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THE AWARD-WINNING VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

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## Local Man is Saving Animals in Ukraine

**A retired truck driver puts his skill toward helping four-legged casualties of war.**

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Approximately 5 million people had fled Ukraine and another 8 million were internally displaced as of May 15 after their country was invaded by the Russian Federation Feb. 24. Many who ran tried to take their pets with them, but at least 1 million animals were abandoned, according to the Humane Society International.

The Ukraine-based animal rights organization UAnimals discovered 485 dogs that had starved to death in locked cages at a deserted animal shelter in Borodyanka in the Bucha region of Kyiv (KEE-ef), the site of multiple atrocities allegedly committed by Russian soldiers.

One dog saved by the Polish ADA Foundation had been shot eight times and was paralyzed. Other animals — dogs, cats, horses — were missing limbs or were wounded by shrapnel. All were traumatized.

A Lakebay man thought he could do something about that.

Tom Bates, 68, is a retired truck driver who had never been to Europe. He landed in Kraków, Poland, March 23 and volunteered for local animal rescue efforts for three weeks, walking dogs, organizing warehouses, and driving trucks to Lviv (I-VEE-u) to deliver supplies. **CONTINUED PAGE 10**



Tom Bates at the wheel. The green tape around his arm identifies him as a friendly to the Ukrainian military. *Tom Bates*



A 2014 photo of the Purdy Bridge at sunset. *Chris Konieczny*

## The Purdy Bridge: The Early Years

**The first in a three-part series connecting the past, present and future of the most important crossing in the history of Key Peninsula.**

JOSEPH PENTHEROUDAKIS, KP NEWS

The sleek arc of the Purdy Bridge rises in a graceful sweep over the narrow channel between Henderson Bay and Burley Lagoon. An iconic part of the landscape since it was built in 1936, the concrete bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, one of only 20 Pierce County bridges to be included.

A bridge across the channel has been part of the landscape for 130 years, almost five generations, linking the Key Peninsula to the rest of the county but at the same time acting as a physical and notional boundary with it, an instance of the paradox of bridges. It has been loved and hated, used for play or shelter, and crossed by hundreds of thousands over the decades, helping shape the character of the community.

The long history of the current bridge and its predecessors has been mostly forgotten, surviving only in a few recollections and a handful of faded images in archives and private collections. It was a different story over a hundred years

ago, back when newspapers from Burley and Gig Harbor to Tacoma reported on its perpetual tussle with the elements, its recurring engineering and maintenance challenges — but also what in the end was the community's unflagging will and determination to keep trying until they got it right.

Today's bridge is not the first span between the sandspit and Purdy.

A succession of three bridges came before, built in 1892, 1905 and 1920-21. All three were supported by timber piles and all three fought valiant but futile battles with the saltwater and fast-moving current.

But those battles and eventual defeats still lay in the future in 1892, when Pierce County commissioners approved the construction of the first bridge across the narrow channel. Until then, people would row or even wade across during low tide. The Tacoma Daily News wrote in September that the new bridge would “enable the farmers of Kitsap and Mason

counties to drive to Gig Harbor by a short route and will divert the trade of that section which has hitherto gone to Seattle by way of Sidney (now Port Orchard) to Tacoma by way of Gig Harbor.”

A win for the people of Pierce County and a good use of taxpayers' money.

The bridge would also undoubtedly benefit businesses and property values in the new town of Springfield, renamed Wauna in 1906 but platted in 1889 on the west side of the lagoon. The road platted through the lower part of town along the bay ended right at the spit; once a bridge was built to Purdy, traffic would be going right through town.

The county's plan, described in a notice to contractors in September 1892, called for a wooden truss drawbridge with a movable span or draw, measuring 100 feet that would pivot on a center pier. There would also be a fixed span of 70

**CONTINUED PAGE 4**

**TODAY'S BRIDGE IS NOT THE FIRST SPAN BETWEEN THE SANDSPIT AND PURDY.**

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## MAKING CONNECTIONS

# Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN,  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Crossing over the Purdy Bridge and driving over the spit on the way home is something of a spiritual experience no matter how often we do it. The smell of saltwater, the expansive view of Henderson Bay and the beach at low tide reminds us of how lucky we are to live here. Shoulders begin to drop as the intensity from the rest of the world falls away.

Sometimes I close my eyes and try to visualize crossing that bridge when I need to let go of the things I am powerless to change in the moment. There are real life heroes and angels all around us every day, right here where we live. I have been lifted by their generous spirits countless times. I want to be one of them too.

The individuals who have been heroes in my own life would be hard to recognize as such. They have come to me many times and in so many ways they defy description. My heroes have never been armed with anything but fearless compassion.

As a parent, to recognize that sense of empathy in our children for the first time is a memorable moment. It is the capacity to recognize something not quite right outside of themselves. It is invariably followed with a question.

We have a lot to learn from our children. Sometimes we become so wrapped up in our idea of what it is to be an adult that we forget the spirit of the child that lives within us. They are our better angels.

Paths, trails, roads and bridges make wonderful metaphors for the choices we must make in our lives. To decide the way forward we often need to look back at the parts already traveled to gain perspective.

History can be our best and wisest of friends. It tells us life is not fair. It tells us bad things happen to good people. History implores us to examine facts from multiple sources to separate it from fiction or faith. History demands truth, but first requires us to believe it exists.

Talk of rerouting State Route 302 to avoid Wauna and improve overall corridor safety is hardly new. The Wauna curves are well known for collisions that

cause terrible injuries and long backups, but they're not the only dangerous stretch on the KP. Multiple re-routing options have been on the drawing board for decades. But nothing has changed except the number of drivers and their waning patience with each other.

While the future of the historically significant Purdy Bridge remains uncertain, thanks to KP News Staff contributor and historian Joseph Pentheroudakis, the rich history of bridging the gap at Purdy is revealed in new detail in a three-part series beginning this month.

He'd read an account at the Library of Congress that covered the early bridges neatly in two paragraphs. While there were other accounts, they tended to parrot the one story told and copy the previous person.

"In the past, people had to go and look by hand and if you didn't run into an article, you'd miss it," Pentheroudakis said.

He had seen mentions of three or four newspaper articles found in previous accounts, but when he looked, he found more like 40 or 50 mentions of the bridge.

He discovered the work of not only The Tacoma Daily Ledger and The Tacoma Daily News of the time, but an all but forgotten local newspaper at the socialist colony in Burley called The Co-operator. That's when the whole story blossomed.

"There it was in all its glory with people's reactions," he said. "That's the most important thing -- people responding to actual events and to the bridge as it happened.

"I mean you can see the whole story unfold before your eyes."

The length of the bridges, how they were built, what they looked like, was almost completely lost. It was those newspaper clippings that captured the moment.

Back then, papers had local correspondents. There were people in Purdy, Vaughn and Longbranch who would send in regular dispatches. Granted it was mostly social news but I'm sure people who lived in those areas also read the papers to see what was going on with the bridge for decades. And of course, the county was involved, and the papers had in interest in following up

on what the county was doing.

"Pictures tell us some of the story," Pentheroudakis said. "But newspapers tell you exactly how the story unfolded."

Now in our 49th year, the Key Peninsula News continues the tradition. ■



Congratulations to the future of the Key Peninsula community. This year we awarded \$14,000 to four Peninsula High 2022 graduates plus recurring scholarships to four previous recipients still in school.

Find out more at  
[www.longbranchfoundation.org](http://www.longbranchfoundation.org)



Bette at her desk. *Tina McKail, KP News*

## Evergreen Elementary's Bette McCord Retires

**She worked 31 years at the same school; no one else even comes close.**

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

Bette (“Betty”) McCord has been one of the first faces students, parents, community providers, volunteers and visitors have seen when they enter Evergreen Elementary School for over three decades. At the end of June, after a long career working with multiple generations of Key Peninsula children and families, McCord will retire from her position as office manager.

“It’s going to be really hard,” she said. “It’s a great community down here.”

McCord grew up in Tacoma, where she attended St. Leo’s Catholic School, then came to the KP at 20 years old when she bought property in Lakebay. She was taking classes at Tacoma Community College and the University of Washington with the goal of becoming a structural engineer, a trajectory that changed after she got married in 1980.

“I bought an old school bus and tore it all apart and then built a little living area inside, put a wood stove in there, and that’s where I lived when I went to school,” she said. “I started working for an engineering firm at home doing drafting for them, and then it just got to be too much because I

was too far away.”

The firms were in Seattle or Tacoma and required a commute for in-person work, so McCord and her husband decided to live on one income. When their three children started preschool, she became involved with the schools as a volunteer.

First hired by the district 31 years ago, McCord “sat at a little desk and sold lunch tickets in the morning to kids,” she said. During the recent move into Evergreen’s new building, she found one of those little blue paper tickets stuck under a desk, like a tiny time capsule.

“When I started, we used a student administration program that was still basic computer language, you know, with the old dot matrix, so we’ve come miles from that. Everything’s automated, especially being in this new building where everything’s computer-driven,” she said.

McCord said she is not a huge fan of technology and looks forward to getting away from screens in her retirement.

“In an elementary school, the office manager does just about everything — all the payroll, all the purchasing, the enrollment — anything you can think about that makes the school run, and so all of

that now involves a computer,” she said. “They’ve added a new program almost every year for the last 10 years ... it’s continually changing.”

Despite having to relearn with every update, McCord has loved being Evergreen’s office manager, a role she has held for about 15 years, and she will miss the people she works with, especially the kids.

“It’s a very happy place. Just coming to school, we have lots of fun, we play, we goof around with each other,” she said. “The staff are just some of the most amazing people. They have the biggest hearts.”

Prior to becoming office manager, McCord worked at the school as a paraeducator and health tech. Throughout her time there, she has seen Evergreen grow and change, as well as the whole Key Peninsula community.

“We have the highest free and reduced (lunch) rate in the district but it’s not like it was,” she said. “We used to have families living without water, without electricity; that was not uncommon.”

Those who have worked with McCord over the years said she has always been adored and is known for her friendly, welcoming presence, and for running the

office with grace, wit and charm.

“She is one of the most genuine people I have ever met,” Evergreen Principal Hugh Maxwell said. “Bette is so much more than an office manager. She has a deep caring for others and is often a friend, counselor, advocate, catalyst for change, safety net for those in need and so many other amazing things that support our staff, students, parents and community.”

Evergreen alumna Gina Cabiddu, program manager of KP Children’s Home Society, first met McCord when she moved to Lakebay as a third-grader 20 years ago.

“I’ve always known her to be warm, positive, and a connected advocate for the students she works with,” Cabiddu said. “Bette was a big part of how the Evergreen team set me up for success as an adult. Today, Bette is a shining example of why I give to various organizations in the community that support Evergreen because Bette and those like her impact generations to come and I want to pay that forward.”

McCord said she appreciates local nonprofits and generous individuals that have helped Evergreen students and families over the years, such as Lulu Smith, Children’s Home Society of Washington, Communities in Schools of Peninsula, St. Hugh Episcopal Church in Allyn and The Longbranch Foundation — “great people who are willing to do whatever to keep families whole,” she said.

“Our numbers look really good in their grants. That has brought a lot more services to our families out here,” she said. “Hugh Maxwell, our principal now, he’s continued that, just trying to create a hub here and giving space and giving of the school to whatever community resource needs it ... They bring services with them, so he’s a big thinker.”

McCord plans to stay involved with Evergreen and will briefly return in August to help get the new school year off to a smooth start. “You can’t just sit home and watch TV,” she said.

This summer, she and her 16-year-old grandson are heading to Alaska on a six-week road trip with her little camper.

“We’re going boondocking,” she said. “I think it’ll be fun.”

Along with a Pomeranian Pekingese mix (“Pominese”) named Pika Daisy, the two will explore Canada and Alaska via the Alaska Highway (also known as the “Al-Can”), stopping along the way for a whale-watching trip and an overland safari to see wildlife.

“Bette has been the face of Evergreen for many years,” Maxwell said. “She will be missed dearly.” ■

**PURDY BRIDGE FROM PAGE 1**

feet to cover the remaining distance to the approach.

The term drawbridge describes any movable bridge regardless of design.

A swing bridge pivoting around a center pier is the simplest type of drawbridge to build, especially for short spans, although the pier needs to be substantial with a foundation set deep into the ground. A drawbridge was needed to allow marine traffic through, like ships loading lumber at the sawmills in the lagoon or log booms being towed out.

Construction began Oct. 15, 1892, and was completed by Christmas at a cost to the county of \$4,600, about \$150,000 today. At the time it was the only drawbridge in Pierce County outside Tacoma.

But it wasn't long before the first problems and complaints were reported in the press. At 38 feet wide, the waterway — the space that steamers had to navigate when the draw was open — was apparently too narrow for comfort. In March 1896, for example, Captain Thomas Ludlow of the tug Laurel told the Tacoma Daily News that the bridge should be made so “steamers can pass through the draw, which is now so narrow that it gives steamboat men much trouble.”

And then there were the teredos. Known as “termites of the sea,” teredos are wormlike marine bivalves with a long, naked body that bore into wood submerged in saltwater. The piles and piers of the bridge in Henderson Bay were a prime target. An inspection in early October 1896 determined that the 4-year-old structure was already in a “dangerous condition, by reason of the piles being destroyed by teredos,” concluding



Construction crew takes a break from work on the second bridge to pose for the camera in 1905. *Courtesy Harbor History Museum*

that 115 piles under the approaches to the bridge had to be replaced.

The bridge is not mentioned in the press again until four years later, in June 1900, this time in an article about the Co-operative Brotherhood, a socialist colony established two years earlier on 260 acres

**“BRAVELY DOES THE LITTLE  
LAUNCH STEER ITS LOAD THROUGH  
THE NARROW CHANNEL.”**

at the head of Burley Lagoon. The colony would only last 15 years but in 1900 it was still young and, according to the article, full of promise and enthusiasm. A shingle mill was doing good business, and there was even talk of buying a steamboat for a better connection to Tacoma.

If only the drawbridge was dependable. “The bridge at Purdy is in bad condition,” the article said. “It is impossible to open the swing for the passage of boats. The Pierce County commissioners should either put the bridge in shape, or build a new one in a more favorable location and demolish the present structure entirely.”

The Co-operator, the colony’s monthly newspaper, also described the harrowing

LEFT: Partial view of the first bridge ca. 1903-1904, showing the west approach and the fixed span. Pearl’s by the Sea restaurant later occupied the site, the location today of Massimo Italian Bar & Grill. *Courtesy Harbor History Museum* RIGHT: Undated photo of the second bridge built in 1905, looking southwest from Purdy. The swing span is in the foreground. *Laura Knapp Otto collection*



experience of negotiating passage of a flat-bottomed scow through the narrow waterway in a 1903 article titled “Loading a Scow to Tacoma”:

“It is considered too dangerous by the professional pilots of Tacoma and elsewhere to navigate with their powerful boats, so the Burleyites have to make the passage themselves, under conditions far more nearly impossible. Bravely does the little launch steer its load through the narrow channel, assisted by the men on the scow, who with hands and pikes fend her off the long line of pilings on which the draw swings, and through which the sluice-like tide runs diagonally, endeavoring to use the scow as a big battering machine with which to sweep away the puny works that man has dared to plant in its course.”

In August 1904, the county decided it was time to replace the quickly aging bridge with one of a similar design but a wider draw. This time the draw would pivot on a sturdier concrete-filled center pier. The county engineer’s design had to be approved by the War Department’s Corps of Engineers, since the bridge spanned over waters navigable at half or high tide; a permit was issued in November 1904.

But there was another reason to replace the bridge.

By 1904 a road had finally been built connecting Purdy and Springfield to the communities farther south in today’s Key Peninsula. Settlement from Minter south to Longbranch had accelerated following the completion in 1883 of the Northern Pacific Railroad, connecting the Great Lakes region and the rest of the country

to Puget Sound, and the new communities on the peninsula were coming into their own. Steamers of the Mosquito Fleet provided sea transportation, but roads were still needed to link communities to one another and to connect them by land to the growing town of Gig Harbor.

The 1892 bridge across the bay was no longer up to the task. In November of that year the Tacoma Daily News reported that a new bridge was “required on the thoroughfare which gives access to Joe’s Bay, Vaughan, Long Branch and other places in that vicinity.” That thoroughfare would come to be known as the Gig Harbor-Longbranch Road and sections of it would become parts of today’s State Route 302 and the Key Peninsula Highway.

The plans provided for a much more generous draw span of 140 feet, which gave it a clear waterway of 60 feet, an improvement over the earlier 38 feet. The center pier around which the drawbridge would swing was going to be a steel cylinder filled with piles and concrete.

Work started in July of 1905, and the members of Burley colony couldn’t be happier. “A good bridge at Purdy will be much appreciated,” the Co-operator wrote in August, adding that local men were being hired in addition to the contractor’s Tacoma-based crew. “C. M. Anderson, who did such good work on our scow a couple of years ago, is permanently employed,” the paper reported.

The Co-operator also provided a rare glimpse into the challenge of construction in a marine environment with fast-moving currents.

From September 1905: “The job of building the bridge proves to be difficult, on account of the tide, which, when in, sweeps through the bridge with great velocity, first in one direction and then the other, thus interfering with the handling of their pile-driver and scows, and then again at extreme low tide they are stuck on the bottom and not able to move at all. The iron cylinder, weighing 14 tons, which supports the draw, has been put in place. The inside of this tube has been filled with cement, a small quantity being deposited at a time, making the work progress slowly.”

By December 1905 the new bridge was ready, but apparently all the kinks had not been worked out quite yet.

An article titled “A draw-bridge that won’t draw” on the front page of that month’s Co-operator voiced the colony’s frustration: “A new bridge with a draw resting on the firm foundation of a concrete pier has just replaced the old — rendered unsafe by age and useless as to navigation by the failure of

the drawbridge to swing. Pierce County’s taxpayers are contributing in the neighborhood of \$10,000 to pay for the new bridge. But alas! The drawbridge refuses to budge, though five stout arms strain to breaking in the attempt to move it.”

The person responsible for operating the bridge was known as a bridgetender. There is no record of an officially appointed bridgetender until 1907. On March 4 of that year a notice in the Tacoma Daily News reported that Horace Knapp held the position. Knapp, 62, had homesteaded on 168 acres on the east side of Henderson Bay. A parcel at the southern tip of the homestead that he had sold in 1897 included the land that would become the east approach to the future bridge.

As bridgetender, Knapp was in charge of operating the draw as needed; he was often helped by his sons, Earl and Seth. It’s likely that Knapp and his teenage sons had already been operating the draw as informal bridgetenders. Earl, who died in 1959, reminisced that the tugs needing to get through would blow one long and two short whistles as they approached Cutts Island about a mile south of the bridge on their way up Henderson Bay. One of the Knapps would then insert a large crank, sometimes referred to as a key, into a slot on the deck of the draw to swing the bridge open and let the boat through.

Other than a few repairs, including the replacement of the center pier which collapsed in 1908, the bridge did not make the news until a little over a decade later, in 1919.

Look for Part II of the Purdy Bridge history in the July edition. ■

### “BUT ALAS! THE DRAWBRIDGE REFUSES TO BUDGE.”



Horace Knapp ca. 1905.

Laura Knapp Otto collection

LEFT: The steamboat Messenger anchored south of the east approach to the first bridge. The Messenger burned in 1894, dating the photo between 1892 and 1894. RIGHT: Undated view of the second bridge from Purdy. The swing span turned on the concrete center pier. Both courtesy Harbor History Museum



## Jack Dunne

FROM THE CITIOT DESK



### Stewardship

Not much of a churchgoer, but I have embraced some of the aspirational ideas I've heard there. In one church many years ago, I heard a sermon about stewardship that stuck with me. In my very skeptical youth, I listened open-heartedly, then surmised that what the speaker was really saying was the familiar phrase, "give me money." I understand that like any institution, this one needed support to accomplish the many important good works that it had hopes for. Asking is not always greed, and giving is not to be avoided, but still, it felt a little like that old time flimflam.

What is our obligation to each other? Those who have what they need are especially required to think about it. I have more than I need. I provide for my family, I donate to causes I care about; criminy, I have a boat! And I have my home here in the most beautiful place I've ever been.

I've had other houses. I've even been proud of them, used them with care, improved them and passed them on. This one is different. I'm keeping this one as long as I can stand, maybe longer. This place feels like a dream, an extension of the me I hoped to be. I want to weed the lawn, and plant the trees and flowers. I want to clean the windows so I can see my unbelievable surroundings. I want to be here.

So, is it stewardship? Is taking care of my home generous? Am I contributing to a greater good? Sure, my neighbors are glad they don't have to look at a mess, and their property values are safer. When we have guests, they smile and want to come back. Sharing happiness is giving. But if I see my home as an extension of myself, isn't all this work just another vanity?

My neighbor pointed out to me that in fact all my writings for this lovely newspaper have been about perspective, and this one is no different. The idea that makes me proud of my pride is that my home is connected to a longer story. The perspective I'll offer this month is about time. It's not all about me except that I'm a small part of a changing world and I want to be aligned with it.

Our land is more dynamic than anywhere else I've lived. We can see the coast drifting, molding itself to an equilibrium far in the future. The cliffs erode and the clay flows into the bays, the alders fall and the cedars climb, the seasons come and go, the tide washes all. The Olympics are still rising above the Juan de Fuca plate offshore, even as they slide down to the Sound in rain and snowmelt.

I have an old seawall, 1970s concrete and rebar. I'm sure it was built for 1,000 years with a ton of money by a strong-willed man. Maybe he thought it was good stewardship, protecting his own against the forces of destruction. It's falling apart, as it should. Fifty years is nothing for our determined land.

I think about his folly, and many other well-intentioned efforts around me. And about my own ideas of "doing good work." We take stuff to the food bank, buy as local as we can, fill our recycling container dutifully, drive sensibly, smile at our neighbors. That's stewardship, right?

No, not nearly. At least it leaves me unsatisfied. Tomorrow, next week, this life — all way too immediate for my contentment. I think humans have been the biggest single force of destruction in the history of our world. I do think it's our nature and changing our nature is hard, maybe even as silly as that concrete sea wall. Maybe all we can do is the immediate stuff; every day take one step in what seems like the right direction. Maybe we can do big things. We have done them. We mostly quit smoking, we mostly try to understand what's going on beyond the Key Pen, we want to be part of something that matters.

So first, what matters? I guess that's a pretty personal question that I hope you all struggle with, and I wish you well with it.

Then, how do we help? Maybe click on the "donate now" button, teach your children to be good citizens, or join a crew to clean up the highway. (How do people decide to throw their junk from their cars? Do they hate us? Themselves?) Should I build another seawall? Still feels a little short-term to me. Maybe join a church, share your beliefs and build together with them.

The Second Coming is certainly a long view of things, I bet very comforting (or maybe terrifying) for those who have that faith. For the rest of us, real meaning that has endurance is tricky, and maybe vital. I'm old enough to think I might never understand stewardship, but hope is a big part of it, I'm sure. I hope you all do understand stewardship, or still try to.

*Jack Dunne lives gratefully in Lakebay.*

## Phyllis Henry

COAST TO COAST



### I See London

The summer when I was 6 years old, I spent hours hanging from the big oak tree behind the garage. Between me and the oak branch were two ropes, each tied to a suspended 16-inch ring. If I hung onto those rings with my hands for a few minutes

I could get my legs up through them and hang upside-down from the tree until the backs of my knees were rough from friction with the rings.

At my rural school was a second-grader named Walter who hated me. Dirt was thick under his fingernails, and I didn't ever let him touch me. While suspended from the oak tree behind the garage I thought about the mean things Dirty-Fingernails-Walter had said to me: "You're dumb." "You're a girl and can't do things like a boy." "I wish you were dead."

One day when I was in first grade, I showed Dirty-Fingernails-Walter what I could do. I hung from the rings on the playground at school, then slipped my legs through the rings and proudly hung upside down. Dirty-Fingernails-Walter started the chant: "I see London. I see France. I see Phyllis underpants." All the other kids, even my friend Edna, joined in and didn't stop until our teacher intervened. After that day, even though they didn't say the words, someone was constantly humming the rhyme.

What was wrong with my underpants? Mine had embroidered flowers under the names of the days of the week. I got the days right — "Monday" underpants on Monday; "Tuesday" underpants on Tuesday, and so on. I just knew during that summer when I was 6 that I needed to hang upside down with the skirt of my dress floating over my face, somehow proving I was smarter and stronger than the boys.

My mom fussed about panties. Alongside our house on the Iowa farm, three long wire clotheslines were strung between the farmyard and the road. On Mondays when my mom washed clothes, she washed all the underwear at one time, then clothes-pinned them halfway between the farmyard and the gravel road on the middle line, with sheets hiding them on one side and towels on the other. So, it wasn't just my underwear that was to be hidden. Was underwear evil? Ugly?

When I was in third grade my sister took me with her to the local high school. I don't know why this was the custom, but young siblings sometimes joined their older brothers and sisters at high school. While my sister attended classes, I sat in the back of the room with a book. At noon my sister and I and her friends took our paper-sack lunches to the city park across the street from the school.

After we finished our sandwiches and cookies, the big girls talked, and I wandered over to the playground area to check out the greatest swing I ever hoped to see. The swing at my country school had ropes about ten feet long holding the seat. The swing I found in the park had what looked like

20-foot chain supports to hold a bright blue wooden seat.

After twirling the seat around a few times, I sat down and slowly moved back and forth, dragging my feet in the dust. After a bit I pumped a few times and swung higher, feeling like a bird taking flight. My hair streamed behind me when I swung forward, while the full skirt of my dress flew up behind me like the tail of a spectacular bird.

Higher and higher I went, until I felt the pull of gravity so strongly that I feared I would slip off the swing and fly forward to crash on the picnic table. When I swung forward it seemed I was in the clouds. I could see the tops of a few short trees and bushes. Defying gravity, with my hair whirling around my face and the skirt of my dress ballooning behind me, I felt beautiful and smart and strong.

Then as the swing reached as low as it would go, the chains were grabbed by my sister and she dragged me to a lurching stop, dumping me onto the dust beneath the swings. Shocked and bewildered, I was about to ask her why she grabbed the swing and spoiled my ride, when she scolded, "Everyone could see your underpants."

I didn't let anyone see my tears, but once again in my imagination I could hear Dirty-Fingernails-Walter chanting, "I see London. I see France."

*Award-winning columnist Phyllis Henry lives in Gig Harbor.*

## Ted Olinger

ANOTHER LAST WORD



### Flower Blood Moon

I was a university sophomore in New York City in the fall of 1982. There was a girl in my art history class who stood out as particularly smart, attractive and friendly in the way people are who have nothing to hide and nothing to prove.

I had little to do with her besides comparing notes from time to time, but then some change occurred. She became decidedly less friendly, not just to me but to everyone. She spoke less and less, and she altered her appearance. Then she stopped showing up.

Sometime the next fall, I heard the story. She met an older man at a gallery opening who asked her on a date. She said yes, they went out, and he raped her.

The term "date rape" was only then coming into use and was unknown to me as was, frankly, the concept. She became pregnant and spent the following months in denial, somehow living with the knowledge without being able to act on it. She

didn't tell her parents, she didn't tell the school, she didn't tell the police.

And apparently no one thought to ask her what was wrong. I know I didn't.

A friend finally helped her get an abortion. She didn't return to our university.

I mentioned this at the time to a couple of women I worked nights with at a law firm doing word processing. One was an off-Broadway actress; the other was pre-med.

One of them said she had been raped earlier that year walking home from the corner bar early one evening. It was just 50 yards to her apartment building. Someone followed her out of the bar and raped her in the narrow alley behind it face down on a pile of garbage bags. She called the police, but nothing came of it.

My other friend was raped by a cab driver taking her home one night. This was the same year. He opened her cab door as if he was gallantly letting her out, punched her in the face and got into the backseat, then shoved her out into the street when he was done. She had the wherewithal to memorize his license posted over the meter. He was arrested, but never prosecuted.

I expressed some astonishment that three women I knew had been raped within the space of a year and that nothing had been done. They assured me I had more friends who'd survived rape, sexual assault and harassment without me knowing a thing about it.

The following summer, in August 1984, I had been diagnosed with lymphoma and was in pre-op waiting to have a tumor the size of a golf ball cut out of my neck. There was a hospital strike on in New York City at the time and normal protocol got tossed out the window. I was one of three patients sitting in recliners in a crowded room not, I think, ordinarily used for the purpose, being attended to by student nurses and interns on rotation who'd crossed the picket line. There was no privacy nor any attempt

to create it.

I was 5-foot-7 inches tall but down to 125 pounds and so anemic I'd fainted on the way into pre-op. The students were fussing over my arm trying to get an IV in without talking to me about it, which I found quite irritating.

One of the other patients was an old man who looked dreadful; his color was all wrong, his abdomen was asymmetrically distended, and his face was horribly gaunt. But he wore a serene expression and gazed at me without interest, and somehow that calmed me down.

The other patient was a very beautiful woman in her late twenties I guessed; tall, thin, and even sitting there in a hospital gown she looked like a model. She was arguing with a student nurse about the necessity of some test she'd apparently already done and refused to repeat. I tried not to listen, but it had something to do with her Rh factor, which meant she was there because she was pregnant.

They transferred the old man to a gurney with some difficulty and wheeled him out while the woman's male surgeon came in. I leaned back, closed my eyes, and pretended not to be there.

She was anxious already and really didn't want to go through that test again, whatever it was. The doctor was insistent. Some other terms they dropped indicated she was there for an abortion. If she was in a hospital for that instead of a clinic, her condition must have been serious. They spoke for a few minutes, and then the woman and I were alone.

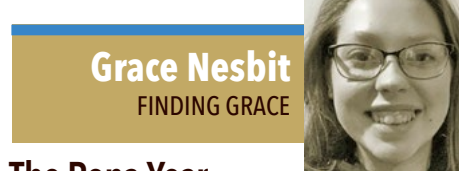
I very casually tried to glance at her without seeming to. She was very casually drawing her fingers under her eyes, the way women do to wipe away tears when they don't want to ruin their makeup, even though she wasn't wearing any. I wanted to say something helpful, noble and brave — something for her to remember me by — whatever

that might be coming from a 19-year-old cancer patient. Thankfully, my innate aversion to talking to strangers prevailed and I remained silent, leaving her what little privacy she had intact.

The students came back with the empty gurney and roughly transferred me onto it. They managed to wrap the IV around something, quite painfully. I tried to duplicate the look of serenity on the old man's face, but I could see the woman looking at me. Our eyes met and she slowly nodded. I nodded too, and we both blinked back some tears.

*Ted Olinger lives in Vaughn.*

*The Sexual Assault Center for Pierce County offers support for recent or longtime survivors 24 hours a day. 253-474-7273*



### The Rona Year

The first "back to normal" school year since the COVID-19 pandemic began is slowly wrapping up. Yearbooks are on sale, the senior Nerf wars are ending, and all the annual festivities like prom and graduation are drawing near. It almost feels "normal," but do we even know what that is anymore?

In the beginning of the year, we were still masked up, socially distant, and the school day was divided into a three-lunch schedule to keep students apart. Then suddenly, no more masks. Life once again felt as if it were just ordinary. However, not all was as it seemed.

Students are still feeling the effects of a year and a half of solitude. Everyone changed somehow during quarantine; we are still trying to find ourselves, and the complexities of school don't seem to help.

In classrooms, skills are being retaught since we're still behind because of the "rona year." Being told by teachers that they have

to dumb down their lessons for us doesn't help, especially when we're all still drowning in work. However, for me there has been a light that has been a soothing balm, an elixir for the everyday grind: Athletics!

I can personally attest to the importance that sports play in mental health. Not only does the effort made in sports improve mental and physical health, for me it has also served as a mental break and become a source of confidence. I have swum and played water polo for three years now, and especially this year it has drastically improved my well-being. I practice or play six times a week, and that provides just about the right amount of time to escape the drama that is high school.

The Peninsula High School girls water polo team just finished our regular season with an undefeated record and the Division II West Champions title. We went on to take second place in the D-II championship after forfeiting a game so we could support a teammate at the memorial for her 13-year-old brother. As of this writing, we are on our way to state.

And we're not the only ones: Fast pitch, baseball, boys soccer, girls golf, girls track and field, boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse all finished their seasons as league champions. Unified soccer, boys golf, boys track and field and girls tennis had pretty outstanding seasons too.

I feel that the success PHS athletes are showcasing this spring is a physical example of resilience and survival. It is as if athletes are pushing and fighting back to find footing as we move forward. Everything around us may have changed, but the feeling of physical exertion and sweat has not. It is a reminder of hard work and, yes, of escape.

Taking a step back into the views from a classroom, I feel as if I have lost not only motivation but overall confidence. I used to be the student who would volunteer to read out loud in class and would know

CONTINUED PAGE 8

### José Alaniz WE LIVE HERE: EMISSARIES



FRED AND ETHEL! EMISSARIES FROM THAT "OTHER" WORLD WE PERSUADE OURSELVES WE LIVE WITH IN PARALLEL — BUT IN FACT INHABIT LIKE ANY OTHER BEAST. FRED LOOKED MAGNIFICENT PERCHED ON OUR ROOF, LIKE GABRIEL WITH TIDINGS FROM THE GREAT BEYOND.



WE SAW THEM AGAIN A FEW TIMES. THEN ONLY ETHEL CAME, ALL ALONE. DID SHE LOOK FORLORN? DISCOMFITED? SHE QUACKED SO SOFTLY COMPARED TO OUR DOMESTICS. THEN NOTHING. IN EARLY MAY, A MEMBER OF A LOCAL FACEBOOK GROUP POSTED A GAME CAM PHOTO OF A MASSIVE BALD EAGLE OVER THE CARCASS OF A LITTLE BROWN DUCK. I WINCED WHEN I SAW IT.



NESBIT FROM PAGE 7

the answer to every question. I now find myself sitting in the back of the room struggling to get my assignments done on time. Many people would say this is due to a newfound “laziness.” It’s more than that. It’s so hard to find the motivation to do things well when it’s taking all your energy just to be in a building surrounded by lots of negativity and few friends.

That attests to the importance of sports. If I can’t be the top notch student I’m expected to be, then I give the best I can in the pool where I’m surrounded by people who I know are going to give it everything they have too, and take our team all the way. It doesn’t matter what we’re doing, whether it’s a swim set, treading, or simple passing drills, we don’t let each other down.

Next year, my final year at PHS, I plan to be back in the pool, swimming a little closer back to “normal” every day.

*Grace Nesbit, a junior at Peninsula High School, lives in Lakebay.*

#### GUEST COLUMNISTS

### Natalie Pierson & Olivia Whitmarsh

## Climate Change Comes Home

On a hot day last August, the Whitmarsh family took a trip to Seattle to visit the Space Needle. Standing in the viewing area, we were shocked to see a large plume of smoke rising to the west. We quickly realized the fire was only a couple of miles from work and home.

The year 2021 was one to remember, a wake-up call to those of us living in a state that generally hasn’t seen the effects of climate change. We are both privileged to live in a gorgeous state full of towering mountains, vibrant forests and the vast Puget Sound, and yet this beauty and peace are at risk. The impact of climate change has continued to increase in recent decades but in the summer of 2021, as the Key Peninsula experienced particularly extreme weather events, climate change became a living reality.

Many of us have been fortunate to watch climate change unfold from afar, which has given us a false sense of security. In the last year the Puget Sound area set records in heat, rainfall and snowfall. These extreme events include the 108-degree heat dome of July, with the devastating loss of 157 people — a 96% increase over 2020, with Pierce County ranking second in highest mortalities according to the state Department of Health.

Senior citizens (about 24% of the KP population) disproportionately suffered last summer, and our lack of public transpor-

tation and resources substantially increases their risk in these conditions. Extreme events continued with devastating floods reaching the 15-foot benchmark in Tacoma while Mount Rainier lost about 30% of its snowpack.

The reality is that our infrastructure is not prepared for what climate change will bring, as last year proved. We don’t write this to instill fear or dread, but to bring awareness to these issues and call people to action in the KP home we love. As individuals, we can’t reverse the effects of climate change; that begins at an institutional level. Yet we know the KP can come together to protect those who are most vulnerable and prepare for changes affecting all of us.

We recognize that these changes in our climate can be daunting, so we want to focus on solutions and tangible actions. Thankfully, our region is beginning the work to improve and adapt by using renewables and conserving green spaces. Peninsula Light Co. relies on up to 98% renewable energy, while the KP has an abundance of parks and trees, and many events to educate residents.

Nevertheless, we can do more to prepare ourselves for the intensifying problems that climate change will bring. From big to small, a few actions newly learned can strengthen community resilience. As wildfires and heatwaves grow in frequency and intensity, creating shelters where residents can find respite from extreme temperatures and smoke will make a substantial difference in preventing temperature and air pollution-related illnesses. The infrastructure for these shelters is already in place as community centers, schools, restaurants and churches all have great potential for protecting those who need it.

Extreme flooding can also pose risks that can be mitigated through group efforts from creating flood barriers with sandbags to improving bulkheads. To address increasing food insecurity, we can start relying on local farmers and gardens throughout the KP to grow our own organic food while also creating new spaces for neighbors to bond and interact.

But none of these spaces will be effective if they are not easily accessible to everyone, so improving public transportation systems to increase accessibility to food, health care, community centers, gardens, green spaces and secondhand merchandise (clothing, tools, personal care products, etc.) for everyone will be essential.

Most importantly, students, staff and faculty from local schools should be involved in these projects to teach and engage students in community resilience and foster strong relationships across gener-

ations. Students can become involved by hosting sandbag projects and starting gardens at school, and raising their voices in support of better change.

We call on our community members to accept this reality and start to build support systems to help each other through this ecological crisis. Climate change is here and it is very real. As urgency grows, it becomes more important to look out for each other so that we can all learn to thrive together.

*Best friends since third grade, KP residents Natalie and Olivia have a passion for people and the planet. Read more about them at keypennews.org*

## Letters to the Editor

### FROM A FELLOW TRAVELER

I just read the latest Joseph Pentheroudakis column, (On the Wing, “1968,” May 2022), which brought back many memories of that time. Two years before him, in the summer of ’66, I had come from Sweden and boarded the Aurelia as well. The ship was filled with students from all over Europe. We were headed to Montreal via the St. Lawrence channel and later by bus to Ann Arbor where host families picked us up for a year of American life.

The next year we left from New York City on a Greek ship back to Europe. I swore I would never return. Ha! I had not seen much besides Flint, Michigan.

*Cecilia Blomberg, Gig Harbor*

### AND YET ANOTHER FELLOW TRAVELER

Coincidences always grab my attention and are easy to understand as hints that there is a pattern to life. Imagine my thrilled surprise on reading the words “M/S Aurelia” in another great Joseph Pentheroudakis column.

In August of ’68, I was on the Aurelia myself. So were hundreds of other American students headed to Europe. On my way to study in Spain, I’d sailed from New York and landed in Southampton the day before Joseph boarded for the ship’s return voyage to the U.S. From his column, it was easy to see it was a significant moment in his life.

It was in mine, as well, but not for geopolitics or the American presidential election. A romance aboard the Aurelia opened for me a road that once taken made all the difference.

Now Joseph and I live in 884-land, and our columns appeared side-by-side in the KP News. What are the odds of that? Far out, man. Now if I can just figure out what the coincidence means.

*Dan Clouse, Lakebay*

*KP News columnist from “The Other Side”*

## OBITUARY



### Lulu Smith

Born Lillian Marie Ryan in Kansas City, Missouri, March 26, 1946, Lulu Smith died at home in Lakebay surrounded by family April 22. She was 76. She was blessed with four children who continued to bless her with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all of whom she loved dearly.

Lulu got her start in the restaurant business “at age 14 working as a soda jerk at Woolworth’s” in her Kansas City home town. From there she worked many years in food service and eventually became the owner-operator of Lulu’s Restaurant and Lounge on McKinley Avenue in Tacoma. After 10 years there, she decided to build her own restaurant from the ground up in Lakebay and the beloved Lulu’s Homeport was born.

Always willing to help, Lulu earned a stellar reputation by supporting the community she loved. She held fundraisers to benefit local schools. She hosted annual Christmas present giveaways and Easter egg hunts for kids. She gave free meals to Evergreen Elementary School students who achieved their academic goals.

Lulu shined in times of crisis. When the infamous winter ice storm of 1996 took out electricity for weeks for most KP residents, the Homeport still had power. She and the kitchen staff worked around the clock to help feed a cold and hungry community.

She was named Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year in 1998.

Fiercely loyal, Lulu had a unique way of making people feel special while her strength of character ensured she never shied away from telling people where she stood. No stranger to tragedy, she was a survivor. She persevered. She was genuine.

Lulu leaves behind family and friends who love her deeply and joins many friends and family members who have passed.

A celebration of life was held May 21 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn.



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Detail from ocean scene mural at Key Peninsula Middle School. *Lisa Bryan, KP News*

## The Longbranch Foundation Rewards Students, Teachers and Schools

**Founded by the Longbranch Improvement Club, the foundation extends the mission to aid the community.**

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

The Longbranch Foundation was just one of 18 Key Peninsula donors to the Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund in 2022, but it's also one of the biggest institutional supporters of KP schools.

And it wants to get bigger.

"We used to give about \$700 or maybe \$1,000 a year to Evergreen, and we used to give \$1,000 scholarships to one or two students," said Barb Floyd, TLF board president emerita and current vice president. "Now we have a five-year plan for scholarships of \$100,000."

TLF was created by board members of the Longbranch Improvement Club, which had been helping the community for a century, including giving scholarships to Evergreen students.

"The foundation was formed as a fundraising mechanism for the LIC in 2016 with six charitable purposes," Floyd said. "Three of those benefit the LIC directly: the marina, the building and the grounds. The other three are targeted for scholarships, other community nonprofits, and a general category that allows us a lot of flexibility to further support the community as needed."

The foundation's 501(c)(3) status provide it a tax incentive for donors, so it has been able to grow its base.

TLF awards scholarships to Peninsula High School seniors from the KP through the Hawks fund and to past award-winners continuing their education or vocational training.

"We gave four new scholarships and four recurring to kids who are in school this year," Floyd said. First-time awards were in the amount of \$2,000 and recurring were \$1,500. "All of that money goes through the Hawks because they have the

connections to the schools and the ability to handle it."

Since its founding, TLF has given away 35 scholarships to 18 different students.

"We review the portfolios that the seniors put together (to apply for a Hawks scholarship) and then our Higher Education Committee picks who should receive the scholarship," Floyd said. "As far as the recurring scholarships go, we ask the kids that are in school to get back to us and tell us how they're doing."

TLF has also given grants directly to Evergreen Elementary School to support programs and pay for supplies. Like the LIC before it, TLF continues to give grants for fifth graders to attend YMCA Camp Seymour on Glen Cove overnight to study the environment.

"We decided last year that we had enough money to extend our support to Key Peninsula Middle School," Floyd said and, working with KPMS staff, they came up with The Longbranch Foundation Mini Grant Program.

"The teachers can apply to us for grants for special projects for up to \$1,000, and since that time we have awarded grants to build a drone, to build mobile raised garden beds to provide access to physically challenged students, and a trip is planned to a farm that employs disabled workers," she said. "We're also working on a mural for an ocean, atmosphere and climate unit that the students are doing; it's an ocean scene that reflects the effects of pollution and stresses the importance of reduce, reuse, recycle."

Jan Prichard, TLF students program chair, said the foundation has been working with staff at Evergreen and KPMS to identify needs and fill them. That has ranged from supplies for the school nurse to rain boots for students. "Eventually we set up

a teacher's special need fund and an after-school scholarship fund. We didn't want anybody to miss out," she said.

TLF has also awarded grants to the STEM program at Evergreen to help students create a weather station and to buy and build robots that allow kids to learn simple coding. "We also spent a little money for recess games and phonics books," she said.

"We want especially to promote experiences, since so many kids don't get off the Key Peninsula really. We were all ready to do a field trip to the waterfront and then Covid hit. We're still aiming to enhance the experiences for students, like the middle school farm trip, and will do our best to make that happen. But meanwhile we're making sure that kids have food and supplies," Prichard said.

TLF may extend its reach to Vaughn and Minter Creek Elementary schools as well, Floyd said, but are short on volunteers to get that done.

Michele Gorman, TLF board president, said "The foundation needs to have a better understanding of what everybody is doing — the PTAs, other organizations — to support the community and if there's any overlap, and we certainly would need more volunteers, that's for sure."

Gorman also identified a need for mentoring students. "We help them in elementary and now a little in middle school, and then not until they graduate," she said. "I am certain there is a gap for many students and that a little bit of support could push them in the direction to feeling confident enough to apply for a grant, or even to consider what their options are after high school."

"I believe the foundation is accomplishing much more than originally intended, which makes us very proud," Floyd said. ■



LEFT: Dogs in a Kharkiv shelter. RIGHT: Dog food distribution in Bucha. BELOW: Soldiers and war dogs in Kharkiv. Tom Bates

#### UKRAINE PET RESCUE FROM PAGE 1

“Before retiring, my very last job was with the Washington State Fair Foundation, and I worked in a program called the traveling farm,” he said. “We had a truck that carried the sheep, goats, chickens, ducks, rabbits, pigs, and we’d have some portable pens we’d set up and we’d teach elementary kids about agriculture. That was my animal experience. The pay was marginal, but it was a great job. We did a lot of good with that.”

Bates spent his first week in Przemyśl (SHEH-mih-shuhl), Poland, just 30 minutes away from Ukraine, volunteering for the ADA Foundation.

“They really needed help, he said. “We had one person just faint from exhaustion and dehydration, one of the vet techs walking through the warehouse, the first day I was there.”

At first, the mission was to collect supplies and care for the animals that got out.

“When I arrived there the influx of animals coming into Poland was hitting its peak,” Bates said. “Poland was having real issues with the number and condition of animals. If you were Ukrainian and it was your pet, you could come right in. But sometimes people would try to bring too many animals in and that ended that.”

The change in border policy changed the mission. Volunteers started working to get supplies into Ukraine — food, medi-

cine, collars and leashes — to zoos, shelters and people who could not evacuate their animals.

“They had a lot of vehicles and not enough drivers, so I fit in really well with them,” Bates said. “We started making runs into Lviv. Driving is not a challenge for me; parking apparently is. I got a parking ticket for not parking on the sidewalk like everybody else.”

Bates connected with another organization in Lviv called Nowzad, an NGO founded by former British Royal Marine Pen Farthing to rescue animals in Afghanistan up until the Taliban took over in August 2021.

“I made six trips over and back,” Bates said. “All my trips were from the Lviv area to Przemyśl. It’s like a two hour drive. But once you throw in border control and the time of day and day of the week, it could be four or five hours there. The border guards are working hard, they’re tired, it’s just 24-7 busy, busy, busy. I kept seeing the same people over and over again.”

Nowzad stored and distributed supplies from a rented warehouse. “They make sure it doesn’t go to black markets and such,” Bates said. “We don’t want that to happen; the supplies could become currency.”

Bates said there are armed soldiers, militia and volunteers everywhere in Ukraine. “All of that, A to Z. Every village



**“I’M HUMBLLED BY THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE. IT’S IN THEIR DNA TO SURVIVE.”**

has barricades on the road manned by the locals. Every neighborhood in Lviv has a barricade to the main highway with burn barrels and flags. I have Google Translate and let me tell you it works well; they’re used to using it. And they’re always happy to see an American, and that helps me get through a little quicker.”

One of the places he visited several

times was the Rescued Animals Home, a wildlife sanctuary that opened its doors to abandoned domestic animals and livestock. “They have foxes, raptors, horses, goats,” Bates said.

The raptors ran out of food when the supply from Mariupol stopped after the Russians invaded that city. Bates found a pet store in Przemyśl with exactly what was



needed: thousands of frozen day-old chicks.

“So now we have a steady supply going in for the raptors,” he said.

The same place sold them \$4,000 worth of flea medicine for \$2,000. “We’re getting a lot of cooperation from the local population in town there,” he said.

“The people I’ve met in Ukraine are exhausted, especially the ones working with animals because there’s no other people to do it and they can’t stop themselves from doing it,” Bates said. “I just take it a little bit at a time. I have a very supportive wife and friends nearby that help pick up whatever I may have left behind. The real heroes of this whole thing are the Ukrainian people. I’m humbled by the Ukrainian people. It’s in their DNA to survive, I’m convinced of that. This is just another Tuesday in Ukraine.”

Bates went back April 25 to volunteer for another month.

For more, go to [www.nowzad.com](http://www.nowzad.com). ■



Orest Zalypsky comforts rescued dogs in Lviv. *Rescued Animals Home*

#### TOM BATES: IN HIS OWN WORDS

*KP News received this report from Bates three weeks after his return to Ukraine in April. Edited for length and clarity.*

This is World War III. There is no doubt. What happens in Ukraine will have an effect on the rest of the world for generations to come. I feel it is a defining moment for the human race.

Look at the brutality of the Russians. The resilience and determination of the Ukrainian people. The indiscriminate destruction of nonessential targets by the Russians. It is there for the world to see. They have murdered, raped, and destroyed the lives of people that want to exist in

peace. There is no other way to describe it.

I came back with the intention of going further into Ukraine to help those people with pets closer to the conflict, the families that will not evacuate and leave their animals behind. The bond can be as strong for animals as for people.

I liken it to Dunkirk of World War II, where ordinary citizens got into their little boats and rescued the British military. We are in our little vans crossing borders to bring humanitarian aid and evacuate animals and people as needed.

The other part is that a lot of Ukrainian fighters go to the front line just as we Americans go to work every day. It’s a commute. They have camouflaged their cars, drive to war, and hopefully return at the end of their shift. I wanted to support those individuals by keeping their families stocked with human and pet food so they can go do their “job” without worrying about how the ones at home are being fed.

The Ukrainian military has pushed the Russians back, allowing me to see some of the battle areas and carnage left behind. I’m able to hear the stories from the locals about their experiences with the Russians. There was an animal shelter between Kyiv and Chernobyl that was overrun by the Russians that housed up to 3,000 dogs. The Russians came through, took the largest dogs and shot many others in front of the people that run the facility. The trauma is still evident in the people and animals there.

In Kharkiv we visited quite a few military checkpoints where some military members have personal dogs with them. This attracts local abandoned dogs that the soldiers will take care of best they can. Their compassion is amazing considering the situation.

I wanted to help. I knew I could help. It just meant that I had to take a deep breath, reach out to others, and go. We are a band of people from around the world that found each other in Poland. People need to take a leap of faith and donate to the ones that are depleting their funds to help the Ukrainians defeat the Russian aggressors.

We are in desperate need of donations to keep the wheels rolling and the humanitarian work going. Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) is managed by people that have been here and understand the needs for the immediate action we provide. Managed by Dan Fine and Tana Axtelle.

I plan to stay until the conflict is over. There is just too much work to do and if I leave that means there’s one less chance for someone’s safety and rescue.

More information on ARF can be found at [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com). To donate to Tom Bates directly, go to [www.indiegogo.com/projects/ukraine-war-animal-relief-fund](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/ukraine-war-animal-relief-fund). ■



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Longbranch Marina circa 2003. *Longbranch Improvement Club*

CHRIS RURIK, KP NEWS

Plans to build a pumpout station at the Longbranch Marina, designed to give boaters a way to empty their sewage tanks, was halted by an unexpected permitting roadblock because of a shared well that is used by the marina.

“We’re on hold right now,” said project engineer Brett Allen, a member of the Longbranch Improvement Club, the marina owner. “We have to discuss this with the other members of the Otto Water System.”

The Otto Water System has five current users including the marina plus two additional unused connections. The state Department of Health does not have all the records it needs about well ownership or capacity. No one seems to know when it was installed, except that it was done by Bill Otto many decades ago.

DOH requires that documentation to be legally recorded before it will permit

Filucy Bay is one of the South Sound’s most popular destinations throughout the summer, particularly for yacht clubs. Boaters in the South Sound will have at least one extra option this summer for pumping out. Every weekend and holiday a pumpout boat will visit Anderson Island, the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor. Boaters can arrange a free pumpout by calling 253-225-7660.

In addition, nearby Cutts Island has been selected as the site for Puget Sound’s first floating toilet, an ADA-accessible dock with two enclosed bathrooms that will be moored in the popular kayaking and boating area. It is also funded by the Clean Vessels Act and should be operational by 2024.

## New Longbranch Pumpout Station Delayed Indefinitely

**A project to keep local waters clean has been suspended by the state even while Filucy Bay is threatened with shellfish closures.**

the pumpout station.

This was the last hoop to clear, Allen said.

Following successful environmental and archeological studies, the LIC elected to apply for the required shoreline permits combining the pumpout station with future projects, including maintenance on the marina and possible expansion. The permits were granted with

conditions on the later phases, so the LIC moved ahead with the first phase only, the pumpout station. Permits were issued for holding tanks near the parking lots and the engineering plans were completed.

Allen has argued to the DOH that water supply only comes into play for future phases of marina development since the pumpout station does not require fresh water. “The Department of Health says it’s a change of story and these studies need to be done on the Otto Water System,” he said.

The users of the shared well must form an association with bylaws and operating agreements. “It’s something that should have been done a long time ago,” said LIC board member Jim Hettinger. “Apparently it was never done. We just have to go through the process.”

The Key Peninsula already has a pumpout station at Penrose Point State Park, he said, but it has been out of service for at least four years. The state has no plans to fix it, according to Washington State Parks.

The \$250,000 grant for the Longbranch pumpout station has been extended until the end of 2023.

The grant is funded by the Washington State Parks Boating Program through the Clean Vessels Act, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program created to reduce pollution caused by boats. In Washington the funding has been used to create a network of pumpout stations so that boaters away from their home ports have an option for their sewage other than discharging into Puget Sound, a once common practice that is now illegal.

A matching grant of \$82,500 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has been spent on development and planning.

In May, DOH announced new restrictions in four of the state’s 115 commercial

shellfish growing areas, including Vaughn Bay, due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria. A further 19 areas are flirting with the borderline and threatened with downgrades, including Filucy Bay, where the Longbranch Marina sits. The latest data show slight improvement at each of the bay’s six sampling stations.

Filucy Bay shellfish harvest has not been in the green since 2001, when fecal coliform levels first went above nationally determined thresholds. That triggered the formation in 2002 of a shellfish protection district for the bay. A team of county surface water managers, conservation district employees, environmental nonprofits and community members work to find and correct sources of fecal pollution.

Pierce County has four shellfish protection districts, all of them on the Key Peninsula: Burley Lagoon, Vaughn Bay, Filucy Bay and Rocky Bay.

Different restrictions apply to different reaches of Filucy Bay. In the far northern cove, where fecal coliform levels consistently spike, commercial harvest is restricted, meaning shellfish must first be moved to cleaner water for a time before they can be harvested. The water around the marina is closed to all harvest, a restriction that applies to all marinas regardless of sample data. The rest of Filucy Bay is approved for conditional harvest, meaning that shellfish may be harvested any time except after rainstorms when an inch or more of rain falls. Several of these areas have come close to triggering increased restrictions in the last two years.

Water quality in Filucy Bay is usually well below the fecal coliform thresholds, according to Barbara Ann Smolko of Pierce County’s Surface Water Management Division. “It’s the spikes that are the issue.”

She said that in the 20-plus years they have been monitoring Pierce County’s four shellfish protection districts, they have found pollution sources that range from liveaboard boats with no septic hookups to artificially high concentrations of wildlife, such as places where ducks are fed. Dogs tend to have a high concentration of fecal coliform in their waste, and dog walkers who do not pick up after their pets on the beach make an outsized contribution to the problem. Logging can also contribute, according to Smolko, if it creates extra sediment in creeks, as sediment attaches to fecal coliform and carries it into the bay. ■





## Around the Hidden Lagoon A botanical exploration of Johnson South Sound Preserve.

CHRIS RURIK, KP NEWS

The muddy easement passes two just-built houses and a fifth-wheel before plunging into the woods. Then the roadbed itself plunges down a ravine. A landslide has scooped away the hillside below, leaving bare dirt and loose roots and just a scrap of trail for us to navigate. It's been a wet spring. High overhead, quilted into firs, are madrona blossoms.

The road comes out on the shore of a hidden lagoon. Grasses, rushes, and staked young shore pines. No Scotch broom. The lagoon's several arms are rimmed with mud and salty logs. Trees lean over the water, hiding creek mouths.

This is the centerpiece of Johnson South Sound Preserve, a nature refuge just north of Devil's Head. The only public access here is to the beach via boat. I am here with Nathan Daniel, executive director of Great Peninsula Conservancy, who is a botanical explorer like me. We have come to brave the rainforest beyond the lagoon's far shore.

The beach has collected driftwood of many forms: ancient lumps of cedar, bleached root forms, pressure-treated boards, a 100-foot fir log with the bark still on. An alligator lizard appears in a crevice between wood and disintegrating Styrofoam. It vanishes.

Daniel says that when he first moved to Washington he was puzzled by the low diversity of amphibians, given all the rain

and wetlands. After a few summers he realized that whereas the Eastern U.S. gets rain all summer, we turn arid. For amphibians to stay moist enough to survive, they must have extraordinary adaptations. It's the same but opposite for our few reptiles. They must be able to survive endless damp and cold to take advantage of the summer sun.

The ability to toggle between surviving and thriving: it's a good way to think about plants too. Not having the ability to move, they have attuned to a far more refined menu of hyperlocal conditions — soil type, drainage, acidity, exposure, companion plants — to craft their life strategies, and have a far greater diversity.

We first go south on the beach. Here is brilliant Indian paintbrush, quite rare locally, growing from the bare face where a bluff begins to rise. Beyond, much of the bluff is covered with ivy, terrible ivy, cascading down from above. But valiantly growing over it are patches of manroot, a native vine also known as wild cucumber, with tendrils curled like fiddleheads and stalks of soap-smooth flowers. I know of only a single manroot in my regular haunts. I love finding so many here.

Daniel prods a gray streak at the base of a 100-foot cliff. Sand falls without resistance. We take a few steps back. In windows of dripping clay above, chickweed monkey-flower sticks its fat yellow lips out to catch the drops. Offshore is another sure sign of bluffs: splashing bands of pigeon guil-

lots. These black and white puffin relatives create tunnels in the cliffs for their nests.

Soon we are crawling up the edge of a bluff, following a faint deer trail under huckleberry. It barely hangs on. Fallen soil. Exposed tree roots. We find a plant with glossy leaves shaped like dog tongues. It looks so familiar yet out of place. I take a photo. Much later it comes to me: it is queen's cup, a species of the mountains. A lily with a small pure white flower. I've never seen one on the peninsula.

Fighting our way upward, we gravitate toward a stand of tall firs. From his backpack, Daniel draws a tool called an increment borer used by foresters to determine a tree's age. He chooses a place at chest height and turns its hollow bit into a deep furrow in the tree's bark. The bit is 20 inches long. When it will go no farther, he inserts a metal instrument called a spoon that draws out a rod of fragile wood.

The tree's rings expand and contract along the length of the rod. We peer at the far end for a circle that is not there. The bit did not reach the tree's center.

I count 170 rings. The tree is older than that. I do the math. This is old growth, alive before the '49ers rushed for gold and logging began on Puget Sound.

More discoveries await. A massive madrona. Skeletonized leaves of — it takes some figuring — poplar. Nearby a brick hearth buried under ivy. In the dirt Daniel finds a cassette. Guns N' Roses. Away from

the old homesite, native vegetation rules. Hazelnut, huckleberry, salmonberry, salal. We find a slug climbing stinging nettle. A large bigleaf maple repels our effort to core it. Below it, a red longhorn beetle stalks the tree's shed limbs. We slide down a chute to a creek that squeezes us back toward the lagoon, pausing to examine a wild gooseberry rising above salal, the only one we have seen. Why here?

As a landowner it is easy to assume that the plants surrounding you also blanket the peninsula. But what is common in one place is absent in another. Plants are highly discerning, and the peninsula is loaded with hidden corners, rare conditions. Being in a place like this has me daydreaming of a Key Peninsula National Park.

At the head of the lagoon is a lush plain incised with muddy creeks. Banks of Siberian miner's lettuce. Grasses, ferns, false-lily-of-the-valley, arrowgrass. Another community. To fully attune yourself to the hyperlocal conditions these plants have selected would be the work of a lifetime.

On our way back up to the easement road we climb the face of the landslide. A neighbor has arrived and is planting twigs in the bare dirt. He says they are thimbleberry starts. Thimbleberry grows just above, he says, so he thought it might work here. He tells us about a work party he organized with his neighbors to eliminate Scotch broom on the beach.

Maybe ivy will be next. ■

TOP LEFT: Wild cherry blossom, CENTER LEFT: Indian Paintbrush, LOWER LEFT: Marrowroot. *Chris Rurik, KP News*

It's wild out there! Send questions, notes and stories to the KP Nature Guide at [nature@keypennews.org](mailto:nature@keypennews.org)

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LEFT: Seniors pledge allegiance at Hawks Award Ceremony RIGHT: PHS teacher Jonathan Bill. *Ed Johnson, KP News*

## Hawks Scholarship Awards Record Amount to PHS Seniors

Thirty-eight years after a group of parents decided to reward a handful of students, their fund has become one of the largest in the state.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

One hundred and thirty-four graduating Peninsula High School seniors received \$366,800 in scholarships at the Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund award ceremony May 18. Fifty scholarship winners were from the Key Peninsula.

“It’s more money than we’ve ever awarded,” said Hayley Nichols, scholarship donor chair and Evergreen Elementary School alumna. The scholarship fund is one of the largest in the state, according to the Peninsula School District.

The fund was founded in 1984 by a group of PHS parents who wanted to provide more recognition to seniors at a time when the school was losing students to then recently opened Gig Harbor High. That first year they awarded \$5,000.

Any PHS senior planning to attend any type of accredited educational institution, vocational or academic, is eligible for a Hawks Scholarship. Students apply by submitting portfolios including their academic records, community service resumes, personal statements, and recommendations. Every student who successfully applies receives at least one scholarship.

The pandemic affected the fund’s finances but not how it was run, according to Nichols.

After a slight drop last year, “this year a lot of donors raised the amount they gave, and we’ve got half a dozen new donors, so that was pretty exciting,” she said.

Another effect of the pandemic was that more students than in years past have not claimed the scholarships they were awarded starting in 2020, the first year of COVID-19 and remote learning.

“They only have 18 months to use their scholarships, so they need to extend it,” Nichols said. “It’s pretty easy, you just need to let us know. We’ve done outreach to every single student who didn’t use their scholarship, and that’s a pretty lengthy process.”

Another change is the content of portfolios students submit.

“A lot of kids struggled with mental health of their own as well as their peers,” Nichols said. “Several of the students specified wanting to go into social work and the mental health professions. I see kids are less interested in going to school to make money; it’s more about ‘how do we solve these bigger problems?’”

She said there was also a change in what students wanted to pursue and what donors

wanted to encourage.

“There’s a shift toward kids moving to vocational,” Nichols said. “Ten or so donors specifically asked for someone going into a trade school. In particular, The Longbranch Foundation has doubled its involvement over the years to fund additional scholarships for this group of students. So, it’s not about sending the top people to college, it’s more supporting the kids in what they want to do.”

The fund is supported by local donors — including 18 on the Key Peninsula — and income from the Seahawks Academic and Vocational Education (SAVE) Thrift Store, located at 1401 Purdy Drive in an old fire station below the high school. This year the store contributed \$65,000 to the fund, more than ever before.

“The store has great merchandise and they’re very selective about what’s there, so it’s a great place for treasure hunters,” Nichols said.

School groups or clubs also have their own scholarships funded by volunteering at the store.

“Students come in and volunteer and we take that money and earmark it for their

group to select a scholarship; they can earn up to \$1,500,” Nichols said. “A lot of the clubs don’t know this — we’ve got band and baseball and soccer and stuff — but any club can do a scholarship for a graduating senior.”

The store is also looking for another paid team member who wants to work three or four days a week.

“The other thing that’s changed over the last couple of years is the volunteer situation,” she said. “Most of the people on the (Hawks Scholarship) board don’t even have students at Peninsula anymore. Some have not had kids in school for over a decade. We’re just keeping the program going and we’re waiting for parents of new students to come in and take over.”

Nichols herself is in her ninth year on the board. Her youngest child graduated from PHS last year.

“It’s a pretty buttoned-up organization; we’ve got a good system of who does what when,” she said. “It’s the most rewarding organization I’ve ever been a part of. It’s just a really beautiful thing.”

The PHS class of 2022 will graduate at the Tacoma Dome June 18.

For more on the history of the Peninsula Hawk Scholarship Fund, go to [keypennews.org/stories/peninsula-hawks-scholarship](http://keypennews.org/stories/peninsula-hawks-scholarship). ■

**“IT’S THE MOST REWARDING ORGANIZATION I’VE EVER BEEN A PART OF. IT’S JUST A REALLY BEAUTIFUL THING.”**



Coach Beth Porter, left, runs with fourth-graders Evey Lee and Eliza Rasmussen. *Tina McKail, KP News*

## Evergreen Elementary Girls on the Run

KRISA BRUEMMER, KP NEWS

The nationwide program Girls on the Run returned this spring to Evergreen Elementary School for a 12-week season. Eighteen girls from third through fifth grade met after school twice a week for lessons that blended physical activity and life skills to prepare for a 5K challenge at the end of the season.

“Half of it is running but the other half is how to be a responsible, good girl, and to be able to make the right choices,” said Beth Porter, a first-grade teacher at Evergreen and one of the three coaches. Now in her fourth year with Girls on the Run, Porter said she’s coached about 70 girls.

The group begins each practice with a 30-minute lesson including discussion and reflection, as well as a snack and warm-up exercises.

“We’ve got our norms that hang in the classroom about what Girls on the Run are — we’re caring, we pull each other up, we treat each day as a new beginning,” Porter said. “It’s a safe space. There’s no boys and everybody listens to one another.”

The group recently discussed empathy and various scenarios the girls might encounter with friends and family, covering simple strategies for tricky situations when it is important to show someone that you care.

“You see how they feel and you kind of feel those feelings with them, right?” said Coach Karlee Laubaugh, who teaches third grade at Evergreen.

For their workout, the girls set a goal of completing 20 laps around the sports field, then walked, jogged and ran in pairs, discussing a new difficult situation printed on a notecard during each lap. They checked in with Laubaugh, telling her what emotion the person in the scenario might be feeling and how they would respond to help bring out positive feelings and encourage what the group called the person’s “Star Power.”

These check-ins began with identifying whether the person’s emotions had “Cloud Cover,” meaning they were negative or dark, or “Star Power,” and moved on to identify feelings, including sadness, nervousness, happiness, jealousy, pride, shyness and physical pain. They discussed situations involving friends, family, teachers and strangers, incidents of bullying, helping, stifling jealousy and overcoming frustration or disappointment.

Fourth-grader Piper Schumann said she did not enjoy running much in the past but likes “the way it feels to get exercise” and joined the group because she wanted to improve her speed for softball. Now she plans to return to the

group next year and said she can imagine herself running on a track team one day.

Each practice ends with an “Energy Award” honoring someone whose effort stood out that day, intended to reward and reinforce positive behavior. There were two winners May 4: Mia Matthies, a third-grader who ran in head-to-toe pink and a headband with fluffy cat ears, and her running partner Hailey Fuentes. The pair received a group cheer for being thoughtful and empathetic while talking through their scenario cards, as well as for working hard to complete their laps and keep moving the entire practice.

Porter’s main goal for the group is for everyone to complete the Girls on the Run West Sound 5K June 5 at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds in Bremerton, where

around 1,000 girls from Pierce, Kitsap and Mason county chapters are expected to run. “It’s not a race, it’s just a completion,” she said.

“I would really like for them to be able to use these skills in the future; I mean, up until adulthood,” Porter said. “A lot of the things we teach, I tell them ‘there are a lot of adults who don’t know how to do this now and you’re already getting the groundwork.’”

Mia said Girls on the Run has helped her understand how important kindness is in all situations.

“You should be nice,” she said. “Even though someone is not being nice, you should be nice.”

For more information visit [www.girlsontherun.org](http://www.girlsontherun.org) ■

Reviewing lessons after the run. *Tina McKail, KP News*







Celebratory popsicles and fire engine tours were a big hit with students. *Ed Johnson, KP News*

## Move With Minter Fundraiser Earns All-Around Success

**A firefighting team approach inspired kids to get outside and move to support their school.**

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

A simple idea garnered big rewards for students and families at Minter Creek Elementary School in May.

The Minter Creek PTA fundraiser, spearheaded by Jessica Gamble, raised almost \$10,000 in two weeks. “Dale Heidal and the fire department are the reason for our success. I can’t thank them enough,” Gamble said.

She also had praise for the 30 businesses, organizations and individuals that contributed in one way or another.

The goal was to raise funds for the school by sponsoring students to establish healthy habits, and to foster generosity, she said.

Students had the opportunity to focus on fitness and make a pledge to exercise for 30 minutes every day between April 22 and May 9. Each student who completed their pledge and turned in a daily record of their exercise time was invited to attend the culminating celebration May 10 even if they did not raise any money.

“After two years of disruption and isolation due to COVID-19, the PTA is in start-up mode,” Gamble said, “but there has been a plan developed for a multi-year fundraising goal that will support the positive learning environment.”

Although there are no explicit plans for how the funds will be used, the PTA did allocate 10% of the proceeds to the Minter Creek program run by Harmony Armendariz, the site director for Communities in Schools of Peninsula. Armendariz expressed gratitude to the community for the generous support and said the funds could be used for programs or curriculum that support social-emotional growth and basic needs for students supported by CISP.

The kick-off event was a visit by Key Peninsula firefighters. Lt. Heidal and Volunteer Battalion Chief Anne Nesbit recruited 15 volunteers from the department to work out with the kids and motivate them. About 40% of Minter Creek students participated.

On celebration day, the students who had exercised every day and turned in their daily record sheets were treated to a popsicle party with three of the firefighters who

had been their main cheerleaders: Adam Morse, Ami Shipp and Heidal.

According to fourth-grader Brandon Pomeroy, the best part of the day was “the firefighters coming and getting to see all the cool things about the truck.”

“The biggest win for the firefighters was seeing the kids transition toward positive attitudes about health and fitness,” Heidal said.

“This was a great fundraiser and far exceeded expectations,” said Minter Creek Principal Todd Hering. He added that the most probable long-lasting effect of encouraging students to exercise is the realization that “exercise doesn’t mean just running and sports. There are so many other opportunities — playing tag with friends, being outside, gardening, just being active.”

Hering credited Gamble for proposing the idea and doing most of the fundraising work. Both expressed amazement at how the community works, and how supportive busi-

nesses, organizations and individuals were.

Gamble reported that the top sponsors were the Key Peninsula Professional Firefighters Local 3152, Brookside Veterinary Hospital, Community Health Care, and Purdy Cost Less Pharmacy.

“Move with Minter was a great experience,” said Jen Murphy, a mother of triplets. “Not only did it encourage the kids to get outside and get moving, it was a great lesson in putting in work to accomplish their goals. This was a great fundraiser and we are so happy to be a part of the Minter Creek community.”

Fourth-grader Harper Bows said the thing she liked best was “exercising with my family, my nana and my cousins.” Harper’s sister, third-grader, Scarlett, nodded in agreement.

Kindergartner Lucy Hostetler said the best thing about participating was, “exercising with my best friend, Heidi.” Heidi also happens to be her twin sister.

In June, the classes that raised the most money in each grade will attend a skate night donated by the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

A list of all 30 businesses, community organizations and individual supporters is available on the Move With Minter website [movewithminter.org](http://movewithminter.org). ■



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## Dr. Roes Celebrated and Honored in Bronze

His long-time patients wondered, "How can we ever thank him?"

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Community leaders, colleagues, former staff, friends and family gathered at the Key Peninsula Civic Center April 23 in gratitude for the humble, kind-hearted country doctor who practiced medicine as the only physician west of the Purdy Bridge for over 40 years.

The idea for a bronze plaque bearing the likeness of Dr. William Roes was sparked by his 95-year-old patient, Hugh McMillan. He tapped another longtime patient, Norm McLoughlin, to lead the effort. A generous community turned the notion into reality.

The plaque will be installed at Community Health Care - Key Center Medical, constructed by Roes in 1993.

Roes sold his practice and the building to Community Health Care in 2021 in part to ensure his patients and the wider KP community could continue to receive

quality medical care without traveling long distances.

Not yet fully retired, Roes continues to make house calls for his

most elderly patients. A modest man known to avoid the limelight, several of his former staff joked that he keeps working just to avoid a retirement party.

The community threw a party for him anyway.

Generations of Claudia Loy's family were treated by Dr. Roes all the way back to her grandmother Minnie Hulda Ricketts. Loy was easily recruited by Joyce Tovey; both wanted something special to celebrate their doctor and friend.

Along with McLoughlin and his wife Lisa — whose daughter was delivered by Roes, Loy brought all the party elements together thanks to perennial team player Carla Cameron, who managed the doctor's office the last 25 years.

Master of ceremonies Chuck West recalled the decades-long close, professional relationship the KP Fire Department enjoyed with Roes, as well as a history of water fights between the two staffs.

West invited the audience, nearly 100 people, to step up to the mic and share their stories.

Sara Thompson, president of The Mustard Seed Project board of directors, said she crossed paths with Roes many

times. Her mother, Virginia Thompson, served on the board that established the first health clinic in Key Center. Roes also served as the first president of TMSP and continues to support its work.

"As a retired doctor, I can tell you they don't make doctors like Bill anymore," Thompson said. "That's why no single human being could take his place — instead it took an entire organization."

Several testified to his tenderness and compassion. Others spoke of his sense of humor, love of practical jokes and enjoyment of the absurd.

Dr. John Olsson, who started Key Center Family Dentistry, said years ago Roes pitched the idea of forming a marching band to play in local parades. They recruited their own children and those of their respective staffs, and taught them

**"RUTH STAYED HOME IN TACOMA TO DO THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK OF ALL BY RAISING OUR TWO BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS, MARY AND CHRISSY."**

the night before how to march in a parade and play three songs on their kazoos.

That effort

evolved into the Down Home Band, which welcomes everyone to pull out their high school band uniforms and dust off their old instruments to play along. They gave up the marching part. The band performed on this occasion to honor their band-leader in style.

Roes told his audience it was the fascinating lives and character of his patients that made practicing medicine here an enjoyment.

Most of all, he credited the patience of his wife Ruth, who made it possible for him to work and participate as much as he does in the KP community.

"Ruth stayed home in Tacoma to do the most important work of all by raising our two beautiful daughters, Mary and Chrissy," he said.

Cameron, who worked alongside Dr. Roes for 36 years, said the practice became like a big family for her.

"You develop a rapport, you get to know those patients as people, you really care about them. It was awesome," she said. "Medicine has changed so much. Things will never be the same. Times change and so do we. We sure had a wonderful time." ■

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## George Orwell: 'Facing Unpleasant Facts'

That's volume I of this collection of essays; volume II is "All Art is Propaganda."

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

One of the better memories I have from my 1970s high school years are the hours I stole for myself by ditching an English class I despised. I hid out in the stacks of the library, sneaking along the lonely aisles and scanning shelves until a title caught my eye. Then I would sit on the floor reading and thinking about writing, rather than sitting in a class hearing about it instead.

George Orwell's novels were well-known of course, but I hadn't read any of them yet. I recognized his name on a book spine however and pulled out a collection of his essays. I might as well have pulled a lever on a trap door under my own feet.

Here was "A Hanging," published in 1931 under his own name, Eric Arthur

Blair, an entirely unknown 27-year-old. It was printed by a pacifist magazine he once habitually used for target practice as an Imperial Police Officer in Burma.

His evolution was obvious, even to me at 14, in "Shooting an Elephant," "Politics and the English Language" and "Why I Write," where in 1946 he said "I had the lonely child's habit of making up stories and holding conversations with imaginary persons, and I think from the very start my literary ambitions were mixed up with the feeling of being isolated and undervalued. I knew that I had a facility with words and a power of facing unpleasant facts, and I felt that this created a sort of private world in which I could get my own back for my failure in everyday life."

His name comes up in the news almost every day, evoked by politicians and pundits all over the spectrum conjuring dystopian dread. But his novels "1984" and "Animal Farm" obscure the fact that George Orwell made his living as an essayist. He wrote reviews, critiques and analyses of ordinary life and people in plain language that split open the heart of the matter to reveal something extraordinary, and often dangerous, inside.

This two-volume collection reproduces many overlooked pieces, dividing them into narrative essays — events from his own experience — and critical essays, where he holds something or someone up to examination.

Orwell examines the work of his contemporaries: H.G. Wells, T.S. Eliot, Henry Miller. He punches above his weight at Virginia Woolf, Tolstoy and Gandhi. In the first

sentence of his review of a performance of "The Tempest" with John Gielgud and Jessica Tandy, Orwell writes "If there is really such a thing as turning in one's grave, Shakespeare must get a lot of exercise." He even reviews other reviewers.

It is all for a greater purpose.

Analyzing W.H. Auden's poem "Spain" in 1940 about the brutality of the Spanish Civil War, where Orwell fought and was wounded, he writes "notice the phrase 'necessary murder.' It could only be written by a person to whom murder is at most a word ... It so happens that I have seen the bodies of numbers of murdered men — I don't mean

killed in battle, I mean murdered. Therefore, I have some conception of what murder means — the terror, the hatred, the

howling relatives, the post-mortems, the blood, the smells ... Mr. Auden's brand of amorism is only possible if you are the kind of person who is always somewhere else when the trigger is pulled."

Orwell uses the point to illustrate the drifting denial England fell into as war engulfed it, and how.

"With all its injustices, England is still the land of habeas corpus, and the overwhelming majority of English people have no experience of violence or illegality. ... To people of that kind, such things as purges, secret police, summary executions, imprisonment without trial, etc., etc., are too remote to be terrifying. They can swallow totalitarianism because they have no experience of anything except liberalism."

This thinking begins with "Shooting an Elephant" (1936), Orwell's recollection of that event in Rangoon where, even as the local authority with a rifle in his hands, he felt powerless against the collective will of people who hated the colonial British Empire, and therefore him. "I perceived in this moment that when a white man turns tyrant it is his own freedom that he destroys."

And in "My Country Right or Left" (1940), he writes "Patriotism has nothing to do with conservatism. It is devotion to something that is changing but is felt to be mystically the same... To be loyal to both (Prime Minister) Chamberlain's England and the England of tomorrow might seem an impossibility, if one did not know it to be an everyday phenomenon... It is exactly the people whose hearts have

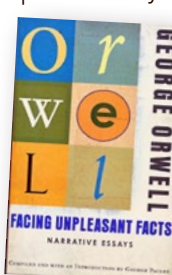
never leapt at the sight of the Union Jack who will flinch from revolution when the moment comes."

But in "Some Thoughts on the Common Toad" (1946), Orwell defends the petty bourgeois custom of enjoying nature, asking "is it politically reprehensible, while we are all groaning, or at any rate ought to be groaning, under the shackles of the capitalist system, to point out that life is frequently more worth living because of a blackbird's song? ... If a man cannot enjoy the return of spring, why should he be happy in a labor-saving utopia?"

It is a long view and a thoughtful one many would not attribute to the author of "Animal Farm" (1945) and "1984" (1949). But Orwell, who took his pen name from the serene River Orwell in East Anglia, concludes the essay by saying "The atom bombs are piling up in the factories, the police are prowling through the cities, the lies are streaming from the loudspeakers, but the Earth is still going round the sun, and neither the dictators nor the bureaucrats, deeply as they disapprove of the process, are able to prevent it."

Orwell's many criticisms of his society did not make him a defeatist. That gives his words even greater power as we discern the lessons he wrote in his time for our own — like how to face unpleasant facts. ■

"Facing Unpleasant Facts" and "All Art is Propaganda," essays by George Orwell, published by First Mariner Books, 2009.



Eric Arthur Blair, Orwell's actual name, was born in 1903 in India and grew up in Oxfordshire. He was well-educated but instead of going to university enlisted in the Indian Imperial Police and served in Burma five years.

He fought in the Spanish Civil War, where he was severely wounded, which kept him out of the uniformed services in World War II. Instead, he put his writing career on hold and worked full-time for the BBC creating pro-government propaganda. He is the author of six novels, three works of nonfiction, and hundreds of essays. He died in London in 1950 of tuberculosis at the age of 47.

For more KP Reads Orwell, go to [keypennews.org/stories/homage-to-catalonia,4276](http://keypennews.org/stories/homage-to-catalonia,4276).

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## Spring into Summer

Refreshing Greek-style salad and vegetarian dolmades.

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

It may be a while before your tomato plants flower and set fruit to grow and ripen for harvest. Until then, satisfy your craving for food that tastes clean, fresh and bright with this Greek-inspired orzo pasta salad.

After making it once, make it your own by playing around with the ingredient amounts to suit your taste.

Whether served as the main course or as a side dish, this salad looks as pretty in the bowl as it tastes. Easily doubled for a potluck or party, the bowl comes home empty nearly every time.

### Greek-Style Orzo Pasta Salad

- 1 cup orzo pasta
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 6 tablespoons lemon juice, freshly squeezed
- 1 14 oz. can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- ¾ cup crumbled feta cheese
- ¼ cup chopped fresh dill (there is no substitute for the real thing)
- 2 tablespoons fresh mint, chopped
- ¾ cup fresh or frozen petite green peas, cooked and cooled
- ¼ cup toasted pine nuts
- 2½ cups chopped fresh tomatoes, remove seeds and drain
- Baby spinach leaves

Cook pasta, rinse and drain under cold water until cool. Transfer to a large

mixing bowl and immediately stir in the extra virgin olive oil.

Mix together the garlic, salt, cayenne pepper, lemon juice and set aside for use as the dressing.

Add the chickpeas, feta cheese and fresh dill to the bowl of pasta. Toss gently with dressing and refrigerate until close to serving time or up to a day ahead.

Gently stir in the mint, cooked and cooled green peas, toasted pine nuts and tomatoes. Adjust seasonings to taste.

If serving on individual plates, make a bed of baby spinach leaves on each plate and top with salad servings. If serving at a potluck, arrange the baby spinach leaves around the edge of a serving bowl before adding the orzo salad.

### Vegan Greek Dolmades

There are a surprising number of small vineyards on the Key Peninsula, tucked away in gardens here and there. Fresh grape leaves for use in dolmades make a special seasonal treat. Only pale, tender leaves are suitable. The leaves typically reach their prime from mid- to late-spring until summer solstice. The leaves may be harvested, blanched and bundled for freezing in bags or containers to extend the homegrown goodness for up to six months.

Preserved grape leaves from a jar are the most practical year-round choice for making these bites of vegan goodness. Once a common sight on grocery shelves, brined grape leaves have become more challenging to find. The safest bet is ordering them online, or better yet ask

your local grocer to carry them.

The combined sweetness of rice cooked with onions, currants and the richness of toasted pine nuts all rolled up in an edible green package is practically irresistible. Tell the kids these tasty little snacks would be fit for herbivore dinosaurs like triceratops and stegosaurus and watch what happens.

- 6 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup of medium or long grain white rice
- 2 medium onions, finely chopped
- 2 cups water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 4 tablespoons pine nuts, lightly toasted
- 4 tablespoons dried currants
- 60 grape leaves

Heat 3 tablespoons olive oil over moderate heat in a heavy 10-inch skillet or sauce pan with a tight-fitting lid. Add the onions and cook until they are transparent but not browned. Add the uncooked rice and stir constantly for about 2 minutes to ensure all the grains are coated with oil.

Stir the salt and pepper into the water and pour over the rice. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes until all the liquid is absorbed.

Heat one tablespoon of remaining olive oil on medium-low heat in a small skillet and cook the pine nuts until they just begin to lightly brown. Remove from heat and quickly add them to the

cooked rice, then stir in the currants to distribute evenly.

If using freshly harvested grape leaves: In a large pot, bring 2 quarts of water to boil. After removing any hard stems, drop the grape leaves in and turn off the heat, allowing them to blanch for one minute. Drain the leaves into a sieve and plunge the sieve into a bowl of cold water to cool. Drain and begin gently separating the leaves and spread them dull side up onto paper or clean linen towels.

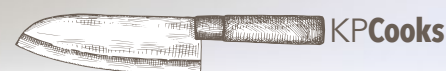
If using preserved grape leaves from a jar: Drain and rinse the leaves in cold water to remove the salty brine before spreading the leaves dull side up onto towels.

Reserve any torn or broken leaves to line a flat-bottomed steamer rack in a pan with an inch of water; leave some air below the rack.

With the stem end facing you at the bottom, place a tablespoon of stuffing on the center of the leaf. Fold the stem end upward to at least partially cover the stuffing. Then fold the left side over the mound, followed by the right side. Roll the grape leaf gently but firmly away from you into a compact cylinder.

Place the stuffed leaves seam side down on the prepared steamer rack, side by side in layers and drizzle with remaining olive oil. Bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and steam for about 30 minutes.

Cool the dolmades at least another 30 minutes before serving. Refrigerate for up to three days. Makes about 50. ■





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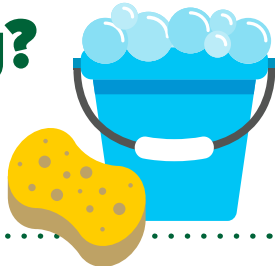
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## Key Peninsula Community Connection

Peninsula School District 401 Newsletter - June 2022

### KPMS Students build life skills with AVID class speaker

What can a law firm recruiter teach a group of middle school students, who are at least a decade away from entering law school? A lot of things, if you ask Key Peninsula Middle School (KPMS) AVID Teacher Rachelle Welander.



KPMS AVID Teacher Rachelle Welander

Welander instructs 7th and 8th grade students on what she calls "soft" skills during AVID class. AVID stands for "Advancement Via Individual Determination." PSD offers AVID at KPMS and Peninsula High School (PHS) as a college readiness system of support for students to increase their awareness, and their access to college and career success.

"We work on a variety of soft skills needed for any career path they may choose," Welander said. "In the AVID class (students) are held accountable for organization, communication skills, timeliness, oral speaking skills, how to take notes and use them, and a variety of skills that fall under career and college readiness."

On Friday, May 6, Welander's class was visited by Katryn Whitney, a Recruiting Manager for Emerald Search Partners, who focuses on recruiting recent college graduates.

"With this age group, I try to tie it into the soft skills. These are things that you can tangibly work on now; work ethic, punctuality, attention to detail, and organization. These are going to help them now and set them up for success later," Whitney said.

KPMS students asked Whitney questions such as "what do you look for on a resume?", and "what will make me stand out from the rest?"

For Welander, these are the questions she answers every class to help them find success at school, at their first job, and in their future careers.

Families can learn more about AVID classes at KPMS and PHS at [www.psd401.net/learning/avid](http://www.psd401.net/learning/avid).



Left: KPMS AVID student Perla Torres-Alcantar. Right: Katryn Whitney, Recruiting Manager for Emerald Search Partners.

### Upcoming Dates and Events

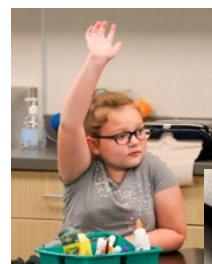
- Saturday, June 11 - 10 a.m. Key Peninsula Middle School Construction Tour
- Saturday, June 18 1:30 p.m. PHS Graduation at the Tacoma Dome
- Monday, June 20 1 p.m. Evergreen Elementary 5th Grade Promotion
- Friday, June 3 5:30 pm Minter Creek Elementary STREAM-A-Palooza
- Wednesday, June 22 5:30 pm Vaughn Elementary 5th Grade Moving On Car Parade

### Evergreen Elementary receives state STEM grant

Evergreen Elementary was named one of Washington State's STEM Lighthouse Schools for 2021-2022, which includes a \$20,000 grant. Lighthouse schools serve as resources and examples of best practices in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction, according to the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Evergreen's goal is to grow as a STEAM school by promoting STEAM literacy. Funding from the grant will go towards the design and

building of an Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE). The OLE will include a natural playscape as well as a learning area with covered seating and furniture. The gym will be transformed into a multi-purpose facility with large-scale garage doors for access to garden beds, a wastewater indigenous plants area, weather stations, forest pathways and more. The grant will also help Evergreen implement professional development for its teachers and new outdoor learning tools.



Second grade students at Evergreen Elementary learn about moths and butterflies during their STEAM class on May 6, 2022.



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**WATCH FOR NEW SUMMER SCHEDULE IN JULY**

# FREE KP BUS CONNECTS Welcome aboard!

**VAUGHN TUE/THUR MORNING**

- 9:00 Vaughn Elementary School
- 9:03 Wright Bliss Rd NW @Olson Dr NW
- 9:04 Wright Bliss Road @104th St Ct NW
- 9:06 Union 76 @SR 302/4 Corners
- 9:09 SR 302 @150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 9:12 SR 302 @140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 9:15 SR 302 @Charboneau Construction
- 9:19 Lake Kathryn Village
- 9:25 Purdy Park & Ride

**VAUGHN WEDNESDAY MORNING**

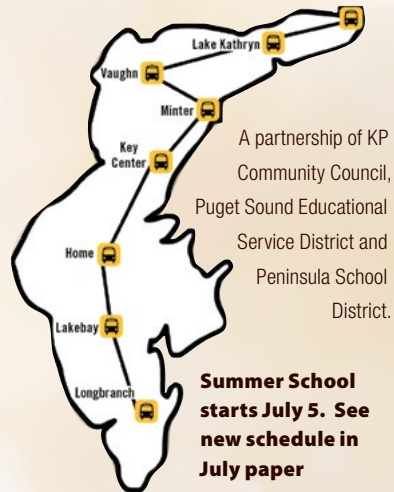
- 10:00 Vaughn Elementary School
- 10:03 Wright Bliss Rd NW @Olson Dr NW
- 10:04 Wright Bliss Road @104th St Ct NW
- 10:06 Union 76 @SR 302/4 Corners
- 10:09 SR 302 @150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 10:12 SR 302 @140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 10:15 SR 302 @Charboneau Construction
- 10:19 Lake Kathryn Village
- 10:25 Purdy Park & Ride

**EVERGREEN TUE/THUR MORNING**

- 9:00 Evergreen Elementary School
- 9:05 Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
- 9:07 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @193rd Ave
- 9:13 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 9:14 Home Gas Station @KP Hwy N
- 9:20 167th Ave Ct NW @KP Hwy N
- 9:22 Food Market in Key Center
- 9:25 KP Hwy N @Minterwood Dr NW
- 9:33 Lake Kathryn Village
- 9:40 Purdy Park & Ride

**EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY MORNING**

- 10:00 Evergreen Elementary School
- 10:05 Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
- 10:07 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @193rd Ave
- 10:13 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 10:14 Home Gas Station @KP Hwy N
- 10:20 167th Ave Ct NW @KP Hwy N
- 10:22 Food Market in Key Center
- 10:25 KP Hwy N @Minterwood Dr NW
- 10:33 Lake Kathryn Village
- 10:40 Purdy Park & Ride



**TUE/WED/THUR AFTERNOON**

- 4:42 Purdy Park & Ride
- 4:47 Lake Kathryn Village
- 4:50 SR 302 @Windermere Realty
- 4:52 SR 302 @140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
- 4:53 SR 302 @150th/Lake Holiday bus shed
- 4:55 4 Corners gas station @SR 302
- 4:57 Wright Bliss Road @104th St Ct
- 4:58 Wright Bliss Road @Olson Dr
- 5:00 Food Market in Key Center
- 5:04 167th Ave Ct NW @KP Hwy N
- 5:08 Home Gas Station @KP Hwy N
- 5:10 KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
- 5:13 Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
- 5:14 Palmer Lake 21st St SW @193rd Ave
- 5:18 Evergreen Elementary School



253-884-BUSS or [keypennews.org/kpbus](http://keypennews.org/kpbus) for interactive map and downloadable schedule  
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**FREE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL AGES**

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YOUTH UNDER 12 MUST BE WITH ADULT  
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Join the LIC July 16 and 17 at Centennial Marina Days! Cruise from Tacoma to the Longbranch Marina aboard the 100-year-old wooden steamer, Virginia V, the morning of July 16. Tickets include charter bus ride, box lunch and LIC shuttle for \$125.

At the Longbranch Marina, you can tour the Virginia V that afternoon or attend the Longbranch Foundation's benefit period party, *Step Back in Time*. Tickets include food and live period music for \$75.

Then at noon on July 17, join the **Marina Days Pavilion Party** at the marina! \$15 includes an LIC shuttle, live music, catered food and cash bar. And at 4pm don't miss the Centennial Boat Parade on Filucy Bay. For more details and tickets go to [www.licweb.org](http://www.licweb.org).



The Longbranch Improvement Club | **2021 CENTENNIAL**

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE



## Half Marathon - 10K - 5K

The children's charities we support are Children's Home Society Peninsula, Food Backpacks4Kids, and Communities In Schools Peninsula. We have also supported a Montessori Elementary School in Guatemala.

Brought to you by: Rotary Club of Gig Harbor North. **Rotary**

**August 6, 2022  
Tacoma Narrows Airport**

**RACE HIGHLIGHTS AND RUNNER SWAG!**

6:30AM - 7:45 AM - Packet Pick-up

Race start times:  
8:00AM - Half Marathon Start  
8:15AM - 10K Start  
8:30AM - 5K Start  
12:00PM - Official Timing Concludes

\*Please note there is no advance packet pick-up

- ✓ Scenic course, with all distances running the iconic Tacoma Narrows Bridge!
- ✓ Well-supported race with multiple aid stations for each distance.
- ✓ Tech shirt for all runners.
- ✓ Custom, locally made finisher medal for all distances.

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

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To add a listing for your event or find the latest details, visit [www.keypennews.org/calendar](http://www.keypennews.org/calendar)

**June 3 Coffee and Connection** at Tom Taylor YMCA. 11:30 a.m.

**June 11 & 25 Family Garden Days.** Fun, sun, gardening and crafts with Food Backpacks 4 Kids. All ages welcome, children accompanied by adult. In Key Center turn at the light onto Cramer. Go up the hill and take the first right to fenced gray building on the left. In front of Glen Cove Auto, down the street from Mustard Seed Project. 10 a.m.

**June 11 Key Peninsula Middle School Construction Tour.** Patrick Gillespie will lead a tour to highlight construction progress and the next phase of the school's capital project. Community welcome. Meet in front, rain or shine at 5510 Key Peninsula Highway NW in Lakebay. 10 a.m.

**June 14 TacomaProBono Housing Help.** Answers about eviction prevention, legal protections for tenants, apply for rental/utility assistance. Key Peninsula Community Services, 17015 9th Street Court NW, south of Home along KP Highway. 10 a.m.

**June 16 Gig Harbor Adult Fiction Book Club** at 2:30 p.m. on Zoom. "In the Shadow of the Banyan" by Vaddey Ratner. A life of privilege shattered by the outbreak of civil war in Cambodia. [calendar.piercecountylibrary.org/event/6266237](http://calendar.piercecountylibrary.org/event/6266237)

**June 17 Baby Lounge** at noon at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. A safe space for all families with babies up to 1 year to connect and learn with other parents. Expecting parents also welcome. Instructor: Evelyn Patrick.

**June 23 & 30 Down Home Band Rides Again!** Our first performance will be July 4 at Home Parade. Practice is open to anyone playing an acoustic instrument. Key Medical Center at 7 p.m. Questions to Dr. Roes at 253-884-9221.

**June 23 Key Pen Book Club** at 11 a.m. "The Invisible Life of Audie La Rue" by V. E. Schwab. Discussion at KP Historical Society. Book available online. [kathryn.schneider2@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.schneider2@gmail.com)

## WEEKLY EVENTS

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

**M-W-F** through June 20 **Community Swim** at Easterseals Camp Stand By Me. [iJunefield@wa.easterseals.com](mailto:iJunefield@wa.easterseals.com).

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

**T-W-Th HeartFit** Women's free fitness classes at WayPoint Church; Tue 6 p.m., Wed 5 p.m., Thur 10 a.m. [heartfitwp@gmail.com](mailto:heartfitwp@gmail.com)

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

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

**Thursday KP Toastmasters.** Thursdays, 8 to 9 a.m. WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Ave NW. [keypeninsulatostmasters@gmail.com](mailto:keypeninsulatostmasters@gmail.com) or 425-243-2618

**Thursday Waterfront Farmers Market** 1 p.m. at Skansie Park, 3211 Harborview Drive in downtown Gig Harbor.

**Friday** through June 17 **Skate Night** for elementary-middle school, \$5 (cash please) includes skates, parents free, 6 to 10 p.m. at KP Civic Center.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

**26th Legislative District Democrats.** First Thursdays 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. [26thdemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:26thdemocrats@gmail.com)

**Key Peninsula Advisory Commission.** Third Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Details at [piercescountywa.gov/5937](http://piercescountywa.gov/5937)

**KP Business Association.** Luncheon, third Fridays noon to 1 p.m. [kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com](mailto:kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com)

**KP Business Association.** Business meeting, first Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. DK Property Management or Zoom. [kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com](mailto:kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com)

**KP Community Council.** Second Wednesdays Zoom at 7 p.m. [keypencouncil@gmail.com](mailto:keypencouncil@gmail.com)

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

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

**KP Democrats.** Third Monday, 7 p.m. Home Fire Station, [johnpatkelly@aol.com](mailto:johnpatkelly@aol.com), 253-432-4256

**KP Fire Commission** Second and fourth Tuesdays, 5 p.m. on Zoom. [keypeninsulafire.org](http://keypeninsulafire.org), 253-884-2222

**KP Lions Club.** First and third Wednesdays, 7 p.m. on Zoom. 253-853-2721 [keypeninsulalions@outlook.com](mailto:keypeninsulalions@outlook.com)

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

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

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

**Longbranch Improvement Club** Third Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Longbranch Improvement Club. 253-200-0308 or [licweb.org](http://licweb.org)

**Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition.** Second Wednesdays, 6 p.m. on Zoom. [6ftwav@gmail.com](mailto:6ftwav@gmail.com), 253-720-0662

**Peninsula School District** board meeting at Swiftwater Elementary School. June 23 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. 253-530-1000

**Suicide Prevention Coalition Survivors Support Group.** Second Tuesdays, 9 a.m., Heron's Key, [hope4you.org](http://hope4you.org)

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

## Tiedeman Road Name Corrected

There is quite a bit of history in a road name and it pays to get it right.

JOSEPH PENTHEROUAKIS, KP NEWS

If you live on or drive by Tiedeman Road, you may have noticed that the spelling on the road signs was recently changed to Tiedeman. Pierce County updated the signs the week of April 18 to reflect the historically correct spelling. The road is named after pioneer Lakebay settler Johann Heinrich "Henry" Tiedeman.

Henry Tiedeman was born in Germany in 1827 and immigrated with his family to the U.S. in 1853. After a few years in Missouri and Kansas, the family found their way to Oregon and eventually Puget Sound. In 1878, Tiedeman filed for a homestead on 160 acres in what would soon be known as Lake Bay. The name was changed to one word, Lakebay, in 1894.

Tiedeman's homestead, a mile long and one-quarter of a mile wide, ran from north to south roughly straddling the north section of Whiteman Road SW and including present-day Little Palmer Lake. Tiedeman was the first postmaster at the Lake Bay post office, established in 1882, until his death in 1891. As was customary, the post office operated out of the postmaster's residence.

Tiedeman's patent, or title, to the land is dated May 5, 1883. That is also the date on the homestead patent issued to his neighbor William Creviston; the two properties touched at the northeast corner of Tiedeman's property. Tiedeman's son, Cord Heinrich, married Creviston's daughter Ida.

Creviston had filed for his homestead claim two years earlier, in August of 1881. The Homestead Act of 1862 required settlers to reside on the land and farm it for five years before being issued a patent. However, a homestead patent could be approved sooner if the claimant paid for the land at the rate of \$1.25 per acre; that was perhaps what Creviston did. Creviston Road in Lakebay appears on a 1928 map as Ira Creviston Road, named after William's son Ira.

A few years later, in 1889, Carl O. Lorenz bought 80 acres touching the corner of Creviston's land, on the hill overlooking Mayo Cove. In the next few years, he would buy another 90 acres on the shores of the cove where he built a lumber mill and eventually a successful ship-building operation.

Tiedeman, (Ira) Creviston and Lorenz Roads in Lakebay are named after these three early settlers on the Key Peninsula.

In April, 130 years since Henry Tiedeman died and about 50 years after it was built, Tiedeman Road is spelled correctly. ■



# June 2022



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# CIVIC CENTER CORNER



## COMMUNITY SKATE PARTY

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Please join the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association for a FREE Community Skate Party

Use Our Skates or Bring Your Own Free for All Ages

# Skate Night

Key Peninsula Civic Center

## Friday nights 6-9pm \$5

for K-8, includes skate rental and games

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**TOP LEFT** Raindrops on iris.

*Tina McKail, KP News*

**TOP MIDDLE** A yellow-rumped warbler.

*Tina McKail, KP News*

**TOP RIGHT** Johnson South Sound Preserve. *Chris Rurik, KP News*

**MIDDLE** An anise swallowtail butterfly. *Tina McKail, KP News*

**LOWER** Mallard ducklings in the grass. *Tina McKail, KP News*