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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

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## Remembering Scott Gallacher: 'He Did So Much More for the Community'

**Father, husband, coach and a driving force behind the enduring success of Key Peninsula Parks — "a real heads-up ballplayer" — is gone.**

TED OLINGER & LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Scott Gallacher, executive director of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District, died unexpectedly at work April 30. He was 49 years old.

Gallacher collapsed while chasing a suspected prowler away from Volunteer Park. A witness called 911 and first responders searching the area found Gallacher unresponsive.

The 35-year-old man he was chasing cooperated with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. He had been seen rattling the locked door handle of the Snack Shack, near Gallacher's office, when employees inside told him they were closed.

It was unclear why the man ran away or why Gallacher chased him. Deputies did not detain the man, who said he was asking for water.

"Scott was very protective of the parks in general and it's somehow fitting that's how he died," said his wife, Kirsten Gallacher. "The medical examiner has still not determined the cause of death. Scott went to the doctor regularly and had just been checked out in February and all was well. It seems weird, but for now we just don't know."

Scott and Kirsten met just out of college while working together for the Mukilteo YMCA. He was hired for the newly created position of sports coordinator, but without enough duties to keep him busy, the Y assigned him to help the director of a daycare at a nearby school.

"For a time, I was his boss," Kirsten said. "The kids were fourth and fifth graders and they loved him." After he stopped working at the school, Scott would occasionally phone the classroom and the kids would sometimes answer. Hearing his voice, Kirsten said the kids would squeal, "He likes you, he likes you."

And so it proved.

They began dating in April 1994. Scott played on three softball teams at the time; Kirsten was into mountain biking. Within

two weeks of their first date, Scott bought a mountain bike. Two years later, they married. Their daughter Haylie was born in late summer 2001, followed by their son Caden in spring 2004.

They moved to the KP in 2005, when Scott became the first executive director of the new Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District — Key Pen Parks — created

by KP voters in May of that year to replace the nearly bankrupt 30-year-old Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District.

"I was a new commissioner when Scott was hired on," said former Board Presi-

CONTINUED PAGE 3

## Double Murder in Vaughn

**A raging house fire led to discovery of the victims and the arrest of their grandson.**

STAFF REPORT

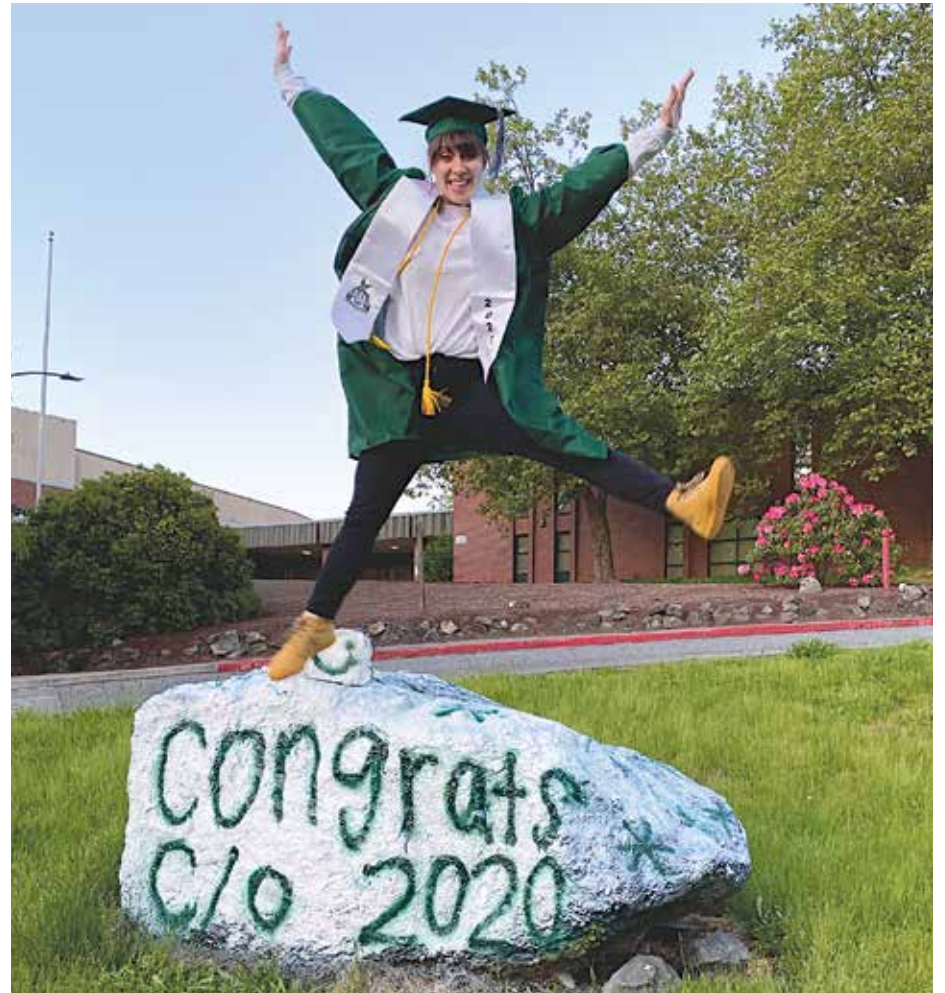
Firefighters discovered two bodies inside a burning house on the north side of Vaughn Bay during the evening hours of May 17. A third resident was missing.

Units from the KP Fire District, District No. 5 and Kitsap County responded to the two-alarm fire after reports of several explosions. Firefighters detected large amounts of accelerant, as well as evidence of homicides committed before the fire was started.

Pierce County Sheriff's Department detectives searched for the third resident, the 26-year-old grandson of the deceased couple, and a vehicle belonging to the victims.

The vehicle was spotted at a Lakewood apartment complex around 4 a.m. May 18. The suspect was arrested and booked into Pierce County Jail on two counts of first-degree murder.

*Editor's note: The deceased, Ted Ralston, 71, and his wife, Joanna Gormly, 73, were active community volunteers and part of our Key Peninsula News family. We will fully report on their lives and our loss in the July edition.*



Skylar McAnally shows how it's done. Photo: McAnally family

## You Did It! Salutes to Our Seniors

**Praise and encouragement for the first senior class to graduate under the constraints of a pandemic.**

I am so proud of the graduating class of 2020! I graduated in 2013 and still wear my class ring as a reminder of my commitment to all our students and their families. In a time of great change, no one can take away your accomplishments of reaching this milestone. Nothing will change the skills you've honed and the knowledge you've gained through your K-12 experience. You are resilient in the face of events that are making history, which means you have the opportunity and capability to change the world in ways never done before. This community stands with you. *Gina Cabiddu, MSW, Community Manager, Children's Home Society of WA*

You have reached a huge milestone in your life and should be proud. Whether you plan to attend college,

learn a trade, serve our country, or begin work, this is just the beginning to your path in life. You will face many obstacles. You have the power to shape your destiny. You have the opportunity to write your life story. Be the best author you can and fulfill your greatest potential. Turn your dreams into your future. *State Representative Michelle Caldier*

History has demonstrated that our greatest generations are forged in the most difficult of circumstances. I truly believe that we are seeing the emergence of the "Greatest Generation of All" as the Class of 2020 experiences this world-changing event. Tough and resilient — the Class of 2020 — and a true class act. *Art Jarvis, PhD., Superintendent, Peninsula School District*

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# Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN,  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

One of the most fulfilling aspects of belonging to a community is the discovery that even while we are physically distanced, we remain bound by the memories of our shared experience — long before this stay-at-home business began.

For all our best laid plans, growing uncertainties surrounding this new reality wiped out nearly every scheduled community event from spring well into fall.

Casualties of the pandemic include the growing list of community traditions that nurture our spirits and help make us who we are. The KP Livable Community Fair, held each spring at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn, was forced to cancel. The same for the annual Opening Day of the 2020 boating season at the Longbranch Marina and the Longbranch Memorial Day Dance, which typically fills the historic clubhouse to capacity year after year. The KPCS Annual Logging Show is canceled. The Two Waters Art Walk: canceled. Organizers of the KP Farm Tour and the Fiber Art Show slated for the first weekend in October fell victim to the pandemic as well.

The Peninsula High School Class of 2020 carries on despite the challenges that arrived, seemingly out of nowhere, with the first major pandemic to strike our nation in more than 100 years. The early school closure meant the loss of competition in spring sports and the last few heady months normally reserved for last minute cram sessions and senior prom. The commencement exercises will be the first of their kind and we trust that all will still be filled with the tremendous sense of pride and accomplishment that only comes from achieving something big.

Our wish for you is that the Class of 2020 feel as confident in the community you call home as our community feels about you, and that wherever your path in life leads, you will remember that you come from a special place and that the genuine can-do KP spirit will always be with you.

Memorial Day 2020 was snuffed out by the coronavirus we neither see, hear, smell, taste or feel until it's too late. Yes,

most people will recover, but because the SARS-Cov-2 is so new, the long term health consequences for survivors of COVID-19 are entirely unknown.

We go to press this Memorial Day, a day of tradition deeply rooted in the worst conflict our nation has ever faced: To be at war with ourselves.

It rained tears.

In a pandemic, dedicated career public health officials are

far and away the best people to deliver timely, accurate and essential public health information directly to the public. Their message is based on science devoid of politics and entirely devoted to public health. Our highest priority is to respond by following their guidance.

The danger of political polarization in times of crisis is that it stymies real action when cooperation and unity are needed.

We must dig deep to find our courage and strength of character to move forward together for the common good.

Research scientists, doctors and public health officials have learned much about this coronavirus in a short period of time. The race toward a vaccine is well into its second phase of human trials. If this vaccine proves safe and effective, it could head into production and distribution,

poised to become the fastest vaccine ever developed.

Meanwhile we wait. Public health officials caution it could be over a year before vaccinations are widely available. How can we protect ourselves

until then and keep our economy running in the process?

Researchers at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and the University of Pennsylvania determined in May that small droplets generated by human speech can linger in the air for over eight minutes. The experiment, published in the peer-reviewed Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences National Journal, used highly sensitive laser light to reveal

how thousands of oral droplets per second are emitted when we speak.

While the experiment was not specifically geared to transmission of the novel coronavirus, it showed those tiny droplets have a longer hang time in the air than previously thought.

We must remain clear headed as we focus on what we as a community can accomplish together. The Key Peninsula currently has

the lowest numbers of infections in all of Pierce County.

The only way we can bolster and restore our local economy is by ensuring everyone feels safe enough to be in public places.



[ A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY ]

Subscribing to the KP News is still only thirty dollars. That pays for 12 issues of Who, What, When, Where and How, not to mention our community calendar, not-always-flattering head shots, surprising stories and sometimes-wild opinions.

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF KEY PEN PARKS

- 2004: The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District was formed in May. In October, Key Pen Parks purchased Volunteer Park and the Home Park property from the previous park district.
- 2006: Completed renovation of the concession stand at Volunteer Park and construction of retaining wall at Volunteer Park by KP Lions Club.
- 2007: Lobbied the state legislature for Department of Natural Resources funding for 360 Trails and Maple Hollow Park. First Parks Appreciation Day for Key Peninsula. Volunteers donate over 290 hours of labor.
- 2008: Purchased 39 acres on Taylor Bay in the amount of \$1.4 million with state grants. Successful application with KP Little League for state Recreation Conservation Office Youth Athletic Facility grant for \$75,000. Home Park playground and picnic shelter built.
- 2009: Volunteer Park Field 1 renovation completed. Fifty-year lease with DNR signed for Maple Hollow Park and 360 Trails. Minter Creek property acquired in November.
- 2010 and 2011: Maple Hollow Park renovated. Key Central Forest (480 acres) leased to Key Pen Parks for 50 years by DNR.
- 2012 and 2013: New playground is erected at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Gateway Park acquired. Property acquired adjacent to Key Central Forest for future access development. Key Pen Parks, PenMet Parks and Kitsap County Parks collaborate to operate Horseshoe Lake seven days a week May through September.
- 2014: New picnic shelter built at KP Civic Center.
- 2015: Road work completed at Key Central Forest. Electrical upgrades completed at Volunteer Park.
- 2016: Manke property acquired, expanding Gateway Park. Pool restoration project at Camp Stand By Me.
- 2017: 360 Trails pump track opens. Gateway Park construction.
- 2018: Gateway Park pavilion is built with funds and volunteers from the Gig Harbor Rotary Club. More grants are earmarked for Gateway capital improvements.
- 2019: Gateway Park dog parks completed; construction begins on a splashpad.
- 2020: Plans and grants finalized for next phase of Gateway Park expansion.

## SCOTT GALLACHER FROM PAGE 1

dent Bill Trandum. “Ed Taylor was the one who found Scott working for some other park district and made the case to us that it would be crazy not to hire this young guy. Ed and I have not often seen eye to eye on things but on Scott we were right in lockstep all the way.”

“I got to know Scott pretty well,” Taylor said. “He lived with us at our home in those first few months, until his wife and young family relocated from Snohomish County. He took hold of the position and ran with it.”

Taylor, now 88 years old, and his fellow community leader Mike Salatino, who died in 2010, were convinced the KP deserved a much bigger space beyond its anchor Volunteer Park — with opportunities for a host of outdoor recreational activities that required considerable open space.

“I always had my eye on that Gateway Park property, but Scott and others somehow made it happen,” Taylor said. “And look at it now.”

“I worked with Scott for seven years,” Trandum said. “Any time there was any new idea, whether it was the lease of 360 Trails or Maple Hollow, Scott jumped on it with both feet and tried to figure out how do we do this so it doesn’t cost our taxpayers any money but the benefit will come to them.”

Over time, Trandum became concerned that Scott was too good at his job. “I told some of the other commissioners that my biggest fear was the Gig Harbor district would double his salary and we would suddenly find ourselves without him. But he stuck to his guns, he stayed with us and he never complained.

He just was a real heads-up ballplayer. I’m terribly sad that he’s gone.”

“Scott did whatever had to be done,” said current Board President Ed Robison. “No job was beneath him. He scooped horse poop at Volunteer Park when the horse people didn’t pick it up.”

Robison said Scott also worked on projects unrelated to the parks. “He did so much more for the community than what was in his job description. He participated with the Key Peninsula Business Association and worked with organizations like The Mustard Seed Project, the civic center, the Longbranch Improvement Club and Two Waters Arts Alliance, just to name a few.”

“I think that’s just who he was,” said Board Vice President Shawn Jensen. “Driven. He saw a goal and something that needed to be done and he’d move hell or high water to make sure it got done and got done right.”

Jensen said Scott was working on finishing



Scott celebrating his 46th birthday on the waterfront in 2016.

Photo: Veronica Grandt

the splashpad at Gateway and preparing for the next phase in that park’s development.

“He was gearing up to submit some grants — most of the property that Key Pen Parks has acquired has been through grants that he spearheaded. I always found him to be very focused, very methodical in what he did. Anybody can be tough to work with sometimes when they’ve got a goal that they’re focused on, but I would say despite the gruff exterior he loved people, he loved the parks, he loved seeing them filled with people enjoying themselves.”

“He did butt heads with people,” Kirsten said. “And if someone else didn’t see it the same way, he made himself very clear and he spoke his mind, and then he was done. He didn’t hold grudges. I don’t know many people that can do that.”

Park Commissioner Mark Michel said, “I met him first probably 12 years ago, working on a grant.”

He and Scott worked on many projects together, including grants, trail and park development, and organizing public events such as mountain bike races. “I’d say we went from maybe three miles of trails to over 15 now just in the last eight years or so at 360 Trails,” Michel said. People come from all over the state to ride those trails every day.

“When he came out here the modern KP parks was in its infancy,” he said. “Scott was a young, new hire for us. He’d never been in charge before, and he essentially grew

up with the modern version of Key Pen Parks.”

As Scott’s knowledge and skill grew, so did Key Pen Parks. “I think he started to step up and get much better at grant writing and presentations and learning more about working with different grant managers. He brought in millions of dollars to the Key Peninsula for acquisition and development and preservation of different properties,” Michel said.

“He was just a pit bull at times, and if you were on the wrong side of that it could be problematic,” he said. “But it helped if you understood he was so passionate because he cared so much about the district and he didn’t want it to be compromised in any way.”

Michel said he was reminded of this while biking at Gateway recently.

“I was out by the pavilion and there was this young couple teaching their 5-year-old how to ride a two-wheeler, and he was just so exuberant. You just knew this little boy would remember this forever. Scott would’ve loved seeing that. That’s why he worked so hard for us. That is his legacy.”

“Scott was always working, always on the job,” Kirsten said. “I can’t tell you how many times he would get a call and have to run out late at night to the park because there was some sort of emergency. We went on a Caribbean cruise with friends two years ago and when the ship pulled into port he made phone calls to deal with something important for the parks.”

But Scott was also a very attentive “hands-on dad,” Kirsten said. “We definitely shared responsibilities for everything. He attended every Little League game, football game, every dance performance. It was really important to him to go support his kids. And it was nice that his job was flexible enough that he could attend everything,” she said.

“Scott was physically active. He continued playing softball all his life and he played on a team last year. He loved to play and coach. He especially enjoyed golf, but didn’t have the time to play as much as he would have liked,” Kirsten said.

“He would drop everything to help a friend or family member. Always. If anybody needed anything, he was there for them. That’s who he was. He was very selfless,” she said.

## U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer Hosts Virtual Town Hall

Constituents heard updates from federal and local leaders.

MEGAN SCHOWALTER, KP NEWS

Congressman Derek Kilmer (D-6th) hosted a telephone town hall May 11 to provide an update on the federal government's response to the coronavirus and answer questions from constituents ranging from why he isn't a Lakers fan — because of their recent receipt of federal aid intended for small businesses — to clarifying federal strategy to manage rising unemployment.

Kilmer told callers, "Maybe the goal shouldn't be a return to normal, but rather, perhaps we need a new normal." In this new normal, "workers shouldn't have to choose between their paycheck and their health, or the health of a loved one."

This new normal would rely more on domestic manufacturing and address housing inequities, he said, which would include access to the internet in rural communities.

Washington State Secretary of Health John Wiesman confirmed that Washington's number of coronavirus cases peaked at the end of March and have since plateaued. But there are 200 to 300 new cases reported in Washington per day. "These numbers are still very serious, and they are not coming down as quickly as I'd like to see."

Wiesman reported that testing increased in the state from 4,500 tests per day to 6,000. The state has started to open up criteria for testing and will offer more testing opportunities at nursing homes and for health care workers in the near future.

Wiesman said "This virus is really having a toll on folks and it's going to be felt for a long time even as we get our economy back up and rolling again." The economic distress "isn't something that goes away quickly."

Constituents asked why rural areas of the state have to follow the same rules and phases for returning to regular business activity as more populated areas.

"We are trying to make sure we do this as safely as possible so that our case counts don't rebound and so we don't find ourselves again where we were in early March," Wiesman said.

The state started offering a variance in mid-May to counties with a population of 75,000 or less and no reported cases in the preceding three weeks. Eight counties were approved for variance and moved to phase two of the state's four phase reopening plan, which includes opening business activity in manufacturing, construction, real estate and some hair and nail salons with safety precautions in place.

Wiesman also told callers that the state continues to look into how to physically distance at schools come fall. "Hopefully

there is a clearer path for infection control (by then) while offering education as safe as we can."

Proposed strategies include part-time class schedules with some students arriving in the morning and others in the afternoon, reduced class sizes, or reducing the amount of movement throughout the day for secondary students. All of these plans come with the condition that testing is readily accessible for both teachers and students when they return.

Callers expressed concern about people coming from other parts of the state where cases are higher to those rural counties, putting others at risk. Wiesman said the state has given these eight counties the choice whether they want to go forward with phase two or not. The eight counties must also have in place a testing plan in case of an outbreak in their area as a result of the transition.

Kilmer addressed questions on what he called the "digital divide." He told callers, "For too long, too many rural communities have been left behind" when it comes to reliable access to the internet. Prior to the pandemic, Kilmer sponsored a bill that intended to help bridge the divide. Now, those inequalities are on display with transitions to online curriculum for students and telecommuting from home.

"Bridging the digital divide isn't about ensuring whether folks can watch 'Tiger King' on Netflix; it's about ensuring our kids have the opportunity to learn and it's about giving local employers in areas urban, suburban and rural a shot, and that's why I'm supporting efforts in that regard to help our students, to help our tribal communities and to help local businesses," Kilmer said.

As far as federal aid goes, Kilmer said the House is expected to vote on the latest relief package May 16. The legislation was designed to offer financial assistance to state and local tribal governments amounting to \$150 billion. It also includes more funding and resources for testing and addresses housing security and student debt.

As the call progressed, more and more people commented on experiencing "cabin fever."

"It's tricky," Kilmer said, "because usually I'm the first person to say come to our area and see our parks." But as the health crisis persists, it is crucial that people help to keep infections down by staying home and staying healthy.

"Right now, it's really important to listen to science and to listen to public health professionals," he said.

## Local Artist Shana Lukinich Donates Masks Nationwide

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

Local Native American artist Shana Lukinich and her daughter, Satiana "Tia" Foote, have produced and distributed over 2,000 free masks since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak in Washington state.

"It started with helping my tribe, the Northern Arapaho in Wyoming, because they don't have a whole lot out there," Lukinich said. After sending about 500 masks, Lukinich posted on her personal Facebook page offering to make more.

"From there, it just kind of blossomed into something bigger," she said.

A friend who works for United Airlines shared the offer on a flight attendant site and within an hour Lukinich and Foote had received 70 mask requests.

"It took about two days to turn out those masks," Lukinich said. "I'd say one mask, start to finish, is anywhere between five and 10 minutes."

Soon after, they received a message from an American Airlines flight attendant saying that the Washington D.C. Metro Hub Union President had directed her to Lukinich.

"From there, it spread like wildfire," she said. "We've shipped masks pretty much every place within the United States, everywhere there's a hub."

They have donated masks to airline staff, frontline medical personnel, other essential workers and local community members, with specific sizing for children based on age and thicker designs with added protection for people who are immuno-compromised.

The masks come with free, 2 day Priority shipping; for March and April shipping costs reached \$2,000.

"We have a drop box and a pick-up box and our postal lady knows us really well," Lukinich said.

They print USPS shipping labels at home and schedule pick-ups online. They schedule pick-up times with locals as well.

"We do have a small donation box if someone wants to leave a donation, although it's never a requirement and we make sure people know that," she said.

Despite being quarantined at home since mid-March, the mother-daughter duo have been busier than ever.

"We get up in the morning and get to running. It's nonstop," Lukinich said. "We were getting 100 orders a day for a while.

We've been literally sewing from 7 a.m. until 1 o'clock in the morning, and then we get up and repeat the whole process, on top of raising grandkids, keeping a house, and homeschooling at the same time."

Lukinich has 10 grandchildren, five of whom live with her.

"We have these huge sheets of fabric that my daughter cuts and I sew in the midst of grandkids running around. So it gets a little interesting at times. Every once in a while I go outside and say, 'I'm on a mandatory Washington state 15-minute break right now.'"

"There's such a thing as seamstress shoulder," Lukinich said, whose mom

taught her to sew when she was 10 years old. "My hands are getting a little sore and tired. But it's nothing a little Ben Gay can't cure."

In addition to the mask-making operation, Lukinich and Foote run two small businesses, 10 Buffalos Art and Little Foote Designs. Lukinich specializes in Native American art, embroidery and

vinyl, and is looking at custom fabric options for masks featuring her original artwork.

"Our primary thing is usually craft and art fairs and pow wows and things like that, but because of social distancing and everything going on, those don't exist right now," Lukinich said. "I was part of the Oklahoma Indian Art Festival, which was an online event for my native art, so I was trying to balance online interviews and an online art show across the country, on top of making masks."

Lukinich said this time was an opportunity to work more closely with her daughter than ever before, while providing a much-needed and appreciated public service.

"Every waking hour we're constantly chit-chatting back and forth," she said. "You kind of have to roll with the punches. Everything evolves. Things change. That's what I was taught and it's a Native American way too, that you change with the circumstances or what Mother Earth does. Humans are supposed to change and adapt."

"Some people don't believe in masks and that's fine," Lukinich said. "If people need them, we're here. If they don't, that's OK too. We're not going to stop until there's no need."

Visit [www.littlefootedesign.com](http://www.littlefootedesign.com) or [www.10buffalos.com](http://www.10buffalos.com).



Shana Luki. Photo: Satiana "Tia" Foote

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## Getting ready for a safe Phase 3.

We're making plans to reopen our Senior Center with safe, proper protocols for activities including our meal program.

Our Food Bank remains open regular hours, Tues-Fri. Visit our website at [keypeninsulacommunityservices.org](http://keypeninsulacommunityservices.org) or call 253 884-4440.

When people help each other, amazing things happen.



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Outdoor spaces, exercise and recreation are critical to the mental and physical health of our community, now more than ever as we work together to slow the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Property	Trails	Play-grounds	Restrooms	Shelters	Skate Park	Fields
<b>Gateway Park</b>	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED		OPEN
<b>360 Trails</b>	OPEN	360 Trails mountain biking jump trails OPEN				
<b>Volunteer Park</b>	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN
<b>Home Park</b>		CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED		
<b>Key Central Forest</b>	OPEN					
<b>Rocky Creek Conserv. Area</b>	OPEN					
<b>Maple Hollow Park</b>	OPEN	Water access is OPEN. Restrooms are CLOSED.				
<b>Taylor Bay</b>		Water access is OPEN				

**OPEN facilities subject to social distancing. Don't stand in groups. Keep 6 feet between people who are not from your household. Cyclists note: 6 feet is a little over an adult bike length.**

Effective May 15, 2020: This chart will be updated on our Facebook page and at [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com)

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



In loving memory of Scott Gallacher, our Executive Director 2005-2020, who worked tirelessly to bring quality parks and recreation opportunities to the people of the Key Peninsula.

"WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT GETTING SYSTEMS IN PLACE FOR YEARS, AND THEN SUDDENLY WE HAD TO DO IT IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS."

## Continuous Learning at Minter Creek Elementary Takes Form

Students, teachers, staff and parents had to team up to face an unprecedented challenge.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Students and teachers entered a new learning world when schools closed suddenly in March.

"Learning is a priority, but who the kids are and how they are doing comes first," said Todd Hering, principal of Minter Elementary School. "We've been talking about getting systems in place for years, and then suddenly we had to do it in a couple of weeks. I can't say how impressed I have been with everyone — our students

and how they are coming through, and with the community."

Teachers were tasked with defining the essential learning that they would teach during the last few months of school. They met as grade-level teams, reviewed the learning standards, and spoke with teachers at the next level, then shared the essential learning with parents along with some strategies.

Third grade teacher Amanda Hefa has taught for a decade and joined the Minter staff six years ago. She said that the district emphasized the impact of trauma on students over the last several years and its effect on student learning.

"We have to remember that this is a trauma crisis time. We teach kids that if they are really stressed they can't learn as well. And we forget that it happens to us, too. We need to take care of ourselves," Hefa said. "Learning will come later. All of us have figured out that next fall we will have to do a lot of catch-up."

Third graders at age eight and nine are learning independence, and that is



a focus in the classroom, she said. As a result, her students, who each have their own school Chromebook, already knew how to log in, find the school portal and Google Drive, and send and receive email.

Hefa created a weekly schedule — 60 minutes of learning each day with 20 minutes devoted to reading, writing and math — available to all students. She has videos to explain the math worksheets that students can send back to her; reading can be done through links she suggests or with books at home. "It's important to have choice," she said. A recent writing assignment was to create a pet rock narrative. She created packets for students without internet.

Hefa has faced her own challenges. She has an 8-month old, who may make appearances when she talks to her families, much to the delight of her students. And her own poor internet service in Lakebay means she has not been able to have Zoom classroom time. She is available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day to parents and students, and promises to get back within 24 hours if she is busy working on class content or other school activities. She has been able to contact

all of her students each week.

Third-grade parent Angela Ostrom, who works as a health tech at Minter, said "Our teachers have been amazing in every way. The curriculum packets have helped me as a parent take on this new role as teacher to our daughter."

She added that finding a routine while continuing to work, run a household and meet the daily learning expectations for her daughter is a challenge. "I have worked with all grade levels educating students daily but working with my own child has been absolutely exhausting."

Kari Gulbranson has taught kindergarten at Minter for seven years. She created binders for all of her students,

including a schedule and activities with materials that could be cut out and reused.

Forty-five

minutes of learning each day is expected for this age group. Parents are told to spend about 15 minutes a day on reading, writing and math, but that they don't need to limit themselves to the binder or additional activity packets. "Fifteen minutes on math can be going outside and counting leaves, playing a game as long as it has numbers in it," Gulbranson said.

Gulbranson holds an online Zoom classroom meeting every Tuesday and Thursday. At least half and usually more



than two-thirds of her students attend each meeting. One unexpected benefit has been closer connections with families. Rather than the usual parent-teacher conferences, "I talk to them every week," she said.

According to the principal, assessing learning will be a challenge. The Minter staff is looking at new screening processes for next year to identify where the holes are. "The first few weeks may look like boot camps — filling those holes before moving forward. We do that to some extent every year, but this will be a bit different," Hering said.

"FIFTEEN MINUTES ON MATH CAN BE GOING OUTSIDE AND COUNTING LEAVES, PLAYING A GAME AS LONG AS IT HAS NUMBERS IN IT."

"WE TEACH KIDS THAT IF THEY ARE REALLY STRESSED THEY CAN'T LEARN AS WELL. AND WE FORGET THAT IT HAPPENS TO US, TOO."

"I HAVE WORKED WITH ALL GRADE LEVELS EDUCATING STUDENTS DAILY, BUT WORKING WITH MY OWN CHILD HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY EXHAUSTING."

# KPMS Teacher's 'Voices of the Holocaust' Curriculum Adopted by Other Districts

Amidst a pandemic, a teacher and her students strive to learn about humanity.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Vicky Schauer, eighth-grade English and Language Arts teacher at Key Peninsula Middle School, is passionate about her final unit, Voices of the Holocaust. When school closed in March, she was faced with transforming this sensitive topic from a highly interactive curriculum into an online experience. And although she yearned for the richness of student-to-student connections in the classroom, she plucked victory from the jaws of despair.

Voices of the Holocaust is part of a national curriculum and Schauer has made it her own over the last decade. Each year is different, as she adjusts to the needs and strengths of her classes, but the curriculum has centered around students forming small groups where they discuss, explore and write about a book from her selection. This year students were going to build a Holocaust museum in the classroom.

Schauer, whose students nominated her for the KP Lions' Club Citizen of the Year Award for 2019 (ceremony still to be rescheduled), described herself as a "live teacher and technical dinosaur." Confronted with how to translate this critical topic to an online format, she was overwhelmed. But she reached out to the Holocaust Center for Humanity in Seattle and enrolled in their class to learn how to teach the material online.

"OK, I'm going to do it," she told herself.

With many hours of work and tremendous support from her principal, she created an online curriculum and shared it with colleagues. It is now being used in the Everett, Mukilteo and Shoreline school districts. Last week she was contacted by the Los Angeles Unified School District about using her work.

Schauer is using videos and written material from the National Holocaust Museum and profiles of survivors from Washington state. One part of the curriculum involves students "meeting" four survivors a week and then writing about a connection they made with one of them.

"The beauty of what they have written is incredible," Schauer said, describing how her students responded to one survivor's thoughts about the importance of family.

The students explore how to interpret visual material — pictures and political cartoons — in addition to text. And Schauer evaluates reading comprehension of both narrative and informational material to prepare her students for high school. At the end of the year, as part of the curriculum Schauer calls

"Taking Action," students will enter the Holocaust Center for Humanity's annual contest. A silver lining to developing the online curriculum, Schauer said, was finding so much new material. She will incorporate it into her classroom plans when school reopens.

Schauer tracks student participation, noting when they check in and open the material. They submit work as documents or pictures, and she gives feedback quickly. But she also knows they miss the interactions they have with each other in the classroom.

Although she does not feel comfortable enough with Zoom to hold a full classroom meeting, smaller groups meet using Google Hangouts. She said that of her 118 students she has heard from all but twelve. She has referred

**"I LOVE EIGHTH GRADERS. THEY ARE THE BEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD."**

them to the counseling staff, concerned that there are many factors that might lead to their absence.

Garynne Glasscock, an eighth-grader in the honors program, said of the distance learning, "It's a lot different from what I was expecting." For her regular classes it is working relatively well, but electives, especially band or choir, are a challenge. She said the Holocaust material has been good, and she has been getting great feedback. She likes being able to work at her own pace and without some of the distractions that come with a classroom full of students. But she misses the class interactions. "I feel ready academically for high school but not so much emotionally. I'm not exactly missing out, but I'm missing."

Schauer has taught at KPMS for 18 years. She had a career in hospital marketing when, following 9/11, she felt a pull on her heartstrings. "I had always wanted to teach, so I went back to school and then came to KPMS, where my kids had gone."

She said, "I love eighth-graders. They are the best people in the world."

The Holocaust Center for Humanity "Lunch and Learn" Zoom events are held each Tuesday at noon, free to the public and appropriate for families. [www.holocaustcenterseattle.org](http://www.holocaustcenterseattle.org)



Vicky Schauer. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

**"I FEEL READY ACADEMICALLY FOR HIGH SCHOOL BUT NOT SO MUCH EMOTIONALLY. I'M NOT EXACTLY MISSING OUT, BUT I'M MISSING."**

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## Daniel Defoe and the Great Plague of 1665

JOSEPH PENTHEROUDAKIS, KP NEWS

“A Journal of the Plague Year,” Daniel Defoe’s short book about the 1665 outbreak in London of what is believed to have been bubonic plague, is never a comforting read; it is even less so in these times of a global pandemic. Published in 1722, it is a chilling, often graphic but always compassionate account of the yearlong epidemic that left tens of thousands dead. It is also a cautionary tale, with frequent exhortations to future generations urging them to avoid the missteps that, in Defoe’s opinion, made the calamity worse than it might otherwise have been.

The book has now emerged from the shadows to which it had long been relegated. Project Gutenberg, home to thousands of out-of-copyright editions of older literary works, reported over 40,000 downloads of the e-book in April alone, making it the fifth most popular item on the site.

The medieval world was no stranger to bubonic plague. First arriving in Europe from Asia in 1347, it claimed a staggering 20 million lives in five years — or up to two-thirds of the population. Outbreaks continued to flare up every few decades for three centuries.

The 1665 epidemic in London was the fourth that century and the last major outbreak in England. It decimated the population, killing an estimated 70,000 to 100,000 Londoners, almost a quarter of the total.

Defoe’s book purports to be an eyewitness account of the events that year. The narrator is not identified; Defoe himself, born around 1660, would have been too

young to form detailed memories of the epidemic. The initials H.F. that appear at the end of the book, however, have led scholars to suggest that the narrative may be based on the journals and recollections of Defoe’s uncle, Henry Foe, who lived in London during the plague and survived it.

A prolific writer and critical thinker, Defoe was actively engaged in the political and social movements of his day. His 1697 “Essay Upon Projects” proposed a series of social reforms promoting the common welfare, including a subscription-based

system for health insurance. A periodical covering current political events that he started in 1703 published continuously for 10 years. “Robinson Crusoe,” first published in 1719, was an immediate success.

As told in “A Journal,” it was clear by the spring of 1665 that

an epidemic had once again arrived in London, though many in the city denied it. The number of deaths in the weekly bills of mortality, printed by parishes and included in the narrative, show an unexplained increase in the first two months of the year. In the spring and summer deaths increased dramatically, peaking in the third week in September, when 7,165 deaths from the plague were reported, six times higher than all other causes combined. Over the next three months the disease finally abated, and by early 1666 it had run its course.

As soon as it became apparent that another epidemic had descended on the city,

A  
**JOURNAL**  
 OF THE  
**Plague Year:**  
 BEING  
 Observations or Memorials,  
 Of the most Remarkable  
**OCCURRENCES,**  
 As well  
**PUBLICK as PRIVATE,**  
 Which happened in  
**L O N D O N**  
 During the late  
**GREAT VISITATION**  
 In 1665.

Written by a **CITIZEN** who continued all the while in *London*. Never made publick before

**L O N D O N :**  
 Printed for E. Nee at the *Royal-Exchange*; J. Roberts in *Warwick-Lane*; A. Dodd without *Temple-Bar*; and J. Graves in *St. James's-street*. 1722.

Title page of Daniel Defoe’s “A Journal of the Plague Year,” 1722.

public feasting, ... and dinners at taverns, ale-houses, and other places of common entertainment, (shall) be forborne till further order and allowance,” one of the articles in the mayor’s proclamation read, “and money thereby spared (shall) be preserved and employed for the benefit and relief of the poor visited with the infection.” The ban applied to funerals and graveside services; to enforce that, dead bodies were collected and buried in mass graves during the night. Among the dead were often those who had flouted the health rules.

All economic activity in the city came to a standstill; once the wealthy fled, demand for workers and craftsmen was nonexistent. International trade stopped.

The effect of the economic downturn on the working poor was devastating. Defoe invites those familiar with the large numbers of working poor to “consider what must be the miserable condition of this town if, on a sudden, they should be all turned out of employment, that labour should cease, and wages for work be no more.”

Defoe praises the mayor and administration for remaining in the city to combat the disease. Nevertheless, he holds the government responsible for its lack of preparation: “Surely never city, at least of this bulk and magnitude, was... so perfectly unpre-

pared for such a dreadful visitation, whether I am to speak of the civil preparations or religious,” he writes. “They were, indeed, as if they had had no warning, no expectation, no apprehensions, and consequently

the well-off with homes outside London began to leave. “On Broad Street,” Defoe writes, “nothing was to be seen but waggons and carts, with goods, women, servants, children, &c.; coaches filled with people of the better sort and horsemen attending them and all hurrying away.”

In June the mayor of London issued a series of orders aimed at containing the outbreak. Heads of households were required to notify the city’s health



“Due Preparations for the Plague” was published in 1722 in tandem with “A Journal...” Image: OpenCulture

examiner within two hours if anyone in the residence developed symptoms; that person was then to be sequestered in the house, and the house itself would be shut up for a month. Watchmen were assigned to guard infected houses to ensure that no one left; healthy residents could only leave with a certificate of health issued by the examiner. Visitors to households later determined to house infected residents were themselves required to go into isolation for a term determined by the health examiner.

Public gatherings were banned. “All

the least provision imaginable was made for it in a public way.”

Having experienced three epidemics that century alone, the city should have had the foresight to build more shelters to house the sick and remove them from the general population, and more food and provisions should have been stored to address the needs of the poor. If proper steps had been taken, Defoe adds, the disastrous effects of the epidemic might have been prevented, something that “if posterity think fit, they may take a caution and warning from.”



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## Ted Olinger ANOTHER LAST WORD



### Journal of the Plague Year: Part II

When this whole thing started, the family indulged in these long, elaborate breakfasts since there was no place anyone had to be, except maybe a Zoom meeting. Baked eggs, Dutch babies, sourdough waffles; things we once reserved only for Christmas or New Year's.

Now I'm down to half a banana and a pot of green tea I nurse all day. My wife drinks protein shakes between her online meetings or the classes she teaches, then sits cursing to herself while rage knitting.

I hear children playing outside. I get up from the computer to stand on our porch and listen. It's a lovely sound. I start for the neighbor's backyard to investigate, then stop. It's not children; it's just his chickens foraging in the garden, a different kind of lovely sound I haven't appreciated before.

My own child — though at 18 he's hardly that — is on our roof scrubbing the skylights. He asks permission while I am typing away at something and I say sure without thinking about it. Then I hear the extension ladder rattling and him banging around up there. This is the same high school senior who can't keep his room clean, but now he's clinging to our high-pitched roof 30 feet off the ground scrubbing moss. Then I wonder why I said sure without thinking.

At the end of almost every day he runs five or six miles at different parks after his online classes. One Friday he returned later than normal. Coming home across the Purdy Spit, he saw some friends standing next to their cars on the shoulder and stopped. They watched the stadium lights at Peninsula High School come on at 8:20 p.m. — 2020 hours — for 20 minutes to honor them, the class of 2020. Then they stood there in the dark for a while before going their separate ways.

I get an email from a relative. "We can't let the cure be worse than the disease," he says, adding "There's nothing political about common sense — spread the word." I ask what he knows about C-19 that I don't. He sends me a DIY pattern for a tinfoil hat.

I'm driving home on a sunny, breezy day after I've finished conducting interviews and running errands behind a mask. I think I've forgotten something and check

my list: Mail, pharmacy, groceries, wine from this one place, then more wine from this other place — all done. But I know I'm forgetting something. I look around the car. Seems normal. Put stuff away at home. Uneventful. Drink a cup of cold tea outside for a minute and watch clouds scudding across the sun. I should be out sailing on a day like this. That's it — that's what I forgot.

The dog is acting different, but we don't notice. I run him every day and he's getting slower and slower. I think he's just being stubborn because we put him on a diet. But now there's a bad smell and we examine his 114 pounds of bear fur and find a terrible wound from some skin allergy.

We can't get in to see the vet but we send photos and she prescribes antibiotics, steroids and some kind of spray. How had we missed this? We're with him all the time. Are we that preoccupied?

We stay up with him the first night he's on meds; he is restless and thirsty and unable to settle. I am usually pretty good at interpreting his looks but only because his meaning is usually pretty simple: feed me, walk me, play with me. Now he doesn't want any of those things and looks at me with an expression I can't interpret, and don't want to.

I am startled awake on the couch by his muffled barks. He's twitching and growling as he pursues, I hope, his favorite prey in a familiar dream. I think he must be feeling better, and I relax. I fall back to sleep and into my own recurring dream, sailing my dad's boat, though Dad and his boat are long gone. But this time I am sailing deliberately into shallows and between reefs to escape a dangerous shore.

*Ted Olinger lives in Vaughn.*

## Carolyn Wiley DEVIL'S HEAD DIARY



### Socially Distant Amusements

In this era of social distancing, being out of the loop has been an adjustment, especially since there are no loops to be in. With meetings canceled, routines disrupted, latte stops eliminated, the squares on the kitchen calendar have become virgin territory.

What to do with all this unscheduled time?

My husband, David, and I were once habitual, even chronic, exercisers. The first disruption was the pool closure, setting our daily water aerobics group adrift. The

second blow came when the YMCA shut down. No more tai chi, no sword form for me; no weightlifting or treadmill for David. We were soon bemoaning the deleterious effects of our innate couch potato natures. Were we really going to watch all 635 episodes of "Gunsmoke"?

We thought a walk up to the mailbox would do us good. The round trip is one mile with a wee incline that Fitbit counts as four flights of stairs. The saunter put a dent in our cycle of inertia, but not quite enough to quell the restlessness. Adding a bit more to the walk made sense. But for the purpose-driven, a walk should have a goal, so we toted plastic bags along to pick up cans, bottles, candy wrappers and other treasures along our tributary of the Key Pen Highway.

I feel no remorse about my lack of compassion for graceless people somehow compelled to discard their debris along the road. I can only imagine these pampered but ill-fated souls had mothers or maids to pick up after them, depriving them of the opportunity to learn how to deal with detritus or master other basic life skills.

But de-littering a local road has its own subtle rewards: It is akin to spying on your neighbors. In the first few days, their signature behaviors became evident.

There was Cigarillo Guy. Obviously, littering the interior of his vehicle with cigarillo plastic tips was unthinkable. He — and I unapologetically assume he is a he — usually finishes his skinny cigar within a few yards of the intersection at 88th Street.

Another neighbor seems to need one more drink before tucking in for the night. He (or she?) tosses their mini-bottles between 72nd and 76th. Do you suppose the impact of favorite watering hole closures has created a boost in mini-single-serve booze sales?

Also, I do sympathize with the habit of those anonymous smokers repulsed by the idea of retaining their own cigarette butts, avoiding periodic in-vehicle clean-up by just flicking away that annoying ciggie stubble. But I hereby request that they please use the installed purpose-built receptacle — some call it an "ash tray." They may have no worries about starting a roadside fire, but the worst offenders are those who opt for tossing their butts in gag-inducing mixtures of partially filled booze bottles.

But our litter reduction efforts have paid off. Our right-of-way is now relatively trash-free, except for Cigarillo Guy and mister or miss One-More-for-the-Road.

To compensate for the reduction of entertaining treasure hunts, and missing

the benefits of deep squats, we went to work on the Scotch broom.

Although we are making steady progress dislodging the golden horde from our road south to Devil's Head, several stands still flourish. We have encountered dense patches of resistant individuals that will not yield to hand-pulling. More aggressive attacks with shovel and weed wrench will soon be part of the battle plan.

You may think this is a curious way for a couple of 80-year-olds to spend their twilight time, but for several years I thought it would be fun to make April "Scotch Broom Eradication Month" on the Key. I thought a catchy tagline for the effort would be "Pull Your Own Weight — In Scotch Broom," especially appropriate if the kick-off date was April Fools' Day.

One motivator for our ongoing effort was figuring out exactly what "Pull Your Own Weight" entailed. Upon reflection, I realized that for me the stated goal may be out of reach. I have learned that by leaving the bigger plants for David and not working fast enough to generate a my-size bundle means that if I am going to pull my own weight, I will have to go back on a serious diet.

But when I paused to look back at our handiwork, the unsightly Scotch broom debris left behind was appalling. As soon as David empties the truck of gravel he uses to maintain our private road, we need to drive that 4-mile stretch of the Key Pen Highway to pick up the scattered golden wreckage. Who knows, by the time that happens we may even uncover another month's worth of spent liquor bottles and cigarette butts.

*Award-winning writer Carolyn Wiley patrols the byways of Longbranch.*

## Caleb Galbreath RISING TIDES



### In These Uncertain Times

I have been bombarded with this phrase through emails, ads on TV, radio, news media and everyday conversations. But it doesn't resonate with me. The times have always felt uncertain to me.

I think this is largely a product of my age. I'm young — or at least that's what I'm told when I complain about feeling old — and most of my life thus far can be characterized as uncertain.

I know I'm not alone in this, most of my friends feel the same way. I once asked a

mentor of mine if there were periods of his life when he felt like he had no clue what was going on or what he was doing.

He replied, “Yes, my 20s.”

So maybe this uncertainty just comes with the territory. I’m still learning who I am and where I fit in the world; there’s a lot of uncertainty in that.

But I think it gives me a different perspective on our current emergency. Because that’s what this is: the current emergency.

This isn’t to say I’m immune to the effects — physical or otherwise — of the coronavirus. As a freelance writer, work is slow, at best, for me. I’ve had to apply for unemployment benefits for the first time in my life.

And besides a few bad joints, I’m healthy. I’m not overly worried about what will happen if I get the virus. I have a safe place to self-isolate and I’m confident I’d recover.

To me, this is yet another storm and the chaos it brings is familiar to me. So I look at it the way I do in any time of chaos within my life and I ask myself: How can I adapt?

The philosopher Sun Tzu said, “In the midst of chaos, there is opportunity.”

We’re seeing our ways of life flipped on their heads because of this pandemic. And I don’t think that’s entirely bad. I think it’s an opportunity for growth and change. It’s uncomfortable, but discomfort is essentially requisite for growth of any kind.

Take for example telecommuting, the logistics and efficacy of which have been debated for years. Right now, we’re reliant on telecommuting, it’s the only way for many people to work. And we’re learning that people like it and productivity is even higher in some job sectors.

What if we abandon our reservations about working from home? What if we could reduce the amount of office spaces we need in this country and redirect that real estate to combat housing deficiencies?

Spaces that are only in use during business hours and parts of the week, now housing people instead. Fewer people commuting into work would mean less traffic, resulting in reduced carbon emissions and theoretically faster transportation of products that could have positive economic impacts.

This pandemic has exposed many problems in how parts of our society are structured. From our health care system to food distribution — there are so many examples of ways we can take what we’re learning from this crisis and use that to improve.

When I hear people say: “I can’t wait for things to go back to normal,” I can’t help but feel a bit disheartened. I know what they mean, they miss their lives, their friends and family. I do too.

But I look at how the coronavirus has stressed so many of our country’s issues

and I think to myself: why would we go back to the status quo?

One of the few things I know about the world is that change is inevitable. Sometimes it knocks on the door, other times, like right now, it kicks the door down and makes itself at home.

We can effect change on our terms or we can wait for change to affect us. We are the captains of our fate.

*Caleb Galbreath is a freelance journalist who lives in Longbranch.*



**Lynn Larson**  
STEPPING BACK

## The Spirit of Pestilence

A Haida Indian term, the spirit of pestilence referred to the tides of smallpox, measles, influenza, and malaria that swept native villages and camps on the Northwest Coast during the late 1700s through 1874. On Puget Sound, an especially virulent measles epidemic between 1847 and 1848 occurred first at Fort Nisqually in what is now Dupont, and was followed by the latest of four waves of smallpox in 1853.

As in our own pandemic, native people had no immunity to what was coming. Very little is known about the native village on Filucy Bay, which disappeared in the mid-1850s, but it was likely wiped out by two terrible diseases within 10 years. The village was called *tsba’kəb* and the people of this village were the *tsba’kəbabc*, the suffix *-abc* meaning “people of.”

The people of *tsba’kəb* were allied in language and culture with the villages north of them on Carr Inlet at Minter Bay, Glencove and the head of Burley Lagoon. They had strong family connections with the Minter Bay village cemented through generations of intermarriage. Families left *tsba’kəb* in the spring and summer on expeditions to join families from other villages to fish, dig roots, pick and dry berries, dig and dry clams, to collect medicinal plants, and cattails and tules for making baskets and mats.

The headman of the Filucy Bay village was *to’lskid*, who taught the children of Michael Simmons the native language. Simmons, one of the earliest settlers on Puget Sound, staked his claim at Deschutes Falls in Tumwater in 1845, and was later an Indian agent and interpreter at the Medicine Creek Treaty negotiations. By 1855, *to’lskid* had died, and we hear no more of the village on Filucy Bay, though the clam drying camps continued on a seasonal basis.

Between 1845, when *to’lskid* met Michael Simmons and 1855, the outside date

of *to’lskid*’s death, the native people of Southern Puget Sound were hit with two epidemics. The measles epidemic from December 1847 through June 1848 was brought to Fort Nisqually by Hudson Bay Company employees. Treatment advised by Indian doctors consisting of a hard sweat in a sweathouse followed by a plunge into the waters of Puget Sound only increased the mortality rates. Still more lives were lost through dysentery and pneumonia after measles had run its course.

The smallpox epidemic, a mere six years later, also struck Fort Nisqually, where Dr. Tolmie tried to vaccinate as many people as he could with cowpox. But mortality rates were high among those who had not experienced the earlier waves of smallpox — the babies and the children. As a headman, *to’lskid* would have visited Fort Nisqually with his party of friends and relatives to trade and visit with the tribesmen who came from around the Puget Sound region — the same tribesmen who in turn carried first measles and then smallpox back to their villages and the camps they visited on the way.

Not only could *to’lskid* and his party have brought measles and smallpox to his winter home on Filucy Bay, but the natural resources there were a magnet for other native groups that came in the summer and fall to camp and visit. We don’t know how *to’lskid* died, but it is certain that the networks of native culture, involving travel and socializing and working with various other groups every year, as is the case for contemporary American society, operated against them in a time of pestilence.

Seventy to 80 percent of the indigenous population of Puget Sound died from introduced diseases. Entire villages were lost; sometimes not one person remained to bury the dead.

Pestilence changed all facets of native culture: subsistence systems, trade networks and fertility rates. Infants and older children died, leaving a nearly childless generation; fertility was depressed in adults, and holes gaped in leadership lineages. Health and religion, inextricably intertwined, were disrupted. Indian doctors were killed for their inability to cure, and the door opened to Christian missionaries. Settlers established homestead claims on abandoned village sites.

For the native people of Puget Sound and Filucy Bay, the spirit of pestilence brought a time of terrible suffering and unimaginable cultural change. We have no idea what the ramifications are for our own pandemic, but surely we, and our cultural systems, will be profoundly altered.

*Lynn Larson is an archaeologist and anthropologist who lives on Filucy Bay.*

**Dan Whitmarsh**  
WRITING BY FAITH



## What I Know to Be True

The Key Peninsula, like the rest of the world, is beset by turbulent times. COVID-19, financial upheaval and social reorganization are changing every aspect of our lives.

In many of my conversations I hear anxiety, anger and uncertainty. Our news and social media are filled with competing voices about how to move forward. Trying to make sense of it all is exhausting.

I was recently in a conversation with pastors and chaplains, and one man offered a helpful word. He said that while there is a lot we don’t know, there is much we do know, and focusing our time and energy there helps us stay grounded. To that end I’ve been compiling a list of what I know to be true.

I know a seed planted in the ground becomes a plant, providing food for my family and the world. We may face food shortages, but I can plant a garden or a fruit tree, and so begin to meet real needs.

I know people are hurting and in need of a little mercy. Businesses are closing and people are losing jobs. Many are experiencing grief and pain. A kind word, gesture or smile can go a long way in diffusing the anxiety many are feeling.

I know the KP has resourceful groups and agencies working to support our vulnerable populations. We have organizations offering food, financial and emotional support, medical care, legal aid, deliveries, and a friendly face to people facing the worst of this crisis.

I know that it is easy to spread this virus unknowingly and wearing a mask, along with social distancing, is a way of loving my neighbor. Many point to the American ideal of freedom to do as we please, but as a Christian I know that I am bound by a higher ideal of sacrificing rights for the good of my neighbor.

I know there are bad agents spreading misinformation and care is needed in discerning reliable sources. Propaganda still works, and we need to learn to separate facts from conspiracy theories.

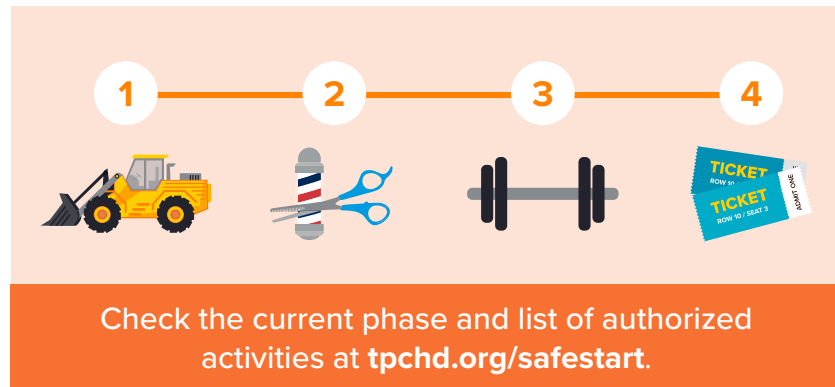
I know that the virus is unmasking the brokenness of our economic system. People can’t afford medical care, rent or groceries after just a few weeks without work, revealing a system that is inequitable and unjust. Putting our lives back together must include addressing the inequalities in society.

CONTINUED PAGE 12

# Safe Start

Tacoma-Pierce County  
**Health Department**  
*Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

The state is reopening businesses, recreation, gatherings and travel in 4 phases.



When will our staff return to the Key Peninsula Office?



We'll be back as soon as we can.  
 Watch [tpchd.org/kp](https://tpchd.org/kp) for updates.

Learn more at [tpchd.org/coronavirus](https://tpchd.org/coronavirus).

WHITMARSH FROM PAGE 11

While coronavirus claims the news cycles, I know other issues haven't disappeared. Racism, addiction, abuse, poverty, loneliness, cancer and other sicknesses still exist. It is important to continue to work toward healing and support for all who suffer, no matter the cause.

I know I owe a debt of gratitude to health care workers, educators, grocery store clerks and all who put their health on the line for my sake.

I know that our world has endured difficult times before, and when people came together, dug deep, and worked hard, they emerged stronger and made the world better. I walk in hope that this will not be what destroys us but will, instead, be our finest hour.

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

## OBITUARIES



Scott Allen Gallacher

Scott Allen Gallacher died unexpectedly April 30. He was 49 years old.

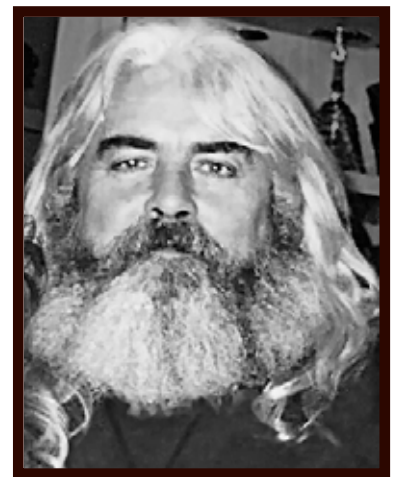
He was born in Portland, Oregon, Aug. 10, 1970 to James and Carolyn Gallacher. He graduated from Mariner High School in 1989. He received an A.A. degree from Everett Community College in 1991 and went on to receive dual B.A. degrees in business administration and recreation and leisure studies from Washington State University in 1993. He married his wife, Kirsten, in 1996 and moved with his young family to the Key Peninsula in 2005.

Scott spent his early career working for the Mukilteo YMCA, Redmond Boys and Girls Club, City of Everett and City of Marysville. For the last 15 years, he was the executive director of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District (Key Pen Parks). Scott loved his community and worked tirelessly to build a system of parks that everyone could enjoy. He was a member

of the National Recreation Park Association, Washington Recreation Park Association and the Key Peninsula Business Association. He also served many years as a volunteer coach with KP Little League, a volunteer soccer coach with Harbor Soccer, an umpire with USSSA and a referee for the City of Redmond.

Scott loved the outdoors and cherished his annual summer vacations at Lake Tahoe with his family. He enjoyed playing softball, golf and card games such as gin and jack's back. Scott spent many hours on home improvement and yard projects, and although he wasn't very speedy, he was quite handy. He would do anything for his family and friends, but his children were his top priority. He worked tirelessly in order to provide a great life for them. He was selfless, determined and one who got things done. Scott was devoted to his friends and would never pass up an opportunity to get together. He was always the life of the party. His family will give Scott one last chance to be the "life of the party" at a Celebration of Life later this summer (date pending due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

Scott is survived by his loving wife of 24 years, Kirsten; his daughter, Haylie (18); his son, Caden (16); his father, Jim, and stepmother, Cyndy; and his sister, Kari.



James Bernard Jensen

James Bernard Jensen, also known as "Jim," "Gym," "Big Daddy," "The Sheriff," "Daddio" and a slew of other names, died at his home on the hill in Lakebay, where he most certainly was at peace, April 24.

Jim was born in Tacoma Feb. 20, 1945 to Lars and Vera Jensen and was baptized into the Catholic Church. He attended Saint Patrick's Catholic School, Mason Junior High, and graduated from Stadium High. He often shared his fondness of getting smacked on the knuckles by a ruler.

Along with the mother of his children, Delores, he moved from Tacoma to the Key Peninsula in the early 1980s in hopes of creating an independent and solitary life-

**GLEN COVE REPAIR** 253 884-1838  
 Henry Dahl at Coulter Creek: Photo courtesy Key Peninsula Historical Museum

style — befitting the history of the Home Colony. He was an artist who enjoyed the creativity required by living off-the-grid. With that came the hope of propagating a certain herb, later legalized. Needless to say, he was way ahead of his time.

In his later days on the KP, he could often be seen on the road. He referred to it as “the tour of homes,” cruising the roads of this place he called home at a whopping 25 miles per hour. He never missed a beat when it came to even a slight change in the neighborhood.

His older sister Diane Hawkins and younger brother Robert went to heaven before him. Jim leaves behind his brother Chic and his three sisters, Teres Millar, Margaret Smith and M’Lis Aleshire; two sons and two daughters, seven grandchildren and a plethora of Key Peninsula dwellers.

Jim will undoubtedly be missed by many. He was quite a character. Rest in peace Daddio. A memorial service is planned for sometime this summer.

## Fire District Begins 2020 Levy Campaign

**Fire Chief Dustin Morrow spells out district funding mechanisms and needs.**

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

Key Peninsula Fire District 16 will return to the voting public for a four-year renewal of its Maintenance and Operation Levy Tuesday, August 4.

“The levy that we ran in 2019 was focused specifically around our EMS operations, the medical side of our house. This levy is our fire side of the house,” said KPFD Chief Dustin Morrow. The levy pays for salaries, training costs, administration and repairs for the fire and life protection services of the district.

The Maintenance and Operation (M&O) levy was first on the ballot in 2012 and reapproved in 2016. Unlike other funding options for the district, the M&O levy requires a specific financial goal. “We don’t get to ask for 35 cents per \$1,000, we have to come out and say a dollar amount,” Morrow said. “Then that number, depending on the community’s assessed value, sets the millage rate.”

The 2020 resolution maintains the \$800,000 per year target of the last two levies. Although the amount requested remains the same, rising property values have decreased the approximate taxation rate by about 35 percent. Changes on the KP have also brought new challenges for Fire District 16, but according to Morrow

the district has decided to leave the M&O levy unchanged for now.

“Although our fire district could use additional funding, we feel like this is not the right time to ask the community that question,” he said, citing uncertainty surrounding the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. “We’re going to work within what we have.” Morrow also mentioned the renewal of the EMS levy in 2019 as a contributing factor to the district’s decision.

The August 4 vote, like previous levy elections, will require a 60 percent supermajority to pass. The total turnout must also equal at least 40 percent of the last general election for the measure to be approved. Despite a distracted public, Morrow said he is confident that voters will turn out.

“The feedback that we’ve received suggests that people are still engaged with us, and will remain engaged with us through the vote,” he said. “It’s a known commodity in the community, and it’s a pretty straightforward ask.”

Morrow also feels that the community pandemic response will contribute to a successful levy campaign. “I feel really excited about how our community has rallied around this entire outbreak, and I think that our fire district has done an amazing job to stay connected to them and provide guidance.”

After the election in August, the funding cycle will continue for Fire District 16. Another EMS levy “lid lift” measure is likely in the next two years to keep up with rising property values on the KP. Morrow also suggested the possibility of FD16 issuing a capital bond at some point in the early 2020s.

“I think that some time in 2022 and 2023 you’re going to see this district in front of the community sharing our needs surrounding apparatus replacement and building upgrades,” he said. “Some of our fixed infrastructure is getting close to or is already at the end of its service life.”

## Support for KP News Fuels Growth

**Three years ago, the publishing board set a strategic goal of financial stability.**

STAFF REPORT

As local community newspapers around the country falter, consolidate or suspend operations, the Key Peninsula News continues to prosper, fueled by enthusiastic readers, advertisers and a growing list of financial underwriters.

The most recent grant was awarded by the Gig Harbor Morning Rotary Club to support developing enhanced online community service capabilities with a new website launching this summer.

Support from The Angel Guild has sponsored the newspaper’s popular print and online community calendar for the past five years. For 2020, a generous grant was added to underwrite printing costs for the first quarter.

The newspaper’s annual giving campaign has benefited from readers’ appreciation year after year. In 2019, the campaign set a new record, with readers’ donations spurred by a matching program from the Fund for Nonprofit News at the Miami Foundation. The \$22,000 matching funds were made possible by donations from the Democracy Fund, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation, the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, the Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust, the Dirk and Natasha Ziff Foundation, and the Present Progressive Fund at Schwab Charitable, along with supporting partners across the U.S.

Advertising support not only shows community support, it directly funds two-thirds of the newspaper’s budget. The pandemic has not curtailed the support of local businesses; in fact advertisers have increased their reliance on Key Peninsula News to reach their customers.

The newspaper’s financial independence is assured by increased underwriting, advertising and reader donations. While other community papers close, the KP News is adding circulation, new donors and gracious notes of appreciation from readers.

## County Road Projects Move Ahead on KP

**It wouldn’t be summer without road construction. An upcoming open house on two projects will provide an opportunity for community input.**

STAFF REPORT

Progress continues as scheduled to install more sidewalks in Key Center along a 385-foot section of Olson Drive NW west of the intersection with Key Peninsula Hwy NW.

Pierce County Engineer Brian Stacy said the \$337,000 project is on track for completion by the end of June. The cost is funded by the Pierce County Road Fund and Washington State County Road Administration Board Rural Arterial Program Funds.

Work began as scheduled April 28 with temporary erosion control measures and site clearing. Crews are widening that portion of Olson Road NW and installing storm drainage, followed by installation of curbs, gutters and sidewalks. Finally, the road surface will be repaved before the project is completed. The majority of the work is expected to be done the first week of June with some final tasks wrapping up by mid-June.

Travel delays are anticipated, with two-way traffic reduced at times to a single alternating lane during working hours between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE ON TWO ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

The announcement of an open house for discussion on two county road projects was prepared and ready but temporarily placed on hold during the immediate health care crisis. Stacy said to expect public notification of the open house in late May, in anticipation of the lifting of Gov. Jay Inslee’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order in June.

The open house concerns County Road Project 5769, the accident-prone three-way intersection where the KP Highway meets Lackey Road NW and Jackson Lake Road NW, and CRP 5897, which would extend 186th Avenue NW to provide an essential alternate thoroughway for emergency access to the south end of the KP in the event the KP Highway is blocked.

“I find the community out there to be very engaged in the various infrastructure needs,” Stacy said. “It’s that type of thoughtful feedback that helps us as we prioritize our limited resources to the highest and best use for the citizens of the Key Pen area.”

**BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

CRP 5794 will provide a seismic retrofit of the bridge at Herron Road NW. The project went out for construction bids in April. It will be partially funded by a federal grant.

CRP 5871 will replace the bridge over Glencove Creek at Cramer Road NW. Currently in design phase, it is anticipated to go to construction in 2022 with more than \$3 million in federal grant funding.

**CHIP SEALING SLATED**

The county chip sealing program will focus on the south end of the KP this summer. Whiteman Road SW, 76th Street SW, Bay Road SW, Rouse Road SW and Erikson Road SW are all scheduled to receive the treatment, extending the life of the pavement.



# HOORAY FOR 2020 GRADS

**Congratulations to this sample of tomorrow's leaders, parents, voters, neighbors.**

**We join your classmates, parents, teachers, friends and potential employers in celebrating your achievements. Have a happy (socially distanced) graduation!**

**LOREN BERBERICH** Sidney Glen Elementary in Port Orchard, Key Peninsula Middle School. Varsity cross country and track runner, Knowledge Bowl and Speech & Debate teams. Attending Monmouth College in Illinois to study history and government.

**SHELBY RENE BURNS** W.D. Hall Elementary in El Cajon, California, and KPMS. Shelby will graduate Peninsula High School with straight A's and a 3.95 GPA. She plans to attend Olympic College to get her AA in arts. "We can't wait to see what her future holds!" Love Dad, Mom and Alyssa.

**NOAH BUSH** Homeschooled for elementary; KPMS. "Noah is a talented self-taught musician who loves skateboarding and making people laugh. He is intelligent, compassionate, and makes his parents very proud!"

**AUDREY CAIN** Minter Creek Elementary and Harbor Ridge Middle School. "We are so proud of you. Follow your dreams. Stay true to who you are." Love, Mom and Steve.

**DONOVAN CARTER** Vaughn Elementary, KPMS. "Congratulations Donovan, we are so proud of you!"

**NOLAN CASEY** Homeschooled until 11th grade, then PHS. Attending North Idaho College. "Congratulations Nolan! He excelled as a PHS football player, wrestler and student. Your future is bright!"

**SARAH CATTERALL** Vaughn, KPMS. Attending TCC Running Start. She will be going on to study psychology. "We are so proud of all of her hard work and dedication. Not sure what the next chapter holds for the 2020 graduates, but we wish them all the best!"

**JASON CRITCHFIELD** Vaughn, KPMS. "A very caring young man. School was never easy for him but he made it. Congratulations Jason."

**TIEN DAVIS** Attending Cornish College of the Arts to major in music. He dreams of one day helping other young musicians hone their skills by starting a nonprofit competitive drumline on this side of the Narrows.

**IAN DOWNEN** Homeschool until ninth grade; PHS. Ian plans to attend Tacoma Community College.

**CHLOE DUTTRY** Vaughn, KPMS. Chloe will be going to University of Washington or Washington State University to earn a master's in architecture.

**ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.** Olalla Elementary, John Sedgwick Junior High. "Shout out to class of 2020! You will forever have the most interesting stories to tell about your senior year."

**CELIA EMENS** Evergreen, KPMS. "One day I hope to be a marine biologist."

**JUDE ENDSLEY** Minter Creek, Harbor Ridge. Attending Western Washington University. "Congratulations Jude, we are so proud of you! We love you!"

**ISAIAH FAHEY** Vaughn, KPMS. "We are so proud of you. We are excited to see all you do in the future! Go Huskies!"

**TYLER FERGUSON** Evergreen, KPMS.

**MARIANNE GIBBONS** Evergreen and home schooled. Eastern Washington University in the fall for a double major in biology and mechanical engineering.

**BEN GOINS** Vaughn, KPMS.

**SUMMER GOWER** Minter, Harbor Ridge. Attending North Idaho College to learn about elementary education.

**TRISTIN GRONDAHL** Vaughn, KPMS.

**RYEN HALL** Minter, KPMS, Running Start at TCC, then starting the EMS program with plans to become a firefighter. "So proud of Ryen and the amazing, genuine and hardworking person she is. Congrats Ryen, we love you!"

**TYLER HEALD** "Everyone came together to help the seniors and it means a lot."

**RUBI HIGH** Vaughn, KPMS. "We could not be more proud of you! You're strong, beautiful, smart, funny — and our daughter! We love you!" Mom and Dad.

**JOEY "GTL" HIX** Homeschooled class of 2020.

**BRANDON HOOVER** Evergreen, Minter Creek, KPMS. Brandon will attend Olympic College, throwing javelin and hammer for the track team, and plans to become a high school math teacher.

**MASON JAMES HYDE** Minter, Harbor Ridge. Attending Boise State University.

**EMILY JENKINS** Vaughn, KPMS. Graduating PHS with her AA and attending WSU.

**IAN KNAPP** Vaughn, KPMS, PHS, Henderson Bay. "High school was more than an experience for me, it was a challenge that I had the opportunity to overcome. Fear and failure were obstacles in my path, but in the process I found my purpose and myself."

**NATALIE KUHAU** Enterprise Elementary and Illahee Middle School.

**TYLER LEE** Minter and Gaudrone Middle School. "We are so proud of Tyler. We look forward to your future. Mom and Jesse love you!"

**HANNAH PAIGE LERMAN.** "We couldn't be more proud of this young lady; she truly is the real deal. Her unprecedented passion to make a difference is inspiring. Congratulations Hannah!"

**COLBY MARSHALL** Purdy Elementary, Vaughn, KPMS. "Colby is smart and passionate about everything he does. May his future be filled with success and adventure."

**GEHRIG MATISON** Vaughn, KPMS. "Class of 2020 = Resilience. I'm ready to move on!"

**SKYLAR MCANALLY** Vaughn, KPMS. "She is proud to say she is a four year theater student! She will be attending BYU-I in the fall."

**KARA MCKINNEY** Vaughn, KPMS. Three-sport scholar athlete at PHS. Attending University of Idaho.

**MATT NESBIT** Evergreen, KPMS. Attending Olympic College with plans to transfer to Oregon State to study forestry. He thanks his teachers and coaches for their support.

**KYLE O'BRIEN** Olalla Elementary, KPMS. "Your parents are so proud of you. Seize the day and reach for your future."

**JACK PORTER OLINGER.** Vaughn, KPMS. Attending Montana State University to study aerospace engineering "and either build rockets or fly them."

**AMELIO PENA** Vaughn, KPMS.

**GRACE REED** Minter and homeschooled. "We are so proud of our daughter Grace. She will finish her AA degree at Olympic College and continue to pursue a career in forensic biology."

**LILLIAN ROBERTS** Vaughn, KPMS.

**TIFFANY CHRISTINA ROSE.** Minter Creek, Harbor Ridge, KPMS. Choir, theater, life guarding, volunteering, AP classes and Health Occupations Students of America. Attending Pacific Lutheran University. "We are all so proud of you!"

**YAZMIN SABER** Minter, Harbor Ridge. Finished her AA through Running Start at TCC.

**ERICA ROSE SCHAEFER.** Evergreen, KPMS. "Erica, you are all things amazing! We are so proud of the woman you've become!"

**WILLOW SHANIAH** Olympic Elementary and Yelm Middle School. "I'm graduating from Discovery Alternative High School. I moved to Wauna recently and am proud to be graduating from an amazing school."

**AMAYA SHEETS** Minter, Harbor Ridge. Graduating at the top of her class, President of Interact Club, class senator, and Student of Distinction Award Recipient. Attending University of Hawaii to major in marine biology.

**DANIEL SHURR** Vaughn, KPMS. Attending WSU. "Senior year was cut short, but our minor setbacks trigger major comebacks so I will use the lessons I learned from this to excel later in life."

**GILLIAN ROSE SIMPSON** Minter, Harbor Ridge. "We are so proud of you with all you have accomplished now and what you'll do in the future! Keep following your passions and dreams. We love you forever!"

**ASHLEY SPRABEARY** Spirit Lake Elementary in Idaho, Manson Junior High, and Henderson Bay. "So proud of you Ashley!"

**CURTIS STAPLES** Evergreen, KPMS. "I have been in Peninsula School District all my life. I would like to thank all my teachers, especially my band teachers (Ms. Webb, Mr. Ehli and Ms. Webster) who pushed me to become a better musician."

**FORREST ROCCO STOICAN.** Evergreen, KPMS. "We are so proud of you! We love ya to the moon and back, keep up the great work!" Love, Mom and Dad

**REID STURN** Light House Christian School; PHS. Varsity four year baseball. Attending Lindfield University to play baseball and study sports management and finance.

**JESSIKA URDAHL** Purdy, Harbor Ridge. Jessica enjoys tennis, yearbook, working at Camp Seymour, camping, and spending time with her family and friends. Attending TCC in the fall for a degree in animal biology.

**ALLISON VALDEZ** Vaughn, KPMS. An exceptional student graduating with honors, Allison participated in cross country all four years of high school. Although COVID-19 impacted this school year, she is making the most out of each day and remains so optimistic about the future.

**JONNA WAAGE** Artondale and Discovery Elementary; Goodman Middle School. Jonna completed her high school career in the top 10 in her class and was a dedicated three-sport athlete.

**JAYDEN WOOLLEY** Minter, Harbor Ridge, Liberty High School in Madera Ranchos, California. "Graduating as captain of the varsity soccer team and with a 4.0. We are so proud of you, Jayden!"

## SENIOR SALUTE FROM PAGE 1

**I am very empathetic to these students** who have seen their lives turned upside down by this epidemic. We have a lot of problems that need solving. As I've met these young people, I've seen their superpower is making a positive difference. My advice is to get involved — participate — exercise those superpowers to make a difference, because we need you. *U.S. Congressman Derek Kilmer*

**The Class of 2020 was born in the** aftermath of 9/11, and they are graduating during the most bizarre and unprecedented times in recent history. Our graduates are managing with patience, grace and strength beyond their years. On behalf of the Peninsula School Board, congratulations to the Class of 2020. Always follow your dreams and live the life you imagined. *Deb Krishnadasan, Peninsula School District Director and Board President*

**You will not be made whole.** Your life is going to be filled with senseless things and senseless people. And it doesn't matter why; fate doesn't care what you think. Wondering about it undermines the only real power you have, which is over yourself. That's a lesson most of us weren't forced to learn until much later in life. So, there's a graduation gift for you. You're already way ahead of us. *Local Parent*

**I've been in your shoes. Not once,** but many times in my 50 years. As graduating seniors, you were expecting the norm, and then this crazy outbreak dealt you a new set of cards. It's this adversity that comes throughout life's journey that is the shoes. As an individual who did not graduate high school in typical fashion, I can feel your mixed emotions — the excitement, the anxiety, the fear, the freedom, and the unknown. Everything you are experiencing right now is as it is supposed to be. Embrace it. It will help you grow, solidifying your character and your values. It's been many days since my graduation, but I will tell you my life has been rich — with adversity and the opportunities that come with it. Lace up those shoes and run! *Dustin Morrow, KPFD 16 Fire Chief*

**It is often said that it is not what** happens to a person that matters. It is the response to the circumstances that matters most. The class of 2020 has performed remarkably through their years of schooling and this includes

the final semester that was cut short as a result of the pandemic closure. Our seniors continue to make us proud and hopeful. Go Seahawks! *Joe Potts, Ph.D., Peninsula High School Principal*

**You are history makers. And I hope** you never forget that you can do absolutely anything. You found the grit and grace you needed to graduate amidst a global pandemic. That same grit and grace will help you do whatever you set your mind to, and I'm so excited to see what's next. Whether you choose to bring art or healing, education or entrepreneurship into this world; whether you become an essential worker helping operate our supply chains, developing our cities, or providing care for our community members — I know you're going to be brilliant. I know you're going to do so much good in this world. And I know you're going to keep making history. *State Senator Emily Randall*

**I commend you for a job well done** as you prepare to graduate and move on to the next chapter in your life. Although the last third of your senior year did not unfold as you expected, I witnessed how many of your turned challenges into opportunities, and you should be proud of that! Your graduating class will undoubtedly remember this pandemic with mixed emotions, yet your resilience has proven that you are overcomers! *Colleen Speer, Executive Director, Communities In Schools of Peninsula*

**"Young people are the future leaders** of our community." This statement has never been more true. Dealing with and adapting to the unprecedented challenges that this pandemic has thrown in their path, the class of 2020 will be uniquely qualified to think outside the box and help guide the community into the world of the "new normal." *Don Swensen, President, KP Community Council*

**As a proud graduate of Peninsula** Schools, it is an honor to congratulate the class of 2020. I applaud the imaginative ways our district and the entire community are recognizing our graduating seniors while staying safe. This isn't the graduation you expected, but it is still essential to take some time to say that we're proud of you, and wish you the best of luck in all your endeavors. *Derek M. Young, Pierce County Councilmember*



PHS staff welcome seniors as they collect their caps and gowns. *Photo: Peninsula School District, Larry Steagall*

## KEY PENINSULA 2020 SEAHAWK SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Triston Bigelow	Hannah Summer Gower	Ashleigh Taylor Pasquale	Grace Reed
Blake Peter Bosselmann	Green Brittney Guilliot	Reed Lillian Roberts	Tiffany Rose
Julia Bruno	Victoria Bryan	Claralynn Hammel	Jaelee Yazmin Saber
Shelby Burns	Kayla Henneman	Lexy Holden	Erica Schaefer
Cameron Nolan	Casey Brandon Hoover	Mason Sheets	Daniel Shurr
Holly Cheney	Skye Collins	Hyde Emily Jenkins	Katelyn Spotten
Tien Davis	Ian Downen	Matthew Johnson	Juliet Stedman
Chloe Duttry	Kaytlin Lent	Sophia Lent	Hannah Forrest
Edwards Celia	Emens Lerman	Anastin Lindsay	Isabella Tefft
Jude Endsley	Isaiah Ashleigh Martin	Gehrig Allison	Valdez Ashlyn
Fahey Audrey	Farley Matison	Kara McKinney	Valdez Jonna
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Superintendent Art Jarvis celebrates the seniors during the drive-through graduation cap and gown distribution at PHS May 11. *Photo: Peninsula School District, Larry Steagall*

## Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund Awards More than \$300,000

A bunch of lucky – and hardworking – seniors received \$500 to \$9,500.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Much was celebrated May 20 when 166 Peninsula High School graduating seniors, 62 from the Key Peninsula, were awarded more than \$300,000 in scholarships from the Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund. The awards ceremony, historically an event that fills the PHS auditorium, was live-streamed.

Hayley Nichols, a 1991 graduate and herself a scholarship recipient, is a PHSF board member and chair of the donations committee. She said that the program owes some of its success to its ability to engage donors. If they wish, for a minimum donation, they can set up their own scholarship with specifications that are most meaningful to them. Criteria may include such things as attending a particular elementary or middle school, academic achievement, sports played, plans for a major or interest in a specific vocation. Donors can also choose to give to the community fund at any level.

“We have so much support from the KP,” Nichols said. Businesses, individuals and organizations all donate. “It is phenomenal. When I came into this and was learning who to contact for donations, I found out it was not the rich. It is the people who may have struggled and understand. It is amazing how much they give. And for students, getting a scholarship is more than just the money. It is about people believing you can make it.”

The fund was established in 1984 by PHS parent Avon Gay when \$7,000 was awarded. In addition to donations from individuals, businesses and organizations, PHSF owns and operates the Seahawk Academic and Vocational Education (SAVE) Thrift Store near the high school and is staffed in part by a rotating cast of PHS students. All profits go to support scholarships.

Students who want to apply for scholarships must complete a notebook that includes a statement of purpose, a transcript, activities, volunteer hours, and a portfolio with examples of their work such as art, writing or pictures from their sports team.

A group of five community volunteers who are not members of the PHSF board or parents of PHS students reads all of the notebooks. Donors may decide to read the notebooks themselves and select the award recipients, or they may ask the community

volunteers to make the selection.

“It is such a fabulous program,” said Deanna Russell, board treasurer. “Our goal is to give every student who applies a scholarship.” This year every student received at least \$500. The number of scholarships per student ranged from one to eight, and the total amount awarded ranged from \$500 to \$9,500.

The pandemic upended the usual flow for the scholarship fund.

Under normal circumstances PHSF holds an open house, inviting donors to review notebooks that have been screened to meet their criteria. A student may receive more than one scholarship, though each student is guaranteed to get at least \$300. The stay at home and social distancing orders came just as the open house was

scheduled. Nichols scanned the notebooks and donors accessed them online.

The thrift store, too, was closed until recently. Kendra Zartmann, who manages the store, started working there as a volunteer about five years ago and took over as manager a year and a half ago. She has adjusted operations to comply with state restrictions. She is now able to take donations — the store accepts everything except furniture — by appointment, posts what is available on the SAVE Facebook page, and schedules pick-ups on Fridays.

Within the store itself only a few volunteers are present at any given time. They wear masks and gloves, and any donations are quarantined for two days before they are sorted. Students had been active in the store, learning skills by cashiering, pricing and marketing. Zartmann plans to bring them back when it’s safe.

Nichols, who works fulltime, described her work with PHSF as her second job. “I gave up my other volunteer jobs because this one has so many rewards. The looks on the faces of the students when they receive the scholarships — it really gives the best bang for your buck for the time involved.”

PHSF welcomes volunteers. “There are so many opportunities,” Russell said. “We can find a place for people no matter what level of time commitment or skill set they have.”

“OUR GOAL IS TO GIVE EVERY STUDENT WHO APPLIES A SCHOLARSHIP.”

“WE HAVE SO MUCH SUPPORT FROM THE KP.”

### KEY PEN COLLEGE GRADUATES

**JANELLE BROCKMAN** Home schooled; PHS. Graduating from Pacific Lutheran University with a Bachelor of Arts in both business administration and religion, with a focus on East Asian religions. “It was a long journey, but I am ever thankful to my parents, for all my struggles, and for the lessons I learned. Go Lutes!”

**SAVEK BUTORAC** Evergreen, KPMS, PHS. Graduating from the University of Washington with a dual degree in architectural design and construction management.

**BLAKE COHOE** Vaughn, KPMS, PHS. Graduating from Washington State University summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry. Attending Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine in Spokane on a U.S. Air Force Scholarship. “Thank you to all the family, friends, and educators who have helped him achieve the dream he voiced at KPMS, when he was quoted in the Stars and Stripes in seventh grade.”

**MACKENZIE MILLS** Vaughn, KPMS, PHS. Graduating with honors from Johns Hopkins University majoring in earth and planetary sciences, minoring in physics. President of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the Earth Honor Society, and received the William A. Tarr Award. She will begin her Ph.D. in planetary science at the University of Arizona this fall, while continuing research at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California.

Congratulations to the future of the Key Peninsula community. This year we awarded two academic and one vocational scholarship to Peninsula High 2020 graduates plus recurring scholarships to three previous recipients still in school.

Find out more at [www.longbranchfoundation.org](http://www.longbranchfoundation.org) or visit our Facebook page



Graduating senior Jonah Derrick at play and at rest. *Left photo: Wendy Christiansen, right photo: Colleen Burroughs*

## Jonah Derrick—Proud Unified Athlete, Leader and Friend

**A new student brought a new sport to Peninsula High School, pairing varsity basketball athletes with intellectually disabled students**

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

When graduating senior Jonah Derrick began his junior year at Peninsula High School as a new student in the fall of 2018, he told his parents he missed his athletic team back in Colorado, part of the worldwide Special Olympics Unified Sports program.

Less than two years later, as Jonah graduated from PHS as a member of the Class of 2020, he left behind the legacy of having started the first Unified Sports team on the peninsula, which pairs student athletes who have intellectual disabilities with partners who help them play competitive sports.

“We are so proud of him!” Amy Whipple Derrick wrote in a Facebook tribute to her graduating son. “He is a special ed. student and was the driving force behind getting Unified Sports sponsored this year at PHS.”

For Jonah’s senior year, a full roster of 15 players formed the new, Unified Seahawks basketball team, which went on to finish second in the district.

Jonah said one of the highlights of his high school experience was scoring the winning point in their first game.

“Our boys varsity basketball team was

there that day and so was their coach,” Jonah said. “It’s something I’ll never forget. I was so overwhelmed with emotions, it was mind-blowing.”

There would have been a Unified Seahawks soccer season, if not for the school closure.

Jonah’s dad, John Derrick said, “When we moved here, Jonah and I talked and I said, ‘If you really want Unified Sports here, you’re going to have to put in the work but I’ll help you.’ So, we reached out to Special Olympics and they responded very quickly and enthusiastically.”

Derrick said the school far exceeded his expectations in terms of support. “I can’t say enough positive things about Peninsula High School,” he said. “The leadership really listened to Jonah and let him take a leadership role.”

PHS Special Education Teacher Wendy Christiansen said training and playing together on the inclusive team has helped build lasting friendships and inspired students to stretch their limits.

“I’m really proud of Jonah. He has worked very hard and not only has he received good friendship from the kids

there, but he’s attempted to be a good friend as well, so it’s well deserved,” Derrick said. “This is probably the most outstanding group of young men and women I’ve ever encountered. The way they bonded as a team and supported everybody on the team and conducted themselves with class and integrity and maturity, they’re just an outstanding group of students.”

Jonah said he remembers feeling completely lost on his first day at PHS.

“I was just standing there trying to find my way around and this kid came up

to me and offered to help me,” he said. “In the following days, I realized I was already starting to make friends left and right

and getting to know them. Everyone I’ve met has been there for me no matter what I was going through. They really changed my life.

“The teacher that has always been there for me is Miss Wendy,” Jonah said. “I will also miss my coach. She has not only helped me, but she has always been so kind and generous and gone out of her way and taken her time to make this all happen for me, and to see me reach my

goals and my dreams come true.”

In addition to basketball, Jonah loves horseback riding and playing tennis. He is also an avid football fan. Art, P.E., and guitar were some of his favorite PHS classes.

“The thing that I miss the most is being able to walk down those school halls one last time and say goodbye to my teachers and thank them for all the support and all they’ve done for me,” Jonah said of graduating during the school closure. “I’d like to take one last look at everything and all the memories I made there, in what was a completely new environment for me that I’ve grown to love and cherish.

“I enjoy this moment knowing that I’m leaving behind something greater than myself,” he said. “This is the beginning of a new chapter for me. I’m trying to pursue new things and go wherever the wind takes me, as far as I can go.”

Jonah is excited that PHS has asked him to return to help with the Unified Sports program next year.

“Ever since I started playing basketball, I’ve wanted to become a sports coach,” Jonah said. “I believe I can do the impossible and nothing can stop me as long as I have a team and family to support me.”

**“IT’S SOMETHING I’LL NEVER FORGET. I WAS SO OVERWHELMED WITH EMOTIONS, IT WAS MIND-BLOWING.”**



# A Giant Problem for Honey Bees

The Asian giant hornet, an invasive species with a craving for honey bees, has been spotted in northwestern Washington.

CALEB GALBREATH, KP NEWS

A winged giant has found its way to Washington and it brought an appetite.

The Asian giant hornet, or *Vespa mandarinia* by its Latin name, is the world's largest hornet, growing up to 2 inches long. With orange and black stripes, it might closely resemble a yellow jacket — if not for the notable size difference.

There were two confirmed sightings of the Asian giant hornet near Blaine, Washington, and in Nanaimo, British Columbia.

Washington State University Island County Extensions Director Tim Lawrence said the Asian giant hornet can carry seven times the amount of venom as a honey bee and its long powerful stinger can pierce most beekeeping suits. Worse still, they nest underground, making hives difficult to spot until it's too late.

"Their stings are reportedly much more painful than other hornets. Many stings can sometimes be lethal," Lawrence said. "But they're not particularly aggressive. The real threat is to the honey bees."

Asian giant hornet queens emerge from hibernation in April and begin consuming a carb-heavy diet of plant sap and fruit. Once they've found a nest and established a colony, the queen will send out workers to find food and prey.

By late summer and early fall, hornets focus on hunting for protein to feed the next year's queens. Once they've located a honey bee hive, these ravenous predators kill adult bees and devour larvae and pupae until there's nothing left.

David Leger, president of Key Peninsula Beekeepers, explained that a group of Asian giant hornets can wipe out an entire honey bee hive in just a few hours.

"By the time you see hornets attacking a honey bee hive, it's too late to intervene," he said. "It's best to report the sighting and let nature run its course."

While this giant doesn't typically sting unless its nest or food is threatened, they will defend a honey bee hive under siege.

The Asian giant hornet's natural home is in the forests and low mountains of east Asia. Lawrence said the similarities between the hornets' native environment and our own may allow them to thrive here as well.

In Asia, native honey bees have evolved alongside the Asian giant hornet, allowing them to learn how to defend against the predator. The Japanese honey bee can detect the pheromones the hornets use to mark their nest for attack and will create highly coordinated attacks on invading hornets. The European honey bees that call the Pacific

Northwest home have no such defenses.

"Honey bees are major pollinators. They support a lot of our agriculture," Leger said. "So, a decline in honey bees is going to have negative impacts on our agriculture."

If Asian giant hornets become established in North America, it could mean more than a nasty sting and annihilated bee hives. Their impact could have far-reaching effects.

"This is our

**"BY THE TIME YOU SEE HORNETS ATTACKING A HONEY BEE HIVE, IT'S TOO LATE TO INTERVENE."**

window to keep it from establishing," Chris Looney, an entomologist with the Washington State Department of Agriculture, said in an interview with *The New York Times*. Looney said if the hornets can't be eradicated in the next few years, they will likely be here to stay.

There are still obstacles facing efforts in containing the invasion. Lawrence said there's still a lot that researchers don't know about the Asian giant hornet. It's unclear if the hornets will have any

natural predators here, what their territorial range is, how far their queens will travel to find a new nest, or what other insects they will feed on.

The first hurdle is figuring out how widespread the hornets really are, Lawrence said.

Experts are encouraging residents to report sightings of the hornet to

WSDA's website. But since the recent article in *The New York Times*, they have become inundated with reported sightings and not just from Washington. Many of these sightings have been identified as native sawflies, which are sometimes nearly as large as Asian giant hornets.

Leger said educating people on the difference in appearance of hornets will help reduce the misidentified sightings. Ordinarily at this time of year, the KP Beekeepers begin meeting again. Unfortunately, Leger said, that's not possible during the coronavirus outbreak.

To learn more about the Asian giant hornet or report a sighting, visit WSDA's website at [agr.wa.gov/hornets](http://agr.wa.gov/hornets).



Courtesy Dan Clouse

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# Thank you!

These local nonprofits were the beneficiaries of a \$65,000 grant on behalf of Peninsula Violence Prevention Coalition from CHI Franciscan, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation and United Way of Pierce County.

- Bischoff Food Bank
- Children's Home Society of WA
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# Living in a Coyote's World

CHRIS RURIK, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

Coyotes are singing on the peninsula. They wake me in the wee hours. My mind needs a good minute or two to figure out if the eerie sounds belong to my dreamworld or the woods outside. Does our language have words for such song? Wolves howl. Owls hoot. Dogs bark or bay or yowl. But coyotes yip and chatter and scream with such a crazed laughter that it seems to come from all directions at once.

Coyotes are singing, circulating, appearing and disappearing. Is there any other animal that plays on our nerves like coyotes? Maybe crows. Recently I came across a coyote on a forest trail near some houses. Now, in most sudden encounters with wildlife, after the moment of mutual surprise, if I remain calm, I get an opportunity to study the animal while it calms and returns to its business, to be the naturalist.

Not with coyotes. Coyotes never seem surprised to see me. No, it feels like they're the ones studying me. This time I rounded a bend and saw it there, sauntering toward me.

Off-leash dog, was my first thought. No, whoa, coyote. And a big one. Rich coat. Well-fed.

By the time these thoughts had run through my mind, the coyote had given me a once-over, a twice-over, critiqued my clothing, laughed at my reaction, and continued its saunter on a slightly changed trajectory, vanishing between ferns.

At least that's the way it made me feel. So how should the writer-naturalist approach them? They are elusive. They plunder. Sometimes they look preoccupied, sometimes antsy, and sometimes just plain hungry. Unlike most wildlife, coyotes aren't afraid to have a barroom staredown.

As a naturalist I have been trained not to do what I have just done: anthropomorphize animals by describing them with human qualities. When we call a coyote cunning, for example, we flood our understanding of its behavior with a human perspective, our own tics of consciousness, and make it difficult to comprehend just how radically different an animal's world can be from our own, how each animal's world is uniquely its own.

I am trained to focus instead on description and build up from observed behaviors. Like this: Coyotes are known to eat fallen fruit, insects, rodents, rabbits, house cats, poultry, sheep, deer, unguarded dog food. They operate in small packs of four to

six or as solo wandering transients. They make life work in many habitats: grasslands, mountains, forests, scrub, suburbs. Their activities peak at dawn and dusk. Coyotes, like crows, are generalists. While specialist species like crossbills evolve to be the best at one thing, coyotes will do anything to survive.

It's worked well for them. Since the 1800s, matching the growth of modern America, the coyote's range has expanded from its historical core in the Great Plains and Great Basin. It has taken advantage of deforestation and the extermination of larger predators like wolves and mountain lions. In places it has interbred with wolves and dogs. It often stays a step ahead of us. One theory says it survived because it learned to avoid the strychnine-laced carcasses that were used across the West to kill large predators. Researchers find it an exceptionally difficult animal to follow.

As a writer, though, I am trained to embrace all the stories that get attached to animals, no matter how they mix the human world and the animal world. And in Coyote we have a character with more legends than anyone on Turtle Island.

The Coyote of legend is sometimes helpful. There is the story about how he stole fire for people by convincing animals, from squirrels to frogs, to help him carry it away from the evil spirits guarding it.

More often, though, Coyote is a shiftless trickster. There is the story about how he liked to toss his eyes up to take a look around and once got them stuck in a tree, where they became plums. There is the story about how he faked his death because he had fallen in love with his daughter, came back to his family as a stranger, and when his plan had just about come to fruition he fell asleep and was found out. There is the story about how he died trying to imitate the beautiful way cottonwood leaves fall.

He's always falling asleep at the climax, being tricked when he thought he was tricking, claiming credit for the ideas of others. He's unable to stop himself from doing things he knows won't end well, killing himself yet scraping himself back together to continue traveling.

So a writer-naturalist sees coyotes in a lot of ways. And still it feels like it's the coyote that's really watching me — and probably seeing a character just as strange, foolish, and full of tricks as itself.

*Chris Rurik is a writer and naturalist who lives near Glencove.*





**OUR ELUSIVE COYOTE NEIGHBORS**

**The Basics:** Coyote, *Canis latrans*; Order: Carnivora (carnivores); Family: Canidae (dogs, wolves, foxes)

**Name:** The word “coyote” comes from the Aztec word coyotl, meaning “barking dog.”

**Identification:** Resembling a small German shepherd on first sight, adult coyotes typically weigh between 20 to 35 pounds, with a bushy tail and narrow muzzle. Color is often a blend of black, gray and rust produced by hairs that are individually banded. Often leaves its scat directly on trails.

**Local Habits:** Diet, pack and litter size vary. One study found that the most common foods in the diets of Western Washington coyotes are voles, apples, cherries, house cats and squirrels, though in mixed forest-residential areas like the Peninsula diets seem to be more diverse.

**Relationship with People:** Coyotes generally are not dangerous to humans. Research shows that they may become more aggressive when they learn to directly associate people with food. Keep poultry fenced, pets indoors at night, and pet and bird feeding areas clean. Prevent access to garbage, compost and livestock carcasses. Teach kids to shout “Go away coyote!” during an encounter.

**More information** on living with coyotes and other wildlife is available at Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife website [wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats](http://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats)

# Children’s Home Society of WA Helps Families in Need

When schools closed and the coronavirus shut down their public programs, the local nonprofit went into overdrive to meet the needs of a rising tide of new clients, many living paycheck to paycheck.

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

As the drumbeats of impending school closures grew stronger the first week of March, Children’s Home Society of Washington took immediate action, mobilizing teams to shift many service offerings to a virtual format in order to continue serving families with minimal disruption.

“It would be an understatement to say COVID-19 has had a serious impact on every aspect of our lives and community,” said Gina Cabiddu, community manager for the CHSW branch in Vaughn. She saw increased demand for resources as well as an uptick in new families seeking support.

“Many families in our community live paycheck to paycheck and may request situational assistance for basic needs, but the record number of layoffs and backlog in public assistance programs is creating an urgent and immediate need for our families,” Cabiddu said.

Current requests center around need for rent and utility assistance, along with food and gas subsidies, as families attempt to meet these basic needs. Cabiddu said that providing emergency financial assistance for families not only stabilizes the household, but also the ecosystem of the local economy.

“We are collaborating with our families to navigate new, complex government systems in order to gain access to food stamps or healthcare — a new arena for many,” she said.

Social workers are conducting weekly phone calls with enrolled families and our student success programs continue to meet online weekly for ongoing provision of social-emotional and skill building support.

“Another crisis stemming from the pandemic is the increase in behavioral and mental health conditions,” Cabiddu said. “The youth we are interacting with are expressing high levels of anxiety, a lack of motivation to engage in school and depressive aspects like disrupted sleep schedules and withdrawing from loved ones.”

CHSW works with partners to address other relevant concerns like substance abuse, mental health, suicide prevention, domestic violence, business and economic vitality, medical access and more.

By partnering with Help Me Grow Pierce County, CHSW is poised to become a diaper bank location so families will have diapers delivered on a monthly basis — a necessity not covered by food stamp (SNAP) benefits.

Along with longstanding partner Communities in Schools of Peninsula, CHSW provided board games and sports equipment in response to families needing to find new ways to adapt to spending more time together.

Cabiddu said her team is working closing with the Peninsula School District to find new ways to keep youth engaged in their education in our current virtual world.

“We’re printing and safely delivering schoolwork to families struggling with motivation or internet connectivity, returning the following week to retrieve the completed work and offer a reward by way of a gift card,” she said.

“The KP is a special community — we pull together during times of hardship and form solutions utilizing the heart and skills of our local community members.”

For more information, go to [www.childrenshomesociety.org/home](http://www.childrenshomesociety.org/home).

**“THE KP IS A SPECIAL COMMUNITY — WE PULL TOGETHER DURING TIMES OF HARDSHIP AND FORM SOLUTIONS UTILIZING THE HEART AND SKILLS OF OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS.”**



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St. Anthony Hospital ER physician Dr. John Campbell. *Photo: Caleb Galbreath, KP News*

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**Inside the ER: Local Hospital Waits for COVID-19**

Social distancing and business closures have affected hospitals too, reducing patient demand and leading to layoffs even as cases are expected to rise.

CALEB GALBREATH, KP NEWS

Dr. John Campbell has been practicing medicine for 25 years, 20 of those in the Gig Harbor area. He's currently an emergency room physician at St. Anthony Hospital.

Campbell said he and his colleagues became aware of the novel coronavirus and the disease it causes, COVID-19, in early January the same way most people did. By watching the news.

"As ER docs, we've got to keep our eyes on infectious diseases," Campbell said. "We've got to be alert so we know when travelers are going to be in our area with symptoms."

For the past 18 months, he has also been the Medical Director for the Key Peninsula Fire Department and was recently hired as the department physician. The department formed an incident management team at the onset of the coronavirus and asked Campbell to liaison with the medical

community to inform their response.

"When everything was first starting and we knew nothing about the disease, it was really scary for myself, for my family and for my coworkers," Campbell said. "We just didn't know what to expect."

Even daily activities he didn't generally think about had to be adjusted. Before coming home, Campbell began disinfecting his hospital locker, as well as the counters in the locker room, before taking

ever coming home." The focus of St. Anthony Hospital's response was to keep staff safe while observing and treating patients and limit the spread of the disease within the hospital, Campbell said.

Staff trained how to safely don personal

protective equipment, and more importantly, how to take it off without contaminating themselves. Cleaning procedures became more robust and frequent. Plans were put into place on how to isolate potentially infected patients.

"We had rows of tents outside to triage and test patients," he said. "We were prepared for this huge surge in cases. But it never came."

Although preparations for coronavirus patients ramped up quickly, it began to feel like a waiting game just as fast. But it's not just a surge in coronavirus patients that's missing here, Campbell said — overall patient volume has decreased significantly.

For a relatively small, community hospital, St. Anthony has a busy emergency room, Campbell said. Before the outbreak, he would see anywhere from 12 to 20 patients every night. Now that number is down to about three.

"People are afraid to come to the emergency department," he said. "Either because they're afraid they'll get the coronavirus, or because they think it's their civic duty to not overburden the hospitals."

As a result many people are forgoing treatments or examinations. The issue is that people are waiting until their health concerns become urgent, Campbell said, and what was once an easily treatable condition becomes a dire medical emergency.

"Since the start of all this I've probably seen more ruptured appendixes than in my previous 20 years as an ER physician," Campbell said.

And while appendicitis surgeries might be up, heart surgeries are down, he said. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S. and about 18.2 million Americans suffer

from coronary artery disease. Those patients didn't just vanish, Campbell said, and if they don't seek treatment it could be fatal.

"I get people coming into the ER saying 'Oh, we're sorry, we know you're overrun.' And that's just not the case," he said. "If you're sick, if you have a medical condition, come to the ER. I really have to stress that."

However, there are other issues facing the coronavirus response that are harder to see and harder still to treat.

"We've been doing social distancing for a while now and it's important to understand that there's a cost for that as well," Campbell said. "Mental illness is up, substance

**"IF YOU'RE SICK, IF YOU HAVE  
 A MEDICAL CONDITION,  
 COME TO THE ER. I REALLY  
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**"WE WERE PREPARED FOR  
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 BUT IT NEVER CAME."**



abuse is up, unemployment is up. These have to be weighed against the benefits of the effort we're taking to slow this disease."

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reported its helpline saw an 891 percent increase in March 2020 compared to March 2019.

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act sets aside \$425 million for SAMHSA "to address mental health and substance use disorders as a result of the coronavirus pandemic." Another \$100 million is marked to supplement the agency's federal grant programs, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"With these response measures, we set out to flatten the curve, so hospitals wouldn't be overwhelmed. We're well beyond that now," Campbell said.

Another facet to the emergency response issues is hospital staffing. Many hospital staff are being furloughed or having hours cut due to a shortage in patients. Campbell said traveling nurses are nervous about where their next job will be because no one is hiring right now. This is the case for most hospitals outside of urban centers, he said.

"My fear is that if we go along reducing staff and cutting hours, we'll be short-staffed by the time we open the state back up and see a wave of new cases," he said.

Communicable disease experts say more test availability is needed to safely open states. The Trump Administration said testing capacity will soon be doubled, allowing for an estimated 500,000 tests a day. One prominent research group, the Harvard Global Health Institute, suggested the U.S. should have the capacity to conduct 900,000 tests per day before it is feasible to safely open states.

The U.S. had tested approximately 818,000 people in total by May 15, according to the CDC. Washington state was administering 5,277 tests per day by then, slightly fewer than the 6,656 minimum needed, according to the Harvard study.

Campbell said it's important for people to remember for the duration of the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order not to neglect their needs. Social distancing, washing hands, disinfecting surfaces and eating healthy are all important, but social interaction is important too. Campbell said we have to practice "physical distancing," not social isolation, to stay healthy.

## A Gardener's Guide to Slugs

Using science to limit slug damage.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Slugs are different things to different people: a gardener's nightmare, a forest worker breaking down decomposing forest vegetation, the mascot of the University of California Santa Cruz, the namesake of the annual Northwest Trek Slug Fest.

Slug stories abound, as borne witness by members of the Key Pen Gardeners Facebook Group. Stan Moffett's mother wrote a book for her granddaughter, "The Sex Life of Slugs." Lisa Larson remembered a neighbor siphoning gas from his car to use in his mower and ending up with a slug in his throat. Others attested to ducks and snakes as a sure way to keep the population down.

Janice Fox's mother took her and her cousins out slug hunting with flashlights at night. And more than one admitted collecting wayward slugs and carrying them to the woods since they had no heart for slug murder.

Understanding the habits of these voracious gastropod mollusks — they can eat up to triple their weight each day — can help to combat them.

The banana slug, native to the region, lives in forests and is the second largest slug in the world, growing as large as 10 inches. They play an important role in helping break down forest debris and mostly feed on fungi and detritus. Other native slugs bear names like tailedropper and warty jumping-slug. They, too, stick

to their forest habitat and don't feast on crops or gardens. Garden slugs, the bane of so many a gardener's existence, are imports from Europe and Asia.

Slugs have two pairs of tentacles, the upper sensitive to light and the lower sensitive to touch and smell. The mouth on the bottom of the head is filled with tiny replaceable teeth. The mantle, over the front of the slug, has a respiratory opening and under the mantle are the genital opening and the anus. The rest of the slug provides locomotion.

Slugs produce four kinds of slime: a thick slime to help move on rough or slippery surfaces, a thinner slime to help move on normal terrain, another to entice a mate, and one that is especially thick and stinky for protection.

Slugs are hermaphrodites, and when they mate each one supplies sperm to the other. They can mate year-round, but the most activity takes place in fall and spring. Newly hatched slugs eat algae and fungi and do not eat slug baits.

Slugs prefer the dark and wet, coming out at night to feed and hiding under rocks and debris during the day. They don't like moving over abrasive materials. They may become dormant in dry summer months. They spend much of their time underground; during the summer

only 5 percent of the population will be above ground at a given time.

Armed with these facts, a gardener can successfully combat these slimy pests. For best results an integrated approach is recommended. That means making your garden less attractive to slugs, attracting



natural predators such as ducks, snakes and shrews, paying attention to when you water, and considering traps and baits.

Raking the first few inches of garden soil in late summer

and early fall will expose slug eggs to air. Ornamental gardens have an edge with plants that slugs don't like. These include foxglove, anemones, rhododendrons, sedum, impatiens and ferns.

Evening watering creates a slug heaven at night; morning is preferred. Slugs are deterred by surrounding the perimeter with such things as lava rock, eggshells, lint from the dryer, wood ashes or rosemary sprigs. Diatomaceous earth is a good barrier, but only until it gets wet. Copper tape around a planter will keep slugs away.

If these deterrents fail, the next step is a trap. One popular DIY model is a plastic container with 1-inch diameter holes cut near the rim, buried with the holes at surface height. Filled with beer or a solution of 2 tablespoons of flour, ½ teaspoon of brewer's yeast, 1 teaspoon of sugar and 2 cups of water.

As a last resort, slug bait can help get rid of slugs. Those with iron phosphate instead of metaldehyde are safer around children, pets and other animals. Using them at the right time of the slug life cycle is important. Treating slugs before they begin to lay eggs in the fall, when temperatures cool and rains begin, and in the spring, when adults emerge, is most effective.

Pierce County Master Gardeners recommend using bait in April and August, the months that start with an "A." Oregon State University recommends a slightly later fall application, in September and early October.

Information for this article came from Pierce County Master Gardeners; Cori Carlton, Master Gardener Program Coordinator for Thurston County and her Slug University curriculum; and Oregon State University.





FB4K volunteers Bonnie and Amber Dalby preparing for drive-through distribution. Photo: Richard Miller, KP News

## Food Backpacks 4 Kids Rallies to Battle Hunger

Solid leadership and energetic volunteers backed by a generous community combine to meet the challenge of rising childhood food insecurity.

### STAFF REPORT

Food Backpacks 4 Kids Executive Director Richard Miller takes great pride in the nonprofit's seamless transition to continue providing backpacks filled with food for students to take home despite the Washington state order closing all schools until further notice to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

"We are currently providing more food to more children than ever before in the history of the organization," Miller said. The locally based nonprofit was founded in 2009.

With weekly food distribution at three drive-by pick up locations — Evergreen Elementary, Gateway Park and Henderson Bay High School — plus home delivery, the organization helps to feed approximately 140 families and 465 children.

Since the coronavirus closed schools in mid-March, FB4K said it has distributed over 50,000 pounds of food with an

approximate retail value of over \$125,000.

Placing greater emphasis on fresh food and produce in their weekly food deliveries, Miller said the board of directors was looking for ways to increase their ability to receive, store and pack fresh food for delivery. A recent grant from Harvest Against Hunger made the purchase of

**"WE ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDING MORE FOOD TO MORE CHILDREN THAN EVER BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION."**

a chest freezer and refrigerator possible.

With permission from their landlord, The Mustard

Seed Project of Key Peninsula, FB4K is building raised garden beds adjacent to their food storage and packing facility to create another way to provide more fresh food.

"Our wonderful community has been very generous with financial donations in this challenging time," Miller said. "Our warehouse remains fully stocked and our bank account is very healthy — better than before. We're so grateful."

For more information, go to [foodbackpacks4kids.org](http://foodbackpacks4kids.org).

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## State Democrats Use Pandemic to KILL Our Liberty AND Democracy

(See 35-Year One-Party Corrupt Control of Washington, Page 20 in May Issue)

Under leadership of Governor Jay Inslee, "We the People" have been denied our rights under THE BILL OF RIGHTS. Inslee has also violated the U.S. and State Constitutions. Why? How?

**Answer:** FEAR. SAFETY. SCIENCE. NO CHOICE!!

The threat of fines, imprisonment, loss of license and more. Below please see the TRUTH. The FACTS. The SCIENCE.

- ▶ **PUBLIC SAFETY:** Isn't it ironic that while locking us all down, Inslee releases convicted criminals from our jails & prisons? Do you feel safe? U.S. News rated our state #38 safest in U.S., with crime rates 33% higher than national averages. In 2019, on my KP property, I was the victim of arson, two thefts, vandalism and more.
- ▶ **SCIENCE:** State Parks, Fishing, Golf, RV Travel, Churches, Auto Sales, Construction were ALL closed. What science, health or safety facts dictated these closures? Absolutely NONE!
- ▶ **FEAR:** Schools were shut down statewide by Inslee on March 23. Yet, as of 5/1/2020, ages 0-19 years represented only 4% of COVID-19 cases and NO deaths. Many "health" officials even said isolating children at home was more harmful than sending them to school! Schools historically are the very places that children interact and develop their immune systems!!

**Fiscal Irresponsibility:** Our economy has been shut down, NOT by COVID-19, but by Governor Inslee. When we "flattened the curve", it was irresponsible to continue denying our state's ability to fund basic government services, by unnecessarily keeping people and businesses from work, thereby shutting down future sales and B&O taxes. **If "essential" businesses could safely be open, ALL businesses should have been allowed to be open under the same standards!**

Look at the FACTS: The 7 Urban, BLUE Counties (King, Jefferson, Whatcom, Snohomish, Pierce, Kitsap & Thurston) that voted for Inslee have THE PROBLEM: 10,372 confirmed cases, 626 deaths.

Compare that to 14 RED Rural Counties: 94 cases, 4 deaths. Why penalize, destroy economies, businesses, schools and people's lives in areas where there IS NO PROBLEM? Politics. Not facts!

LASTLY. Even though we accomplished our goal to "flatten the curve" so we do not overwhelm our health care system, Inslee has MOVED the GOAL POSTS to further his political agenda; now he wants more masks, more ventilators, then more "testing." Then it will be "tracing." Inslee can always use VACCINATIONS for another goal post! **It shouldn't be a crime to go to work or try to pay your bills!**

Governor Inslee has put our economy in a medically-induced coma. Where in our constitution is it conferred on a single person to compel over 7 million to stay at home, close their businesses, lose their jobs and face imprisonment if they don't comply? Isn't that the very definition of TYRANNY? So far 90% of deaths are in people 60+ yrs. FACT. SCIENCE. Why shut down 7 million people, most under 60 yrs.?

Inslee has now used COVID-19 as an excuse to abandon even the pretense of constitutional government, ruling by decree as a de facto dictator. This should scare us more than either recession or disease, for it shows that Democrats simply do not believe in democracy or our rights. Authoritarian rule and abuse of power are theirs!

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The Maintenance and Operations Levy provides \$800,000 in revenue, or about 9% of the District's budget.



This is the same \$800,000 as requested in 2012 and 2016. Taxes are expected to remain neutral.

The District's First Responders, both career and volunteer, are at the core of the life saving services offered.

Renew the Maintenance & Operations Levy - a no vote will have impacts to staffing and District services.

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## Turning Food Waste into Abundance

ANNA BRONES, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

On my cookbook shelf sits a copy of a Key Peninsula Civic Center community cookbook from 1977. It is spiral-bound with plastic, and just a look at the sans serif font feels like an immediate throwback to a different time. Published by Circulation Service Inc., it was like many of its kind across the country: a collection of community recipes put together in book format to raise money.

There are the many recipes offered up by former (and current) KP names who you would certainly recognize. My mother found the cookbook stashed on a shelf and gave it to me; it was probably given to her by my Great Aunt Audrey Trittle. I am as drawn to the personal recipes as I am to the generic guides sprinkled throughout the book. Some feel a little outdated, like “Quantities to Serve 100 People” (3 pounds of coffee apparently) and the calorie count you should aim for depending on your ideal weight, which is right after the double page spread on how to bake a perfect pie.

As I think of the many generations who have cooked and baked on this peninsula, and the stories behind them, I find the page devoted to leftovers. “If it’s good food, don’t throw it out.” Simple advice really, and one we might take inspiration from.

Food waste is a global problem that spans the supply chain, much of it out of our

control. But we do have control of what takes place in our kitchens. When it comes to food “waste,” what we throw out (or in an ideal world, compost), is usually considered waste mostly because we didn’t figure out a good way to repurpose it. Waste is only waste when we lack a little creative thinking.

Think of all the opportunities to prolong the life of your food and turn waste into abundance. Dry bread becomes French toast or bread pudding, sour milk can be used in a cake, leftover rice turned into fried rice, vegetable scraps turned into stock. Citrus peels can be dehydrated or added to vinegar for a DIY cleaner. Leftover fruit and vinegar can be used to make a shrub (sweet syrup) for drinks or even infused in alcohol for something stronger.

In a moment when we are hunkered down at home, perhaps with a little more time and a little more consideration for how to stretch the grocery budget, this just might be the time to start to focus on turning waste into abundance. Using up leftovers is the obvious start, but after that, what in our kitchens could we put to better use? There are many answers to that question, but I wanted to offer you a simple “scrap” recipe that I make regularly, in the hope that it inspires you to think about how you might make your kitchen feel just a little more abundant, and certainly resourceful.

### SCRAPPY PESTO

Carrot tops, beet greens, radish greens, kale, mint, parsley — you can make pesto from essentially any green. I traditionally make this recipe with a big bunch of carrot tops and then add in a few other greens for good measure, like a little mint and parsley. But it can be adapted to whatever greens you have on hand. It’s also a good way to use up greens that have gotten a little sad and wilted. I usually make this pesto a bit thicker than usual, and use it as a spread on sandwiches. It also makes a great base for salad dressing.

About 2 to 3 cups assorted greens, lightly packed

About ½ cup seeds or nuts (sunflower seeds, walnuts, hazelnuts, etc.).

Toast them first for a little more flavor.

2 to 3 garlic cloves

About ½ cup olive oil

Juice of a small lemon, or a bit of preserved lemon

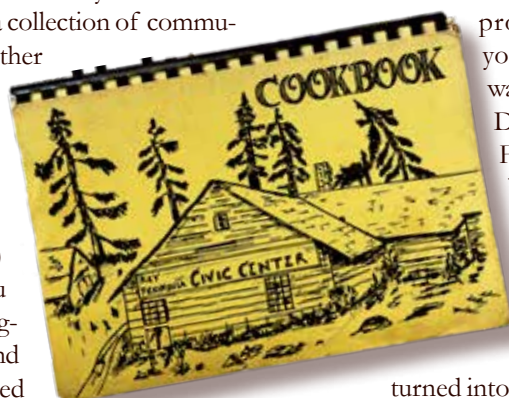
Salt and pepper

Any other spice you want (cumin, coriander seeds, red chili pepper flakes)

Optional: A bit of parmesan or dried hunk of cheese you found at the back of the fridge.

Place the greens, seeds or nuts, and garlic in a food processor and mix until everything is finely chopped. If you’re using cheese, add it in here.

Scrape the sides of the food processor with a spatula to get everything evenly chopped. Put the lid back on and add lemon juice and olive oil until the pesto comes together to your desired consistency. Add in spices, taste, and adjust accordingly.



## A LITTLE TASTE OF HERON'S KEY

This recipe is brought to you by Heron's Key's own, Chef Jason.

### Lemon Linguini with Smoked Minterbrook Oysters

(Makes 4 portions)



### INGREDIENTS

- 6oz Smoked Minterbrook oysters
- 20oz linguini cooked al dente
- 3 tbs Olive oil
- 2 tbs Shallot
- 4 cloves of garlic
- 1 tsp dry whole fennel seed
- 2 cups fresh de-stemmed spinach
- 4 lemon wedges
- 1/4 cup white wine
- 1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1oz Unsalted butter
- Salt & pepper to taste

### DIRECTIONS

Thinly slice oysters lengthwise and set aside. Mince shallot and garlic, and sauté in the olive oil. When shallots are translucent, add fennel and toast until fragrant. Then deglaze with wine and reduce by half. When reduced, add cream and reduce again by half. Toss in oysters and spinach and mix until spinach is wilted. Add noodles and finish with butter, parmesan, a squeeze of lemon and toss again. Garnish with lemon zest, a spring of parsley and fresh cracked black pepper if desired.



The best wine to pair with this delicious dish? Follow us on Facebook to find out what Chef Jason recommends!

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It's a free service to local businesses who depend on your patronage to survive.

And while you're at the website, be sure to check out **COVID-19 Resources** to see what nonprofit service organizations are providing.

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**TOP** Horizontal social distancing in Carr Inlet. *Photo: Steve Rich* **MIDDLE LEFT** Jeff Harris proudly presents the Rotary of Gig Harbor grant award for the KP News. *Photo: Brady Buskirk* **MIDDLE** Mount Rainier shining in Longbranch. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **MIDDLE RIGHT** For and from our friends at KPCC. *Photo: James Allyn* **LOWER LEFT** Diana and Jim Craig put their daily walk to good use picking trash along the KP Highway. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **LOWER RIGHT** Vertical social distancing at Wauna beach. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

