



# KEY PENINSULA NEWS



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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

February 2017 Vol.44 No. 02

## The \$11/Hour Minimum Wage: What It Means

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

Washington state workers earning minimum wage got a raise to \$11 an hour Jan. 1 after voters passed Initiative 1433 in November. That amount will increase by 50 cents each year until January 2020, when it reaches \$13.50. After that, the minimum wage will increase in accordance with the Cost of Living Index compiled by the Council for Community and Economic Research.

Tacoma employers now pay \$11.15 an hour, while in Seattle, minimum-wage earners receive up to \$15 per hour based on the size of the business and whether health insurance is offered.

The Puget Sound Business Journal estimated that more than 730,000 people in Washington earn the minimum wage. That translates into a significant effect on businesses beyond payroll expenses.

Assistant Manager Andrew Gerold at Key Center's Subway said they already raised prices 50 cents in anticipation of Initiative 1433. He said the store is running specials and promotions to balance the price hike. Their sandwich artists earn minimum wage. Shift lead personnel and management earn incrementally more.

Lora Kelly, director of recruiting at WestSound Work Source, said, "We all want to see people have a livable wage, of course. But there are some small businesses we work with who were already struggling to be competitive while paying the old minimum wage of \$9.47 an hour. Sometimes competitors are not local in the state. When the competition is in a state that has federal minimum wage, it means their overhead is a lot lower."

The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour.

Claudia Loy, owner of Sunnycrest Nursery, said, "We voted in the \$11. We pay that to the kids we train. It is not a living wage. Maybe if people have more money, they will spend more."

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California sea lions overwhelm a float in Joe's Bay. Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News

## Sea Lions Move Into Home

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

The invasion began in mid-December. Between 60 and 100 were first observed in Delano Bay on the east side of Penrose State Park. They moved into Mayo Cove and followed the food into Von Geldern Cove in Home. The arrival of the California sea lions was accompanied by hundreds of seagulls circling above them as they fed, eager to pick up any scraps.

The size of this group of sea lions so far south in the Puget Sound was an unusual phenomenon.

The most frequently reported observation from the residents around Von Geldern Cove was the deafening barking of the sea lions all night. Resident Todd Rosenbach said it was like "a horrible Stephen King novel, when the neighbors start doing strange things."

Home resident Lynn Lloyd said, "The noise made by the sea lions was comparable to the roar of a crowded stadium at a major sports event."

Leila Luginbill, another Home resident, was less annoyed by the noise made by the sea lions than she was intrigued by the chance to watch the huge mammals. "Fortunately, we have well insulated windows, so their noise was just background noise."

CONTINUED PAGE 2

## Clear-Cuts Increasing on the Key Peninsula

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The couple had land they loved that was covered with trees, but when a medical emergency came up, they needed cash. "We hoped to sell 20 acres to someone who we knew would not log it," said one owner, "but when that fell through, we looked at other options." Although she asked to remain anonymous, the owner shared her experience with the KP News.

"We knew the value of the land was about \$7,000 an acre. My husband spoke with a logging company clear-cutting another parcel in the area. They came to evaluate our timber and said it was worth \$8,500 an acre, much more than we had expected. The logging company would submit the permit, harvest the timber and do some basic cleanup for 50 percent of the stumpage fee (the value of the standing timber). We were responsible for the excise tax and we could pay them to coordinate replanting.

"To us, the decision was pretty clear. We could sell the land to someone else who would probably clear-cut it or we could hire someone to log it, get about \$4,000 an acre after expenses, and still own the land."

The couple signed a contract and logging began a month later. It took three weeks to complete the clear-cutting. They paid a 5 percent excise tax, with 1 percent going to the state and 4 percent to the county. Stumps were left in place (as is required) and the company made large piles of slash; burning to clear land is not allowed in Pierce County. The couple identified a trustworthy person to take what he could from the debris to sell as firewood. They hope to have the lot replanted this winter before scotch broom and other plants make survival of seedlings difficult.

Tom Van Slyke, whose family has been on the Key Peninsula since the 1880s and whose grandfather owned the first sawmill in the area, noted that in 1900 there were no trees left on the peninsula. "Everything here is second or third growth," he said.

Aileen Nichols, Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) field forester for South Puget Sound,

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## SEA LIONS FROM PAGE 1

in the coastal waters, though some have been tracked to the Aleutians and Asia. Those frequenting Puget Sound arrive in the fall for the chum salmon run in September and October. After the salmon run, their primary diet is squid, anchovy and herring.

Sea lions are very social. They hunt in groups and herd prey into a tight ball before beginning to feed. Several residents of Home described witnessing this behavior in Von Geldern Cove. Having gorged, the sea lions raft together to rest afloat in groups of half a dozen to 80 or more animals. Those jockeying for a prime spot will haul their bulk up on floats and docks. Home residents were concerned that floats were sinking under the weight of the animals. One float has already washed up on the beach in pieces.

Observers watching the sea lions raft together commented on the upward extended flippers. Jeffries explained that raising fins in the air can be a means of thermal regulation when sea lions are on a warm beach, but conservation of body heat is the goal in the chilly water of Puget Sound. He said the huddling behavior with the extended fins occurs because the animals rotate from a swimming orientation to huddle so the bulk of their bodies are in

contact with other sea lions in the raft.

Jeffries said the population of California sea lions is considered robust at 300,000, up from about 10,000 in the 1950s. In 1994, removal provisions were made to the Marine Mammal Protection Act to preserve salmon runs. It is illegal for the public to shoot or harass marine mammals, but both Oregon and Washington have captured or killed seal lions near threatened areas.

Jeffries predicts the sea lions will remain in Puget Sound until the end of January, before starting the southward journey to the breeding rookeries. Shortly after breeding in July, the males will begin their northward trek.

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\$11/HOUR WAGE FROM PAGE 1

Her business is seasonal and employs six workers in the spring.

The clerk next door at Two Knight Vapors, Niko Serrano, had already seen the increase on his paycheck in December. "It was awesome," he said. "It was a Christmas bonus. I have four kids.

"It lets me live and stay local."

Linda Merriwood, manager of Key Peninsula Liquor, said she did not foresee any impact on her business from the wage increase. "It depends on the economy and

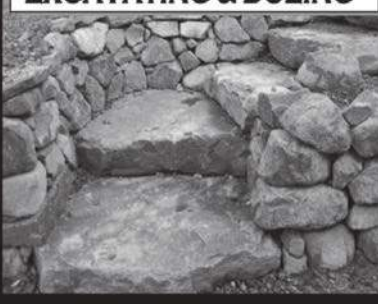
competition," she said.

Manufacturing companies are having a harder time now, according to Kelly. "Those jobs can be more labor intensive, which means harder work. They may have been paying a bit more than the minimum at \$11 per hour. If those wages stay the same, a worker can choose an easier job, such as retail, and make the same money for less work. We've also found that some workers who were making \$11 an hour before now want a raise. Companies may not be able to afford to raise everyone's wages at the same time. Employees don't feel it is fair that they've worked to earn that amount and someone new, with no experience, comes in at the same wage."

WestSound Work Source's President and CEO Julie Tappero said, "As this plays out, we'll see how businesses really make changes. Companies will find ways to streamline and work with fewer employees in order to compensate for higher employee costs, whether that will be by using automation or using more of the on-demand workforce, who knows. I don't want to say that a higher minimum wage is all bad. It will just drive innovation and change in our businesses. If we're not profitable, we won't be in business and there will be fewer jobs."

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A clear-cut and slash pile on Rouse Road, seen here last summer. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

CLEAR-CUT FROM PAGE 1

reviews all requests for logging permits. She confirmed that logging on the KP has increased. The 52 permits issued last year was the highest number approved in 10 years. There were 44 the previous year and just 26 were approved 10 years ago. She thinks that one reason for this is that logging companies have been more aggressive about reaching out to landowners.

Log prices are also nearly the highest they have been since 2005, according to Nasdaq.

Nichols, who covers Thurston, Mason, Kitsap and Pierce counties, said that the KP is unique. “Most applications from the other areas come from large landowners,” she said. “On the Key Peninsula, most parcels are smaller than 10 acres. Twenty to 40 acres is really unusual.”

There is no designated forestland on the KP. “The 1990 Growth Management Act required counties to establish a designated forestland zone,” said Adonais Clark, planner with Pierce County Planning and Land Use Services. “The county chose to establish forestland zoning only in the Cascade Foothills, although forestry is an allowed use in most zones throughout the rural areas of Pierce County.”

However, there is a Designated Forest Land tax program for land devoted to growth and harvest of trees. It is limited to parcels of at least 5 acres; owners are required to have a timber management plan and must pay a compensating tax if there is a change in use. Qualifying parcels are taxed at a value of \$200 or less per acre.

The state issues most of the permits for logging on the peninsula, according to

Clark. If the owner plans to convert to other use, the county must be involved.

Once land is logged, the owner is required to have a plan for forest renewal. Stumps are left in place and most plans call for replanting. At least 190 seedlings per acre must be established within three years. Practically speaking, according to the Washington Contract Loggers Association website, this means planting within 12 to 18 months, before scotch broom and other plants crowd the land, at a density of 400 to 500 seedlings to allow for losses. One logger on the Key Peninsula uses natural regeneration, leaving at least eight seed trees per acre.

Nichols said that not all logging companies are created equal. Some leave the site in better condition than others. Some are more explicit about how or if they will help with replanting, though the owner is responsible for the cost. If a landowner does decide to log, she suggested asking others for recommendations. But there are other options.

As the landowner who had her 20 acres clear-cut noted, “\$4,000 an acre for lumber that will take another 60 years to mature doesn’t actually sound like much money.”

Concerns about a logging operation can be reported to the regional DNR office at 360-825-1631.

*Editor’s note: This is the second of a three-part series on logging on the Key Peninsula. The first article provided an overview of permitting requirements and an example of what happens when the rules are ignored. The final article will discuss alternative forestry practices.*

## Inspect Your Septic System—Protect Your Wallet

THE SHELLFISH PARTNERS, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

During the cold, wet and short days of winter, you probably enjoy spending more time inside with a blanket by the fire and less time outside enjoying the beauties of nature. As the days begin to lengthen, the temperatures rise and you start to think about spring-cleaning, keep in mind what’s in your yard that you don’t see—your septic system.

Taking care of your septic system with regular inspections and maintenance is essential to clean water and good health. It also increases your property value. Regular septic system inspections are required under state and local regulations. Because your septic system is underground, you can’t always see problems. The only way to know if your septic system is working properly is to have it inspected regularly by a certified septic professional.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department offers incentives and affordable loan programs to help you cut the costs. Our septic care incentive program offers Key Peninsula residents \$125 off inspections, \$200 off pumping and \$125 off a riser installation.

If you learn it’s time to repair, replace or upgrade your septic system, we have several affordable loan programs that can help ease the cost. These include several that are available through various Pierce County departments and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as the Clean Water Loan program from Craft 3, a community development lending agency. Loans can cover all upfront and construction costs, including septic system design, permits and installations. The loan program is a fit for a wide range of properties, incomes and credit backgrounds and can help reduce financial barriers for families and small businesses.

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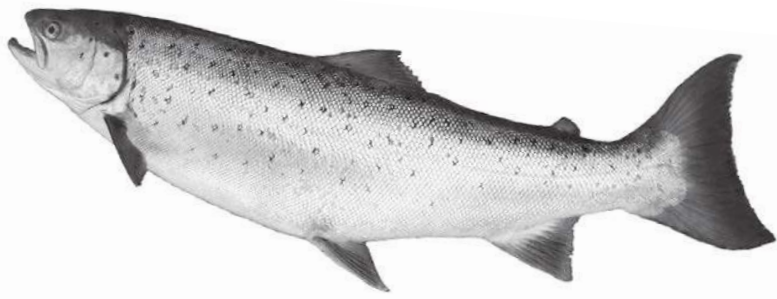
For a list of certified septic professionals, go to [tpchd.org/septicstservicecompanies](http://tpchd.org/septicstservicecompanies). Sign up for savings now at [tpchd.org/incentive](http://tpchd.org/incentive).

Learn more about our loan programs at [tpchd.org/septicsthelp](http://tpchd.org/septicsthelp).

*The Shellfish Partners have been at work to protect Key Peninsula’s beaches and shellfish resources since 2006. Made up of Pierce County Public Works Surface Water Management, Pierce Conservation District, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, community organizations and Key Peninsula residents. To learn more or to get involved, call 798-6470 or visit [tpchd.org/shellfish](http://tpchd.org/shellfish).*



Water quality in Vaughn Bay can be improved by regular septic system inspections. *Courtesy Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department*



## KP Likely Unaffected by State Fishing-Rules Controversy

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

Even as winter weather and unfriendly recreational conditions settle over Puget Sound, the state is once again beginning the long and contentious procedure to determine fishing seasons for 2017 to 2018. Despite diminishing salmon runs and complaints about the process, according to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), no significant rule change is expected for the Key Peninsula.

The state officially sets its salmon fisheries through a process known as North of Falcon (NOF). NOF is a series of meetings between state government fishery managers and tribal leaders. According to WDFW, the process gets its name from “Cape Falcon in northern Oregon, which marks the southern border of active management for Washington salmon stocks.”

NOF was created in response to the Boldt Decision, a 1974 court case in which Judge George Boldt ruled that Washington state’s treaties entitled recognized Indian tribes to roughly half of Puget Sound’s total harvestable fish. One of the major purposes of the NOF process is to manage Washington state’s fisheries to ensure compliance with the treaty. “We negotiate with them every year about our 50 percent and their 50 percent,” said WDFW representative Michelle Dunlop.

The NOF process begins in early January, when the Fish and Wildlife Commission (part of WDFW) meets to develop a general policy setting the state’s priorities for the negotiation process. When state and tribal representatives meet, they work together to determine the details for the year’s fishing season based on regulations and fish population forecasts.

“We look and see, for example, last year there was a bad forecast for coho,” Dunlop said. “If we’re going to protect the coho that are coming back, we both agree to limit our fisheries.” The process also includes public meetings for the state to receive wider input and additional conferences with the federal government to help determine ocean salmon fishing seasons along the Pacific coast.

Although the process contains some public meetings, the final negotiations are closed and involve only the tribes and the state. Indian tribes function as sovereign nations during this process and are under no obligation to open their meetings. “It’s the same as if the U.S. is negotiating with Mexico or Canada,” Dunlop said. “It’s not subject to the open public meeting requirements.”

This has led to complaints from non-Indian commercial and sport fishermen, who believe that their interests are not being sufficiently represented. “Some of our sport fishermen have sent a letter to us and to the tribes, and there was a group that also had a petition, hoping to get the public into those meetings,” Dunlop said.

The NOF processes over the last few years have only added to the controversy, as the unusually low predicted salmon returns have led to a lack of fishing options in several parts of Puget Sound. The limited resources also caused the process to take even longer than usual and increased the calls for open meetings with publicly available results. Northwest Marine Trade Association Fishing Affairs Director Tony Floor, in an article he published in Northwest Sportsman magazine, called the NOF process “gravely broken” and “a sad outcome for sport salmon fishing.”

Despite the growing controversy, there is unlikely to be any change in the near future. “There are several court cases that uphold the tribes’ right to close those meetings as a sovereign government,” Dunlop said.

If the process itself does not change, Dunlop also suggested that this year’s NOF process would yield similar results to past years. “I’m not sure that (the Key Peninsula area) would see any significant difference,” she said.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission completed its policy recommendation meeting Jan. 14. The draft of the NOF policy is at [wdfw.wa.gov/commission/policies/draft\\_c3608\\_north\\_of\\_falcon\\_2017-18.pdf](http://wdfw.wa.gov/commission/policies/draft_c3608_north_of_falcon_2017-18.pdf).

*Some policy issues are available for public comment at [wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/north-falcon/comments\\_list.html](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/north-falcon/comments_list.html).*

# LUAC Votes Against County Recommendations for KP Farmland Redesignation

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula Land Use Advisory Commission (LUAC) met Dec. 21 to hear recommendations from Pierce County Land Services (PALS) regarding redesignation of Agricultural Resource Lands (ARL) on the KP. Because of concerns raised by LUAC members and some of the 25 attendees, LUAC recommended that the suggested changes for the Key Peninsula not be adopted.

Their input was sent to the county planning commission, which held a hearing Jan. 10. The commission, after reviewing feedback from the local advisory commissions and hearing testimony, will send its recommendation to the Pierce County Council for a committee review and final vote.

The county council hired a consulting team in 2016 to analyze Pierce County’s agriculture sector and evaluate the effectiveness of the zoning regulations for protecting agricultural lands in a report titled “A Fresh Look at Pierce County Agriculture.” Although the study stated that the current regulations comply with state requirements, changes were recommended to reflect the actual farming practices in the county and to better protect farmland from being lost to urban development.

The report recommended dividing Pierce County into four agricultural production districts to reflect the agricultural variations in the county—from intensive row crops in the fertile Puyallup Valley to the small fruit and vegetable farms and relatively poor soil in places like the Key Peninsula. The districts are Puyallup/Orting Valley, Central and Southern County, Bonney Lake, Buckley Plateau and the Peninsula District, which includes Gig Harbor and Anderson Island.

PALS Senior Planner Jeff Mann, who was not at the LUAC meeting, described the process in an interview with KP News. He explained that the purpose of ARL zoning is to identify parcels with the size and soil characteristics that would best accommodate agriculture while protecting agricultural land from development. ARL zoning reduces development potential, especially on smaller parcels, but it does not require that the land be farmed. The main changes in ARL criteria were to

increase parcel size (from 5 to 10 acres on the Key Peninsula), to eliminate a crop production requirement and to make some adjustments in soil quality requirements.

PALS staff also recommended that any landowner who wanted to have their parcel designated ARL could do so, with no parcel size or other requirement.

In the Peninsula District, the changes recommended were as follows: 1,411 acres and 62 ARL parcels to be added; 738 acres and 96 ARL parcels to be removed. Because some designations were unchanged, the total ARL designated land would be 1,777 acres and 76 parcels.

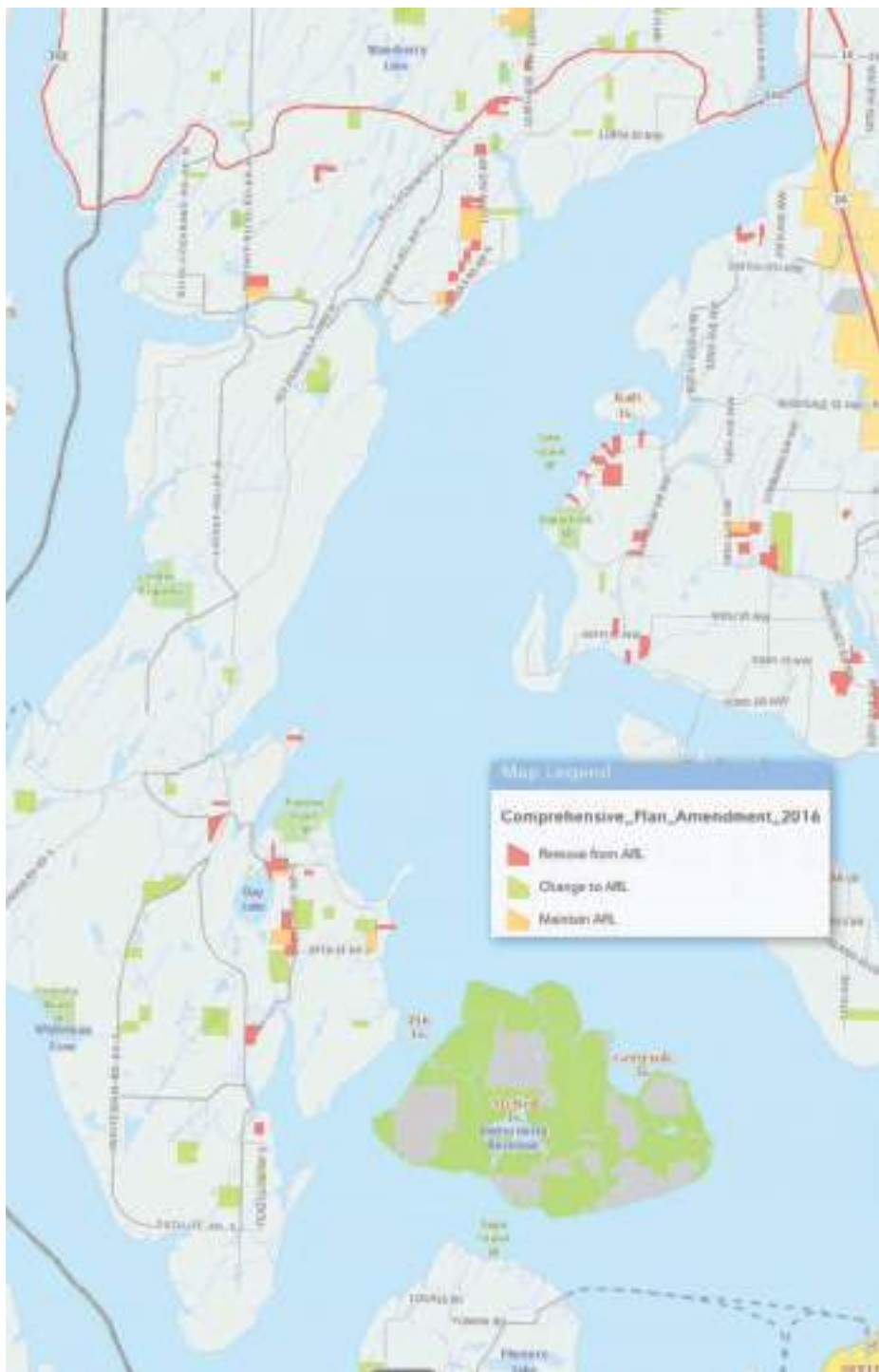
Janice and Warwick Bryant of Kaukiki Farms attended the LUAC meeting, and Janice had been interviewed previously as a stakeholder for the ARL study. She noted some inconsistencies in how new lands were designated. “One of our pastures with the poorest soil was designated as ARL while other parcels on the peninsula were not. It appears that the soil quality data used was from the 1950s, and that the soil on well-farmed parcels has likely improved over time. Some say that soil makes a farm; in reality a good farmer makes a difference in the soil,” she said.

Warwick commented that he is worried that restrictions from an ARL designation could affect how their sons might be able to develop their land in the future.

Others at the meeting expressed concern about land that has been in their families for decades and never been anything but forest, but will be re-zoned as ARL if the county approves the recommendations. They worried about how their land might be taxed as well as the limits placed on what they might be able to do with their property.

Mann explained that the state’s legally mandated soil-quality requirements are based on a database from the National Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The last survey of Pierce County was in 1979. He noted that when criteria-based standards are used, the inclusion and exclusion of parcels could appear to be arbitrary. He has been checking the accuracy of designations over the past months and has found no errors.

Mann also explained that the zoning of land as ARL does not mean that land must be used for farming; it simply means that the land meets the criteria.



Proposed ARL redesignation on the Key Peninsula. *Courtesy Pierce County*

Sue Testo of the Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer's Office stated that how land is zoned does not impact participation in the county's current use tax programs that allow for land to be taxed at a lower assessed value, if the parcel meets the requirements. There are three tax programs: agriculture and farming, open space and designated forestland. The current use tax programs have nothing to do with zoning.

County Councilman Derek Young supports the changes, but noted that the recommendations presented at the December LUAC meeting included some errors. Some Parks and Recreation land was included in the re-zoning, as were some parcels that are participating in the current designated forestland tax program.

"We do not want to convert land being used as forestland into ARL," he said.

Young also pointed out that the main objective is to identify and preserve prime agricultural land. "Some of the richest farmland in the Puyallup River Valley is no longer farmland; it is covered by warehouses. We need to be sure that this sort of thing doesn't happen again. With an ARL designation, an owner can still build a home, just as with an R10 designation. You couldn't build a church or community center."

*For more information on the county's recommendations, go to [www.fresh-lookatpierceag.org](http://www.fresh-lookatpierceag.org). For more information on current use tax programs, go to [www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=683](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=683).*

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*P.S. This month it's time to prune and dormant-spray fruit trees. Count on Sunnycrest for the right supplies, equipment to help get the job done.*

**Rob Vajko**  
KEY THOUGHTS



## No New Year's Resolutions

If you've tried to find a parking space at your local gym or YMCA lately, you might have noticed that the parking lot is fuller than it was in the fall. The reason has nothing to do with the colder weather and has everything to do with the number of people who have made a New Year's resolution to get fit. Have no fear, your favorite parking space will be free again in a couple of weeks when people realize that, once again, they aren't going to keep their resolutions (studies show that fitness and weight loss resolutions usually only last one week before they are broken).

The problem with New Year's resolutions is that all those people who spent one, two or even three weeks faithfully going to the gym and found that they weren't able to keep their resolution walk away feeling like failures. When you label yourself a failure, you believe that you can't succeed, so you give up trying to change. Failures don't have a good sense of self-worth and self-worth is key to making significant and lasting change.

Statistics show us that while 41 percent of Americans make New Year's resolutions, only 9 percent of us actually keep them. That's a whopping 91 percent failure rate. If you're one of those who are feeling like a failure right now, you've got plenty of company.

It's sad to give up on making any significant change in your life after just one or two weeks.

The truth is that change can and should happen any time, not just Jan. 1. You aren't going to wake up on New Year's Day a completely different person. The person you were last night is the person you are today.

Here's an idea: How about a new month resolution, a new week resolution or, even better, a new day resolution? Success in whatever field isn't going to happen by making a change once a year.

Studies have shown that the average smoker has to quit seven times before it sticks (that's an average, which means that there are many who quit a lot more than seven times). If you're going to wait until the New Year to try to quit, it's going to take you an average of seven years. Most people who have quit smoking haven't quit on Jan. 1; they've quit when they realized that they don't want to live this way anymore. That feeling can happen tomorrow.

Lasting change doesn't come about because of a once-a-year "I feel good about myself because I made a resolution" piece of rhetoric. Real change is the result of falling down and getting back up again, time and time again. It's hard work and it involves making choices that aren't that fun to follow through on.

Each day is a new beginning and a new opportunity to change the things that you don't like about yourself. You can fail today and try again tomorrow. Don't wait until the New Year.

*Rob Vajko lives in Purdy.*

**Natalie Svinth**  
FROM THE OUTLOOK DESK



## An Alternative View of an Alternative School

If you're a student at Peninsula High School or a parent of a student, chances are you've heard about Henderson Bay High School. Whether you have an accurate idea of what Henderson really is—that's another story.

Now located near Gig Harbor High School, the original alternative school was located in Key Center and called Huloima Wehut (Hue-low-ma Way-hut), a Chinook jargon word meaning "a different way."

Stereotypes about students who attend Henderson buzz through our hallways at Peninsula. Peninsula Principal Dave Goodwin, a former Henderson principal, said there are some common misconceptions.

"I think a lot of people think Henderson Bay is only for kids that are on drugs or girls who are pregnant," Goodwin said. "That's not the case. It serves all students."

Henderson is a school of choice. This means students aren't forced to go there; they choose to attend for a variety of reasons. Many students don't realize that there are other options for school or have preconceived notions of Henderson that keep them from exploring it.

"We always had to overcome (misconceptions) with parents who were skeptical and had a perception of Henderson Bay based on a stereotype," Goodwin said. "But once they visited the school and saw what was going on, they would almost always send their student there."

For senior Annie Karamatic, transferring to Henderson after her first quarter of freshman year at Peninsula was a decision she made because of grades and anxiety.

"I was failing all my classes, even though I was trying my absolute best," she said.

"Every day, I'd eat outside alone because the amount of people stressed me out so bad. I used to leave class early to avoid all the crowds of people."

Everyone's reason for deciding to go to Henderson is unique. For most, the traditional large high school model isn't a good fit, whether for personal reasons or because certain needs are being overlooked.

"Some (transfer to Henderson) for the same reasons as myself, others to get clean or just get their lives together entirely," Karamatic said. "There are not even a lot of addicts, just kids who have been screwed by the school system and transgender students who couldn't survive at normal high school because of the kids."

"It's the only school I've ever been confident in," she said. "The teachers will literally sit there until you figure it out and give you 100 percent—not to mention the emotional support."

Brian Tovey, the current principal of Henderson, considers it a safe haven for students to thrive in ways that wouldn't have been possible in larger high schools.

"It is a school for kids who feel lost in the big schools, who need a little bit different support and want to be who they are rather than what someone else wants them to be," he said. "We have a recent graduate who had a baby but worked hard to graduate on time. Another recent graduate overcame a lot of personal and family obstacles to graduate."

Henderson uses the same curriculum as both Peninsula and Gig Harbor high schools, but the school day looks a little different from that of the traditional high school setting.

"The difference is that the classes are a lot smaller, and you actually feel like you matter and that the teachers actually care about your success," said Henderson senior Sarah Shaffer. "Two years in a row, I've achieved student of the month and it's all because of the help I've gotten from such a motivating staff. I went from being pushed out and having all F's, to being an A, B average student."

"I'm tired of people deeming our school to be the 'druggie dropout school,' because it really isn't," Shaffer said. "It's a school of choice, and the school is really based around helping students succeed and giving them the extra chance to be themselves and get where they need to be in life. I couldn't be happier to say that I'm a student here."

*Natalie Svinth is the senior managing editor of the Peninsula High School Outlook. Read more of her work and that of her colleagues at [www.phsoutlook.com](http://www.phsoutlook.com). Read The Henderson Pawz school newspaper at [www.hpawz.com](http://www.hpawz.com).*

**Carolyn Wiley**  
DEVIL'S HEAD DIARY



## Blue Tarp Beautification and Appliance Migration

People lucky enough to reside in areas of great beauty are naturally inspired to delve into artistic expression. The side effect is that, per capita, people in the Puget Sound area spend more time on the fine arts, literature and cultural entertainment than in any of the contiguous states. This investment in leisure pursuits is only exceeded by their investment in boats, but that is understandable—just look around.

The desire to make things more beautiful affects the way Puget Sounders take care of their stuff. For instance, a November wind sends a limb through your roof, requiring an immediate, albeit temporary, fix. Right away, you go to beautification mode. After all, you can't do much about a hole in the roof until the rains stop—say in mid-May or later. So, you head out to Home Depot and invest in the universal fix. Even if you don't get around to fixing the roof in the dry season, it's no problem—blue tarps usually last a couple of years. You have to admit that a cheery flash of color gleaming through the trees on a dreary winter day lifts the spirits of all who pass by.

Curiously, blue-tarp beautification is prevalent in areas affected by the magnetic forces that are released by sun flares. The magnetic phenomenon, known as appliance migration, usually starts with small things, like toaster ovens and such. These small appliances begin to congregate and, if left unattended, the combined magnetic energy intensifies until hot-water tanks and stoves are pulled right out of the house and into the front yard. The stuff may sit there ignored and exposed to the elements until the magnetism becomes so strong that the whole pile trundles over to be with the old cars behind the barn. Since the pile of stuff seldom grows after installation of a blue tarp, we can assume that blue tarps act as some kind of magnetic shield.

One of my friends was telling me about some new arrivals who had just bought a place on the Key. They were asked what attracted them to the area. The newcomers explained that it was because they were impressed with the number of swimming pools that showed up in the satellite view on their Google search.

Although I'm a fan of local beautification efforts, I had never considered the economic impact that a few well-placed blue tarps could have on neighborhood property values.

Perhaps it is about time for us to start showing a bit more appreciation and respect for all the blue-tarp people who go the extra mile to enhance the image of our peninsula.

I feel inspired to invest in some backyard boat beautification myself.

*Carolyn Wiley lives in Longbranch.*

## Bill Trandum

WINDS, TIDES & WEATHERS



## Puget Sound Winter Sailing

One thing a Puget Sound sailor can be sure of, if the wind from October to May is not from the south or southwest, it soon will be.

Relatively warmer ocean water spots, perhaps caused by undersea volcanic activity in the Gulf of Alaska, cause the air molecules over them to rise, leaving areas of low atmospheric pressure behind. As the Earth turns from east to west under that low-pressure area, the low-pressure cell moves from west to east, all the while sucking air, generally from the south, to fill the void left behind.

The resulting low-pressure cell slips southward because of the less dense atmosphere of warmer air molecules there. The Earth's rotation causes the low-pressure cell to park over Vancouver Island, aided by the Vancouver Island coastal mountain range that forces the air upward, and then by the Canadian Rockies that do the same thing.

As the stalled low-pressure system sits there, more southerly air molecules, often saturated with moisture from the Hawaiian "Pineapple Express," rush in to give the Pacific Northwest its rainy south or southwesterly winds and weather.

Sometimes it rushes in great gulps, as I learned in Seattle's Elliot Bay one February, complete with what's called a spinnaker knockdown. We were racing along in a 40-foot sailboat when a blast of wind hit us. The boat lay over on her side; all sails in the chilly water and one man overboard (thankfully not me, but I was the guy who got his fingers through the lacing on his life jacket and hung on until the other crew members hauled him back aboard). As soon as we were upright, we continued racing and finished third,

with a great story to tell.

Every once in a while in the dead of winter, a huge polar air mass will move from Siberia across Alaska and Canada, bringing frigid temperatures south. Where that icy air mass meets up with the warmer water-saturated air molecules from the Southwest Pacific, winter snow is the result. That may cause trouble in the lowlands, but it's a gift to the higher elevation ski resorts. Come spring, the snow-melt runoff fills the rivers and streams, sending their signature tastes and scents so the salmon know where to go to deposit the next generation of fry, and to provide enough stream flow for the fish to get there.

Tidal flows also play a big role in Puget Sound, the rule being that the ebbing or flowing current is weakest along the shore and strongest out in the middle of the Sound. And as the tide changes from ebb to flow or the reverse, it starts along the shore, and then moves off the beach into deeper water.

A big exception is the west side of Vashon Island. There, in Colvos Passage, the current always flows north regardless of the stage of the tide, an anomaly caused by the configuration of the sea bottom in that channel.

For the Puget Sound sailor, being able to predict and read the wind direction is a real gift. Knowing that in the winter a northerly wind is rare and an easterly wind even rarer, he or she wisely heads the boat in a direction that will economically use the airflow across or against the sails to get where he or she wants to go.

*Bill Trandum, a retired U.S. Navy captain and self-described student of all things wind, waves and weather, lives in Vaughn.*

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## CIVIC CENTER

## CORNER

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# Saturday February 25

DOORS OPEN 6PM, DINNER SERVED 6-9

# Mardi Gras Masquerade

Richard Allen & the Louisiana Experience's Creole & Zydeco music, authentic New Orleans cuisine, a second-line parade, beads, signature Mardi Gras cocktails and best costume contest with Coronation of King and Queen, 21 and over

Ticket includes dinner: \$25 Advance/\$30 Door,  
at Sunnycrest, Blend, KPCC office and online  
<http://2017mardigrasonthekey.bpt.me/>

### Upcoming Events at the Civic Center

**Yoga** every Monday & Wednesday 8:30 to 9:30 in the morning  
**Skate Night** every Friday night 6-9 pm while school is in session  
**Mardi Gras Masquerade** February 25  
**Livable Community Fair** May 6

## Letters to the Editor

### Defending the Second Amendment

I am a member of the NRA, a member of the national organization APIII, a legal gun owner who practices regularly, a concealed pistol license holder and a strong advocate of the Second Amendment. I recently attended the gun rally at the state Capitol building Jan. 13 where several hundred armed citizens joined to send a very strong and clear message to Attorney General Bob Ferguson and the Legislature opposing his new gun legislation.

Firearms and our Second Amendment, whether one wants to admit it or not, have been and always will be the security that ensures our constitutional rights are extended to every U.S. citizen.

The proposed legislation is an attempt to infringe on our Second Amendment rights. It does not mention and would do nothing to address the unlawful possession of firearms by criminals, while requiring the legal owner of a semi-automatic handgun to obtain a yearly permit to own their "assault weapon" because it can hold more than 10 rounds in the magazine.

That's not sensible legislation and frankly I'm disgusted with politicians continually

wasting our tax dollars and their time promoting worthless legislation that does nothing but turn upstanding citizens into potential felons.

I urge readers to contact their state representatives to voice opposition to senseless legislation such as this.

*Eric Erdman /Lakebay*

### PSD Thanks Community for Input

The Peninsula School District recently released results of our Thoughtexchange survey, which took place over the last several months. Thoughtexchange is like an online meeting, allowing community members, parents, teachers and staff to anonymously say anything they feel needs to be said.

Invitations to participate were sent to everyone who lives in the district. In total, 2,802 people participated and shared 6,554 comments, including both concerns about and praise for PSD.

Among the top concerns were overcrowded classrooms, the need to update facilities and technology, too much testing and students with behavioral problems.

The top kudos for PSD were for great teachers who care for our kids, the positive learning environment, and our communi-

cations and security upgrades.

PSD will use Thoughtexchange again within the next few months to solicit feedback from the community about our long-range facilities plan.

We are incredibly grateful for the level of participation and the thoughtfulness of the community's responses. We particularly appreciate the concerns expressed, as this gives us a better understanding of where we need to improve.

To view the survey results, go to: psd401.thoughtexchange.com/welcome.

*Rob Manaban, Ph.D. / Superintendent  
Peninsula School District*

**Letters to the Editor** Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers or staff. Letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published. Letters are used on a space-available basis and will be edited for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to news@keypennews.com.

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# The Mustard Seed Project

**Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula**

**Our February *Third Thursday* Community Forum**

**Updating Social Security: 12 Proposed Solutions to keep Social Security Going**

An informational review of the 12 most often suggested proposals to help Social Security maintain its commitments for the long term

Each proposal will be presented along with pros and cons for your consideration & discussion.



**Presented by Bob Riler, Community Connections**  
Sponsored by Pierce County Aging and Disability Resources

**Thursday, February 16, 2017 ♦ 10 a.m.**

**CRANDALL CENTER – new home of The Mustard Seed Project**  
(formerly the Roadhouse Restaurant in *uptown* Key Center) **253-884-9814**

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**Feb 14 - Valentine's Day**

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performing everything from Elvis to classic 80's pop, with a little down home country for two-steppin'

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Check our website and LIKE us on Facebook to keep up with all our upcoming events

## Key Peninsula Civic Center

### Mark Knisely saves the day.

When the December cold snap ruptured a pipe buried outside the gym, board treasurer Tim Kezele braved the weather, grabbed a shovel and tried to find the source of the new stream of water running over the driveway.



The leak was beyond reach — the Civic Center turned off the water to prevent ice freezing over the pavement.

Within minutes of reaching out to our friend and neighbor Mark Knisely Construction, Mark arrived with his equipment to excavate and repair the break. Scheduled events were able to proceed thanks to his generous and timely action. The board and staff sincerely appreciate

Mark's strong commitment to his community and the Key Peninsula Civic Center. *Thank you, thank you, thank you.*

Check out [www.facebook.com/KPCC.SkateNight](http://www.facebook.com/KPCC.SkateNight)

Have a fun family night with elementary and middle school kids



*Fridays*

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*at the Civic Center*

*Games & Dancing*

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*Kid-friendly burgers, pizza, snacks and drinks served by the Kitchen.*



Marion Sharp joined The Mustard Seed Project in December. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

## New Face at The Mustard Seed Project

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

Marion Sharp stepped into her new job as development director for The Mustard Seed Project in December, just as the organization steps into new territory.

Sharp described her job as “a two-part balancing act; the first responsibility is to maintain current programs and the second part is to expand the funding base for the ambitious plan to build elder-care housing.” She brings proven skills to the job, she said, having worked as development director for Associated Ministries, Pacific Lutheran University, The Humane Society and the Girl Scouts of Western Washington.

Sharp first met Edie Morgan, founder and executive director of TMSP, when it was taking its first steps 10 years ago. TMSP was housed in a one-room office in the Key Center Professional Center. Their first activity was conducting a community-wide survey to gather information regarding needs of the local senior population. Guided by that information, needs were identified and the services that would improve life for elder residents of the community were prioritized and the work of creating an elder-friendly community was begun.

The activity level has steadily grown and the expanded programs have forced another move to accommodate staff and volunteers. TMSP offices were relocated Jan. 14 to the building that once housed the Roadhouse Restaurant, now provi-

sionally called the Crandall Center, after an important donor. The interior redesign was made possible through a gift from the Rotary Club of Gig Harbor. With those modifications, the east side of the building will accommodate office space for five staff members and the foyer will provide desk space for a receptionist and an information center volunteer. A café will be opening in the area that was once the bar and the old dining room will be used for a program center and community meeting space. In time, the daylight basement will be available for office space rentals.

With the move completed, Sharp will begin the real work of securing funds for Phase I of the eldercare housing project. For several years, TMSP board has studied a variety of eldercare housing options and has selected Green House Project as the preferred model. Green House facilities are built around the idea that less institutionalized housing is beneficial to elders.

The proposed plan includes three cottages, each housing 10 residents with a private bedroom and bath. These rooms open into a central common area, where residents can have access to the common kitchen and may join other residents for dining and other activities. The central area will also provide efficient access for health care staff. The goal is to create a real home environment for residents. The estimated cost for the three cottages will be around \$7 million.

Sharp expects that the effort to secure funds for the capital project will lead to an expanded base of partnerships that will increase funding opportunities and ensure a stronger future for TMSP.

## Looking at a great shot?

They say a picture is worth 1,000 words. There's room almost every month to show off your worthy photo. Get yourself seen: call 253 884-4699 or write to news@keypennews.com



Correction: The KP News reported in January about a change of management at Drive-Thru Feed in Vaughn and left the impression the business or land had been sold. Jerry Davis remains the owner of both. The new manager, Andrew Michaelson, is leasing the business from Davis. We regret the error. *Ted Olinger, executive editor.*

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April 8  
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April 22  
Parks Appreciation Day

May 21  
Mom & Me Tea

July 4  
Community  
Hot Dog Social

Fridays in August  
Cinema Under the Stars

October 21  
All Hallows Eve  
Celebration

December 2  
Breakfast with Santa

...and much more!

Coming in April **Nature Photography Class** with local photojournalist **David Montesino**

2-hour classes are Sundays, April 2, 9 and 23. Bring a DSLR camera. \$59/person. Details and register at [keypenparks.com](http://keypenparks.com).

**Cinema Under the Stars Survey**

What movies would you like to see this summer at this popular event on Fridays in August?

Take the online survey! Click the link on our website homepage.

Coming this Summer! Details on our website!

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Glen Erhardt and his wife, Deb. *Courtesy Glen Erhardt*

## Key Peninsula Man Wins Rotary Award

STAFF REPORT

The three Rotary Clubs in Gig Harbor hold an annual event, Star of the Year Awards, to honor three non-Rotarians who exemplify the motto “service above self.” This year, the Gig Harbor Middy Club will honor Key Peninsula resident Glen Erhardt for his efforts to start and support the Red Barn Youth Center.

“While this is an individual award, I see it more as an award for the Red Barn and the board of directors and frontline staff; they just chose me as spokesman,” Erhardt said. “I feel like my quest is to place the Red Barn in front of a larger audience outside the Key Peninsula. This award is an answer to that quest.”

Erhardt will receive the award Feb. 3 at an awards dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Canterwood Golf and Country Club in Gig Harbor. Other extraordinary citizens being honored at the event are Annette and Frank Bannon and Dr. Robert Yancey.

Erhardt said, “This is a real opportunity to showcase the Red Barn. It is such a blessing. We are serving an average of 50 kids a day, so we are having to grow, and to support that growth, we will need support from a larger source.”

**Say Thanks** This newspaper is supported by dozens of local advertisers. Please let them know you saw their ad in the KP News and how much you value their support of our community.

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## Angel Guild Thrift Shop

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**ALL MONTH****CONTEST FOR TEENS**

Pierce County Libraries host an event for Pierce County students in grades 7 to 12 to show their creative talents in Our Own Expressions Teen Writing and Art Contest. Teens may enter individually, or as a team, in one or all categories: short story, poetry, photography and drawing. Entry is free and forms are available at any Pierce County Library. For judging criteria and more information, see [expressions.pcls.us](http://expressions.pcls.us).

**ONGOING TECH HELP**

Did you receive a new smartphone, tablet or laptop as a gift? For first-time owners, getting started can be confusing and frustrating. A librarian will meet with you at the library to explain how your devices work, answer questions and point out handy functions. All you need to do is get a Pierce County Library card and make an appointment for a free, one-on-one session. Library customers can also book a librarian to learn about the library's resources and how to use them. Go to [getsmart.pcls.us](http://getsmart.pcls.us) or call 548-3309.

**FEB. 2****FUCHSIA SOCIETY**

7 p.m. at Key Peninsula Civic Center. Peggy, 686-7904

**FEB. 2, 9, 16 & 23****CAT TALES**

Cat Tales hold their regular club meetings 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the VFW Room at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. 884-4182

**FEB. 3, 10, 17, & 24****SKATE NIGHT**

Skate Night held at the KP Civic Center 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5. 884-3456

**FEB. 4 & 18****SUPPORT GROUP**

The Lakebay Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group meets 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN. Contact Kimberly at 253-4270 or [DBSALakebay@gmail.com](mailto:DBSALakebay@gmail.com).

**FEB. 6 & 13****QUILTERS MEET**

Key Peninsula Quilters meet 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the meeting room in the Key Center Library. This is an open group with one's own projects, by hand or machine, which include quilting, embroidery, general sewing, knitting and crochet. Come for the whole time or drop in to work for a while.

**FEB. 6, 13, 20, 27****BLOODMOBILE**

The bloodmobile is at Albertsons 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**FEB. 7 & 21****SENIOR SHOPPING**

Seniors may grocery shop at various stores with a "Dutch" lunch. Transportation is provided. 884-4440

**FEB. 8****ASHES MEET**

The Ashes support group for FD 16 meets 10:30 a.m. at the fire station in Key Center. 884-3771

**CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS DEADLINE**

The Key Peninsula Lions Club requests nominations for the 33rd Annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Award. Nominees should have given time, material, financial or other support voluntarily for the benefit of the KP. Send name, address, telephone number and a brief description of why the person deserves to be nominated to 1604 Von Geldern Cove Road KPN, Lakebay, WA 98349 or email [Hughmcm26@gmail.com](mailto:Hughmcm26@gmail.com) by Feb. 8. For more info, call 884-3319 or 255-0657.

**GARDEN CLUB MEETS**

The Bayshore Garden Club meets 11 a.m. at the fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 332-4883

**KP COUNCIL**

The KP Council meeting is 7 p.m. at the KC fire station.

**FEB. 11****VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFT**

Local crafter Anna will help all ages (children under 6 with an adult) create a Valentine's Day project at 2 p.m. at the KC Library. Registration is required: [piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar](http://piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar)

**FEB. 14 & 28****CROCHET OR KNIT**

The Loving Hearts group meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations welcomed and appreciated. [lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com](mailto:lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com) or Virginia, 884-9619

**FEB. 18****ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT**

The Alzheimer's Association family caregiver support group meets 10:30 a.m. to noon at The Mustard Seed Project at the Crandall Center (formerly Roadhouse Restaurant). This group provides a consistent, caring place for people to learn, share and gain emotional support from others who are also on the unique journey of providing support to a person with memory loss. Contact Ray Steiner, 253-820-2213.

**BEE EDUCATION**

Missy Anderson presents a lesson for adults on mason bees at 1 p.m. at the KC Library. Missy Anderson is the local bee expert in the Puget Sound. 548-3309

**FEB. 21****PET NEUTER PROGRAM**

The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center animal shuttle is at the KP Civic Center 7 to 7:30 a.m. to pick up dogs and cats. Animals will be returned to the civic center at 9 a.m. the next day. Appointments are required. Call 253-627-7729 ext. 217, or email [shuttle@nwspayneuter.org](mailto:shuttle@nwspayneuter.org) for questions or to schedule an appointment. The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center offers affordable spay and neuter services for cats and dogs including special programs for feral cats and pit bulls. [nwspayneuter.org](http://nwspayneuter.org)

**FEB. 23****BOOK DISCUSSION**

The Friends of the KC Library book discussion group tackles "Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman" by Robert Massie at 11 a.m. at the library. This book is an absorbing biography of the 18th century empress who worked to bring European culture to Russia while enjoying many scandal-free romances. Ask for a copy at the front desk. 548-3309

**FEB. 24 & 25****KC LIBRARY BOOK SALE**

The Friends of the KC Library hold their annual used book sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All benefits go to the library. 548-3309

**FEB. 25****MARDI GRAS MASQUERADE**

Let the good times roll at Civic Center. Creole dinner served 6 to 9 p.m., live zydeco music, special cocktails, costume contest and beads galore. Tickets \$25 advance/\$30 door at Sunnycrest, Blend, KPCC office. Details on page 7.

**OFF THE KEY****FEB. 1 THROUGH MARCH 29****LEARN TO MEDITATE**

A visiting Buddhist monk will teach the joy of concentration and the power of contemplation. Anyone can benefit from these profound teachings. Classes will be held on alternating Saturdays: Feb. 1, Feb. 15, March 1, March 15 and March 29 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Natural Mystic Wellness Center, 1616 Bay Street, Port Orchard. Fee is \$10. No registration is required. For more information, visit [www.meditateinolympia.org](http://www.meditateinolympia.org) or call 360-754-7787.

**FEB. 2****DEMOCRATS MEET**

26th Legislative District Democrats meet 7 to 9 p.m. at Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Rd, Port Orchard.

**FEB. 2, 9, 16 & 23****CHESS CLUB**

Children in grades K-8 learn how to play chess for 20 minutes, followed by 40 minutes of play at Gig Harbor Library from 6 to 7 p.m. 548-3305

**FEB. 3, 4, 5, 10 & 11****PLAY PRESENTED**

Paradise Theatre presents "Wait Until Dark" on weekends at 3114 Judson Street in Gig Harbor. Times are 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 to 4 p.m. on Sundays. [Paradisetheatre.org](http://Paradisetheatre.org) or 851-7529

**FEB. 7, 14, 21 & 28****SUPPORT GROUP**

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

**FEB. 11****CONCERT & POTLUCK**

The Olalla Community Club presents a concert featuring Hillary Scott. A potluck starts at 6 p.m. and the concert is at 7 p.m. Potluck host is Nolan, 253-857-5650. Cost is \$15-\$20. [Olallahouse.org](http://Olallahouse.org)

**FEB. 23****DR. SEUSS' BIRTHDAY**

Children ages 3-12 celebrate all things Seuss with games, crafts and books 2 to 3 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. This event requires registration. 548-3305

# WEEKLY EVENTS

## MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

### PLAY TO LEARN

Play to Learn, provided by Children's Museum of Tacoma, is held Feb. 3, 6, 10, 13, 10 and 27 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. This is a free drop-in program for preschoolers under 6 and their adult caregivers.

## MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

### SENIOR EXERCISE

The S.A.I.L. senior exercise class meets 10 to 11 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Participants must register with Marilyn Perks, 884-4440.

## TUESDAYS

### SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior tai chi meets 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. 884-4440

### STORY TIMES

Every Tuesday, discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the KC Library. Music/Motion Story time (0-2 years old with an adult) is at 10 a.m. and Preschool Science Story time (2-5 years old) is at 11 a.m. 548-3309

### KEY SINGERS

Key Singers, the local community choir, begins rehearsals Feb. 7 to prepare for an annual May concert. All voices are needed, no auditions necessary. If you like to sing and can carry a tune, you're welcome. Annual dues of \$10 help pay for rent, music and PHS scholarships. Meet at 7 p.m. in KP Lutheran Church sanctuary, 4213 Lackey Road, junction of Lackey and KP Highway. 884-5615

## TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

### PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME

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

### SENIOR COMPUTER CLASS

Computer class for ages 55+ are held at 10 a.m. at the KP Community Services. This is an open forum directed by your questions and needs, which is great for beginners or moderate users. 884-4440

## TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

### KP MUSEUM OPEN

The Key Peninsula Historic Society museum reopens Feb. 4, 1 to 4 p.m., with a new exhibit titled "Then and Now," with special focus on the Vaughn Library Hall. The museum, located at the KP Civic Center, 17010 South Vaughn, contains artifacts, pictures and stories from the whole Key Peninsula and has free admission. A variety of books on local history are available to buy and each community has albums of information collected by the organization. 888-3246

## WEDNESDAYS

### READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS

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

### LAKEBAY WRITERS

Lakebay Writers is a workshop for people who love stories. Share yours. Hear others'. 1 to 4 p.m. at the KC Library. Loren Aikins, 884-2785

### WRITERS WORKSHOP

The Watermark Writers present a free writers workshop 5 to 8 p.m. in Vaughn. 778-6559

## WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

### SENIOR MEALS

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

## THURSDAYS

### TOASTMASTERS

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m. at the KC Library. Have fun improving your speaking ability. 858-5761 or 548-3511

### SENIORS LUNCH

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

## FRIDAYS

### FAMILY STORY TIME

Families with young children enjoy summer stories 1:30 to 2 p.m. at the KC Library. 548-3309

## SATURDAYS

### WRITERS GUILD

The Writers Guild meets the first and third Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon at the KC Library. 884-6455

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Feb. 1 & 15, KP Lions**, 7 p.m., KC fire station; 853-2721

**Feb. 6, McNeil Island meeting**, 6 p.m., Lakebay Marina. Discussion about turning McNeil Island into a park. markscott@lakebaymarina.com

**Feb. 6, KP Veterans**, 7 p.m., KP Lutheran Church; membership for veterans and military service members and families over 16 yrs. 509-8656 or keypenveterans@outlook.com

**Feb. 7, KP Historic Society Board**, 11 a.m. at museum; 888-3246

**Feb. 7, Artists' Blend**, 4 to 6 p.m., Blend Wine Shop, for all artists; info@twowaters.org

**Feb. 8, KP Community Council**, 7 p.m., KC fire station. Scott Gallacher presents an overview of the development of Gateway Park.

**Feb. 9 & 23, Peninsula School District Board**, 6 p.m., District Office Library

**Feb. 9, KP Civic Center Assn. Board**, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; 884-3456

**Feb. 9, TWAA Board**, 7 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; info@twowaters.org

**Feb. 13, KP Parks**, 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office, public is encouraged to attend. 884-9240

**Feb. 14 & 28, KP Fire Dept.**, 5 p.m., KC fire station; keypeninsulafire.org


**Feb. 15, Longbranch Improvement Club**, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting, LIC; 884-6022

**Feb. 15, KP Advisory Commission**, 6:30 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center, co.pierce.wa.us for agenda; Toni Fairbanks, 253-798-7156

**Feb. 16, KP Citizens against Crime**, 7 p.m., KC fire station

**Feb. 20, KP Democrats**, 7 p.m., Home fire station; johnpatrick@aol.com

**Feb. 27, KP Farm Council**, 6:30 p.m., Home fire station; c.wiley@mac.com



**Mondays  
& Wednesdays  
8:30 to 9:30 am  
at the Civic Center**

*Bring your mat, blanket or towel  
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Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road 253/884-3456 [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org) The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, fosters and promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community.

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



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**Send calendar items to connierenz@hotmail.com before 15th of the month**

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We have openings in our **Senior Computer Classes** on Tuesday & Thursday mornings. Please give us a call or stop in for more information.



*We have several Senior programs here at KPCS. From lunches on Wednesdays and Fridays to shopping trips, field trips and much more! Please drop in to see what is happening.*

Our Annual Board Meeting is open to the public.

February 27th at 5:30pm here at KPCS

www.keypeninsulacommunityservices.org and www.facebook.com/KeyPenCS

# The Nygard's 65 Years

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

Harry and Marge Nygard celebrated 65 years of marriage in November 2016. They are one of the longest-married couples on the Key Peninsula.

He was raised in Rochester and she in Wenatchee, but they met when both attended Stadium High School in Tacoma. "We left Wenatchee when I was 10," Marge said, "and Harry moved to Tacoma when he was 14 or 15." She learned who he was when she reached high school, as Harry was one of the star athletes. Harry graduated in 1946, Marge in 1949.

Their first meeting happened when a young man who'd dated Marge's sister called to ask for a date.

"I don't think she'll go out with you because she's engaged," Marge told him on the phone. He asked Marge instead to accompany him on a three-couple date, with Harry being one of the other fellows.

Later, when Harry called for a date, Marge was surprised and thrilled that this school hero would call her.

Harry's lifetime goal was to be a professional baseball pitcher. Playing in a state championship his senior year, he struck out 17 batters to win the game. The following night, the manager thought he shouldn't pitch, afraid he might injure his arm. The athletic director thought otherwise, so Harry pitched another winner, but did damage his arm. He said it was never as good again.

He joined the Tacoma Tigers as soon as he was out of school and later played with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Vancouver Capitanos and some other minor league teams. He thought his best year of pitching was with the Idaho Falls Russets in 1949.

In 2006, he was inducted into the Tacoma-Pierce County Sports Hall of Fame.

Harry and Marge married in 1951.

Harry considered what he should do as a profession after baseball. His father co-owned a plywood company and he tried that for a while.

"Old Swedes work with their hands, not their heads," but that business didn't suit him, Harry said.

He applied to become a Kirby vacuum cleaner salesman and loved it. He became one of the top salesmen for several years and was awarded a 26-foot travel trailer one year. The Nygard's sold it because they had no vehicle big enough to pull it. The next year, he won a Chevy Blazer. He was the No. 35 top Kirby salesman worldwide.

The Nygard's live on a historic home site in Longbranch, south of Filucy Bay. Charlie Jaeger, a concrete man, lived in a small cabin along a trail used by Native Americans. The Nygard's bought the property from Jaeger's niece. He built three concrete arches, which still exist, along the now-vanished trail. The sidewalks included some concrete bearing the date 1906. When the Nygard's replaced the walks, they left those pieces and had some of the new ones inscribed 2016, the year they were added.

A fire two years ago burned down the cabin and storage building. The Nygard's rebuilt the cabin and built their own garage and workshop in the same places.

"It's so sad to not have them still there," Marge said. She loved the historic aspect of the old buildings.

Their home is filled with memorabilia from their travels and Harry's various awards, both from baseball and Kirby, including his Gold Kirby Award, all special reminders of their 65 years together.

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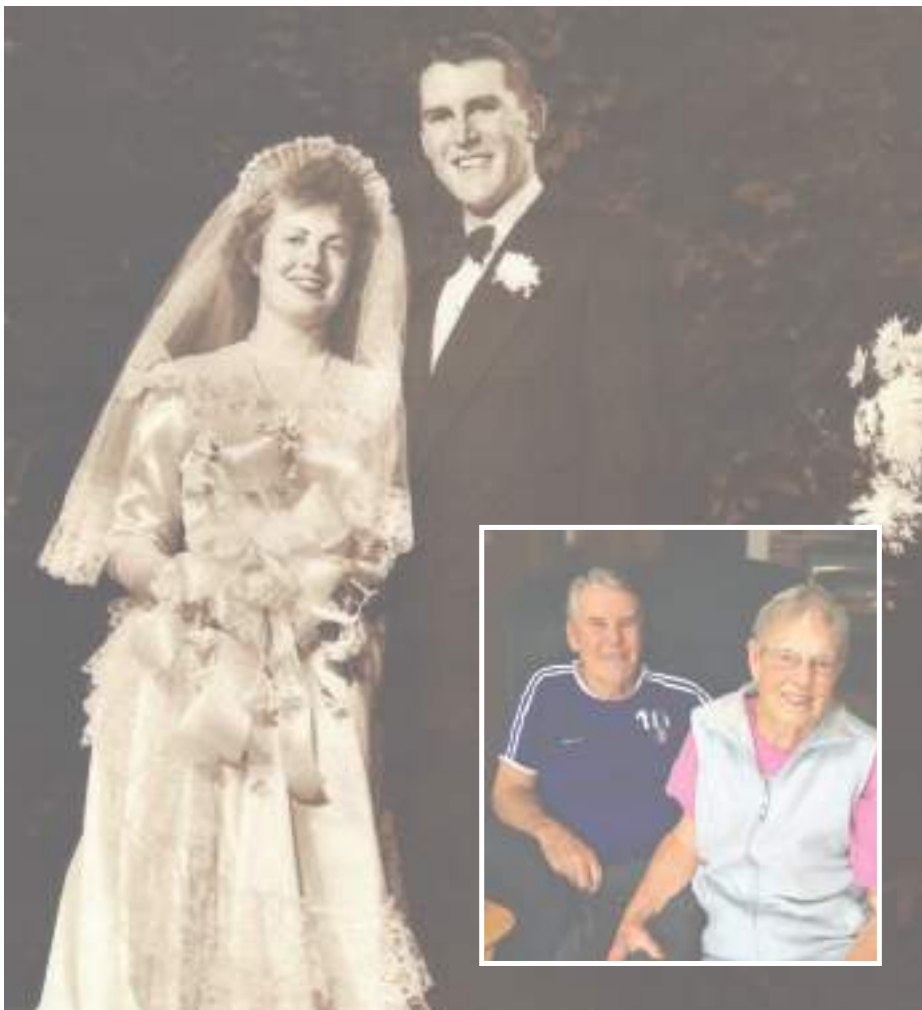
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The Nygards on their wedding day in 1951. *Courtesy of the Nygards*  
 Inset: Harry and Marge Nygard in their Longbranch home. *Photo: Colleen Slater, KP News*

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"Nobody wants to talk about it, which is exactly the secretive scenario that child abuse and sexual molestation thrive in," said Jackie Furrie.

## Schools on the Lookout for Effects of Childhood Trauma

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Peninsula School District personnel recently received specialized training to help better identify symptoms of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in young children, following an increase over the last several years of troubled students at the preschool and early grade levels.

Because children who have experienced traumatic stress may appear restless, fidgety or have trouble paying attention and staying organized, the symptoms of traumatic stress can be confused with symptoms of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder or similar conditions, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PSD's mission is to identify traumatic stress in children as early as possible to help those students develop effective coping mechanisms and to support their educational development.

Pierce County has a significantly higher rate of child abuse than the rest of the state, according to a 2013 Pierce County Community Health Assessment that was based on individual cases reported and investigated by Child Protective Services.

For any child, a traumatic event considered to be an ACE can come because of painful injury or illness, a death of a close family member, witnessing physical harm of a caregiver, separation from a parent, or an event such as natural disaster, fire or war. But in a healthy home environment with parents sensitive to their needs, most children can recover, including children diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

For other children, stress and trauma are a part of daily life. The physical and emotional scars of child abuse and sexual abuse are not only suffered at the time of occurrence but often continue to negatively impact physical and emotional health well into adulthood.

"Children trust their parents and family members," said Jackie Furrie, a retired Lakebay therapist who spent the bulk of her career working with child victims of sexual abuse and who is herself a survivor of childhood trauma. "So the implicit message a lot of kids get is that there really is nobody to help them, because if there were somebody to help them, it would not have happened. Even worse is if a trusted

person is witness to the event, but does nothing to help."

ACEs include a variety of stressful conditions found to negatively impact health outcomes from childhood on, such as living with alcoholism, drug abuse, mental illness; an incarcerated parent or witnessing domestic violence. Living in poverty without access to mental health care is also a challenge, according to both the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department and the Washington State Department of Health Injury and Violence Prevention Report.

While most children exposed to a traumatic event do not develop PTSD, a significant number of children do, whether the trauma arose from a single event or from ongoing abuse.

Young children are especially vulnerable to the impacts of trauma. With brains not yet fully developed, preschool-age children are susceptible to the reordering of neural pathways between the thinking cerebral cortex and the amygdala, the fight-flight-freeze response area of the brain, increasing the potential of ongoing physical and mental health challenges, and a classic PTSD response to extreme stress.

Childhood PTSD is often diagnosed because of sexual abuse, which by its nature is secretive and underreported, exactly the scenario that allows PTSD to become more fully entrenched and difficult to treat.

"One of the major consequences of any type of abuse is being silenced," Furrie said.

"The silencing itself contributes to a major part of the trauma, because if you can talk about it openly, you can recover. Yet, so often children are told to be quiet."

Recent studies on ACEs explain the long-lasting physical and mental health consequences of growing up exposed to trauma. As the number of exposures to trauma rises, so does the risk of developing detrimental health consequences, such as depression, anxiety, anger, substance abuse, obesity, sexually risky behaviors and suicidality.

"What a child grows up with inside their little family is what they expect the world to be, so they may not even know that what is going on in their family is what we think of as out of bounds," Furrie said. "Most often, the abuse of children is part of the family culture. Usually it is a family member who is either threatening them or coercing them. The perpetrator, whether they are a young kid or an older person, is always using one of those two techniques."

Jud Morris, director of the Children's Home Society of Washington on the KP, said one of his organization's priorities is to get rid of the shame of both the parents and the children.

"We're approaching families and children with ACEs in a nonjudgmental way," Morris said. "From our perspective, it's not about why it happened, but how we can help parents understand and give them tools to do some beefing up of support at home to help their children get up to speed after the toxic results of stress. If we can start helping these children before and during preschool age, we know parents can begin to make a positive impact on their child."

ACEs training is having a positive effect on students and teachers, according to one PSD employee who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"We are helping these kids devise a strategy to learn how to cope, to have empathy for others and for themselves. For educators to be able to step back and be aware of their own triggers and to deal with the stress of coping with these kids has been huge. I marvel at their willingness to learn how to help their students."

*For more information on the effect of trauma on children, go [www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy). To report suspected child abuse of any kind, call 1-866-ENDHARM.*





Jacobs Point Park, inside Oro Bay. *Courtesy State of Washington* Map: Oro Bay is just over 4 nautical miles from Devil's Head on the KP. Arrow indicates Jacobs Point Park. *KP News file*

## Protected Shoreline Habitat Expanded on Anderson Island

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Some of the last remaining undeveloped shoreline along Puget Sound will be added to Jacobs Point Park on the south end of Anderson Island, according to Forterra, a nonprofit land stewardship organization. In January, Forterra announced the purchase of 17.6 acres to be added to the park, expanding it from 82 to nearly 100 acres and creating the largest protected marine park in South Puget Sound.

Situated on Anderson Island's East Oro Bay near the Nisqually River Delta and backed by mature forested uplands and wild native wetlands, the park is approximately 4 nautical miles from the southern tip of the Key Peninsula. The purchase conserves crucial habitat for migrating chinook, chum and pink salmon, in addition to serving spawning surf smelt and sand lance, along with a wide variety of invertebrate species, according to Forterra.

"We are proud of our work that protects vulnerable shoreline and also gifts the people of Puget Sound with amazing views of our natural world," said Darcey Hughs, Forterra's conservation transaction

manager. "This is a place where people can come hike, paddle, beach comb or catch sight of a bald eagle, heron or orca."

Forterra helped create the park with the Anderson Island Park District when it first secured 82 acres on the island in 2011. The property will be accessible to the public for recreational use by boat or by a trail network, providing access to over 1,600 feet of shoreline.

While the park is sure to draw Key Peninsula boating enthusiasts, getting to nearby Anderson Island from the KP by car requires a trip across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and a 20-minute ferry ride from Steilacoom.

Funding for the \$258,000 acquisition was provided through the Pierce County Conservation Futures Program, the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (administered by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office), the Nisqually Land Trust and a private funder.

Forterra (formerly Cascade Land Conservancy) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization based in Seattle.

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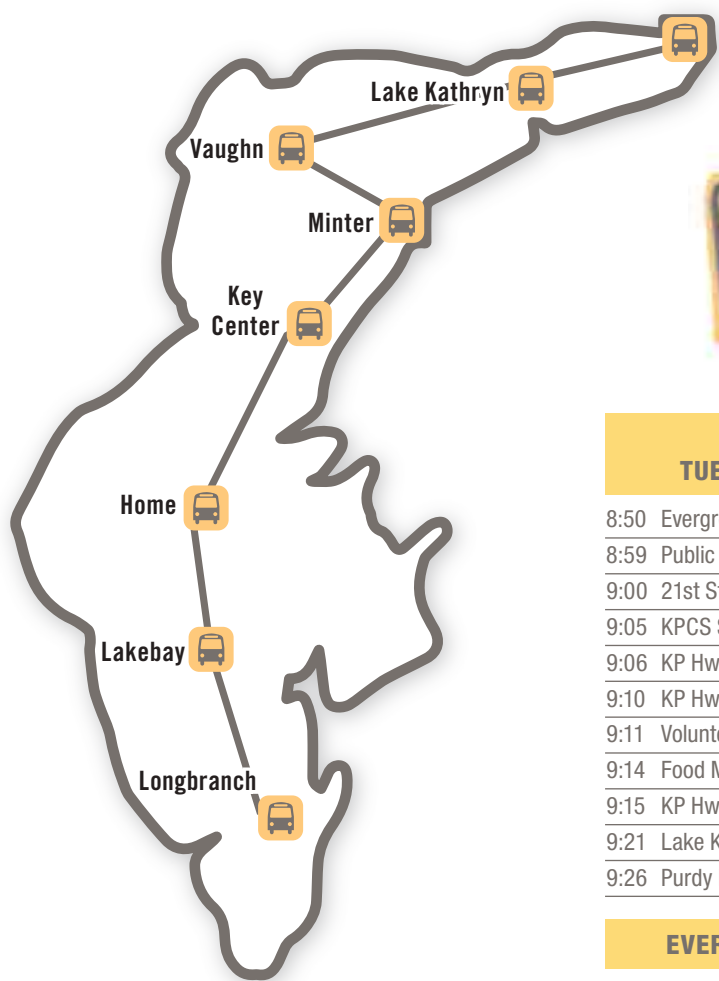
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A partnership with the KP Community Council, Puget Sound Educational School District, Peninsula School District and the Gary E. Milgard Foundation.

See complete 2017 school year schedule at [kp.council.org](http://kp.council.org)

### VAUGHN WEDNESDAY MORNING

- 9:50 Vaughn Elementary School
- 9:56 Hall Rd KPN @ S. Vaughn Rd KN
- 9:57 Wright Bliss Rd @ 104th St Ct KN
- 9:59 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 10:02 Lake Holiday bus shed
- 10:03 SR302 @ 140th Ave KN
- 10:05 Charbonneau Construction
- 10:08 Lake Kathryn Center
- 10:26 Purdy Park & Ride

### EVERGREEN TUESDAY & THURSDAY MORNING

- 8:50 Evergreen Elementary School
- 8:59 Public access gravel area end of lake
- 9:00 21st St KS @ 193rd Ave
- 9:05 KPCS Senior Center /Food Bank
- 9:06 KP Hwy N @ Home Gas Station
- 9:10 KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct KN
- 9:11 Volunteer Park
- 9:14 Food Market @ Key Center
- 9:15 KP Hwy N @Minterwood Dr KN
- 9:21 Lake Kathryn Center
- 9:26 Purdy Park & Ride

### EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY MORNING

- 9:50 Evergreen Elementary School
- 9:59 Public access gravel area end of lake
- 10:00 21st St KS @ 193rd Ave
- 10:05 KPCS Senior Center /Food Bank
- 10:06 KP Hwy N @ Home Gas Station
- 10:10 KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct KN
- 10:11 Volunteer Park
- 10:14 Food Market @ Key Center
- 10:15 KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr KN
- 10:21 Lake Kathryn Center
- 10:26 Purdy Park & Ride

### VAUGHN TUESDAY & THURSDAY MORNING

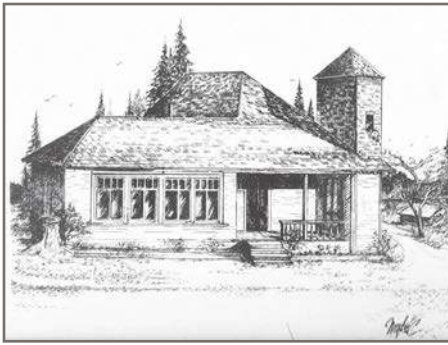
- 8:50 Vaughn Elementary School
- 8:56 Hall Rd KN @ S. Vaughn Rd KN
- 8:57 Wright Bliss Rd @ 104th St Ct KN
- 8:59 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 9:02 Lake Holiday bus shed
- 9:03 SR302 @ 140th Ave KN
- 9:05 Charbonneau Construction
- 9:08 Lake Kathryn Center
- 9:26 Purdy Park & Ride

### TUESDAY & THURSDAY MIDDAY

- 10:47 Peninsula High School
- 10:49 Purdy Park & Ride
- 10:54 Lake Kathryn Center
- 11:03 11615 SR302 @ Windermere Realty
- 11:05 SR302 @ 140th Lake of the Woods
- 11:06 Lake Holiday bus shed
- 11:09 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 11:11 Wright Bliss Rd @ 104th Ave KN
- 11:12 Olson Dr & Wright Bliss Rd KN
- 11:14 Food Market @ Key Center
- 11:17 Volunteer Park
- 11:21 KP Hwy @ 167th Ave Ct KN
- 11:24 KP Hwy @ Home Gas Station
- 11:27 KPCS Senior Center /Food Bank
- 11:33 Public Access Gravel Area
- 11:34 21st St KS & 193rd Ave KS
- 11:40 Evergreen Elementary School

### TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY AFTERNOON

- 4:43 Peninsula High School
- 4:45 Purdy Park & Ride
- 4:51 Lake Kathryn Center
- 4:54 11615 SR 302 Windmere Realty
- 4:58 Lake Holiday bus barn
- 5:00 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 5:02 Wright Bliss Rd @ 104th St Ct KN
- 5:03 Wright Bliss Rd @ Hall Road N
- 5:05 Food Market @ Key Center
- 5:06 Red Barn, KP Hwy @ 84th St KN
- 5:10 KP Hwy @ 167th Ave Ct
- 5:14 Home Gas Station, KP Hwy
- 5:14 KPCS Senior Center/Food Bank
- 5:19 Public Access Gravel Area
- 5:20 21st Ave KS @ 193rd Ave KS
- 5:24 KP Hwy @ 17th St Ct KS
- 5:36 Red Barn, KP Hwy @ 84th St KN



## 'Then and Now': The KP Historical Society 2017 Exhibit

STAFF REPORT

A new exhibit called "Then and Now" opens at the Key Peninsula museum at the civic center Feb. 4, 1 to 4 p.m. The Vaughn Library Hall, recently donated to the KP Historical Society by Donna and Gary Docken, will be highlighted. Pictures of the early construction of the hall and changes that have been made over the years, including current photos, are part of the display.

The exhibit also presents many historical pictures of schools, commercial buildings, bridges and other structures, paired with contemporary photos showing what those locations look like today. KP residents are invited to participate in the display by contributing their own "then and now" photos.

The library hall, located near the end of Hall Road close to Vaughn Bay, is still being cleaned, with 22 truckloads of debris already hauled away. These include trips to the dump with recycling, scrap metal and wood from careful demolition. Removing paneling off the walls has revealed the height of the stage, location and size of the original windows, a pass through and counter between the hall room and kitchen, and clues to the history of the changing location of the front door.

"The discovery of the original wainscoted wall was an exciting day," said KPHS President Judy Mills. "It's rather like being on an archaeological dig as the past comes alive again."

KPHS continues to ask the public for any pictures, mementos or memories of the hall that may be stashed away. They are especially interested in finding interior photos, as there are few of those.

*Regular museum hours are Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m., though special visits can be arranged by calling 884-2511 or 884-5403.*

*For more information, go to [www.keypeninsula.org](http://www.keypeninsula.org) or [facebook.com/KPHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/KPHistoricalSociety).*



TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Emily Reaney, 10, of Lakebay raised \$5,000 for her fifth-grade class to attend a three-day, two-night Environmental Learning Class at Camp Seymour. The cost of the overnight trip for the 36 fifth-graders of Evergreen Elementary School, including accommodation and transportation for staff and volunteers, is \$5,700.

Emily's mother, Cathy Reaney, thought it would be worth Emily speaking to her grandfather's retiree lunch group to appeal for donations. Roger Coleman was a longshoreman in Tacoma for over 40 years and meets regularly with fellow International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 23 members for social events.

Emily thought she would be talking to her grandfather and a few of his friends, but there were 40 people at the luncheon.

"I was a little bit nervous," she said. "A lot nervous. I was sinking down in my chair."

After some encouragement from President Mike Jagielski, Emily successfully delivered her speech. The Pension Club donated \$500 and an additional \$500 came from individual members.

"I thought we might get a couple of scholarships," Cathy said. "I was even more

shocked when these guys were reaching into their wallets and handing her cash."

The Pension Club encouraged Emily to speak again that evening to the full, active membership of ILWU 23, about 80 people.

"The second time was easier," Emily said. "They were giving us \$100 bills. My mom was crying. It was very surprising."

The full membership donated another \$4,000, bringing Emily's total to \$5,000. Grants from the Longbranch Improvement Club and the Angel Guild, together with donations from the community, will fund the remaining \$700 needed for the trip. Anything left over will be saved for next year, according to Denise Ohlson, fifth-grade teacher at Evergreen.

"It is an annual trip to camp that otherwise many of these kids would never get to do," she said. Her longtime colleague, Jim Inglebritson, who died in 2015, started the trips in 2003.

"They have academic groups where they'll learn about sustainability and study a Living Machine using gray water to fertilize instead of pumping it into the Sound," Ohlson said. "They'll learn about forest ecology, marine life, what lives in the estuary, what lives in the tidelands,

Emily Reaney, 10, enjoys a brief recess between her learning and fundraising duties. *Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News*

## Fifth-Grader Raises \$5,000 for Evergreen Elementary Trip to Camp Seymour

how to keep the water around the Key Peninsula clean. It's all matched up with our science standards."

Ohlson has been a teacher for 37 years; she has been at Evergreen the last 10.

"The other thing that's really important for us is that, after we come back, we learn how to craft a friendly letter and thank all of the people who helped us," she said.

Emily was born with a high-frequency hearing loss that affects her speech. "She's had hearing aides since she was 6 months old and that made a big difference," Cathy said. "She's been working with speech therapists at Mary Bridge (Children's Hospital) and, once she got into the school district here at 3, they've been working with her here, too."

The ILWU members were not aware that Emily has a hearing loss. "I'm guessing they just assumed that was the way she speaks," Cathy said. "By the time she gave the speech the second time, she had a lot more confidence and could work through it without the same level of horror she had the first time. They were incredibly supportive of her."

There has been a residual effect in the classroom too, according to Ohlson. "I can tell you that since then, in class, Emily has been raising her hand more," she said. "She has been more confident. I see a change in math. There's just something about her."

When asked if she would deliver another fundraising speech in the future, Emily said, "I think so," after some reflection.

Her immediate plans include playing games on her iPad and helping care for the family's animals, including chickens, turkeys, goats and two Anatolian Shepherds.

"I want to study animals and nature," she said. "That is what I like."

Third-grader Andrew Seffernick builds an electronic snap circuit under the guidance of Kyle Denton of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. *Photo: Alice Kinerk, KP News*

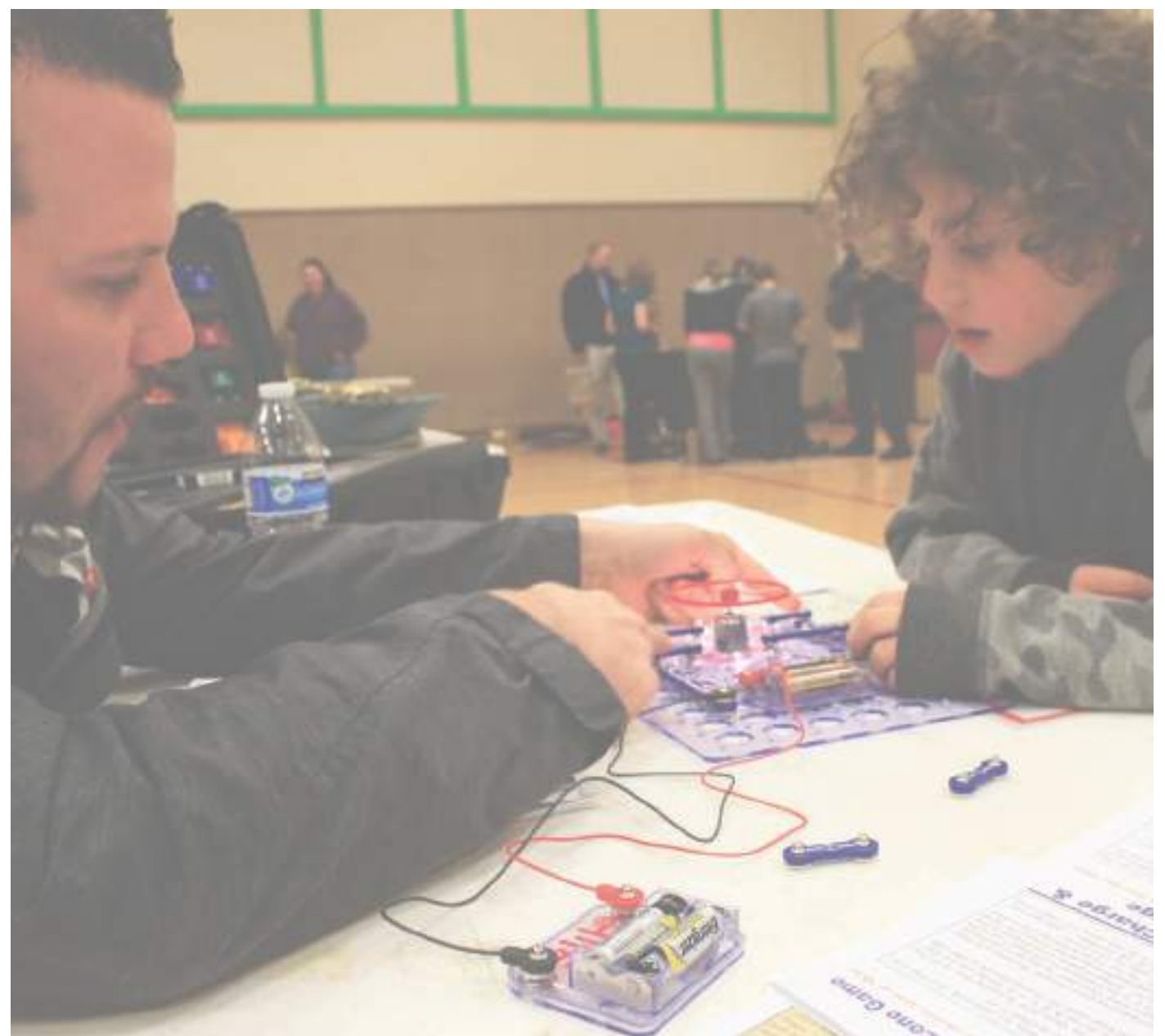
## Hands-on Learning at Minter Creek STEAM Night

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

Hundreds of students, parents, teachers and community members came together Jan. 12 at Minter Creek Elementary School for a night of hands-on learning about science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). Educators hope these students will one day choose to take on further study and careers in these important fields.

The annual event, known as STEAM Rocks, has expanded significantly since beginning as Math Rocks several years ago. What was once primarily a teacher-run event aimed at getting children interested in math has gained support from the school's PTA, widened its focus and now includes a variety of organizations, such as the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Key Peninsula Science Foundation and Pierce Conservation District. Each hosts educational activities aimed at enticing young minds toward future study and careers in the sciences.

This year, the name of the event



changed a second time, from STEM to STEAM, to include the local artists and art organizations now taking part. While it may seem odd to tie the field of art (associated with personal expression) to the fields of science and math, the event's focus on applying science and math to real world problem-solving, communication and creativity make it all work together.

Local artist Mardie Rees took part in the event for the first time this year. A wooden duck on her table provided an opportunity for students to try blind contour drawing, an exercise in which an artist draws the outline of an object without looking at the paper. Research suggests that such practice helps access the intuitive, nonverbal right side of the brain, the part used when making observations and problem-solving.

"Art is often left out of the equation when we talk about needing better math and better understanding of sciences, but art is really important," Rees said. "It can serve the lifelong purpose of being happy."

Key Peninsula Middle School science

teacher Richard Miller, who was helping students build and launch air-powered rockets at the event, said, "Science is vital to the future of our children; adding arts this year is vital to the development of a complete human."

Heading it all up was Maria Kusche of the Minter Creek PTA. "This is a fun event," she said. "It's about getting their minds interested in science, technology, engineering, arts and math. They don't realize that veterinarians and electronics are all parts of science."

At the table for Harbor Code Academy, a new group created by local educators including Ann Cook, librarian at Purdy Elementary, students used special markers to draw maps and then set small photo-sensitive robots called Ozobots onto the paper and watched them trace the maps. "We're trying to bring a STEAM mindset to younger students," she said. "It's what the kids want to do."

"I made a harmonica out of Popsicle sticks," said Lucy Watkinson, a second-grader at Minter Creek. "I also made a

kaleidoscope out of mirror paper, regular paper and a straw," she said.

Parents were also impressed by the event. "I think it's awesome that they're having this," said Cathy Hains, mother of Minter Creek fourth-grader Jazzton Hains. "He's definitely into science and he wanted to come."

While students and parents alike were wowed by the activities, adults were also aware how much behind-the-scenes work must have gone into the event. "Maria (Kusche) is amazing," said Amy Barber, the school's STEAM specialist. "Having kids see the connection to STEAM jobs is huge. Thousands of STEAM jobs go unfilled because people don't have the education."

Minter Creek Principal Ty Robuck also credited volunteers. "We are so honored to have a great PTA to organize events like this. Special thanks to Maria Kusche for coordinating. There are so many wonderful organizations here. It's just to help kids grow and learn," Robuck said.

## OBITUARIES

**Chester E. Dadisman**, a longtime Gig Harbor resident, died peacefully Jan. 10. He was 98 years old.

Raised in Home, Dadisman left when he was 18 to attend Washington State University, where he received his bachelor of arts in agriculture. He was a World War II veteran who retired as a U.S. Army colonel after serving his country for 30 years. His military assignments included service in Europe during the war and after, ROTC instructor at WSU, time in the Pentagon and service in Korea. He retired in 1970, with his last duty station being Fort Lewis.

Dadisman and Muriel, his loving wife of 67 years, were a very social couple. They enjoyed travel, card parties, entertaining and dancing at the Elks Lodge. He loved growing and sharing the bounty of produce from his extensive garden. He was also an avid golfer and enjoyed boating and fishing.

He was preceded in death by Muriel and daughter-in-law Katherine Dadisman. He is survived by daughter Margaret Morgan, Savannah, Georgia; son Richard Dadisman (Cindy), Gig Harbor; daughter Maryjane Robbins (Rich), Harstine Island; granddaughters Jessica and Jennifer; grandsons, Michael (Casey) and Christopher (Marianna); and his three great-grandchildren, Tyler, Mia and Christopher Jr.

The family offers many thanks to the people who allowed "Dad" to remain in his own home on Peacock Hill. They are forever grateful for the kindness and compassion of caregivers Dixie Simon, Morgan Delucca and Diane Vivona. They also thank the staff of Home Instead and Right At Home, who provided the caregivers and showed such warm concern.

There will be a private service for interment at Haven of Rest in Gig Harbor.

**In Memory** Obituaries are printed free of charge by the Key Peninsula News for community members. Please limit submissions to 250 words and provide high resolution photographs when possible. Send to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com).

**Patricia B. Greetham** of Lakebay died Dec. 25, 2016. She was 83 years old.

Born in Seattle to Jim and Melva Brooks, her family later moved to Issaquah, where she grew up in the Village Theater, owned by her father. She graduated from Issaquah High School as valedictorian of the 1951 class. She received a partial scholarship to Washington State College where she earned a bachelor of arts in social services in 1955, her profession until retirement. She served the YWCA as a state caseworker and in a number of nursing homes, including Rocky Bay and Cottesmore.

Greetham met her future husband, Don, at the South Tacoma Community Church. They were married in January 1960 in a home ceremony at her parents' place on West Lake Sammamish. They moved to their lifetime home in Lakebay in 1962, where they raised five children and entertained an enormous number of guests.

Among her many accomplishments, Greetham served as editor of two church newspapers and the Key Peninsula News. She was president of the Friends of the Library and also organized a utilities committee to improve services to the Key Peninsula. She was extremely active with civic center projects, including a huge bicentennial celebration she organized in 1976 that was chosen by the Legislature as the best in Washington.

A member of Harbor Bible Church, Greetham devoted time to Camp Woodworth in Lakebay and hosted Bible studies, missionary gatherings and Sunday school picnics. She will also be remembered as an avid Cougar, as very Irish, and as a direct descendant of Scottish preacher John Knox.

Greetham is survived by her husband of 57 years, Don; brother Jim (Gerda) Brooks of Sammamish City, sister Joan (Del) Marker of Frederickson; sons Tom (Carol), Jim (Cindy), Dave (Maya Wilson), Mark (Beth) and daughter Janette (Mark) Thomas; granddaughter Ann; grandsons Trevor and Brandon; and many other loving relatives and friends.

For those wishing to donate in her memory, Camp Woodworth in Lakebay and the Care Net Pregnancy Center in Gig Harbor meant much to her.

Her family thanks her health care providers Dean Shriner, Dr. William Roes and the staff of the Key Peninsula Clinic; Dr. John Campbell and the staff of St. Anthony Hospital; Don Zimmerman, Ian Warren and the employees at Cost Less Pharmacy; and Dr. Paul Kadzik and his dental staff.

A memorial service will be held at Chapel Hill Church in Gig Harbor Feb. 18 at 1 p.m. Haven of Rest arranged her burial at Vaughn Cemetery Jan. 6.

**Robert "Bob" Clarence Stickley** died Jan. 1 in Sonoma, CA, from complications of Parkinson's disease. He was 81 years old.

Stickley was born in Laramie, Wyoming, Oct. 2, 1935, in the midst of the Depression. He was raised by his parents, Clair and Rose, on a cattle ranch south of Laramie. Despite the hardship of the times, his childhood was a happy one even if, by his account, he had "too many chores." He felt fortunate because their house had electric lights—albeit just a few light bulbs and a radio powered by car batteries connected to the ranch's windmill.

During World War II, Stickley's father took on work as a brakeman for the Union Pacific Railroad, enabling the family to save money and eventually buy irrigated farmland in Yakima Valley. The family moved there in 1947 and Stickley graduated from Sunnyside High School in 1953.

After graduation, Stickley joined the U.S. Air Force and trained as an electronics technician. He served four years in the Air Defense Command, repairing radars, radios and instrument landing systems on fighter jets. After active duty, he attended the University of Washington and the University of Wyoming. To supplement his G.I. bill benefits, he worked as a ranch hand on the Dinwiddie Ranch near Centennial, Wyoming. Ranch owners Violet "V" and Jack Dinwiddie never had children and embraced Stickley as their own.

After graduating from the University of Wyoming in 1961 with a degree in electrical engineering, Stickley worked for defense contractors in Connecticut and California. An offer from Boeing in 1967 brought him back to Washington, where he worked for 28 years, spending 14 on one project: the inertial upper stage rocket, which placed satellites in geosynchronous orbit necessary for GPS and other applications.

He married Judith Phare in 1969 and raised three children in Maple Valley. After retiring from Boeing in 1995, they built a timber-frame home on the Key Peninsula. They lived there happily until Bob lost Judy to brain cancer in 2010. He was also preceded in death by his parents, Rose and Clair, and his brother, Harley.

Bob is survived by his children, Shelley Carver of Manhattan, Kansas; Robb Stickley of Napa, California; and Jakob Stickley of Bremerton; his four grandchildren, Robert, Carys, Serena and Amelia; his son-in-law, Lt. Col. Casey Carver, U.S. Army; and daughter-in-law Monica.

There will be a private service at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Maple Valley. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the University of Wyoming, College of Engineering.

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Stephanie Brooks behind the Gnosh truck counter with customer Bill Pierce.

Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News

## Gnosh Food Truck Serves Two Peninsulas

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

It took a call to “Get Jesse” Jones before Stephanie Brooks’ food truck business got started in August 2016.

She had withdrawn \$60,000 from her savings to retrofit the vehicle she named Gnosh with plumbing, flooring and appliances, and to fix a leaky roof, but it was not delivered as promised. Soon after television consumer advocate Jones got involved, Brooks was in business.

But then Gnosh broke down the second day of operation in Gig Harbor. The head gasket on the engine was blown. Brooks made a few frantic phone calls to a tow company, an auto repair shop and a wedding planner before she decided that the truck would be towed to her scheduled catering job. Towed afterward to Glen Cove Repair, where the mechanical issues were resolved, Gnosh was soon back on the road. “I am grateful to the Morelands, who saw my trauma and helped,” Brooks said.

The simple menu is “Sam’iches and Wraps,” “Nibbles” and “Quenchers,” and it varies from week to week. The schedule is Wednesday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (or later) in Key Center, where Gnosh parks in front of Capitol Lumber on the Key Peninsula Highway.

“I’ve tried to keep the price point accessible to everyone, in the \$7 to \$9.50 range,” Brooks said.

Brooks, 44, grew up in Home, where she has recently returned to live with her mother. “It’s nice to have a small-town

connection,” she said. She and her partner, Chad Edwards, agree. “It’s not just food, it’s conversations with the community. It’s something different. ‘Gnosh’ means to eat noisily,” Brooks said.

Edwards said he put about 600 hours of work into the truck after they got it back from the builder. Licensing for road driving is the same as any recreational vehicle, “but the health department guidelines for food truck services are ‘gray’ as they are being built. It is a learning curve for everyone,” Brooks said.

“I don’t have a food background,” she said. “I spent 15 years in the corporate world. After my father passed away, I took a year off and got my soul back.” She said she found a way to do what her heart wants to do. “I love being my own boss and living my vision. I have a zest to learn and I like to have a good time at work. It comes down to the love of it. Food tastes better with love,” she said.

Gnosh can cater weddings, birthday parties, fundraisers and other events on-site. “We’ve had good feedback that we serve a good product at a good price,” Brooks said. “I’m open to constructive criticism. It’s my goal to move to five days a week out here on the Key.”

For more information, go to Facebook@GNOSHfoodtruck. Place an order at [www.orderGnosh.com](http://www.orderGnosh.com) or by calling 253-778-9549.

## 3-Year-Old Boy Has Rare Disease and Hope

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

“Sometimes, a pregnancy just doesn’t go as planned,” said Sara Hubbell. “You enter a whole new world. And we just dove into it.”

Hubbell’s pregnancy and delivery went smoothly, but as soon as Hudson was born, it was clear something was not right. He needed help breathing on his own and his muscle tone was poor. When he was two days old, he was flown by helicopter from Silverdale to Children’s Hospital in Seattle while his parents, Port Orchard residents Sara and Josh, followed by car.

Josh had to return to work, but Sara spent the next six weeks there with Hudson, first staying in a room for parents with babies in the neonatal intensive care unit and later sharing a room with him as the hospital team worked to find out what was wrong and how to get the baby home safely.

Hudson’s main problem was muscle weakness, making it impossible to swallow safely on his own or to breathe normally. When he did go home, it was with a

tube through his nose to get food to his stomach and equipment to monitor his breathing and oxygen levels.

It would be two years before the family received a definitive diagnosis.

Hudson’s neurologist suggested a muscle biopsy and the test confirmed his suspicion. Hudson has X-linked myotubular myopathy, a rare genetic disease affecting about one in 50,000 boys. Skeletal muscles—those used for movement—are weak. The severity of the weakness varies from child to child, but it does not worsen over time as in a disease like muscular dystrophy.

The condition is passed from mother to son about 85 percent of the time, but Sara doesn’t have the gene for it. In Hudson’s case, it is a new mutation. He is relatively mildly affected. Most boys don’t live beyond two years, succumbing to pneumonia because they can’t cough and clear infections, but some survive into young adulthood. At this time there is no cure, but clinical trials to test gene therapy as a possible cure are underway.

Because his speech can be hard to understand, the family uses baby sign language. As Hudson gets older, he is beginning to use an iPad as a communication device. At night he is on a bi-pap machine: A mask is placed over his mouth and nose and when he takes a breath, it adds pressure to his inhalation to make sure his lungs expand as much as possible.

Skeletal muscles affect how the spine and other bones and joints develop. Over time, Hudson will likely need treatment for scoliosis and hip problems. He uses a wheelchair to get around, which the family calls his “hot rod,” but he gets tired and they plan to get an electric chair for him soon.

Hudson sees eight medical specialists at Bremerton’s Holly Ridge Center Birth to Three Program, but it is the speech, physical and occupational therapists who see him at home that have been transformative. “Holly Ridge showed me Hudson is his own person,” Sara said. “He gets to decide who he is. It might be in different ways, but there is nothing he can’t do. They taught me that and it’s been wonderful.”

The medical expenses are largely covered by Josh’s insurance through his job at the shipyard and Medicaid. But one need not covered by insurance is a vehicle that can accommodate Hudson’s electric wheelchair. They found that a Honda Element, with modifications, would work well.

Sara’s cousin started a GoFundMe campaign to raise money for it and Blend Wine Shop in Key Center is dedicating its tip jar to the Hubbell family cause.

Sara hardly remembers Hudson’s first year. “It was almost like PTSD. I was just

in survival mode, doing what I had to do.” From that first step seeing Hudson airlifted to Seattle, it’s been quite a journey. Although the future still holds challenges, she is joyful when she talks about her son. She’s had tremendous support from her family and added that she and Josh are not ones to wallow in self-pity. “It’s just not who we are,” she said. Having a diagnosis, so that she and Josh have a better understanding of what to expect, and even the possibility of a cure, has also helped.

Sara was a barista before she had Hudson and still works on Sundays, but is now considering becoming an occupational therapist. She and Josh have known each other since high school and got married last year. They just moved to their own home in Port Orchard—one with no carpets or stairs, so that Hudson can get around more easily. They hope to have a second baby in the next year or so.



Hudson Hubbell has a serious disease, but seems to always have a smile on his face. Courtesy Sara Hubbell.

Now that Hudson is 3, he will get support services through the South Kitsap School District. Sara hopes that he can attend programs outside their home, but she’ll need to balance the socialization with his risk of getting infections. Even a cold can be potentially life threatening.

“We had no idea when we had Hudson what was ahead of us,” Sara said. “All of the sudden, life was different. Would I have asked for this? No. But would I change who he is? No. He shows me ways to be grateful every day. He’s never known anything else, and he always has a smile on his face.”

A video of Hudson at Holly Ridge Center is at [hollyridge.wistia.com/medias/xi8zeuujgl](http://hollyridge.wistia.com/medias/xi8zeuujgl). The Hubbell GoFundMe page is at [www.gofundme.com/hudson-hubbell](http://www.gofundme.com/hudson-hubbell).



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			I'd like more:



January sky over Longbranch Marina during the cold spell. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News.*

If you've crossed the Purdy Spit in recent weeks, you've likely noticed a small forest of tripods with spotting scopes and cameras on the beach. The spit is one of four places in the state where bird watchers have spotted a rare common eider sea duck. Common eiders are the largest North American duck species. The drake's head is white with a black cap and a greenish nape. It has a white breast, black flanks and a black tail. Current photos at the Washington Rare Bird Alert website: [goo.gl/FEPdnm](http://goo.gl/FEPdnm). *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*



The Horseshoe Lake Wrecking Yard at 9401 State Route 302 in Wauna is moving and finished a clearing-out sale in early January, leaving behind a lonely collection of Tonka trucks and other forgotten treasures. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*



Eagle Scout candidate Robert Quill (the tall one) instructs Timmy Calhoun (the less tall one) and other Scouts from KP Troop 220 in the art of lashing stuff together at the KP Civic Center Jan. 10. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

Peninsula Girls Basketball varsity player Belle Frazier during a recent game. PHS has won 12 games this year and six in league, and has only lost three. They are in third place in the South Sound Class 3A league. *Courtesy Seth Walloch, Sports Editor, Peninsula Outlook. Photo: Ian Collins*

