking to the playgrounds, trails and fields of Gateway Park on State Route 302 near Wauna since it opened Sept. 30, 2017. The latest showpiece in the 72-acre park, still under construction, should be ready for the public by April.

Originally conceived as a simple picnic shelter, what has come to be known as the Gateway Pavilion is a 30-by-60-foot traditional timber-frame work of art designed and constructed by volunteers and Key Pen Parks staff.

Longtime Key Peninsula residents and volunteers Jeff and Marcia Harris approached fellow Gig Harbor Rotary Club members last spring about supporting the project with a grant of \$20,000 and a cadre of volunteers to help with construction.

“This park should be and will be the signature facility for the Key Peninsula and the Gig Harbor peninsula,” Jeff Harris said at the time. “As such, I and others think the pavilion can serve as something of a symbol for the Key Peninsula to represent us and to tell our story.”

Harris also worked with Bob Green and the KP Parks Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created six years ago to help fund park projects with tax-deductible donations. The foundation was able to pay for enhancements to the pavilion, including carved knee braces and stainless-steel support brackets that double as sculptures depicting slices of KP life.

Local architect and Key Pen Parks board President Ed Robison designed the pavilion for ease of assembly by volunteers under professional supervision; that leadership came from longtime KP resident and

builder Tim Keolker of RTK Construction.

“It’s all timber-frame, mortise and tenon, but Ed Robison engineered it to also stand as an independent structure,” Keolker said. Long, heavy timbers fit together like a giant puzzle, making load-bearing walls unnecessary and creating a sweeping, cathedral-like interior. “It’s really pretty spectacular,” he said.

“This is tight-knot, kiln-dried Douglas fir from Gray Lumber and it is the best they could find,” Keolker said. “Steve Gray has had a family house out here over the years. I asked him if he would be interested in doing this and he really did help us out by getting us the best material he could at the best cost.”

The open structure resembles the frames of a traditional wooden sailing ship, with large posts anchored by bright, stainless-steel brackets shaped and etched with

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Parents Killed in Longbranch Double Homicide

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

In the early hours of Saturday, Feb. 3, Pierce County sheriff’s deputies responded to a 911 call from a woman reporting that two people had been shot at a residence in the 5500 block of Whiteman Road in Longbranch and a suspect had fled the property. Deputies found Lukas Slawson, 35, along with his wife, Beth Hamlin-Slawson, 25, of Vaughn, shot dead in the driveway of what was once the family home where Hamlin-Slawson grew up with her parents and sisters.

Deputies en route to the scene arrested Cory Nathan Mason, 27, at gunpoint, after spotting him walking north on Whiteman Road. Mason had also called 911 from a wooded area near the scene of the shooting, a mobile home where he reportedly lived with Hamlin-Slawson’s 18-year-old sister. (KP News is not naming because she may be a domestic violence victim).



Whiteman Road location of shooting. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

During his report to 911, Mason claimed he had shot two people in self-defense.

Mason was arraigned in Pierce County Superior Court Feb. 7 and charged with two counts of homicide in the second degree for the alleged murders with bail set at \$2 million. He remains in custody awaiting trial, which is scheduled to begin April 2, 2018.

“This was a family dispute gone horribly wrong. There were allegations of domestic violence, an argument over the sale of a handgun, and it all played out at 2:20 a.m. You have to think there is a better time and way to resolve family disputes,” said

CONTINUED PAGE 2

DOUBLE HOMICIDE FROM PAGE 1

Prosecuting Attorney Mark Lindquist, in a written statement issued Feb. 7.

A witness to the event, Lisa Hamlin, the mother of Beth Hamlin-Slawson, told detectives that Mason and Beth argued over the sale of a handgun and an alleged domestic violence incident between Mason and Beth's 18-year old sister.

According to the statement from the prosecutor's office, the Slawsons and Mason reportedly arrived at the scene close to the same time in separate vehicles. Lisa Hamlin was in the vehicle with Mason at the time when Beth allegedly approached and began attacking the car with a "hammer-like object." Lisa Hamlin told investigators she made an attempt to de-escalate the situation, got out of the car and grabbed the object from Beth. Mason drove approximately 50 feet away and parked the vehicle.

As Mason moved the car, Lukas Slawson began firing a gun at a different vehicle Mason had parked on the property. Mason got out of his car, continued the argument with Beth, and shot her once in the chest. Slawson, with his own gun still in hand, approached and asked Mason if he had shot his wife. Mason replied with a single bullet to Slawson's chest.

The entire scene unfolded as the Slawsons' 2-year-old son sat in the backseat of his parents' vehicle.

Mason and the Hamlin family are no strangers to tragedy. Amanda Hamlin, daughter of Howard and Lisa Hamlin, died Nov. 1, 2015, at the age of 23, after losing control of the car she was driving in the rain on the KP Highway just north of Home. She was five months pregnant and engaged to Mason, her longtime boyfriend. ("Remembering Amanda Hamlin," KP News, Dec. 2015).

Slawson's 16-year-old daughter and the couple's toddler son are in the custody of their paternal grandmother, Debra Slawson-Farrell, of Gig Harbor.

FROM THE EDITOR Part of the joy of living in a vibrant community is exposure to a variety of experiences, characters and perspectives. Our readers, writers, fans and critics contribute to the continued success of the voice of the Key Peninsula. In unison, all these different voices come together in 24 pages every month, giving us all a chance to share, discuss and learn. Participating with the community, even if it's just reading about what others are doing, brings us all closer.

It takes more than good intentions, hard work and a grasp of the English language to produce the KP News. It takes financial support from advertisers and donors, including this list of your friends and neighbors who gave over the last year. We thank them and we thank you for allowing us to be your voice.

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253-884-4699 Fax 253-884-4053

editor@keypennews.com

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

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Lisa Bryan

CONTRIBUTORS: Anna Brones, Matthew Dean, Ted Olinger,
Polly Robinson, Colleen Slater, Sara Thompson, Don
Tjossem, Rodika Tollefson, Carolyn Wiley

COLUMNISTS: Meredith Browand, Polly Robinson,
Dan Whitmarsh, Carolyn Wiley

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GATEWAY PARK FROM PAGE 1

an image evocative of a place or experience on the KP.

“I just took a photograph for each side of each bracket, gave it to the metal guy and he turned it into a line drawing to feed into his computer,” Keolker said. “Each one is different on each side, and that’s so you can walk up and see a story that leads you all the way around.”

The brackets were fabricated by Tacoma Steel and paid for by a grant from The Tremaine Foundation facilitated by the local Stanley family through the KP Parks Foundation.

Much of the labor of sanding and sealing the thousands of feet of lumber fell to work crews from the Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women in Belfair.

“The girls did it, all of these timbers and 500 pieces of car decking,” Keolker said, referring to the tongue-and-groove boards of the pavilion ceiling. “It was at least three months’ worth of work for eight or 10 women once a week. It was no problem for them; they wanted to be a part of something.”

But according to Scott Gallacher, executive director of Key Pen Parks, it is Keolker and his son, Matt, who have done the bulk of the prefabrication and assembly,

working as volunteers with help from the Key Pen Parks staff.

“You look at this thing, this incredible building—how do you say thank you for that?” Gallacher asked.

“Tim is both passionate and exceedingly knowledgeable about the KP,” Jeff Harris said. “I talked to him long before the pavilion was anything but a few white flags identifying the location. You see today what that passion, along with his extreme skill and tenacity, has resulted in.”

“The rest of the buildings we have in the parks are really utilitarian,” Keolker said. “When we started planning to do something really nice here, somebody said, ‘Oh, this kind of building belongs in Gig Harbor.’ No, it doesn’t. It belongs right here, to these people here who live on this peninsula. The whole place should be proud of it. I am; I’m honored to be able to do it.”

Gateway Park is in the first two phases of a master construction plan. “Phase three is the splash pad, the amphitheater and a smaller pavilion,” Gallacher said. “We are applying for grant money for that phase, but we’re not going to start construction for that probably until 2020.”

For more information, go to www.keypenparks.com or www.keypenparksfoundation.org.

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The proposed 30-unit assisted living senior housing campus will be located across from The Mustard Seed Project Crandall Center above Key Center. *Architectural rendering courtesy: Rice Fergus Miller*

December Groundbreaking Planned for Senior Housing

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

The goal of bringing assisted living for seniors to the Key Peninsula took a giant leap forward when the Washington State Legislature finally approved its capital budget in January.

The Mustard Seed Project (TMSP) will receive \$515,000 from the state capital budget, which boosts the capital campaign beyond the halfway mark. Now the organization can apply for funding from foundations that require demonstration of community support.

“With great effort, cooperation and finan-

cial support from the community for our capital building campaign, which began in 2015, we surpassed the \$1 million milestone, following generous end-of-year donations,” said Edie Morgan, executive director, who founded the nonprofit in 2006.

The Mustard Seed Project was founded with the idea of creating an elder-friendly community to bring together a variety of services that allow seniors to age happily in place in their own homes. And yet, as Sara Thompson, president of the board put it, “Eventually, there comes a time when it’s no longer possible to stay at home. There is no place for people to live on the KP once

they can no longer be independent.”

The group hired a national consultant to conduct a feasibility study in 2014. The study showed that there was a need; that TMSP could build a self-sustaining project. Once feasibility was established, the board has taken action to make it a reality.

“The state grant is part of our overall \$2.2 million capital campaign to bring senior assisted living housing to the KP,” said Thompson. The funds allocated for the project in the state capital budget will pay for architect fees, permits and some of the environmental studies required for development of the land, located across the street from The Mustard Seed Project’s Crandall Center.

TMSP obtained a predevelopment loan in 2015 to hire an architect and professionals to manage development finances and the capital campaign project.

“The senior living campus will be managed by experts who understand our mission,” said Thompson. “Concepts in Community Living (CCL) operates in the Northwest, particularly in rural communities, with the expertise in doing exactly what we want to do.” Mauro Hernandez, CEO of CCL, has been working with TMSP since 2015 and has helped guide their understanding of how assisted living facilities work best.

According to TMSP, staffing the new facility will result in 25 or more new jobs on the Key Peninsula.

The Mustard Seed Project is applying for

a rural development loan through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is being shepherded through the complex process by a professional consultant. The USDA funds rural development at an interest rate lower than offered by commercial banks. “The terms of the USDA loan are so generous that the income from the residents themselves will help pay off the loan,” said Frank Garratt, co-chair of the capital campaign committee with Thompson.

“We are in the design and development phase with our architects,” Morgan said. “We will soon be ready to submit to Pierce County for building permits.”

Having this infusion of funds allows moving ahead without delay. “The goal is to break ground by December 2018,” Morgan said.

It was Mustard Seed board member Norm McLaughlin who suggested the project would be a great candidate for capital funding from the state. His experience serving on other boards proved quite valuable. “Without Norm McLaughlin, we might never have thought to apply for the funds; we also would not have been successful without the support of our state legislators Jan Angel and particularly Rep. Michelle Caldier, who visited the site with her assistant to help facilitate the process,” Thompson said.

Disclosure: Sara Thompson is a KP News writer and president of the KP News publishing board.



MORE ABOUT SENIOR HOUSING

This new senior living campus will serve elders, the community and increase the economic vitality of the Key Peninsula. Innovative living arrangements will be surrounded by gardens, walking paths with a community gathering place and café across the street in the existing Crandall Center.

The Mustard Seed Project will be the first and only assisted living senior housing available on the Key Peninsula.

The project provides a positive impact, according to TMSP's Development Manager Marion Sharp:

- Gives elders the choice to remain in the community they love, close to family and friends
- Draws upon best-practice proven models for elder care
- Delivers quality care to elders of all backgrounds.

Two of the buildings will accommodate seniors with daily support and a third will serve residents needing memory care. About 30 percent of the housing will serve people on Medicaid, with the balance at or below market rate.

Monthly rent will cover a private studio apartment with kitchenette, bath and space for bed and seating area; shared living areas; three meals a day; housekeeping and laundry service. Nursing care will be on a fee-for-service basis.

Residents will furnish their own apartments. Couples can choose units with connecting doors or larger floor plans.

Progress is underway. The architect has completed a schematic design for the three buildings (top of page 4) and Korsmo Construction has been selected as construction manager and general contractor. Construction is slated to be completed in late 2019.

Funds from the ongoing capital campaign will support development and construction. The assisted living campus will be self-sustaining, with monthly rent and fees servicing debt and operating costs. The housing project has been designed to operate without financial support from The Mustard Seed Project after startup.

"The core programs of The Mustard Seed Project continue to serve a growing constituency of seniors living on the Key Peninsula. Last year, TMSP served 804 individuals in 4,305 instances," said Executive Director Edie Morgan.

"We continue to recruit, train and connect volunteers with elders to provide information and referral, transportation, chore services and more."

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Meredith Browand

KEY ISSUES



#MeToo and #MySons

The rise of the #MeToo movement the last six months has forced me to see things differently. I look at pop culture with a more critical eye, I pay closer attention to social media, and I am more likely to notice subtle misogyny in the world around me. This awareness has shifted my perspective in a variety of ways, none more than how I parent my two sons.

Consider the song “Gaston” from the Disney movie “Beauty and the Beast.” Gaston fumes, “Who does she think she is? That girl has tangled with the wrong man! No one says no to Gaston.”

I’ve heard this song hundreds of times but didn’t consider until recently the disturbing standard it sets for how women can be treated. It is perpetuating the belief that because Gaston is a man, Belle isn’t allowed to tell him no. That is a frightening interpretation of consent and one I don’t want my sons to learn.

Teaching consent starts early by allowing children to choose their own boundaries and then respecting what they’ve chosen. A child has the right to say no to a hug, to say that a certain type of touch feels uncomfortable (even if it seems innocuous to us), and to shut down a situation that seems threatening. Even very young children can understand that they should ask before they touch someone and that everyone has the right to say no. This is the basis of consent—not only does “no mean no” but anything besides an enthusiastic yes also means no.

We’ve had these conversations over and over in my home and they won’t stop any time soon. As the boys age, the conversations will become more frank. They’ll include real stories of men who have violated consent and women who have suffered because of it. We’ll discuss drug and alcohol use by them and their partners and how each eliminates true consent. These conversations won’t happen all at once; they’ll weave in and out of our everyday life and be much like a drip, drip, drip of a presence. Even if we think our sons wouldn’t ever violate someone’s consent, we still need to have the conversations over and over again. Because every boy who violates consent is someone’s son.

We also won’t forget the part about standing up to others and dealing with talk and actions that demean women and encourage harassment. They’ll know what

language to use and who to go to for help if a situation seems impossible. And if someone confides in one of my sons that they have been a victim of sexual assault, we’ll teach them to say, “I believe you” and then, “What can I do to help?”

The #MeToo movement and the stark reality of the prevalence of sexual harassment, coercion and violence have been heartbreaking for me. But I know I can turn that heartbreak into something positive and something tangible through my parenting and the two sons I am blessed to raise.

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

Polly Robinson

TRUE NORTH



Moving Home...to Home

I like to think we’re not “just another one of those California couples” moving up to Washington. I was born at the Naval Hospital in Bremerton, so that makes me a native, right? When my wife, Sheryl, and I made the decision to move to Washington, to my mind, we were moving home. Despite that feeling, we had concerns. I was offered a tenure-track teaching position at Tacoma Community College and my wife is a retired professor and department chair. We had worked and waited a long time for an opportunity to move to Washington, but a move several states away to a place where we literally knew nobody was still daunting.

To make sure we’d made the right choice, we chose to rent for a year in Tacoma before purchasing out here on the KP, but that was the goal all along; so much so that every service we found (doctors, dentists, vet) were all out here. All we needed was a home.

After months of searching, we found it—our home in Home, a town we didn’t even know existed. From the very first moment we stepped onto the porch, however, we knew this place was it. Minutes into our tour, we walked outside and headed down to the water, where we met our first soon-to-be neighbor, Cathy. We exchanged the usual greetings and went on our way, but even that meeting helped us decide. The closing process was lengthy, several months at the end of summer.

On our second visit out, we exchanged contact information with Cathy and her husband, Ted, and two weeks into the closing process, they reached out and said, “If you drop off a hose, we’ll try to save your little trees.”

Really? Who does that?

This led to more emails, more chats,

more visits to our “almost-home.” When the process dragged, these wonderful new neighbors offered space in their home for us along with our two dogs, “just in case.” I couldn’t believe it. Even before we moved in, we had two good friends.

Then came Thanksgiving. We knew we’d not be able to head south for the holiday, since I, the professor, did not have much time free. So, we planned to just have a quiet meal together. This was not to be. A friend of mine had recently moved away from Tacoma, but she had two good friends here on the KP. Unbeknownst to us, we’d purchased a home not nine minutes from these two amazing women. While the two new friends would be gone for the holiday, that didn’t stop them from making sure we were included in a neighborhood potluck. Our circle of friends went from two to 20 in the space of a few days. And it’s only grown from there. Those new friends brought us into the Longbranch Improvement Club, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Everywhere I go, when I mention I now live in Home, the response varies from, “Oh, a retired professor from TCC lives there,” to “Oh! We live there, too!” In fact, one of the firefighters I met and interviewed for the article on the Key Peninsula Fire Department in this edition (see page 9) not only lives in Home, but on my street. From the small market at the end of A Street where the clerk always smiles and tells me to be careful on my ride home; to the men and women walking dogs and not minding our galumphing Murphy as he runs out to say hello; to Jim, the semi-retired electrician who has walked me through the ins-and-outs of connecting a generator to the house; and to the quilting group who has welcomed Sheryl as if she were a friend just back from a long trip; to our first friends in the neighborhood, Ted and Cathy, who made us feel at home long before Home was, well, “home”—we’d like to thank you.

I think we’re going to be just fine here.

Polly Robinson teaches communication studies at TCC. She lives in Home.

Carolyn Wiley

DEVIL’S HEAD DIARY



Aging and the Insults Thereof

Aging is the preferred alternative, but age is also encumbered with a variety of afflictions, inconveniences and personal insults.

One insult that rankles is that while my skeleton is disintegrating and my muscles atrophy, my skin is in a phase of aggressive

expansion. There was a time when my skin was a smooth, well-fitting container; today it falls in deep folds and soft drapes that flap, jiggle and sag. As an aficionado of the tai chi sword form, I have noted that on a fast spin, the skeletal framework stops, but the skin sack swirls like a chiffon evening gown before coming to rest.

At first, I thought that if the container was filled, it would fit better. Alas, unlike a pillow, the overstuffing did not eliminate wrinkles. Besides all that, hauling around the extra load of lard was turning into work.

Several months ago, I became aware of another age-related insult: The daily accumulation of residue in the shower drain brought on by the increasingly rapid departure of my once luxurious locks. I have considered organizing a campaign designed to alter society’s perception of attractive heads, by promoting the really, really, really wide part that is sported by so many men in my age group.

My old, midweek, cheap-seat, theater-junkie companion, Edna, has given some serious thought to alternatives for enduring the peekaboo scalp. One night, as the curtain was rising, she leaned over and whispered, “I think it’s time to get my head tattooed.” Her explanation was that a tattoo would reduce the distracting glare off her scalp and be a courtesy to those seated behind us.

I considered this option, but tattoos involve a lot of decisions. What color? Hair color changes and a light-absorbing dark tattoo just won’t cut it when your hair has already turned white. And in choosing a color, should it be an out-of-the-bottle natural shade or a trendy hot pink? DayGlo orange or Seahawk green? Because I do have a bit of self-awareness, I admit that routine color maintenance represents scheduling hassles and a time commitment beyond my capabilities.

Rationalization takes less effort and fits my comfort zone. After all, I have a backlog of experience, an accumulated knowledge of the world and a passel of book learning stored in the rafters of my being. How about this explanation: “Since my active brain soaks up all available nutrients, the malnourished roots give up and succumb to the pressure of my expanding neural network.”

Some consolation lies in the hope that there may be some truth in that old canard, “There are only so many perfect heads; all the others are covered with hair.”

Until I convince the fashionistas that the wide part is ever so elegant or I reach the perfect head state, I think I will see if I can get an appointment with the president’s hair stylist.

Carolyn Wiley lives in Longbranch.

Dan Whitmarsh
WRITING BY FAITH



Looking for the Truth

Christians are now in the season of Lent. It is a time of reflection and refinement. It is also a time of anticipation, as Lent leads to the holiest moment in Christian worship, the morning we gather at sunrise and declare that death is defeated because Christ is risen.

Lent culminates in Holy Week, and the trial and execution of Jesus, during which there is a moment that echoes down through the ages. With great exasperation, Pilate, the Roman prefect charged with deciding Jesus' fate, asks him, "What is truth?"

It's a valid question today, in a world awash with "fake news" and "alternative facts." Truth is hard to come by, with our President and politicians lying continuously. Many news outlets feature more propaganda than fact. Our social media feeds are flooded with stories that don't stand up to scrutiny. We find ourselves asking, with Pilate, "What is truth?"

We all seem to have our own truth, depending on which side of the spectrum we prefer. Pick an issue, any issue: gun violence, the President, immigration, religion, health care or a host of others. We choose our trusted sources, the experts we perceive are on our side, the statistics we prefer, and then label everything else as "fake news" if it disagrees with us.

There is truth with which we all should agree, like the certainty that two plus two equals four. However, truth that ought to be obvious is still denied as untrue by many in our population. The growing number of moon-landing hoaxers, flat-earthers, Sandy Hook shooting deniers and their ilk show just how much people are willing to believe lies if they fit their warped worldview.

"What is truth?" The question is hard to answer in our post-truth culture.

It is high time we reclaimed the work of wisdom and discernment. It's easy to give in to cynicism, but a healthy dose of suspicion might just do us all some good. Many stories that spread through social media sound too outrageous to be true, and with a little research, it's easy to prove they are fake. The ancient practice of discernment is necessary now more than ever.

In addition, let us listen to one another. None of us holds all truth. If we hear each other out, rather than bolstering our own defenses, we often find a deeper truth than we knew before. When we listen, rather than react, we usually find out our initial

understanding was incomplete, if not simply incorrect.

As a Christian, I find the words of Jesus fascinating. He said, "I am the truth." This points me to the reality that, often, truth is embodied in flesh, not propositions. Truth is revealed in the love of God for humanity, and our love for one another, not in the rancor and divisive debates that mark our conversations.

I would encourage us all to stop listening to those who pander untruth to the masses, and to earnestly seek after truth, wherever it may be found. It will take time and effort, but it is a worthwhile task; after all, it is truth that will eventually set us free.

Dan Whitmarsh is a pastor at Lakebay Community Church.

Letters to the Editor

Disappointed

Last night I read more of the latest Key Peninsula News stories, including "Flirting, Harassment and Hollywood" ("Key Thoughts," KP News, Feb. 2018). Just a few minutes ago, I read the front page article in the Tacoma News Tribune about girls being molested by the "respected sports doctor" Larry Nassar even while the FBI investigated him. Let's see, how many young female athletes did he attack? According to this article, it's 265 and counting.

The KP News may wish to maintain a broad outlook, but I have to say that I am quite angered that you would publish an article that says, "We've communicated clearly to men that women like to be pursued...men are therefore acting accordingly. It isn't right to suddenly change all the rules and persecute men for acting the way they were taught to act." I'm just so disappointed in my hometown newspaper. Mr. Vajko has the right to his opinion, but how many young girls are going to pick up the KP News and read that we should not "persecute men for acting the way they were taught to act?"

Deb Boulton, Wauna

On Sexual Harassment

I'm writing in response to Mr. Vajko's plea for "more balance" ("Key Thoughts," KP News Feb. 2018).

In the '60s there was a pertinent saying: It is not for the oppressor to tell the oppressed what constitutes oppression.

Yes, sexual harassment and aggression are emotional issues. That does not make them less important. We are clearly biological beings; we are also human beings and have strong social codes that prescribe

CONTINUED PAGE 8



CIVIC CENTER

CORNER

Crab Feed Succeeds!



We'd like to thank the Key Peninsula community and the many volunteers for making our 2018 Crab Feed a resounding success! It took a village of help from the many friends of the Civic Center to staff and serve over 300 meals — for our largest Crab Feed, ever! Special thanks to:

Cub Scout Troop 222 - table assistance, bussing and more.

The Bass family, Downen family, Keeney family, Likoudis family, LeRoy family, Meeker family, Nunez family, Sewell family, Sniadoski family, Warfield family and Wilkins family

Girl Scout Troop 40956 - serving, table assistance, bussing and more.

The Garcia family, Hutchinson family, Kruse family, Nichols family and Twiss family

Boy Scout Troop 220 - clean-up

The Barnes family, Blanchett family, Dewitt family, Downen family, Helland family, Lemon family, Mauger family, Quill family, Shurr family, Tollifson family, Viers family, Wedd family and Yeisley family

Food Market at Key Center (Kip Bonds) for helping with French bread

And last but not least: **Our very active KPCCA board & friends** - Special recognition to Bruce Macdonald for travelling to Tokeland, WA to pick up our crab; Pat Medveckus who spent an evening shopping and a full day cooking with her crew; Kris Barton, Peggy Gablehouse, Jena Henak, Claudia Jones, Claudia Loy, Carlie Schultz; Tim Kezele, Will McKail, Ethan & Jack Timmons for sprucing up the grounds before the event; Phil Bauer, Scott Dervaes, Claudia Jones, Tim Kezele, and Bruce Macdonald for helping set up;

Phil Bauer, Stephanie Brooks, Ed & Jean Brown, Eddie Clark, Scott Dervaes, Tracy Geiss, Bruce Macdonald and Amy Shaver for helping run the event.

And to all, including Norm Brones, who supervised the clean-up to the very end.

And to the hundreds of happy diners, thank you all!

Coming Events

May 5 Livable Community Fair

May 26 Community Garage Sale

June-July 4 Fireworks Stand



LETTERS FROM PAGE 7

acceptable behavior. We have laws that back up that code, and both social mores and antiharassment laws center on respect for and safety of the individual, regardless of gender, class, race, religion, sexual preference, etc. Harassing behavior is not respectful; it creates tension, uncertainty and often fear. And the emotional scars of that harassment can last years or a lifetime. What may feel like harmless "flirting" may not feel harmless to the recipient.

Here's an example. Last Friday, my husband and I went to the Blend Wine Shop in Key Center for a wine tasting. We enjoy seeing friends there, catching up on recent news, and just being in a friendly environment. A male friend came up to me and said, "You're really cute."

"Thank you," I replied. "No, I mean you're really cute," he said. Now I was getting uncomfortable. "I'm really old," I responded, in an attempt to stop these comments. "True, you're really old, but you're still really cute." So, at that point I walked away. Mr. Vajko would probably find these comments harmless, but the point is they made me uncomfortable, and my friend refused to pick up the cues and stop his behavior.

Stop whining, men. The rules haven't changed. I don't see innocent men going down in flames; I see egregious and unlawful behavior being revealed. The big concept is respect and it's backed up by law. So deal with it.

Judi Clegborn, Lakebay

The opinions expressed by columnists and letter writers are not necessarily those of the KP News. We neither endorse nor oppose issues or proposals discussed on these pages and present these views for public information. Letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published. Letters are used on a space-available basis and will be edited for length and clarity. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to editor@keypennews.com.

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KP Man Sentenced for 2017 DUI Golf Cart Collision Fatality

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Ty William Thacker Fuller, 50, was sentenced Feb. 9 to nine-and-a-half years in prison after rear-ending a golf cart at high speed while traveling south on Wright-Bliss Road near State Route 302 on May 23, 2017, killing the golf cart driver, Gary Moody, 65, and injuring his passenger and the driver of a second vehicle.

Fuller fled the scene on foot to his home, a short distance away from the accident. His girlfriend convinced him to surrender to sheriff's deputies waiting outside.

According to court records, Fuller had a blood alcohol content of 0.086 at the time of his arrest. The legal limit is 0.08. He was held on \$1 million bail and remained in Pierce County jail.

Fuller pleaded guilty in January to vehicular homicide and driving under the influence. Deputy Prosecutor Neil Horibe asked for a sentence of 114 months, the top end of the recommended range of 86 to 114 months. Horibe said Fuller had two prior convictions for driving under the influence from 2003 and 2005, and had been treated for alcohol dependency.

Fuller's attorney, Casey Arbenz, asked for a five-year sentence, well below the standard range, due to Moody driving an unlicensed vehicle and due to Fuller's character. Fuller worked at a grocery store for 25 years, the last 15 as a night manager, and submitted 32 letters of support to the court from his friends, family and co-workers.

"He's a good person," Arbenz said. "He's not a criminal."

Julie Elmore, Moody's ex-wife, read a statement before Fuller was sentenced.

"It is true that Gary had his own struggles with drugs and alcohol, and because of that many people have an understanding or compassion for you (Fuller) and what you have done," she said. "Some say that Gary would forgive. And this may be true. But I am not one to forgive you for what you have taken away from my family."

Fuller also read a statement.

"To the victims of that day, their family and friends," he said through tears, "the events that transpired (were) tragic, heart-breaking and mine to be held accountable for. It was my careless, selfish acts that inflicted pain and sorrow. If I could bring back Mr. Moody's life by taking my own, I would not hesitate... I have and will spend the rest of my life with overwhelming and relentless guilt. I am truly sorry for my horrible actions."

"He (Fuller) wasn't free to say how sorry he was any earlier, but I don't have any doubt about that; I'm sure it was true the day it happened," said Pierce County Superior Court Judge Kitty-Ann van Doorninck. "These are always really difficult cases because a whole group of people have lost a loved one, and a whole other group of people loses a loved one. Except he (Fuller) is still alive."

Van Doorninck explained to Fuller why she thought a long sentence was appropriate.

"The things that are compelling to me are the prior DUIs and running away from the scene," and the pain and suffering of the injured passenger and second driver, she said. "That doesn't seem to really be accounted for in the low end of the range for me. I think 114 months is appropriate, I think it's what the Legislature requires under the circumstances. And it's hard. It's going to be hard."

"You clearly are remorseful," Van Doorninck said. "I'm really pleased that you're going to AA meetings. I know that you're going to be productive under the Department of Corrections."

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Left: Anthony Sincich (tan gear) and River Lance (black gear) set up a SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus) bottle. Right: Anne Nesbit leads the training group. *Photos: Polly Robinson, KP News*

Unique Opportunities for KP Volunteer Firefighters

POLLY ROBINSON, KP NEWS

Anne Nesbit became a volunteer with the Key Peninsula Fire Department in early 2008 after meeting some firefighters at the Key Peninsula Community Fair in 2007. She had “a lifelong love affair with fire departments, just like any kid,” she said. The fire personnel at the fair’s recruiting booth told her she would be good at the work. “At the time, I had one kid on my hip and another I was trying to hang on to, and thought, ‘Yeah, right,’” she said.

She later met a battalion chief at an open house and he, too, encouraged her to apply, telling her how he would “teach me how to drive a fire engine.” That clinched it for her and Nesbit applied. Despite his enthusiasm, she was sure nothing would come of her application. Now she is the paid volunteer battalion chief for the department.

Ten years joining, Nesbit—or Chief “Mom,” as her firefighters call her—is running what many have called a model group of volunteers. Most of those who serve—or have served—in the department have plans to move on to career positions, some as firefighters or paramedics for local

departments or for the Department of Natural Resources. A large percentage of volunteers are successful in making that move due in large part to the training they receive on the Key Peninsula.

“Volunteers in our department have a unique situation,” Nesbit said. “They get to do everything the career guys get to do and that’s a great training opportunity for the volunteers who want to gain experience before applying to fire departments for career positions.”

Volunteers respond alongside career firefighters to motor vehicle accidents, medical calls and structure fires. There is no difference on a call in status or workload for volunteers and paid firefighters. “Because our Key Peninsula stations are so short of manpower, our volunteers get to do it all,” Nesbit said.

She broke down the personnel coverage by station: Station 44 in Wauna and Station 47 in Home are staffed 24/7 by career firefighters. Station 46 in Key Center is a “day station,” and also houses the administrative offices for the department. Station 45 in Vaughn and Station 49 in Longbranch are staffed when the department has enough career personnel to provide

continuous coverage.

The department is always looking for more volunteers. “The best part of our department is that we do community outreach; we offer the career firefighters healthy competition, which keeps us all sharp; we get along great and are part of the team,” Nesbit said.

There are currently 14 fully qualified volunteer firefighters, six of whom are emergency medical technicians. If all nine of the new recruits pass their academy training, the number will grow to 23. Nesbit is proud of the fact that all of her qualified volunteers are actively serving. “There is no dead weight,” she said.

The volunteers in the department are not all men. When Nesbit joined 10 years ago, she was the only woman in the unit. There are now two women qualified and another in the current academy. Recruitment begins in September and the academy takes place at Station 46 in Key Center.

The requirements to apply are simple: be a high school graduate, live within a 10-minute radius of a station, complete the application and pass a background check confirming no felonies or misdemeanors within the last seven years. After

the initial application, candidates must pass a written test, a board interview, a medical exam, a physical fitness test and an interview with the fire chief.

Jerry Marsh has been a volunteer with the department for 44 years as a tender operator, the person responsible for getting water to the fire engines on the scene. He said all the tests and interviews are important because, as volunteers, “what you say and what you do can affect the wellbeing of the person you’re trying to help. Compassion is required.”

Laura Soares, who has been a volunteer firefighter/EMT with the department for just over a year, agreed with Marsh. “I want to be the one to respond when someone’s having their worst day,” she said.

“Volunteers have a different heart,” Nesbit said. When she went through her academy training, she was challenged by the opportunity and excited to be a part of the team. It wasn’t long before she realized something else. “It had been a really long time (since I did) something that was just for me,” she said. “The fire department did that for me—it filled a need I didn’t even know was there.”

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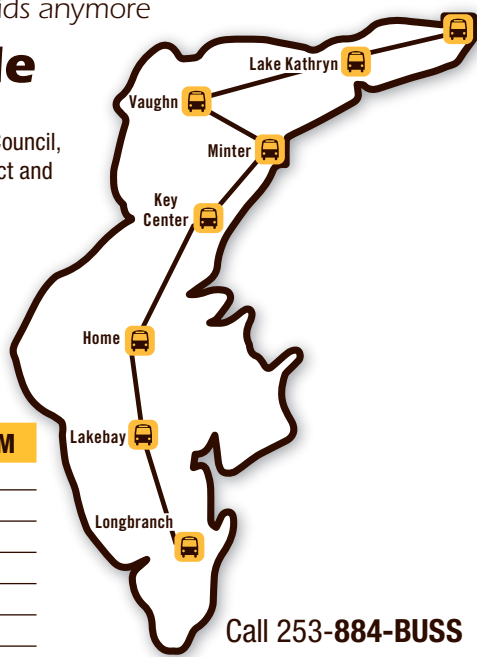
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EVERGREEN TUES & THURS AM

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

EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY AM

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

VAUGHN TUES & THURS AM

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

VAUGHN WEDNESDAY AM

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

TUESDAY & THURSDAY MIDDAY

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

TUES, WED & THURS PM

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

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Intakes at Minter Creek Hatchery will be rebuilt with state funds. Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News

Salmon to Benefit from Hatchery Upgrade

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Approval of the state capital budget last month was good news for the Minter Creek Hatchery. The water intake system, which ensures that incubating eggs and growing salmon can thrive, will get a much-needed upgrade thanks to a \$6.5 million grant.

The Minter Creek Hatchery, established in 1936, raises millions of salmon each year for release into Puget Sound. Chinook, coho and chum salmon are all part of the program, which is designed to protect endangered species (the spring chinook) and enhance salmon populations for fishermen and the tribes (fall chinook, coho and chum).

The two intakes, which bring water from Minter Creek into the hatchery, were built in 1962. Gravity powers the upstream system, where water flows from a holding pond created in a deep portion of the creek by a dam. The lower intake, at the same elevation as the hatchery, uses a pump to collect water in a vault.

Screens at the start of the intakes block debris and fish. Sediment from the stream should flow from the creek into Puget Sound to provide important nutrients, but the current system allows more sediment into the fishponds than the staff can clear. This decreases the space available for water and limits room for fish.

The project will include evaluation of the intake pipes, replacement of the screens and

rebuilding of a dam and settling ponds to allow sediment to both flow downstream and settle naturally in the creek before water enters the hatchery.

The diameter of the current screens could allow young fry to pass through. “The rebuild will bring us into compliance with NOAA regulations for screen size,” said Deirdre Bissonnette, manager of the hatchery. “This will have a positive impact on naturally spawning populations in the creek, as they are the ones exposed to the intake.”

The upstream system includes a dam, which creates a deep area in the creek and feeds the intake pipe. It can get clogged, and the new dam will have better infrastructure and technology to keep the sediment load moving. Water will then flow from the intake pipe into a settling pond, allowing suspended dirt to settle out before entering the hatchery.

The lower system flows from the creek, is screened and then enters a vault before going to the ponds. The new plan will move the intake upstream to a deeper spot in the creek, which will allow the sediment to settle before entering the vault.

Plans to request the upgrade started at least two years ago, Bissonnette said. Now that funding has been approved, design and permitting will take place over the next few years, she said, with bids for construction to go out in early 2020 and construction ideally occurring in the summer of that year.

OBITUARY



Suzanne Stuhaug

Suzanne “Sue” Stuhaug died Feb. 5, 2017, surrounded by her family and the expressions of love from her friends, after a long battle with a debilitating lung disease.

She was born in Alameda, California, in 1939 and came to Washington to attend Western Washington University. She graduated in 1962 with a degree in education and a strong foundation in marine biology. She married her husband, Dennis (better known as “Stu”), in 1963, and taught middle school until the birth of their son in 1967. The Stuhaugs purchased their cabin on the Key Peninsula in 1984 as a family retreat. As the century turned and family conditions changed, Longbranch became their full-time home.

Stuhaug explored the whitewater rivers of the Northwest while leading trips and teaching paddle sports. She soon became a professional instructor and was instrumental in developing the certification standards for others. She followed her heart to the wilderness and in the wake of early explorers down the Mackenzie River to the Arctic Ocean, and the Stikine and Dease rivers in British Columbia, among others. In her touring kayak, she paddled much of the shoreline of Puget Sound and the bays and channels of the Inland Passage, as well as the exposed western shore of Vancouver Island.

But bicycle was Stuhaug’s preferred mode of transportation for much of her life. She rode from border to border across the United States several times and pedaled extensively through the American West, as well as France and Italy. She supported her son, Erik, in his bike-racing career and became the de facto mom to

housefuls of young racers.

Stuhaug was also a passionate tennis player and became a teaching pro as well as a competitor in tennis tournaments across the United States and Canada. Illnesses in her extended family led her to hang up her tennis racket to become a caregiver.

Music was a sanctuary where Stuhaug could restore herself, usually with early British composers such as William Byrd and John Dowland. Her instrument of choice was the recorder because she loved its voice and because it fit on her bicycle and in her kayak. She also became fascinated by stringed instruments and built her own double bass.

Stuhaug dabbled in art for some time but 20 years ago at an elder hostel class in Arizona, the world of watercolor opened to her and she dove into art with all the passion she had for her other activities. Every painting became an adventure and an exploration of vision and technique. She painted with two groups: one of friends from every corner of the United States and the other with the ArtphArts of the Key Peninsula. She exhibited her paintings in several one-woman shows, as well as group shows in and around the Key Peninsula.

Stuhaug served on the board of the Longbranch Improvement Club and continued her work with children and education as a board member and officer of the Two Waters Arts Alliance.

Stuhaug is survived by her husband, Dennis; son, Erik; grandson, Finn; and her soon-to-be daughter-in-law, Elise. She wished to have neither public services nor memorial and suggested for those who wish to make a donation to The Mustard Seed Project.

In Memory Obituaries are printed free

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MARCH 1

SCHOOL BOND AT BLEND

Peninsula School District Superintendent Rob Manahan will be at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center from 5:30 to 7 p.m. to discuss the upcoming school capital bond on the April ballot. 253-884-9688

MARCH 3 & 17

DEPRESSION & BI-POLAR SUPPORT

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

MARCH 5

STAND UP FOR SCHOOLS

Join Stand Up for Peninsula Schools and Peninsula School District representatives for a family-friendly info session about the capital facilities bond on the ballot in April. Free event features snacks, drinks, a "new school" coloring contest for kids and the chance to ask about the impact of the bond on the district and on taxes. KP Civic Center, from 6 to 8 p.m. 253-884-3456

MARCH 5 & 19

VETERANS MEETING

The KP Veterans group meets the KP Lutheran Church annex, 4213 Lackey Road KPN, at 7 p.m. All veterans, military service members and families with children 16 and older are welcome. 253-225-5130

MARCH 10

TRIKE-A-THON

The Key Peninsula Cooperative Preschool will be holding its annual Trike-A-Thon Fundraiser at the KP Civic Center from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Preschool students will ride tricycles for pledges and there are fantastic raffle prizes to win. 253-884-5535

MARCH 12

ROBOTS AT THE LIBRARY

Build and program a robotic vehicle using Lego Mindstorm kits at the Key Center Library from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Ages 8 to 18. Registration required at piercecountylibrary.org/calendar. 253-548-3309

MARCH 13 & 27

CROCHET OR KNIT

Join Loving Hearts on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue KPN, to knit or crochet for charity. Yarn donations are needed and very much appreciated. Virginia at 253-884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com

MARCH 15

STUDENT LOANS AND DEBT

Take a realistic look at post-college life and set long-term financial goals that incorporate savings and debt management. Presented by Financial Beginnings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Key Center Library. 253-548-3511

MARCH 17

SOUND VIEW MUD RUN

Race a scenic 4K path on the Key Peninsula, conquering multiple muddy obstacles to benefit Sound View Camperships Fund from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Staggered start times, race bibs and awards for completion. Chili and hot drinks at the finish line. Adults \$50; youth (10 to 17) \$35. Participants receive a T-shirt. Register at www.soundviewcamp.com.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

The KP Alzheimer's Association caregiver support group meets the third Saturday of each month. All unpaid family caregivers, their family and friends are welcome. Come exchange practical information on caregiving problems and possible solutions; share feelings, needs and concerns; and learn about resources available in the community. From 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Crandall Center, 9016 154th Avenue Court KPN. 253-820-2213

KP HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETS

The annual membership meeting of the KP Historical Society will be from noon to 3 p.m. in the VFW Room at the KP Civic Center. Bring place setting and something to share. Coffee, tea, water provided. The new museum exhibit is called "Timber-r-r! Tales of Logging the Key Peninsula," with an emphasis on Rainier Logging Co. of Minter. 253-888-3246

KP LUTHERAN CHURCH AUCTION

The Key Peninsula Lutheran Church's springtime auction begins at 6 p.m. in McColley Hall. Appetizers, live auction, not-so-silent auction, desserts and beverages. A \$10 ticket donation is suggested. All proceeds support outreach ministries. Corner of Lackey Road and KP Highway. 253-884-3312

SUDS N' SPUDS

Annual party at the Longbranch Improvement Club 7 to 9 p.m. Subject to change. Call for information at 253-432-4948

LIBRARY AT THE RED BARN

Teens in sixth through 12th grade are invited to the Red Barn Youth Center in Key Center after school for a fun Key Center Library-sponsored project. 253-548-3309

MARCH 21

KP LAND USE

The Key Peninsula Advisory Commission meets the third Wednesday of every month (case dependent) at 6:30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. KPAC reviews applications for proposed developments in the community requiring a public hearing and makes recommendations to the Pierce County executive, county council, hearing examiner, planning commission and the Planning and Land Services Department. 253-432-4948

MARCH 22

EMERGENCY PREP

Meetings on various emergency prep topics are held the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center (with the exception of March 2018). Contact Peggy at 253-686-7904 or gablehousep@aol.com (put E Prep in the subject line).

MARCH 24

STEM SATURDAY EGG DROP

Learn how to protect Humpty Dumpty in this highly versatile activity to learn about physics and materials science from 11 a.m. to noon at Key Center Library. 253-548-3309

OFF THE KEY

MARCH 1

DEMOCRATS MEET

26th Legislative District Democrats meet on the first Thursday of each month; 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting. Public invited. Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard. 26thdemocrats@gmail.com

MARCH 3

PNW HISTORY & STEINBECK

Wauna resident and author Michael Kenneth Hemp will give a talk titled "Conjunction: The Emerging Connection of Cannery Row, the Historic Pacific Northwest, John Steinbeck & Ed Ricketts, the Sea of Cortez, and the Saga of the Western Flyer," from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Foss Waterway Seaport Maritime Museum. He will also discuss restoration of the vessel made famous by Steinbeck, the Western Flyer, now underway in Port Townsend. Hemp will sign copies of his history, "Cannery Row," following the event. Free with paid admission to the museum. www.fosswaterwayseaport.org

MARCH 6, 13, 20 & 27

TOBACCO-FREE SUPPORT

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

MARCH 15

PIERCE COUNTY READS

The Washington State History Museum teams up with the Pierce County Library for a special program from 6 to 7 p.m. to reveal the next Pierce County READS book. This is a free event open to the public. washingtonhistory.org

MARCH 17

OLALLA CLUB CONCERT

The Reid Jamieson Band will be playing at Olalla Community Club, 12970 Olalla Valley Road SE, Olalla. Suggested donation is \$20. Potluck starts at 6 p.m.; concert starts at 7 p.m. www.olallahouse.org

MARCH 21

HISTORY HAPPY HOUR

Test your Tacoma and state trivia knowledge with the Washington State Historical Society, City of Tacoma Historic Preservation Office and Tacoma Historical Society at The Swiss Restaurant and Pub in Tacoma, 1904 Jefferson Avenue, from 7 to 9 p.m. Facts, fun and prizes aplenty. Come solo or bring a team. All ages welcome. 253-272-3500

WEEKLY EVENTS

WEEKDAYS

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES

The S.A.I.L. senior exercise class meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Register with Marilyn Perks at 253-884-4440.

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

PLAY TO LEARN

Play to Learn 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Provided by Children's Museum of Tacoma. This is a free drop-in program for preschoolers age 5 and under and their adult caregivers. 253-884-3456

TUESDAYS

TOPS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly is an affordable wellness education organization where members learn about nutrition, portion control, food planning, exercise, motivation and more. Visitors are welcome to attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge and without obligation. Weigh-in from 8:35 to 9:25 a.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN

SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior tai chi meets 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. 253-884-4440

STORYTIMES

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

JOIN THE KEY SINGERS

Join the Key Singers to learn and rehearse music for the annual May concert, "Fun, Faith and Fidelity," 7 to 8:30 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church sanctuary, 4213 Lackey Road KPN. No audition required. Annual dues of \$10 pay for rent, music and PHS scholarships. 253-884-5615

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME

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

WEDNESDAYS

READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS

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

LAKEBAY WRITERS

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

KP YOUTH COUNCIL

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

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

SENIOR MEALS

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

THURSDAYS

TOASTMASTERS

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

SENIORS LUNCH

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

FRIDAYS

SKATE NIGHT

Skate night at the KP Civic Center from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5. 253-884-3456 or kpciviccenter.org/skate

WRITERS GUILD

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS

March 1, Lakebay Fuchsia Society, 7 p.m., in the Whitmore Room at KP Civic Center. 253-686-7904

March 7 & 21, KP Lions meet first and third Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

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



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Open 10-4 Tuesday to Saturday in the Key Center Corral

253 884-9333 Donations: Tues-Sat, 9:30 to 3:30 P.O. Box 703, Vaughn WA 98394

March 8, Ashes support group for Fire District 16 meets second Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Key Center fire station. 253-884-3771

March 8, KP Civic Center Assn. board meets second Thursdays, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 253-884-3456

March 9, Peninsula School District board, 6 p.m.; call for location. 253-530-1000

March 12, KP Parks commissioners meet second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

March 13 & 27, KP Fire commissioners meet second and fourth Tuesdays, 5 p.m., Key Center fire station. keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

March 14, Bayshore Garden Club meets second Wednesdays, 11 a.m., fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 253-332-4883

March 14, KP Community Council meets second Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-432-4948

March 19, KP Democrats meet third Mondays, 7 p.m., Home fire station, johnpatkelly@aol.com

March 26, KP Farm Council planning meeting for 2018 KP Farm Tour and Fiber Arts Show, 6:30 p.m., KP Community Office. 253-432-4948 or keycouncil@gmail.com



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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.



Alyssa Garcia is excited by learning options at a specialized high school. *Photo courtesy Audra Garcia*

Key Peninsula Student Chosen for Tacoma IDEA High School

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

Eighth-grader Alyssa Garcia has been accepted to Tacoma's new Industrial Design, Engineering and Art (IDEA) high school.

A former Key Peninsula Middle School student and current Key Peninsula resident, Alyssa is currently studying at Seabury School, a school for the gifted in Tacoma. She plans to attend IDEA this fall after her graduation.

Alyssa has experimented with several different subjects, but is currently considering a focus on architectural engineering. "I only realize now that it's called architectural engineering, but over the course of my lifetime I've done a lot of things related to it," said Alyssa, who remembers planning out buildings and communities for fun at a young age. "I specifically remember as a kid doing this weird thing where I collected all the branches that my mother or father had cut down the previous day, and trying my hardest to make them into an actual structure."

The IDEA school is the latest in a series of specialized high schools that Tacoma has opened over the past two decades; the School of the Arts (SOTA) and the Science and Math Institute (SAMI) are both part of the same program. Students from the Tacoma school district and the surrounding area are chosen by lottery after their applications are reviewed. "My understanding is that the majority of people are wait-listed, but [Alyssa] got in right off the bat," said her mother, Audra Garcia. "They only accept 125 kids per year to the school...so it's kind of a big deal, I guess."

IDEA opened in 2016 and mostly accepts students from the Tacoma area, meaning that Garcia and her daughter had to do some searching. "I started asking around about what was next; Bellarmine seems to be where everyone in the area sends their kids, if they're going to send them out of area, and that didn't seem like something that would work for her. I had to start doing some homework and asking questions," said Garcia.

Alyssa discovered IDEA after her school promoted it as an option for eighth-graders. "I found IDEA through that because there were a lot of posters around the school about it," Alyssa said.

The school is known not only for its special facilities and learning opportunities but also for its collaborations with companies. Businesses can partner with the school to send working professionals to teach and offer opportunities to graduating students.

"They have architectural engineers coming and they teach architectural engineering to the kids, then they provide internships," said Garcia. "They're actually creating a forward path into the next level of education for them."

Alyssa is excited to pursue her passions through some of the resources at IDEA, especially through the hands-on learning centers and workshops. "When I entered the school, there was a wood shop. The smell of wood shop, and wood in general, is beautiful," said Alyssa. "They had boats in the making, they had everything...that's the biggest thing I am excited for in this whole entire school."

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Monday, March 5 at 6pm
KP Civic Center

STAND UP FOR
PENINSULA SCHOOLS



Enjoy snacks, drinks, a "new school" coloring contest for kids (with prizes!) and the chance to ask questions about the bond—what it means for our kids, our schools, our taxes and our future.



2018 CAPITAL FACILITIES BOND

Safe, Updated Schools
for ALL OUR Kids!

Monday, March 5 at 6pm
Key Peninsula Civic Center

Paid for by Stand Up for Peninsula Schools P.O. Box 2184 Gig Harbor, WA 98335 Top 5 Contributors: Patinkin Research Strategies, Cannon Construction, Lucy Ritchie, Paige Schulte, Purdy Flotation Inc.



“You must make your choice: either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” C.S. Lewis

You are invited to Celebrate Easter on the Key Peninsula

MARCH 29

MAUNDY THURSDAY

(Remembering the Last Supper)

LONGBRANCH COMMUNITY CHURCH

5:30pm - Supper & Communion Service

MARCH 30

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

(Remembering the day Jesus died for our sins)

GRACE EPC

7:00pm - Good Friday Service

LAKEBAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

7:00pm - Good Friday Tenebrae Service

WAYPOINT CHURCH

7:00pm - Good Friday Service

EASTER MORNING

(Celebrating the day Jesus rose from the dead)

GRACE EPC

2406 McEwan Rd KPN, Lakebay, 857-7284

10:30am - EASTER SERVICE

www.graceepc.org

KEY TO LIFE CHURCH

Key Peninsula Middle School 549-9963

10:30am - RESURRECTION CELEBRATION

www.keytolifechurch.org

LAKEBAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

11 Cornwall Rd KPS, Lakebay, 884-3899

7:00am - SUNRISE SERVICE

Camp Woodworth

9:30am - RESURRECTION CELEBRATION

www.lakebaycovenant.net

LONGBRANCH COMMUNITY CHURCH

16518 46th Street KPS, Longbranch, 884-9339

7:00am - SUNRISE SERVICE

Soundview Camp (free breakfast)

10:30am - EASTER WORSHIP CELEBRATION

www.longbranchchurch.net

WAYPOINT CHURCH

12719 134th Ave KPN, Gig Harbor, 853-7878

7:30am, 9:00am & 10:45am

RESURRECTION CELEBRATION

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Please Join Us for **Easter Sunday Breakfast & Worship Service** April 1 2018

9:15 AM - Breakfast
10:30 AM - Worship & Praise Service

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Pastor Thor Williams Phone (253) 353-2745

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Sunday, March 18 – **I Am Big Bird**

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YMCA Before- and After-School programs..... \$3,000

Key Peninsula Fire Department

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Twice-weekly yoga classes at the KP Civic Center provide a convenient local option for a broad variety of participants. Photo: Anna Brones, KP News

Yoga: Something for Everyone on the Key

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Yoga practices on the Key Peninsula take many shapes. Some people practice at home and some attend classes. Some are brand-new to yoga and some have been practicing for decades. Some see it as a form of exercise and some see it as a way of life.

Denise Carrico, the resident yoga and art facilitator at Harmony Hill, a cancer retreat center on Hood Canal, suggests finding the right teacher. “Go to classes, see if the teacher speaks your language. Yoga studios can sometimes be intimidating for beginners or for those who are no longer lean and limber,” she said. Community center programs often have a more diverse level of abilities in their classes.

At the KP Civic Center, yoga classes in the Whitmore room fill with women and men (mostly women) between 35 and 70 years old. Participants come in all shapes and sizes, and options to adjust for flexibility, arthritis and other variables

are offered for each position—an option called “yogi’s choice.”

Katie Malik was instrumental in getting the program going. She has roots in the area. “I’m an Olson, so the Key Peninsula has a special place in my heart,” she said. When her cousin, Claudia Loy (who until recently owned Sunnycrest Nursery with her husband, Dale), found out that she was a certified yoga instructor, she asked if Malik could help start a yoga class at the civic center. “We didn’t know who would walk in the door—new moms, retirees or anyone in between,” Malik said.

Malik started taking yoga eight years ago when she was recovering from a serious illness and needed to get back in shape, especially with regards to the functioning of her lungs. She tried a number of fitness programs but felt that yoga was the most effective. The physical work of yoga postures was important, but “the philosophy of having gratitude, of leaving judgment and competition at the door,

made a big difference,” she said. “After I incorporated those concepts into my life and my work as a singer, I started to be more and more successful. I learned there was a lot more to yoga than just exercise.”

Laure Nichols has been practicing yoga for about a decade. She and her husband recently moved to the Key Peninsula full time. “I was thrilled to find the class at the civic center,” she said. “The room is light and big enough for everyone. It’s a wonderful way to gain stamina, strength and flexibility, and to calm my mind. And you can participate at any level.”

“Both my body and I look forward to our yoga classes at the civic center and we always feel so much better when we leave,” said Janet Stanley, who considers herself a newcomer. “It’s a wonderful way to begin the week and the day.”

Lisa Dunham has taught yoga for 12 years, and recently started a gentle yoga class for elders at The Mustard Seed Project Friday mornings. She took her first yoga class with

her husband “because it followed the step aerobics class,” she said. As they considered what fitness activity might carry them through as they aged, they gravitated to yoga. They enrolled in a teaching class in Costa Rica. “We lived and breathed yoga for 18 hours a day,” Dunham said. “My husband really took the course to deepen his practice, and I became a certified teacher.”

Dunham described gentle yoga: “Yoga focuses on the balance of body, breath and mind. If you lose track of your breath, you are no longer doing yoga. Westerners tend to focus on the mind. With gentle yoga, you look for that balance. The premise is that you must be present in your own body, that you are your own best teacher and that yoga really can’t be taught but is revealed from within.”

In her class at TMSP, Dunham has students move slower than in other classes and she emphasizes moving with awareness.

Diane Shamsher Bunting practices and teaches Kundalini yoga and meditation on the KP and elsewhere. She has studied yoga for more than 40 years and has taught full-time since 1994. After 14 years studying Hatha yoga (primarily physical postures), she fell in love with Kundalini yoga, which includes physical practice for flexibility and strength, breathing techniques for emotional balance and meditation/mantra to focus the mind and ease mental stress.

The approach to poses in Kundalini yoga focuses on strengthening the underlying energy rather than emphasizing the form of the pose, Bunting said. For instance, instead of teaching standing poses to develop core strength, she will guide students to do floor work lying down, creating more stability for those who are rebuilding a weakened core.

Bunting said working with people who are in the midst of profound challenges—cancer diagnosis, new motherhood, career changes—provides special satisfaction for her. “Yoga creates unity of body, mind, heart and soul,” she said. “It is an incredible grace to have a career where my contribution to the world furthers the kind of world I want to live in.”



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YOGA—A BRIEF PRIMER

For a novice, the initial impression is that yoga is a set of postures combined with breathing techniques. But talk to someone who has studied yoga intensely or practiced for years, and you'll find a much more complicated and nuanced story.

Yoga began in northern India more than 5,000 years ago, teaching sacrifice of the ego through self-knowledge, action and wisdom. Its sole purpose was to experience spiritual enlightenment. The first systematic presentation of yoga (Raja or classical yoga) was written about 2,000 years ago by Patanjali, the sage who wrote the Yoga Sutra. He organized yoga practice into an eight-limbed path of steps to enlightenment.

About 200 years later, yoga masters emphasized physical and spiritual connections and body-centered practices. This led to the type of yoga most commonly practiced in the West, called Hatha yoga. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, yoga masters began to travel to the West. When a studio opened in Hollywood in 1947, yoga gained a popular foothold. Many different schools or styles developed over the next seven decades, each emphasizing different aspects of the practice.

There are many types of yoga classes. Some concentrate on flowing postures. Others emphasize holding postures and paying attention to alignment. Some are vigorous and others more meditative.

Eight limbs of yoga—the steps to enlightenment outlined by Patanjali:

- Yama: attitudes toward our environment
- Niyama: attitudes toward ourselves
- Asana: physical postures
- Pranayama: breathing practices
- Pratyahara: sense restraint
- Dharana: concentration
- Dhyana: meditation
- Samadhi: complete integration, bliss

Six branches of yoga – the paths of yoga (none are mutually exclusive):

- Hatha yoga: the path of breath and postures. This is the branch most commonly practiced in the West.
- Raja yoga: the path of meditation. It attracts individuals who are introspective and drawn to meditation.
- Karma yoga: the path of service and self-transcending action. It is practiced when individuals selflessly serve others.
- Bhakti yoga: the path of devotion and seeing the divine in all of creation. It provides an opportunity to cultivate acceptance and tolerance for everyone.
- Jnana yoga: the path of the sage or scholar. It involves serious study and will appeal to those who are more intellectually inclined.
- Tantra yoga: the pathway of ritual. The divine is experienced in everything one does, encouraging a ritualistic approach to life.

March 2018

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SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Pet Easter Treat Hunt

9 to 11 am at Volunteer Park



- 9:00 Easter Bunny **Photo op**
- 9:30 **Treat Hunt**
- 10:20 **Costume Contest**
- 10:45 **Prize winners** announced

Pet Costume Contest with prizes for ***Funniest *Most Original *Best Overall**

Thanks to 2018 sponsors: Mud Bay, Wilco Farm Stores, Bayside Animal Lodge, Brookside Veterinary Hospital, Minter Veterinary Hospital, Life Line Pet Nutrition and Howllywood Pet Grooming.



Parks Appreciation Day Saturday, April 28 9 am to noon. Locations to be announced. Looking for a great, family-friendly outdoor project? This is it! Rain or shine! Bring your gloves, rakes, loppers, clippers, shovels, hand saws, wheel barrows and smiles!



360 TRAILS POKER PEDAL Sunday May 6
Check-in 9 to 10 am Prizes at 1:30

Join our family-friendly (suggested age 10+) unique bike riding event. Riders visit 5-7 checkpoints in a moderately difficult 8-mile loop, drawing a playing card at each point to get the best poker hand at the end of the ride.

\$25/Rider when pre-registered at BIKEREG.COM or \$35/Rider on day of event. To benefit trail development at 360 Trails. Get details and register at BIKEREG.COM

Thanks to Poker Pedal sponsors to date:

Bayside Animal Lodge, Defiance Bicycles, Green River Cyclery, Old Town Bicycle, Warfield Masonry and Will Houdeshell.com.

Popsicles in the Park

Home Park	Gateway Park
May 23	June 6
June 20	July 11
July 25	August 8
August 22	



Starting May 23, enjoy a chilly treat from Key Pen Parks! Just stop by Gateway Park or Home Park for free popsicles from 5-6 pm, or while supplies last.

CINEMA UNDER THE STARS SURVEY

The survey is now open. Make your movie vote count! Just go to www.keypenparks.com and click the link and tell us your favorites.



HELP WANTED Caretaker: Taking applications for caretaker at the Taylor Bay Park residence, located at 17712 76th St. KPS, Longbranch, WA 98351. **Seasonal Park Labor:** Deadline to apply is March 9, 2018. Perform routine maintenance of park buildings, facilities and grounds during a 40-hour work week for six months. Position description and job application on www.keypenparks.com, or pick up an application at the park office during regular business hours.



ALL-AGES FAMILY FUN SPUDS & SUDS

Prizes for most-authentic Irish attire, dance, trivia and limericks plus DJ, Irish dancers and games for the kids

5 to 8 pm Saturday March 17

Loaded Baked Potatoes Irish Coffee Beer
Adults \$10 / Kids \$5 Advance tickets: The Blend,
Sunnycrest Nursery and Longbranch Marina



The Longbranch
Improvement Club

BETTERING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1921

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Neighbors discuss strategies at a town hall meeting on crime. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

Town Hall Examines Crime on the Key Peninsula

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Nearly 80 people gathered at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Jan. 29 to discuss crime on the KP. The meeting, sponsored by Safe Streets, was designed to identify problems and create strategies to solve them.

RoxAnne Simon and Wanda Rochelle of Safe Streets made introductions and Chuck West, president of the Key Peninsula Community Council, moderated. The evening included small group discussions, followed by a question-and-answer session with Lt. Randy Wilder of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, county Councilman Derek Young and county Prosecuting Attorney Mark Lindquist.

"The large turnout made it clear to our law enforcement and elected representatives that crime in our community is an important issue," said Susan Paganelli, director of the Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community.

Individuals wrote questions on cards, which were then read aloud for the panel. Panelists focused on understaffing at the sheriff's department, concerns about how quickly offenders are back on the street after they are apprehended, and the problem of homelessness.

Both Wilder and Young agreed that the sheriff's department is understaffed.

Young said that the shortage of staff on the Key Peninsula is due not to population growth but to cuts made during the economic downturn a decade ago. The department, which serves all of unincorporated Pierce County, is currently short 60 full-time equivalents, including commissioned and noncommissioned staff. He said that the legislated limits on property tax, combined with unfunded mandates, have contributed to the funding problem. He is

optimistic that the new internet sales tax, recently approved by the state, will bring revenue to help pay for positions.

According to the Pierce County website, the general fund, which is 31.5 percent of the total county budget, receives unrestricted county revenue to finance the majority of the traditional services associated with county government. About 76 percent of that fund goes to law enforcement and judicial services. The 2018 budget increased the number of staff both in the sheriff's department and in the prosecuting attorney's office.

Wilder said that despite short staffing, once a deputy is contacted by the dispatcher, the average response time is 15 minutes.

Lindquist and Wilder addressed the concern of what some in the audience referred to as "catch and release." Lindquist said that anyone arrested has a constitutional right to bail. Pierce County has relatively low bail for property crimes. "But if someone is released on bail, it does not mean he is not being held accountable. He faces a trial and sentencing," he said.

Lindquist also described the new high-priority offender program, which targets felony-level repeat offenders. For those offenders, bail is set high and sentences are relatively long.

Wilder said that videos provided from homeowners' surveillance cameras have helped identify thieves. He explained that at times, his deputies may decide to issue a warning rather than make an arrest, especially if the suspect is not a repeat offender. They may judge that it is more important to be available to answer critical calls or assist their fellow deputies than to take the time to transport and book the suspect.

Wilder and Young acknowledged the frustration of removing people from vacant

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or abandoned property. Wilder said that homelessness, mental health and drug use are all closely interconnected. Young said that the civil process of removing people when the owner is not present is unwieldy. A new civil nuisance law, just recently passed, will allow the sheriff to remove squatters after just three phone calls.

Some participants expressed disappointment that the event did not focus on finding solutions. “It was worth coming to, but I was kind of frustrated. I would have liked to have more questions answered,” Cynthia Perry said.

Emme McAbee was frustrated that the questions from the audience were summarized and didn’t include the full content, including some viable solutions to problems. She was concerned that misdemeanor crimes are not given enough attention. “Misdemeanors grow,” she said. “They are almost a gateway drug to bigger crimes.”

Although the organizers hoped to concentrate on solutions, both Simon and Rochelle said that there were so many questions from the group that they decided to shift the emphasis of the meeting to providing answers.

Simon will be posting the notes from the discussion groups.

Safe Streets will schedule follow-up town halls. The next one will focus on solutions, with Wilder as facilitator. Young will host a meeting to discuss budget issues.

Meeting times will be advertised through flyers, Facebook, the KP News Community Calendar and by email. To add a name to the notification list, contact RoxAnne Simon at rsimon@safest.org.



A sailboat recently beached on Purdy Spit after stormy weather. Boats illegally anchored and abandoned are a threat to navigation and the marine environment. Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News



The popular Filucy Bay facility will use state funds for long-needed repairs and improvements.. Photo courtesy Kelly Guenther

Longbranch Marina Upgrades Will Benefit Filucy Bay

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Thanks to a \$248,000 grant from the state capital budget, the Longbranch Marina may be getting major upgrades sooner than expected.

Clark Van Bogart, president of the Longbranch Improvement Club, was thrilled when he got the news about the funding, he said. The LIC negotiated its new 15-year aquatic lands lease in 2017. The LIC worked with the Washington Department of Natural Resources to prioritize a 30-year plan to make recommended and affordable environmental and public-safety upgrades. The plan started with the most critical to least critical issues and moved from shallow to deeper water.

“Between 2009 and 2017, the LIC invested more than \$312,000 in the marina for environmental protection and public-safety measures, including wharf replacement, removal of five noncompliant boathouses and replacement of seven creosote-soaked pilings,” Van Bogart said. “Much more work needs to be done, and with cost estimates in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, the necessary work would have taken many, many years to complete without this grant.”

After LIC members read about projects included in the 2016 state capital budget, they thought the marina upgrades would be appropriate for a capital budget request. The recently established Longbranch Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that also provides funding for youth scholarships, activities and other needs on the Key Peninsula, was the ideal vehicle for submitting the grant application.

“I had a lot of help—technical, historical

and editorial—from a number of fellow LIC members,” said Van Bogart, who wrote the grant application. “Receipt of this grant puts us at least eight years ahead to make the upgrades we agreed to. We can then begin to focus on other projects that were nine to 10 years down the line. The real winner is water quality in Filucy Bay.”

This grant will cover the cost of replacing 1,000 square feet of the marina’s floating dock with materials that allow light to pass through to improve eelgrass health for fish habitat, and removing exposed Styrofoam flotation hazardous to fish. It will also cover the expense of replacing creosote pilings near the end of their useful life, rebuilding the now-unusable dinghy dock and building three new finger piers.

There is much preliminary work to be done before the money can be put to use, Van Bogart said. Federal, state, county and shoreline jurisdictions are all involved in the permitting process and must be submitted in the right order, and some take quite a bit of time for approval. In addition, there is a “fish window”—the time when work can be done that won’t negatively affect native fish.

“We have worked hard to develop good relationships with DNR, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and Pierce County,” Van Bogart said. “That should help us get everything in place.”

Marina history goes back more than a century. In 1885, a wharf was built to accommodate ferries serving south Puget Sound. The Mosquito Fleet transported families and agricultural products to and from Tacoma, Steilacoom and Olympia. A ferry, the SV Elk, served until the late

1930s, when the Tacoma Narrows Bridge rendered the service obsolete.

When Pierce County refused to lease the ferry dock to a private for-profit venture, the LIC stepped in. County engineers supplied plans and LIC members provided the lumber, labor and funding to build a floating pier, installed in 1959. About one-third of the floating dock space is dedicated to public guest moorage. It is made available on a first-come, first-served basis for both day and overnight users. The wharf continues to be owned by the county.

In late 2009, the county condemned its own wharf and advised the LIC that necessary county funds were not available for its replacement. The county blocked access to the marina, essentially cutting it off completely from land for a period of time. The late Geoff Baillie, then president of the LIC, was the moving force to get the wharf permitted and replaced, with costs covered through a loan and promissory notes. Access was restored, saving the 2011 boating season at the marina.

Van Bogart said the LIC is exploring the possibility of building a pump-out station in the future. The state is interested because the station at Penrose State Park on Delano Bay is not accessible at low tide. State officials also don’t want the water quality in Filucy Bay to deteriorate from its present level, which is in the acceptable range. Although the state will cover up to 75 percent of the installation and operating costs, there would still be a significant funding gap. If building a pump-out station does move forward, the LIC would probably want to incorporate toilet and shower facilities.



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(L to R) Unnamed giraffe with Key Pen residents Jennifer Wherry and cousin Stephanie Brooks of Gnosh, enjoying a trip to San Diego Zoo Safari Park in October



At Vaughn Elementary, 3-year-old Isabella Norris is all smiles when it is her turn to read with "Mr. Denny." *Photo: Kim George*

Reading to Preschoolers Makes a World of Difference

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP, commonly pronounced "E-Cap") is a Washington-state funded program serving children 3 to 5 years old.

A Gig Harbor Kiwanis reading program is designed to enrich the early reading experience of those preschoolers.

Denny Wardell, now in his third year as an ECEAP volunteer, is one of five Gig Harbor Kiwanis members participating in the program. He is the only one who works at all three ECEAP sites—Evergreen, Vaughn and Artondale elementary schools.

"What makes Mr. Denny special is that he makes connections immediately with the children," said Vaughn teacher Kim George. "They run up to hug him when he comes in the door."

Jennifer Carter, an ECEAP aide at Evergreen, echoed that sentiment. "When Mr. Denny is here, the children know that they are all that is important to him," she said.

In addition to recruiting volunteer readers to provide ECEAP preschoolers with weekly one-on-one time with an adult, the Kiwanis also provide \$200 per classroom for books. The teachers select books and children get to take home the copy they shared with the volunteer readers.

"The big reward is that every child gets to take the book home," Wardell said.



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TOP LEFT: A coiled snake cloud ready to rain on Carr Inlet. *Photo: Jim Bellamy* **TOP RIGHT:** Volunteer crabshell collector Cub Scout Lion Gregory Likoudis, age 6. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News* **CENTER:** Vaughn Creek at low tide dusted with Feb. 20 snow. *Photo: Joseph Pentheroudakis, KP News* **LOWER LEFT:** Longbranch locals share a sunny winter lunch. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News* **LOWER RIGHT:** Winter's gray gloom is brightened on Presidents Day, looking across to Allyn and the Olympics. *Photo: Ron Cameron*