



# KEY PENINSULA NEWS



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THE AWARD-WINNING VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

August 2022 Vol. 49 No. 8

## KP Fire Department Confronts Budget and Real Estate Issues

The new fire chief is working to close a budget gap as the department grows.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Two months into his tenure, KP Fire Chief Nick Swinhart told Key Peninsula News the biggest challenges his department faces include balancing the budget and developing a capital facilities plan to determine the fate of its headquarters and the Key Center properties acquired by the department at the end of 2021 for a possible new station and training center.

“We are looking at an approximately \$200,000 forecasted shortfall right now” in the department’s \$10 million 2022 budget, Swinhart said. “We don’t want to get into October and find out that we still have red ink that we’re addressing, so we’re taking care of it right now.”

“Tax revenues are exactly where they should be to date, so I’m very pleased with that,” said Executive Assistant Christina Bosch. “It’s just controlling the budget so when we get to December, we’re not in that cash flow issue we had in January, February and March this year.”

**“A BIG CHUNK IS \$300,000 OF (BUDGETED) INCREASED OVERTIME.”**

### Budget

“Some of the big overruns are administrative cost increases of over \$281,000,” Swinhart said. “This includes things like \$21,000 for telephone system repair, an \$8,000 increase in electricity, software payment increases, increasing insurance costs.”

The department also spent \$75,000

CONTINUED PAGE 4



An emerging Sasquatch looks over the shoulder of Dan Whited at work.

## Owls and Eagles and Bears — and Sasquatch, of course — Help to Brighten the Garden

Wooden creatures great and small emerge under the blade of a chainsaw woodcarver.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Anyone exploring the byways of the Key Peninsula has seen them, and maybe even been startled. Wooden bear cubs clinging to a tree, an enormous eagle perched atop a roof peak, a life-sized Sasquatch looming up at the end of a driveway.

Chainsaw woodcarvings are a Pacific Northwest tradition.

But there’s one hideaway on the KP where these creations come to life. Next to a stack of cedar trees stands a series of upright logs, roughly cut into vaguely familiar shapes. Further on, the shapes begin to resemble heads, wings or claws, or something more subtle. At the far edge, a giant owl roosts in silence, waiting for its feathers to be carved.

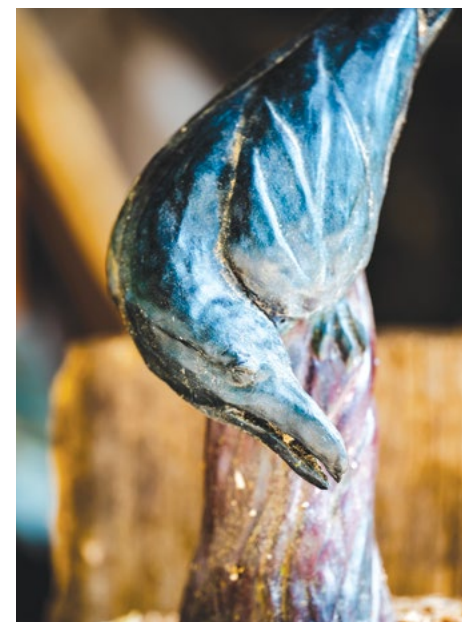
Dan Whited has been turning cedar into sculpture for 30 years. His owl might retail for \$700 or \$800. A life-sized Sasquatch would be closer to \$2,000.

But it’s not a career he planned.

“I was working at Weyerhaeuser in their recreation department for two or three years, and they cut the whole thing,” he said. “As a going-away gift, they gave me career counseling. They said ‘you don’t really want to be a suit and tie at all. You want to be an artist.’ I knew artists and they’re all flakey and I didn’t want to be like that. They said, ‘that’s too bad, that’s where you’re going to be happiest.’ ”

Whited sought advice from a friend who ran a gallery in Tacoma. He suggested stone

CONTINUED PAGE 15



A clay marquette raven for a new carving design.

Photos by Tina McKail, KP News

# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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## MAKING A COME BACK

# Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN,  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

It was an afternoon mid-summer garden party in July. I arrived characteristically late. The acreage was wooded with a nice pasture nestled in a peaceful clearing surrounded by trees. A couple of chesty roosters and self-appointed drake defenders of the universe valiantly sounded the alarm at my arrival before giving up and accepting my presence. There was not another person in sight.

An old-time radio played jazz crooners of the past. I saw empty chairs, casually draped with a sweater or two, around a long table adorned with simple flowers over summer linen. A glass pitcher held the melting remains of iced tea, there were wineglasses with a sip or two left and the crumbs of appetizers left behind.

I called out a few times but realized the party had gone for a walkabout. With winding trails under the shade of giant gnarly maples covered in moss at every turn, it is a lovely place to be on a quiet summer day.

I slid back into an Adirondack chair and, warmed by the sun through the trees overhead, I closed my eyes and my mind wandered back to the joyful, carefree days of gathering in that place that I love. The party soon returned and with it came engaging conversation and laughter. The evening turned magical naturally.

I walked away that night and knew I wanted more. I need more. It had been so long, I had almost forgotten why it's important to be with people, and meet new ones too.

Summer is here. But Covid never left. I know, I know. Just hear me out.

Recently I attended a big indoor social gathering of a couple hundred people for the first time in almost three years.

It was like a reunion, or a New Year's Eve party, or like maybe one of those celebrations at the end of World War II must have been.

Almost no one was wearing a mask, including me. People were shaking hands, hugging, eating off each other's plates, even sharing glasses of wine.

A friend who was wearing a mask asked me what I thought I was doing.

"I don't know," I said.

But I did know. I just wanted to feel normal. Or at least pretend. It felt so good I couldn't stop.

We've talked about this. COVID-19 is not "a bad cold," as a disgruntled KP News reader once told me. We've talked about vaccines (no, they're not poison, they work), we've talked about post-exposure immunity (that works too, for a while), and we've talked about variants from alpha to omicron that have evolved to get past what works.

I know people who've had it and felt nothing; I know people who've had it and were wiped out; I know people who've had it and haven't fully recovered; I knew two people who died before their time because of it.

And it's still here.

More than 400 Americans are still dying every day from COVID-19. That's down from a height of 4,000 a day, but those are still preventable deaths indicating how widespread this thing remains.

The confirmed numbers are staggering but the cases are milder in part because so many people have been vaccinated and the current subvariant is not as devastating. Still, the latest rise of this variant, BA.5, has put Pierce County back into the medium risk category. Reported cases increased 26% in the last week of July.

Which means maybe it's here to stay. Which means maybe masks and distancing are here to stay. Which means maybe let's respect each other's personal decisions and enjoy our summer together, while we've got it.

Speaking of:

August 2: Don't miss your next chance to defend the Constitution and our democratic republic — by voting in the primary election. Ballots must be postmarked by this date; our excellent safe and secure ballot drop boxes are open until 8 p.m.

August 3: The Seventh Annual Key Center Art Walk returns. Local artists show off their wares and community members mingle, snack and imbibe. Organized by Two Waters Arts Alliance. Starts at 4 p.m.

August 12: Low-tide beach walk at Penrose State Park, sponsored by Harbor WildWatch. Learn what lurks beneath the waves in our intertidal zone, starting at 11:30 a.m.

August 13 and 14: The Key Peninsula Civic Center will host a community clothing giveaway starting at 10 a.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday.

August 19: The 33rd Key Peninsula Logging Show returns — not to the Key Peninsula, but close enough. Just over the county line at Port Orchard airport on Sidney Road SW. Logging stuff, food trucks, competitions and games. Starts at 10 a.m. (Pro tip: Bring ear protection.)

August 27 and 28: The Longbranch Improvement Club belatedly celebrates its centennial (thanks for nothing, pandemic) with weekend good foods, silly but highly competitive games, and a dance at the clubhouse.

This is just a sample of what the KP has got going this month, but you can find the rest on our community calendar on page 25 of this edition. Our calendar once took up two full facing pages until April 2020, when it shrank to a quarter of that size before disappearing altogether in May, because there was nothing for us to print.

Now we're slowly coming back, all of us, masked or not, vaxed or not, in agreement or not.

But we're all survivors.

Let's agree on that, and have some fun. Together. ■

### Correction:

In his July column, Richard Gelinias (Empirically Yours, "Better Cement Can Save Us,") misidentified Surfside, Florida, as located in Palm Beach County. Surfside is in Miami-Dade County. We regret the error.



# Cheers to 100 Years: Longbranch Improvement Club Celebrates

The club commemorates commitment to the Key Peninsula community with summer-long festivities including competitive games and a barn dance.

EDDIE MACSALKA, KP NEWS

From its small, humble beginnings in 1921 to more than 200 members today, the Longbranch Improvement Club is celebrating 100 years of supporting the Key Peninsula community — albeit a year late.

While COVID-19 put the kibosh on plans for the club's true centennial in 2021, members took advantage of the extra time to plan a summer-long celebration this year, concluding with a weekend of free festivities August 27 and 28.

"We're grateful for having been here for the last 100 years, and we're making sure the KP community is welcome and having a good time with us," said Kelly Guenther, the Longbranch Improvement Club's president.

Centennial events kicked-off July 16 and 17 at Longbranch Marina, one of the club's two homebases. The community experienced a piece of local maritime history when the steamer Virginia V carried nearly 100 passengers from Foss Waterway in Tacoma to the marina. Later that night the ship was the venue for a "Step Back in Time" party. The steam-powered wooden ship, a National Historic Landmark vessel that's also celebrating a 100th birthday, was originally part of the Puget Sound's Mosquito Fleet — a ferry system connecting Longbranch to other coastal towns. The marina also hosted a party and boat parade around Filucy Bay.

August's events take place on the clubhouse grounds and include cornhole, croquet and whiffle ball tournaments, hay rides, an antique car show and a barn dance with live fiddlers. There's also a free BBQ



The Virginia V sweeps into Longbranch Marina July 16. *Candice Shimmers*

picnic and centennial breakfast, but the club will accept donations.

The Longbranch Improvement Club also carved out a good chunk of space on the clubhouse property for a Centennial Community Garden. The garden is multi-use: a space for community members to test their green thumbs, an experiential learning site for students and a location for outdoor events. The garden's main attraction is a red cedar tree that was planted in 2021. David Ziegler, the club's former vice president and chairman of the centennial committee, said the significance is that red cedar trees were essential to the Pacific Northwest Native American culture. Much like the centennial celebration, it gives the present a connection with its past.

The club is proud to pay homage to

its history, but Guenther said they're also looking toward the future. They recently approved a five-year plan making more club-owned space accessible to the Key Peninsula community, even those who don't have club membership.

"It'll be a more equitable club," said Guenther. "We're continuing the tradition of helping in the community, while also returning to our roots of providing places to recreate and socialize."

To do that, the club is making improvements to their facilities, and that upkeep isn't cheap. The clubhouse has undergone many renovations since being built in 1939 by the Works Progress Administration as a gymnasium for the local schoolhouse. To maintain its rustic charm and its historic landmark status, it takes a lot of thought,

What: The Longbranch Improvement Club Centennial Celebration

When: Saturday Aug. 27 and Sunday Aug. 28

Where: Longbranch Improvement Clubhouse, 4312 Key Peninsula Highway SW in Longbranch

Cost: Free

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

effort and money to do something as simple as installing a security system. The timbered clubhouse remains one of the largest A-framed structures on the West Coast, according to Guenther.

The club also wants to improve the ecology around the Longbranch Marina by ridding it of the tires used on the floating docks. Guenther mentioned that "mooring rates will slowly go up" over the next 10 years to help with improvement costs, but it will still be one of the cheaper marinas for mooring.

Both Guenther and Ziegler said the key for the future of the Longbranch Improvement Club is new membership. The pandemic has created opportunities for more people to live on the Key Peninsula year-round and that means more potential club members. Memberships start as low as \$25 per year. "To continue having a living, thriving community organization, we need more youth and younger families involved," Guenther said. "The more we're able to give the community, the more the community will be willing to give back." ■

## KP Gardens: A Community That Grows Together, Blossoms Together

Neighbors can help feed peninsula and each other, while learning new skills.

LAUREN TRENCH, KP NEWS

Longbranch is ready to welcome a new community garden. What began as piece of land riddled with blackberry bushes, shrubs and trash has been developed into a budding garden for the community to enjoy. Located at the Longbranch Improvement Club, the garden began its development last year and is now into a projected three-year plan for completion.

The idea for the project came from David Shimmers, a member of the Longbranch Improvement Club who saw an opportu-

nity for the club to become more visible to the public.

"I started realizing that we do a lot of great things in the Longbranch Improvement Club, but nobody sees them because they're in the building ... and I started thinking that we need more things that people can physically see as they're driving by so that if they don't know about Longbranch, they can kind of see what's going on," Shimmers said.

The Longbranch Improvement Club, founded in 1921 as a means to encourage the betterment of the community through volunteer effort, recently marked its centennial anniversary last December, though the festivities continue into August. The club focuses on the improvement of roads, schools,

public safety and public service projects, and awards college scholarships to local students.

The garden is meant to promote a sense of neighborhood and community in Longbranch while creating opportunities to educate those who know little about horticulture or sustainability, and for people to simply enjoy.

"When people think of a community garden, they automatically go to one type of community garden. I'm not even sure community garden is the right term; it's a multi-purpose outdoor garden activity," Shimmers said.

The area is set to go through phases of development that include construction of spaces large enough to hold events such as weddings or small enough for people to

gather for coffee or dinner.

"We cleaned it all up, but it's big enough that you could have sections almost like rooms. There's a circle up front where you can do activities, and we're building this kind of expanse at the back right now where you can have things like a dinner or a wedding reception," Shimmers said.

The idea was inspired by a combination of circumstances, including a lack of places to safely gather following COVID-19.

"I thought, well, we could create a garden, where people could kind of gather a community to a true community place," Shimmers said.

The garden is projected to be fully developed and operational for the enjoyment of all by 2024. ■

## BUDGET FROM PAGE 1

investigating two employees accused of misconduct by another employee, according to staff. Both were put on paid administrative leave in 2021 for a number of months. Both were cleared of any wrongdoing and returned to duty in 2022.

“We had to rely on our reserve funds in 2021 and we’d like to get those replaced and then continue to increase for special projects,” Bosch said. “Capital purchases, computers, equipment, apparatus, bunker gear, all of it. That’s a goal I want to see us have ... so we’re not having to use our operations budget for these big purchases. I think that’s going to be a better financial plan than what we’ve been trying to work with.”

Bosch said the department ordinarily replenishes its reserve fund regularly, aiming for a cushion of about \$2 million. But the reserve is down to \$770,000 and will be at negative \$200,000 at the end of the year without significant changes.

“We can’t run out of money because we can’t get any more money,” Bosch said. “We could rely on Pierce County, we could get a warrant register, where they help us basically pay our bills, but they’ll charge us a lot.”

One dramatic budget increase was overtime and paying for seven new firefighters hired in 2022, bringing the line staff to 33. Those include 12 new hires made or put into motion by former Fire Chief Dustin Morrow, who left the department December 1 to take over Central Pierce Fire & Rescue.

“A big chunk is \$300,000 of (budgeted) increased overtime,” Swinhart said. “We expect that it’s going to come down and that increase will probably not be necessary because of these new people.”

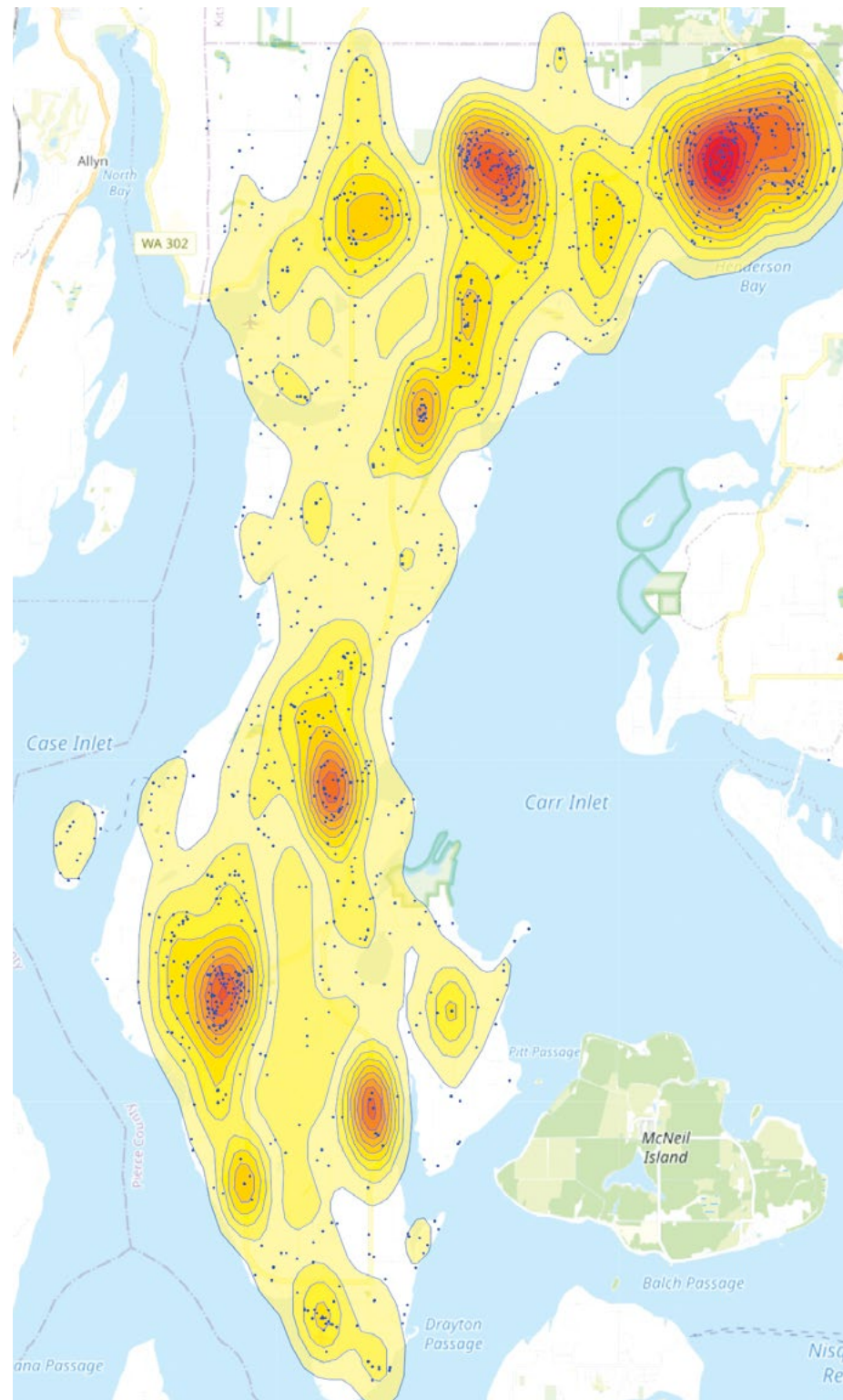
Overtime pay and compensatory days off increased nearly 48% from 2019 to 2020, and another 15% in 2021, according to Bosch.

“The original 2021 budgeted overtime was \$260,000,” she said. “We ended 2021 with overtime expenditures at \$564,500.” Labor

Swinhart said he’s had meetings with the firefighters’ union and the volunteers to find ways to lower overtime and decrease expenses elsewhere.

“I don’t want to talk about specific details because they’re still talking with their members about some of those issues, but what I can say is (there were) detailed discussions to see if we can find ways to decrease those overtime costs.”

The current staffing model put into place by Morrow increased the minimum



Emergency medical response density map January to July 2022. Key Peninsula Fire District

shift to seven career personnel at all times: two in the Longbranch station, three in Home and two in Wauna. Eighty percent of KP calls are medical, but KPFD responds with both a medic unit and an engine for backup. This is typical across the industry, according to Swinhart, providing physical and medical support to ambulance crews.

Volunteers under Morrow’s model respond only from the Key Center headquarters.

“If you have days where you have nobody taking leave you could potentially have up to 10 per shift,” Swinhart said.

“On a given day there’s three leave slots, so there’s an opportunity for up to three people to be gone. If there’s already three people off and someone calls in for sick leave, that’s totally different.”

That’s what causes the overtime. During the height of

the pandemic, one firefighter just being exposed to COVID-19 could keep them and their co-workers home.

“That’s why it’s been so vital for us to increase our staffing, especially hiring more paramedics,” Bosch said.

“When things get tight you do absolutely have to figure out what you can do without,” Swinhart said. “It’s very typical for most fire departments where 85% to 90% of your budget is in salary and benefits (KPFD is 89%). I’ve got about 10%, and it’s probably much less that I actually have direct control over without making substantial, detrimental changes to the district.”

Other expenses included new bunker gear for career personnel, new hoses and other equipment, and three new ambulances delivered this spring. Those vehicles cost about \$600,000 after deducting the value of \$150,000 worth of grants, and were funded by a loan from the state of Washington at a rate of 0.4% payable over five years.

But getting the ambulances meant paying upfront before getting the loan.

The three used ambulances are being sold. The first and best brought in \$20,400; the other two are expected to bring another \$15,000 and \$10,000, respectively, according to Assistant Chief Hal Wolverton, who Swinhart put in charge of both logistics and operations. Key Center Properties

The \$2.125 million Key Center real estate acquisitions the department made at the end of the year included the Olson estate property, consisting of two parcels located almost immediately across KP Highway from the headquarters station, with a residence and a portion of the pasture behind it totaling 2.8 acres, and the Calahan property, site of the former O’Callahan’s restaurant (aka Reed’s and Buck’s) located at the corner of KP Highway and 92nd Street NW.

Although the financing was obtained well in advance and the interest-only loan payments were planned for, the properties cost \$68,000 more than expected. While the residence on the Olson property has been rented, the commercial building on the Calahan property remains vacant. It was expected to generate \$70,000 in annual rent, but instead required \$23,000 in roof and other repairs and could need another \$50,000 to make it rentable, according to Wolverton.

At its June 28 meeting, the board of fire commissioners voted to

table any further decisions about the properties until receiving recommendations from the department’s capital facilities planning committee of staff and local residents. Repayment of the loan principal begins in December 2024. ■

**“WE CAN’T RUN OUT OF MONEY BECAUSE WE CAN’T GET ANY MORE MONEY.”**

# KPFD Fixture Christina Bosch Moves On

After more than two decades running the office, Bosch has found another challenge as finance director for Vashon Fire District.

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

She served six fire chiefs and even more fire commissioners through good times and bad for the KP fire district — and herself — helping to build an accounting system and plan budgets while ably answering to state auditors and trying to keep a growing department on track.

On August 13, Executive Assistant Christina Bosch, 52, will leave her office of 22 years for the last time. But “executive assistant” hardly covers it.

“I do all of the budgeting, all of the reporting,” she said. “I do payroll. I’m the records custodian, so I’m also the district secretary. I do HR, I do all the benefit administration, reporting, all of it. Over the years I’ve created systems that reduce some of the workload, so I don’t work as hard as I used to. I used to put in 50 or 60 hours a week. But now it’s a pretty level 40.”

She will begin her new job as finance director for the Vashon Island Fire District September 1.

“I think I’ve been ready for a new challenge, and this is going to be a total rebuild from the bottom up in their finance department. I’m actually taking a substantial pay cut to do it.”

Bosch grew up in the Spanaway-Graham area and had crossed the Narrows Bridge only once when she was 16 to train at the Gig Harbor Safeway for a grocery store job. The next time was years later to visit the Key Peninsula.

“I had a friend that was dating somebody here. I stopped by her house, and this other guy was there. That was only the second time I ever crossed the bridge until suddenly I met this — person — who lived all the way out here, and that’s how I ended up living here.”

Robert Bosch wrote on his calendar that day that he’d met his future wife. They were married a year and a day later in August 1990. They have three children.

Robert was already a firefighter working for the KP fire department at the time and would later become a paramedic, and eventually a battalion chief.

“I knew a lot of the people here (at KPFD), but I wasn’t heavily involved in anything,” Christina said. She was invited to apply for a part-time accounts payable position opening. “My kids were all in school by then, I was tired of being a stay-at-home mom without a lot to do. It was going to be a part-time gig for a little while, and that was it.”

She didn’t get it. But six months later, the person who did get it was gone and she



“THOSE WERE VERY, VERY DIFFICULT DAYS. I WAS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW AM I GOING TO GET THROUGH THIS. MY HUSBAND’S NAME IS ALL OVER THE PLACE AND IT’S NOT POSITIVE, BUT KNOWING THAT I WAS CURRENTLY THE BREADWINNER OF THE FAMILY I HAD TO PUSH THROUGH.”

Executive Assistant Christina Bosch’s last day at work is August 13.  
*Robert Bosch*

applied again and started work July 1, 2000.

When her boss left in April 2002, Christina stepped up temporarily. “And they kept me there,” she said.

“I’m built for it, I guess. I love the numbers; I love fixing problems within those numbers. I love finding ways of doing things better. I love it, I do.”

Christina has worked for six fire chiefs: Gary Franz, Eric Nelsen, Tom Lique, Guy Allen, Dustin Morrow, and now Nick Swinhart.

Her first big challenge was Nelsen, who developed a substance abuse issue that interfered with his job.

“There was a lot of work that wasn’t getting done that I felt needed to be done,” she said. “It was really trying to cover him in hopes that he could get better. It was a very difficult time. But I felt like I had something to prove, that I could really do the job, so I stayed.”

Lique took over to run the department through another tumultuous time, culminating with then fire commissioner Allen Yanity repeatedly smashing a coffee cup over the head of fire commission chair Jim Bosch, Christina’s father-in-law, during a meeting in

2007. Yanity made many demands on staff and his fellow commissioners to advance an agenda of reforms, in his view, and lost patience with the senior Bosch’s efforts to contain him.

Yanity was convicted of misdemeanor assault but remained a commissioner a few more years before dropping out prior to the end of his term.

“Tom (Lique) did a fantastic job shielding the staff for the most part (from Yanity); obviously he couldn’t shield us from everything,” Christina said. “There was a period of time when I thought I’m going to have to be done here, but I needed the position for the stability of my family.”

In 2010, then Battalion Chief Robert Bosch was terminated after an off-duty incident.

“Those were very, very difficult days,” Christina said. “I was trying to figure out how am I going to get through this. My husband’s name is all over the place and it’s not positive, but knowing that I was currently the breadwinner of the family I had to push through. I did start searching for other employment, but employers wanted degrees, and I didn’t have one.”

It took five years, but she earned a bachelor’s degree in public administration in 2016.

Robert was reinstated as a new firefighter in 2011 after arbitration. Assistant Fire Chief Guy Allen succeeded Lique to the top job in 2014.

“Now I thought it’s time, I’m going to go, but things were just so good,” Christina said. “I had a good relationship with Guy, a good relationship with the board.” Her relationship with her father-in-law, Jim Bosch, the chair of the board, had become strained during the Yanity years. But he had finished his term and was gone too.

In 2017, her husband Robert was promoted to lieutenant for the second time. He made captain in 2020.

“When Guy announced his retirement (in 2019), once again I was thrown for a loop thinking maybe it is time for me to go,” she said.

“I met (Chief) Dustin (Morrow) and I thought I’m going to see what this person is all about. We immediately had a working relationship that went very well. So, I stayed.”

Morrow started April 1, 2019, and implemented many changes to operations and logistics, worked to update procedures and equipment, and brought on 12 new hires in the next two and a half years.

“That’s time consuming and it’s exhausting for a little organization like this,” Christina said. “You don’t have the people to spread the work around.”

Morrow left KPFD for the top job at Central Pierce Fire & Rescue December 1.

After Chief Swinhart was hired to replace him, Christina received a call from Vashon Island.

“(They) asked what it would take to get me to move over there,” she said. “I laughed.”

But the calls continued.

“It’s smaller; 13 full-time firefighters and a couple of part-timers. They have a new ops chief, a new admin. assistant, no HR person, no finance person. It’s a total rebuild,” she said.

“I feel like I’ve accomplished all that I can here, and I feel a little bit stagnant, and that’s not fair to this district. They need somebody fresh, energetic, and maybe a fresh perspective on the finances. I would like to leave on a better financial note, obviously. I wish I could have done something to improve on that, but things happened that were far beyond anybody’s control.

“I’m excited about my future but this is hard, harder than I expected it to be. Being a part of all the changes along the way has been pretty great. Really great.” ■

# The Fourth Purdy Bridge: A Design for the Ages

Completed in 1937, the bridge is an enduring reflection of that era's engineering genius. Part III in the series on the history of the Purdy Bridges.

JOSEPH PENTHEROUDAKIS, KP NEWS

The first bridge over Henderson Bay between Purdy and the Wauna sandspit was built in 1892. Seemingly star-crossed almost from the outset, the structure required frequent repairs and had to be replaced twice, first in 1905 and then again in 1920-21. Timber supports were no match for the salt water and fast-moving tidal currents in the narrow channel, and its design became an early source of frustration for the growing communities in the western reaches of Pierce County.

By the 1930s the Purdy Bridge and its recurring problems had become a political thorn in the side of the county's board of commissioners. In 1935, barely 15 years after the third bridge was built, the board and Forrest R. Easterday, the newly elected Pierce County engineer (they were elected back then, not appointed), determined it was time to replace the timber structure with one of reinforced concrete, a material more durable, less costly and requiring less maintenance.

A composite created by mixing a binder such as cement with a coarse aggregate (rocks, gravel, etc.) and water in specific proportions, concrete becomes much like stone as it cures. In the late 1800s engineers in the United States and Europe began reinforcing it by embedding steel bars or meshes to improve its strength under tension, a development that allowed them to use it in the construction of large structures such as high-rise buildings and, later, bridges. The first reinforced concrete building in the U.S. was the landmark 16-story Ingalls Building in Cincinnati, Ohio, built in 1903 and described in a 1904 article in the *Seattle Times* as being in effect a "complete concrete monolith." In Tacoma, the historic 8-story Perkins Building was the tallest reinforced concrete building in the Northwest when it was completed in 1907.

Washington is home to two of the earliest concrete bridges in the U.S.: the Admiral Way Bridge in West Seattle, built in 1927, and the 3,000-foot West Garfield Street Viaduct in Seattle, also known as the Magnolia Bridge, completed in 1930. Both were designed by pioneering engineer A.W. Munster (ca. 1854-1929), at the time in his 70s but still working as a consultant for Seattle's engineering department.

According to historian Wm. Michael Lawrence, one of Munster's admirers was Homer M. Hadley (1885-1967), a regional structural engineer at the Seattle office of



Workers pouring concrete during construction of the bridge. *Washington State Archives, WSDOT Records*

the Portland Cement Association. Portland cement gets its name from its similarity to a type of building stone from the Isle of Portland in England.

Hadley, who would later leave his stamp on the design of several landmark bridges in the Northwest, including the Purdy Bridge, had worked during World War I building concrete ships and barges for the U.S. Shipping Board's Emergency Fleet Corporation based in Philadelphia. He joined the PCA's Seattle office in 1921, where he promoted the use of concrete, especially in bridges. That year, drawing on his experience during the war, Hadley proposed a floating bridge across Lake Washington between Seattle and Mercer Island, to be supported by concrete pontoons. The idea was first met with ridicule, but in 1937 received the approval of Lacey V. Murrow, the second director of Washington's Department of Highways from 1933 to 1940, and was finally built in 1940.

Hadley was impressed by Munster's concrete bridges, and in 1934 he suggested the design for the concrete truss McMillin Bridge across the Puyallup River in east Pierce County. As an employee of the PCA, Hadley was not allowed to work on the actual drawings himself; those were created by W.H. Witt Company, a Seattle



Photo by Asahel Curtis of the Purdy Bridge soon after it was completed in 1937. *Washington State University Press*

engineering firm that had specialized in concrete buildings that turned its attention to bridges when construction slowed during the Great Depression.

In terms of engineering design, the McMillin Bridge is the precursor of the Purdy Bridge and many of the other concrete bridges in the county. A key feature is the hollow-box concrete girder, which would also be used on the Purdy Bridge.

A box girder is a type of beam shaped like a hollow box with internal transverse walls to support the roadway slab above, with which it is integrated. Box girders are cheaper to build, resist tension better than I-beams, and are not as heavy as solid concrete, reducing the overall dead weight of the bridge.

The Washington State Department of Transportation, which now owns the Purdy

Bridge, has preserved the original engineering drawings from 1935, also compiled by W.H. Witt, undoubtedly in consultation with Hadley. The bridge is 550 feet long and has five sections: a 190-foot middle span, two 140-foot shorter side spans, and two 40-foot approaches cantilevered at each end. Each span is a continuous reinforced concrete hollow-box girder. The 190-foot middle section was the longest such continuous span among concrete bridges at the time. Four piers support the five sections; the bases of the two center piers are set in deep water and into the bottom of the channel, below extreme low tide. Like the girders, the piers are also cellular in construction. The roadway, which rises and drops at a 5.8% grade, is 20 feet wide with 1-foot curbs. There was no provision for a pedestrian walk; the present sidewalk was added in 1966.

An 18-foot clearance at the middle span over the 13.8 foot extreme high tide mark allows for passage of marine traffic, as required by the Army Corps of Engineers, the same clearance as the previous fixed-span timber bridge.

The design is an example of a rigid-frame bridge, where box girders are integrated with the roadway into a single continuous structure. According to Lawrence, several engineers at the time favored that design for bridges not only for structural and economic reasons, but also because of its “clean, sweeping lines, which gave the bridges a pleasing appearance,” and is certainly true of the graceful Purdy Bridge.

While the engineering drawings date from 1935, the call to contractors wasn’t issued until July 1936. The county asked for bids for a concrete bridge to replace the existing span, a project estimated to cost about \$70,000; the new bridge would replace “the wooden structure that has had to be renewed frequently in past years.”

The contract was awarded to the Portland Dredging Company of Portland, Oregon, which agreed to perform the work for \$69,986.45, about \$1,000 higher than East-erday’s original estimate of \$68,974.48. The final cost for the project, which was titled “Secondary Road Project 51 with bridge,” came to \$71,511.62, or around \$1.4 million today. That amount included roadwork on the approaches to the bridge.

The bridge was closed and work began on Aug. 28, 1936; as during previous closures, traffic was rerouted through Burley. The first order of business was razing the old, 1921 wood truss bridge, an operation described in the Tacoma News Tribune on Sept. 15 as a “spectacular feat.” Using heavy cables, John A. Peabody, the superintendent of the project, and construction engineer Adron



Support structure for the extensive formwork. *Washington State Archives, WSDOT Records*



Rebar mesh for the roadway slab. *Washington State Archives, WSDOT Records*

Troxell attached the two ends of the truss to the tug Elk II and at 3:30 p.m. pulled down the 120-foot span, which then “splashed into Puget Sound.” Most of the timber was probably salvaged and reused to build the temporary trestle erected at the construction site, but some of it floated away and later showed up on local beaches. The operation apparently saved the contractor \$500 in time and labor, about \$10,000 today.

Work was expected to take approximately four months and employ about 50 men. The crews worked for six hours instead of eight or 10, a common practice in several industries starting in the 1920s and continuing during the Great Depression as a means of spreading employment. The contractor then could add a second six-hour shift in one day if needed. Portable lights had been in use since the late 1910s, allowing work to continue after dark.

In the end construction, including all related roadwork, extended into early summer 1937. On June 3 the Tribune mentioned the need for a detour through Burley “caused by the rebuilding of the Purdy-Wauna bridge.” Work was certainly finished by September 1937, the date on the archival record for a historic photo taken by Asahel Curtis for the

PCA, probably at Hadley’s request. Curtis, who was very active in the Good Roads Movement, had also showcased the McMillin bridge for the PCA.

Several photos from the construction, this time by an unidentified photographer, are preserved in the Washington State Archives. Among other details they show the extensive formwork required for the box girders, the enormous quantities of rebar used to reinforce the concrete and the interior of the box girders themselves with their transverse diaphragms. The photos also show the temporary trestle erected alongside the future bridge.

In contrast to the frequent press coverage of the earlier bridges and their challenges, the concrete bridge at Purdy received scant attention outside engineering journals in the decades after it was built. It was briefly noted in an article Nov. 30, 1947, listing the accomplishments of the Peninsula Civic Co-operative committee, a group consisting of 17 Key Peninsula organizations from Minter to Longbranch, which mentioned without offering any details that “fishing from Purdy Bridge has been stopped, eliminating a traffic hazard.” Several other projects are listed in the same article as “prom-

ised or under consideration by the county and state,” among them the addition of the pedestrian walk on the bridge that would finally be built in 1966.

In 1979 the McMillin and Purdy bridges were added to the Historic American Engineering Record’s bridge inventory. The HAER was established in 1969 by the National Park Service, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Library of Congress to document important engineering sites and structures.

Three years later, in 1982, both bridges were inducted into the National Register of Historic Places. In reviewing the nomination of the Purdy Bridge, architectural historian C.J. Saxe wrote that “the 46-year-old bridge has exceptional importance as a rare example of a significant type and for its association with important Washington engineer H.M. Hadley.”

Now in its 85th year, the Purdy Bridge is still in service, carrying an average of more than 20,000 vehicles a day since 1990, almost double the number recorded in 1980 and ten times higher than in 1960. Although still safe, the bridge is among the 141 out of the 3,829 bridges owned by the state rated in poor condition and requiring repairs. WSDOT has been planning rehabilitation work on the bridge’s piers and beams to extend its functional life; its appearance cannot be modified, since it is on the national historic register. Initially planned for the summer of 2021, the work had to be rescheduled; a new date had not been announced as of press time.

In a May 2021 presentation to the KP Community Council, WSDOT reviewed future options for relieving congestion, currently estimated to affect traffic at the bridge 12% of the time. Those included a new bridge across Burley Lagoon near the existing span; a bridge across the shortest end of Burley Lagoon into Kitsap County; using existing county roads; or continuing to use the existing route. In 1966 the Department of Highways considered building a limited-access highway from Belfair east to State Route 16 at a point north of Purdy; that highway was never built.

The transportation bottleneck in Purdy will inevitably be resolved when funding for the environmental impact studies and construction are eventually secured. There is no obvious roadmap to obtaining that funding today, however.

Barring a natural disaster, the Purdy Bridge is here to stay, a testament to the engineering genius of its age and an echo of a time when legislatures at all levels did not shy away from infrastructure projects benefiting remote rural communities.

*More photos at [www.keypenews.org](http://www.keypenews.org). ■*

## Meredith Browand

KEY ISSUES



### More Justice Please

In the spring of 2014, after several years of trying, my family was selected in a national lottery for tickets to the White House Easter Egg Roll. We were beyond thrilled. My husband and I decided to turn the two-hour event into a vacation. We planned several days of sightseeing that would give us the opportunity to show our children the seat of our country's government and its historic landmarks. Although we didn't make it inside the building that houses the U.S. Supreme Court, we visited the steps of the Marble Palace, as it's known, and reveled in the judicial grandeur.

Fourteen months later, as I breathlessly watched media interns sprint to the cameras with the marriage equality ruling, I was taken back to my two young sons sitting in the exact same spot. I was proud of a Supreme Court, and a country, that officially recognized my LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters as equals and made marriage equality the law of the land.

This brings into balance a nation that was founded on documents that prevented women, minorities and marginalized groups from full participation and denied them equal rights. It also breathed life into what I hold closest to me as a person of Christian faith — that each and every one of us is uniquely and joyfully created for good. That regardless of gender, sexual orientation, income, circumstance, race or personal beliefs we are all equal and worthy of justice.

I am incredibly sad to say that my confidence in the Supreme Court has plummeted since June 2015 as we've witnessed partisan appointments made outside the normal selection process, radicalized justices seeking to interpret the Constitution from an "originalist" perspective, and what looks like the insertion of justices' personal religious views into our nation's laws. All of these erode the confidence the country has in the court and its assumed impartiality. In the last month alone, the Supreme Court has eroded sovereign tribal rights, gutted Miranda rights, thwarted the EPA's ability to regulate climate change, overturned a century-old gun safety law, allowed for redistribution of public tax dollars to religious schools and eliminated women's reproductive freedom by overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Just listing these rulings makes my head spin. We are in a completely different legal reality than we were even a few months

ago. As a self-confessed political enthusiast, I've watched most of the Supreme Court confirmation hearings over the last 20 years. I have seen future justices claim *Roe v. Wade* was the law of the land, that their personal religious views wouldn't have an impact on their rulings, and that they believed in upholding legal precedents. I can say with complete confidence that many of those hearings were lies. The court's recent rulings prove it.

I don't fault the justices for having personal religious beliefs that they strongly believe in. I do too. The issue is when our theology and politics as Christians are preempted by how we can weaponize our beliefs against others, instead of how we can utilize them for universal good. That makes our religion about control rather than redemption.

Last year, Pres. Joe Biden commissioned 36 academics and judicial experts from across the ideological spectrum to study the structure of the Supreme Court and make recommendations on improving it. The report was issued in December, well before the recent rulings, and made only minor suggestions. One member, former U.S. District Judge Nancy Gertner, said in a July 7 interview with Politico that her "reverence for the court made her resistant to large changes."

But not now.

"It was a place of solidity and rational discourse. It really is not anymore," Gertner said of the Supreme Court. "It really is a set of decisions that they did only because they can. And that is an exercise of pure power, not legal reasoning."

What can be done about it? Because these are lifetime appointments there is no predetermined opportunity to bring the Supreme Court into balance. No way of predicting when the next opening will occur.

So, it's time to expand the court.

The Judiciary Act of 1869 set the current court at nine justices, one for each circuit court — the last time the total number of Supreme Court justices was altered. Since then, our judicial system has expanded to include 13 circuit courts as our nation grew. Expanding the court through the legislative process certainly won't be easy but it can be done. Our duly elected legislators need to act on the powers they've been given to rebalance a court that seems to be ruling on personal political and religious views rather than established precedent and clearly stated law.

I haven't been back to Washington, D.C. since the White House Easter Egg Roll and I'm eager to revisit the hallowed grounds of our nation's capital soon. Maybe next time I'll be able to step inside the Marble

Palace of the Supreme Court and behold the space where 13 justices work together to defend equality and freedom.

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

## Dan Clouse

THE OTHER SIDE



### Not Nothing

Not to be hypersensitive, but I can't help but wince when someone says, "no offense, but ...," and then goes straight into an insult.

Just as "not to bore you with the details" leads inexorably to a bunch of boring details, "not to belabor the point" guarantees heavy belaboring ahead.

Some nots just aren't really no's. Not really that different from the dentist's prevarication, "This won't hurt."

Still, there's nothing worse than an N.P.I. "It's no laughing matter when a political joke gets elected. No pun intended."

These have-it-both-ways denied denials are not uncommon. It's no secret that George Orwell hated the "not un-" construction. His recommended antidote to the N.U.C. was to memorize the silly line, "A not unblack dog was chasing a not unsmall rabbit across a not ungreen field," which I've found not unhelpful.

One can't stop wondering, though, where does that leave Tom Jones and "It's Not Unusual?"

It has not been unremarked that the previous president perfected his insult skills as a boy on Long Island playgrounds. One of his put-downs was to tweet after Kim Jong-un called him an old lunatic, "Why would Kim Jong-un insult me by calling me 'old,' when I would never call him 'short and fat?'" Not to put too fine a point on it, what about the lunatic part?

Rhetoric teachers in antiquity wrote about a related trick. You can make an understated claim by denying the opposite. For example, during a recent Mariners broadcast, Dave Sims exclaimed, "Wow! That's the 14th homer by Julio Rodriguez. Not bad for a rookie," (which was no exaggeration.) Nikki Giovanni ends a poem with the moving understatement: "the world is / not a pleasant place to be without / someone."

Unfortunately, the ancient rhetoricians' command of English fell somewhere short of Dubya's, who after all had the advantage of a Yale education, so they fell back on their native Greek and, not to be pedantic, called it litotes, "smooth."

You can't fail to remember history's least

forgotten litotes. The soon to be no longer chieftain of the Aztecs, Cuauhtemoc, with the gold-mad conquistadores holding his feet to a fire, quipped, "This is not a bed of roses." Whether we know the term litotes or not, our sarcastic "he's not the sharpest tool in the shed" doesn't fail to bring a smile.

When my daughter was a middle schooler in the mid '90s, I was surprised by the expression "psych," which she would use to deny a statement she'd just made. "Dad, those argyle socks and plaid shorts look cool. Psych!" When I was in junior high in the early '60s, the seventh grade Amazons towering over 4-foot-11-inch Mini-Me used a similar retroactive negative. "Hey, Danny, you're getting so tall, you should ask Evella Morgan to dance. Just kidding!" (J.K., nowadays.) Why, just the other day I overheard, "Gasoline is such a bargain. Not!"

Our Double Negative Rule, known as the D.N.R. by people in the know, is a bizarre imposition of arithmetic on speech. "Two negatives make a positive," no? Many other languages have a different approach called Negative Concord, or N.C., which basically means that if a sentence has a negative word, all the indefinites like anyone must not be positives, either — or is it, neither? Not to worry.

"No hizo nadie nada nunca," in Spanish is literally: "no one did nothing never." Since the 470 million native speakers of Spanish don't misunderstand each other by violating the D.N.R. but by following N.C., the phrase just means "No one ever did anything," and that's not exactly good.

Grammar police have been ticketing English scofflaw writers with the D.N.R. since sometime after the Magna Carta. Chaucer, however, the Father of English Literature, had no problem writing "There never was no man nowhere so virtuous" in MCCCLXXX.

Three centuries later, things had changed, and Sir Phillip Sydney's doggerel Sonnet 63 ends "For grammar says / to grammar who says nay? / That in one speech two negatives affirm!"

To which I say, "Nay, no way!"

If double negatives were good enough for King James and Shakespeare didn't sniff at a triple negative in Richard III, "I never was nor never will be," who am I to be pickier than thou?

I won't keep harping on multiple negatives, but I know you won't not laugh at this joke: A linguistics professor is rattling on in class one day. "In English," he says, "A double negative forms a positive. In some languages, though, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However, there is no language wherein a double positive can form a negative." A student in the back



row mutters, “Yeah, right.”

Not to mention that if there were ever any naysayers denying that rock-n-roll originated in the music of African Americans, they ought not to ignore the lyrics. The D.N.R. not being a regulation in African American Vernacular English, Albert King’s blues masterpiece, “Born Under a Bad Sign,” has two negatives that don’t make a positive. “If it wasn’t for real bad luck / I wouldn’t have no luck at all.”

Not for nothing have we heard white rockers all these years sing, “Never understood that it ain’t no good,” “We don’t need no education,” and “It ain’t me, I ain’t no fortunate one.”

What if Mick Jagger had sung “I cannot get any satisfaction?”

Better English, yes. Better lyrics? Not hardly.

“Hey, Mr. Other Side, you’ve just written 900 words about nothing.”

No kidding!

*Dan Clouse is an award-winning columnist. He lives in Lakebay.*



### Hope This Helps

How’s your hope doing? Mine has gone through some rough patches lately and I don’t like it. The news is not giving me enough, the skies are cloudy all day, the streets have too much blood running, I don’t hear enough laughter, alcohol often leaves me mopey.

I think hope is the most valuable measure by which to judge the quality of your life. Like tree rings, I look back and see many years brimming with hope, some less so, and then these last few, not great.

There’s plenty of hope around if you look. I watch baseball, a lot. Imagine the hope it takes to stand up there trying to hit a pitch. The best of them fail seven out of 10 times, some nine of 10, and some of them get hit. They take their lumps and boos and somehow walk off the diamond with their head only a little down, thinking about next time. Or chasing down a fly ball, running like wolves, tracking that tiny dot, stretching out, grasping, crashing and holding on, joyful. So much hope.

If you have children, you have hope. Generational hope. Things will be OK, maybe even great. They’ll find a way, maybe fall in love, maybe live happily long after you’re toast. Maybe not, but hopefully.

Here’s a tougher challenge. When I see our neighbors along the thoroughfare on the other side of the Purdy bridge, waving flags that I have a lot of trouble appreciating, I can see hope. It’s tricky for me, but as long as they are waving and smiling, looking for support and righteous enthusiasm, they have hope. And when they look angry, I think they have lost hope and I worry for and about them.

Democracy is a very hope-dependent idea. It’s hard to hold onto a shared sense of country these days. I think half my countrymen are being fooled, and they think the same about me. Faith is close to hope, but demands more. I hope most of us think a lot like me, or at least that we all can respect some shared decision about right and wrong, but we need to have faith to believe that the shared decision is real and fairly derived. When that faith is lost, anger makes sense.

Maybe it’s always the case that anger is active hopelessness. Your world and my world are just not the same world, and yours is wrong, delusional, filled with fools or secret cheaters and thieves, something to be fought and conquered, subjugated,

managed. It makes sense when there’s just no hope.

The older I get, the stranger hope gets. I know by now that it comes and goes, but when your whole life is ahead of you, hope is like breathing; it just is. I spent a lot of my life trying to do things I thought were important, especially when it was hard. Selfish as most I suppose, I wanted my life to mean something. I hoped that people would think I was a good guy — that I, in fact, was a good guy. Failure was getting to be more comfortable with repetition, but like those batters, I could always walk off thinking about next time. When there’s not that many next times, it gets harder to keep your head up.

All the more reason to try. I have to find hope now. Every sunrise, every sunset, every beer; everything has hope in it when I look hopefully. It’s not the thing, it’s me. I had the good fortune of growing up in a safe and pretty tolerant world. I could do pretty much what I wanted, pretty much when I wanted to do it. Be home by dark, college was free, you could pick a job that made sense, you could buy a house, you could make love with anyone who wanted to join you. Of course, we had hope. Well, some things change and maybe it just takes a little more effort now.

I hope you all have hope, and if not so much, then I hope you’ll find some quickly. Even a little is way better than none, and more is better than a little. The total volume of your hope, measured over your life, is a good way to decide if you are having a life well-lived. And those of you who may be nearer the end than the beginning, now is a good time to add some. Turn off the news if that helps, meet those new neighbors (they seem nice), start learning something, start anything. If anger grabs you, grab it back, hold it at arm’s length and then look at it closely. Maybe let it go,

it doesn’t really matter. Stretch your most bitter conclusions, because people are still pretty good. At least I hope so.

*Jack Dunne lives gratefully in Lakebay.*



### Get Outside

We sat on our back porch as evening nibbled at the remaining daylight. Across the pond, a full moon rose above a proud line of aged fir trees, its face a milky dime amidst a sky turning pink from the setting sun. A bullfrog we have affectionately named Herman croaked his approval of the coming night, while distant explosions marked the efforts of a patriotic citizen blowing through the last of their fourth of July fireworks.

After a long, wet winter and spring, summer has arrived. Not coincidentally, July saw us bursting through our doors, leaving the shelter of home for the fresh air and sunshine waiting outside. Excited crowds lined our streets for holiday parades. Parks filled up with children and families at play. Whether gathered around backyard barbecues or crowding onto our local beaches, the KP has been getting outside.

Being outside is, in many ways, like being home, for we are a part of this beautiful creation. The Genesis narrative speaks of man and woman being formed out of the dust of the Earth. Scientists and songwriters reflect on this same reality; both Carl Sagan and Joni Mitchell remind us we are made of stardust. Indigenous traditions tell us that human life is intimately tied to the land upon which we live.

CONTINUED PAGE 10

### José Alaniz WE LIVE HERE: JOY



## VIEWS, FROM PAGE 9

As we sat on our porch, watching the moon rise while stars began to twinkle in the evening sky, NASA's James Webb telescope was beaming back its first images of deep space and time. These stunning images reveal distant planets in our own celestial neighborhood and countless galaxies from the dawn of time. They make our lives seem insignificant in comparison to the vastness of the universe, and yet I was struck with wonder at the fact that we are all a part of this. We belong here.

One of the unexpected blessings of the pandemic is that it got us outside. Because of the risk of gathering in enclosed spaces, people moved out into the natural world. Churches worshipped in fields and parking lots. Our local HOA held its meetings in a park. Friends and families met on porches and backyards. Golf courses and nature trails filled with people seeking to be together in a safer way. Many people discovered a whole world away from the confines of offices, board rooms and entertainment centers.

This is all a very good thing. Human beings have lived the majority of our existence within and among the natural world. We have evolved and adapted to thrive in nature. Many of the factors of our modern society make our lives more convenient but take a physical and emotional toll on our wellbeing.

I recently read a collection of studies on the practice of forest bathing, first developed in Japan but now being practiced worldwide. Forest bathing is the act of spending time in the quiet of trees, slowly walking or sitting in one place, meditating, enjoying the sights, sounds and smells of nature. The results of these studies were stunning. They included lowered blood pressure, lower stress levels, and relief from anxiety, depression, fatigue and confusion.

The authors suggested that similar results would be experienced by spending time by the ocean, rivers or grasslands as well. This is a simple but profound fact: Spending time in nature is good for us.

Here, then, is my modest proposal: Get outside while summer remains. We are fortunate to live on a peninsula that offers a multitude of opportunities, from wooded hiking trails to waterside parks. Towering mountains and ocean beaches are a short drive away. Our rural skies are perfect for stargazing on cloudless nights. Our cold spring even mitigated much of our resident mosquito population. We really have no excuse.

We as a people are experiencing confusing, anxious times. People are angry and edgy.

The future is uncertain. In this time and place, we need everybody at their best. We need you healthy, strong and settled. One of the simplest, best ways to achieve this is spending time outside, in the trees, by the water, under the open sky. Fall and winter will be here soon enough, but for now the beauty of nature is calling. I'm getting out to enjoy it while I can. Won't you join me?

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



## Jesse or Emily?

The state Senate race in our 26th legislative district between first term incumbent Democrat Sen. Emily Randall and four-term incumbent Republican Rep. Jesse Young is projected by most political observers to be the most expensive and hotly contested race in Washington this year.

While on the surface it may look like these two homegrown politicians came from similar public high school educational backgrounds, beyond that they have very little in common and their time in the legislature has produced drastically different results.

Emily is a graduate of South Kitsap High School (2004) and Wellesley College (2008), the alma mater of Hillary Clinton. After voting for and contributing to Barack Obama's presidential campaign in 2012, Emily volunteered for and donated to the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign in 2016. She has since gained notoriety as an extreme liberal through her social media posts, making national news for celebrating public vandalism of a pro-life billboard on her Instagram account. She has described herself as a liberal, feminist, lesbian.

After graduating from college, Emily worked for her alma mater, Children's Hospital Boston, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and Planned Parenthood before resigning in 2018 to move home and run for political office as a first time candidate. She narrowly won by 104 votes.

Since taking office in January 2019, Emily has had, from any objectively candid perspective, a disastrous first term. The only question is what failures to start with: Massively raising our taxes (including gas, according to the Washington Policy Institute), decriminalizing some controlled substances (SB 5476), socializing health insurance (SB 5822), voting for antigun legislation to ban high capacity magazines and promote "red flag" laws (SB 5078),

introducing Critical Race Theory under the guise of diversity training (SB 5227) and graphic sex education into elementary school curriculum (SB 5395), and failing to support our police with more funding.

On top of that, she cast the deciding vote to pass the capital gains tax bill into law in 2021 before stepping off the senate floor during a vote on the bill to restore police pursuit (SB 5919) during the waning days of the 2022 session. Her actions were recorded on television (tvw.org). As a result, the bill failed, and law enforcement officers remain unable to do their jobs effectively and provide public safety in Washington state.

In stark contrast, Jesse graduated from Wilson High School in Tacoma as valedictorian in 1995 and received a Washington State Scholar Award from the legislature. He accomplished these feats while homeless, as documented by the The News Tribune (Tacoma), which featured him in an article in 1995 after he was accepted into the University of Notre Dame on partial scholarships. There he worked nearly full-time to make ends meet and eventually married his high school sweetheart, Jennie. They have six children. Jesse majored in business and computer science and graduated from Notre Dame in 1999 with a degree in management information systems.

Jesse became a software engineer and technology consultant for multiple Fortune 500 companies on the West Coast, including PeopleSoft, Boeing, Primera Blue Cross, Russell Investments and Kaiser Permanente. In late 2013, a legislative vacancy occurred in our 26th district and Jesse was one of three nominees forwarded to the Pierce County Council. I spoke on his behalf, and he was unanimously appointed to fill the vacancy through 2014. Jesse has since been elected four times and amassed an impressive and formidable track record.

First on the list of accomplishments was achieving what was called the impossible task of refinancing the Tacoma Narrows Bridge debt and stopping all toll increases. His efforts saved us all over \$200 million and, as a result, tolls haven't reached \$10 dollars a trip, which is where the Transportation Commission projected them to be this year before Jesse delivered on his promise.

In 2016, Jesse partnered with Democrat Rep. Strom Peterson (21st LD) to co-author the most significant environmental policy passed in Washington state history. The bill protects our ground water and reduces carbon emissions and builds out our electrical vehicle charging station infrastructure without raising taxes through the empowerment of the Pollution Liability

Insurance Agency. Jesse's bill for the environment (HB 2357) was so lauded, Gov. Jay Inslee used it as the foundation for his national environmental plan when he ran for president in 2020.

Jesse has also passed key legislation expanding resources to health and social welfare organizations, balanced transportation budgets, and consistently worked and voted with Democrats to expand funding for those struggling with homelessness. Since the 26th is a military district, he has also been a consistent force in standing up for our veterans and their families. His recent legislation providing greater access and options for medical services was passed unanimously this session. He is also the reason we don't have to pay the massively expensive annual Sound Transit car tab renewal fees because he stopped their taxing authority from crossing Puget Sound into our district (tvw.org).

So, the voters have two very different candidates with different values, policies and track records to choose from, and I strongly and proudly endorse and recommend Rep. Jesse Young for state Senate in the 26th District.

*Bruce Cook lives in Lakebay.*

## Letters to the Editor

### DEMOCRACY OR REPUBLIC?

The United States is a constitutional republic. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. It is brilliantly written to constrain the power of the federal government from infringing on the inalienable and natural rights of the individual. The Constitution and more specifically the Bill of Rights was not written to grant these rights, but to prohibit the government from curtailing them.

From the provision of a democratically elected House of Representatives based on population and the Senate based on equal representation; to the electoral college that helps protect smaller states and rural areas from large population areas and cities during presidential elections; to the careful distribution of powers and authorities across the three branches of government; and even by the strict process required to amend it, the Constitution was clearly written for a republic.

The founders were extremely skeptical of the excesses that a democracy brings. They had read and understood the pitfalls and chaos of pure democracy going all the way back to Athens, Greece. There are numerous examples throughout their

writings and records of the Constitutional convention that confirm their skepticism and in fact the way the Constitution is written supports the contention that they did not want us to ever become a democracy. They knew that throughout history, democracies, whether direct or representative, could not protect individuals and any group that comprises a minority against the unlimited power and whims of the majority. This is often referred to as the tyranny of the majority.

We are constantly told that this thing or that action is a “threat to our democracy.” The real threat is to our rights caused by ignorance of the Constitution.

Unfortunately, the prevailing thought is that the Supreme Court is the only arbiter of the Constitution. That couldn't be further from the founders' intent. If every politician in every branch of government understood the limits the Constitution places on their actions and voted or acted accordingly, our constitutional republic would be secure, as would our rights as citizens of the greatest experiment in self-government the world has ever known.

*Marc Christensen, Vaughn*

#### COMMON DECENCY IS LESS COMMON

I have lived in the Glen Cove neighborhood for many years. I have experienced the Key Peninsula as a wonderful, tolerant, family-oriented community with good civic-minded, hard-working residents. It has two wonderful state parks that people from all over the region come to visit. The peninsula has always been somewhat of a refuge from the worry and problems of the world at large and I tend to breathe a sigh of relief when returning home from my travels.

Recently though, I was stopped at the Purdy light that serves as the main entry to the peninsula. I looked over into the parking lot which serves the 76 station and Massimo restaurant. Some people had set up a business selling banners, t-shirts, flags, etc. The language on the banners and other merchandise was full of hate and obscenities. The f-word in 8-inch letters fluttering on flags and banners. I looked down the street — a school bus full of young children was going to pass this business not 10 feet away. My heart sank.

Is this what passes for acceptable now? I can't be the only one who thinks it is not. Our children and community deserve better.

*Tom Pfeifle, Glen Cove*

## OBITUARIES



#### Pearlita McColley

Pearlita Florence McColley passed away peacefully in her home July 7, 2022, at the age of 89. She was born in Port Townsend to Pearl (Goodwin) and Carl Weber, who resided in Chimacum. Pearlita was raised in Tacoma and graduated from Lincoln High School in the class of 1950, where she participated in rifle club and skate club.

Pearlita married Myron in 1955 at Asbury Methodist Church in Tacoma. The couple settled into the 23-acre McColley family farm on the Key Peninsula in Glencove. Myron preceded his wife in death July 24, 1993. Pearlita went on to live in their Glencove home — a house built by her father-in-law, C.B. McColley — for 67 years.

She held the position of an administrative secretary at L.H. Bates Technical School in Tacoma. She was a member of the Gig Harbor United Methodist Church, where she sang in the choir as well as playing in the bell choir.

Pearl was an active volunteer at the Angel Guild thrift store and was previously a member of Key Singers in Lakebay. In past years she volunteered with the Dr. Penrose branch of the Mary Bridge Orthopedic Guild.

She enjoyed gardening, card games with family, travel, live theater, watching soccer games and line dancing.

Surviving family members are Marleigh Nodvedt (Steven Nodvedt); Craig McColley; Suzanne Roebke (Laurence Roebke); and three grandsons, Nickalás, Joel and Jonathan Goettling.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.



#### Kerry Jamieson

Kerry David Jamieson, 78, died June 20 at Saint Anthony Hospital with his family by his side as he went to be with his heavenly father.

Born in Bremerton Sept. 3, 1943, to George and Margaret Jamieson, Kerry attended schools in the area until he graduated from Wilson High School in Tacoma. He lived on the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor most of his life.

Kerry was an avid boater who spent years navigating the South Sound in one of the many boats he built, remodeled or repaired. He belonged to the Olympia Wooden Boat Association, where he helped plan as well as participated in the annual boat fair.

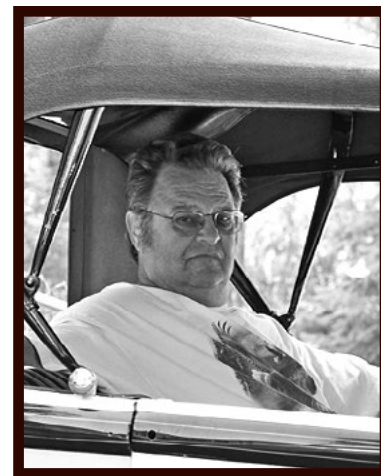
His wife and family were his great loves. He was always available if one of his children needed a shoulder, a lap, an ear or a hug.

Kerry was a member of Olalla Bible Church, where he did the landscaping for several years.

He also spent many days at Camp Woodworth's annual apple fests. He and a friend built the press that Kerry cranked every year at the event, helping everyone who wanted to try pressing apples the old-fashioned way.

Kerry is survived by Helen, his wife of 58 years; daughter Michelle of Tacoma; sons Adam of Olympia and Jeremy of Lakebay; and nephews Mark and Tim Knudson.

A celebration of life memorial will be held Saturday, August 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Camp Woodworth, 1305 Woodworth Drive SW, Lakebay (past Penrose, follow the balloons). Donations in Kerry's honor may be made to Camp Woodworth.



#### Lynn Carr

Lynn Henry Carr was born in Seattle, Feb. 12, 1944, and died June 24 at his Lakebay home. He spent his entire life in Washington. He grew up in Kent and graduated from Kent-Meridian High School in 1962. He later moved to Auburn, Tacoma and finally Lakebay.

Lynn was a welder for over 37 years, getting his start at Seattle Boiler Works and then fabricating and repairing trailers of all sizes, from logging trucks and tankers to car and utility trailers. Lynn was a huge fan of vintage automobiles and owned several over the years. He enjoyed sharing his passion at car shows from the driver's seat of his pride and joy, a yellow 1930 Ford Model A Deluxe Roadster. His grandchildren thrilled at every chance to go with him for rides, stuffed in the rumble seat.

Lynn loved boating, fishing, crabbing and shrimping. He always looked forward to his time on the water. He moved to the Key Peninsula in 2005 following retirement and joined the Longbranch Improvement Club soon after. He served many years as the chair of the club's building and grounds committee, and later worked as the dockmaster at the Longbranch Marina.

Diagnosed with cancer in 2015, he put up a good fight as long as he could.

Lynn was preceded in death by his parents Betty and Leslie Carr. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Nancy; son Justin (Faith) and daughter Alicia (Jawan Campbell); brother Robert (Bob); grandsons Tyquan Coleman and Jawan Campbell Jr.; and granddaughters Naomi, Hannah and Evie Carr. A family memorial is planned.

# Two Fox Winery Open for Business in Home

A young couple embarks on a new adventure.

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The former Trillium Creek Winery in Home has new owners.

Tedra and Kyle Hett grew up in Kansas and moved to Tacoma in 2014. They met in the eighth grade and have been together for more than half their lives. Both are in the healthcare profession — Kyle is a nurse and Tedra is a pharmacist. By 2019 they were experiencing burnout.

“We were asking ourselves if this was it,” Tedra said. “We are in our early 30s, and is this all we are going to do for the next how many years? We were ready for a new adventure.”

That adventurous leap culminated in June when the couple opened the tasting room of Two Fox Winery to the public.

They had visited the Key Peninsula to whale watch at Joemma State Park. While Tedra and her mom were on a trip to Ireland later, Kyle decided to return. By happenstance it was the weekend of the KP Farm Tour.

Kyle visited Trillium Creek Winery, opened in 2006 by Claude and Claudia Gahard. “Claudia told me it was for sale and took me on a tour,” Kyle said. “I loved the house, the property, the bones. I grew up on a farm and I love space.”

Later that day he texted Tedra. “I found a winery to buy.”

“I was ‘Ha-ha, very funny. Wouldn’t that be interesting?’” Tedra said. After several months of discussion, they took a second look.

Tedra was also ready for more space and a quiet place. “I figured out I liked gardening and landscaping at our house in Tacoma. I took out all the sod and planted everything I could on that little lot. It felt claustrophobic and we needed to do more of something,” she said.

And so, although owning a winery had not been on their radar, nearly a year after Kyle first met the Gahards, they sold their house and moved to the 14.5-acre property.

“We enjoyed wine, but we did not have a full appreciation until we started intentionally learning about it,” Tedra said. “There is so much that goes into it — how different it can be from region to region, winemaker to winemaker,” Tedra said. “For me, wine was like, ‘Rough day at work — pop!’”

“Our running joke is that we are doing this backwards. Most people learn how to make wine but have nowhere to sell it.



What stroll through the vineyard is complete without wine? Tina McKail, KP News

But we have a place and a license, and we are learning as we go,” Kyle said.

For now, they are not making their own wines. After sampling wines from several producers, they found a family-owned company in Prosser that met their standards. They bottle and label the wine on site. Their original order was for 15 to 20 cases each of chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, rosé, cabernet sauvignon and syrah. They may need to order more, and though the wine is available supply chain issues have made bottles difficult to find.

They are experimenting with making their own cabernet now. “We might find that we are terrible at it, or we might find that we are really good,” Tedra said. “Our goal is not to have award-winning wine, but we want something good and good quality. And to have a beautiful place and environment where people can come and enjoy wine in a quiet setting.”

“We are working with mentors,” Tedra said. “The wine world you would think would be competitive and not want to

share. But the philosophy is, ‘If you win, we all win.’ They want everyone to do well. Brian (Petersen) at Mosquito Fleet has been very kind.”

It took months for the couple to decide on a name for the winery, and although Tedra shared the story off the record, she said that anyone wanting a full account will need to hear it directly from them. Warning: It includes a hint of profanity.

Two Fox Winery is open for tasting on Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m. and on Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. They recently partnered with a company to offer charcuterie that can be pre-ordered online.

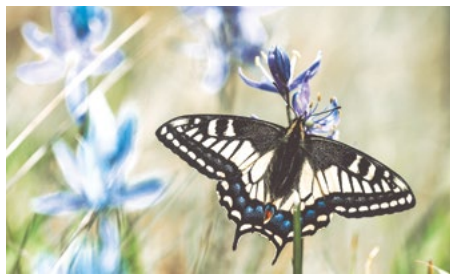
Both Kyle and Tedra continue to work part-time in healthcare. The winery, they said, gives balance to their lives. They have plans for more — removing one old vineyard and turning it into meadow,

replanting the other with a varietal grape that will ripen in the KP climate and trellising it up high to get more sunlight, possibly bringing in sheep to help with vineyard maintenance, establishing a flower business, and offering a location for glamping.

Kyle used the metaphor of eating an elephant when describing the last year and a half. “I say one bite at a time. One permit, one hurdle. You have federal stuff, state stuff. ‘You need this.’ I learn how to do it. ‘You need that.’ I learn how

to do it. Just one step at a time.” They are also learning to embrace taking time off. “On a recent Sunday we were open, and no one was here. We could have gotten up to pull weeds. But we sat, pet the cats, and enjoyed what we have done,” Tedra said.

**“OUR RUNNING JOKE IS THAT WE ARE DOING THIS BACKWARDS. MOST PEOPLE LEARN HOW TO MAKE WINE BUT HAVE NOWHERE TO SELL IT. BUT WE HAVE A PLACE AND A LICENSE, AND WE ARE LEARNING AS WE GO.”**



Azure swallowtail, giant water bug, and a gnome plant. *Chris Rurik, KP News*



Into the  
**WILD**  
EXPLORING WITH THE  
KP NATURE GUIDE

#### NATURALIST'S NOTEBOOK

## Land of Parasitic Plants and Surprising Hidden Beauty

CHRIS RURIK, KP NEWS

Ever seen a groundcone? This summer two people have sent me snapshots of this strange plant. A groundcone looks about how it sounds, like a pine cone growing out of the ground, translucent yellow and fleshy when young and purple-brown when mature.

It needs no green. It is a parasite. For roots it has long structures called haustoria that penetrate the cells of the roots of another plant — in our case, salal — and siphon the water and nutrients it needs to grow.

It is summer. Our forests are nearly as crispy-dry as our fields, yet they contain hidden glades, seeps, ravines; oases for those who cannot stand the heat. I keep finding myself covered by spiderwebs and boxed in by thorns in places pervaded with mystery. And in sun-dappled openings between sword ferns, strange beasts lurk: Plants. Parasitic plants.

A mushroom foraging friend has been my go-to source for where to track them. After all, groundcones look a lot like another secretive cone-mimic: morel mushrooms. Today he shows me my first gnome-plant. It is a dense bouquet of pink-blushed flowers bursting from underground, naked, leafless, looking like it would scald in direct sun.

My friend tells me he often sees another parasitic plant around here, Indian pipe, which lifts a single colorless flower on a colorless stalk and bends that flower back downward as if the ground will better appreciate it than the sky. Though we cannot

find it today, Indian pipe is less rare than gnome-plant.

Both were once thought to be saprophytes, feeding like many mushrooms on decaying plant matter. It is now known that they are true parasites that steal from living beings. In their cases, along with about 400 other plant species worldwide, they parasitize not plants but mushrooms by tapping into underground networks of fungal hyphae. Which is a fantastic oddity to me. I usually think of mushrooms as being the ones to sap the strength of plants, as in the case of laminated root rot in Douglas fir, but these plants have flipped the script. They have jettisoned leaves and chlorophyll to take nutrients from specific types of mushrooms, which in turn are often growing in relationship with tree roots. There are many tricks up the sleeves of the plant kingdom.

Our local bestiary of parasitic plants also contains the entangling tendrils of salt-marsh dodder, explosions of mistletoe growth high in hemlocks, and orchids like the spotted coralroot. We live in a cradle of strange forms. So much growth and life burst from our forests that plants and mushrooms alike have found many ways of seeking and stealing the things they need.

#### Toe-Biter

The other day my neighbors were netting tiny bass from a pool below a beaver dam and releasing them into the lake above. In a nearby ditch they found a large bug they thought was a beetle.

Brown and leaf-shaped with its front legs modified into raptorial arms, it seized on the

sticks they offered, striking hard enough to send a jolt through their hands. It was in fact a bug, not a beetle, a native species called the giant water bug (*Lethocerus americanus*).

“A favorite with biologists and naturalists,” according to a 1924 paper, giant water bugs are known for “extreme voraciousness” and an ability to subdue prey larger than themselves. Ours measured 2-1/4 inches, not including the legs. True bugs (order Hemiptera, which also includes aphids, cicadas, shield bugs and many others) have mouthparts modified into sharp beaks designed to pierce and suck. Most feed on plant sap. Others, like the giant water bug, are predators.

The giant water bug’s bite — I have yet to experience it — is said to be far worse than a wasp’s sting. It feeds by hammering its beak through a prey’s carapace and injecting a venom designed to liquify innards, so that it can suck out the resulting juice.

That 1924 paper, coming from an age of freeform experimentation on wild animals, says that one captive giant water bug “fed greedily upon beefsteak, grasshoppers, tadpoles, young frogs, young fish, flies, and other things.” Another paper tells the story of campers in Montana who went to a creek to catch brook trout for breakfast. They noticed a giant water bug floating on the surface, motionless except for one arm, which it waved at a 10-inch trout. When the trout grabbed the leg, the giant water bug reared up and sank its beak into the top of the trout’s head. The bug waited while the trout thrashed and died.

Even back then giant water bugs were also

known as electric-light bugs. They move from place to place at night using celestial navigation, and electric lights can trick them into spiral flights that exhaust and sometimes kill them. The Lights Out movement in cities around America, which aims to prevent the disorientation of migrating birds, is good for insects as well.

We released the giant water bug into the pool below the beaver dam and watched it propel itself to the bottom, where it nestled among leaves. Soon it could hardly be seen. Makes you think twice about stepping in a lake — though bites are very rare. They do have another name that is not for the faint of heart: toe-biters.

#### Three Swallowtails

Now I feel obligated to end this column on a brighter note. How about butterflies?

How about tiger swallowtails, our biggest and brightest butterflies? Did you know that we have not one but three species of the yellow-and-black drifters?

There is the western tiger swallowtail, with bright yellow wings outlined and zigzagged with black. Then the pale swallowtail, which looks like a washed-out version of the western. Then the anise swallowtail, which has almost as much black as yellow in its wings, with the black concentrated toward the leading edges.

Next time you see one, try to identify the species. It’s an addicting game. As you know if you’ve tried to snap a picture of one, they’re adept at looking like they’re about to land and then drifting on, just out of reach, pulling you across hill and field. ■

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Dan Whited with some owls and bears in production. *Tina McKail, KP News*

#### CHAINSAW FROM PAGE 1

carving, since Whited seemed to have a good sense of three dimensional design.

“And as it turned out he was right,” Whited said. “I was able to picture something already done in a piece of material and just take everything off, and that’s the trick to being a good sculptor.” He had no formal training.

Whited spent a few years as a starving stone sculptor until he went to a symposium and met a chainsaw carver.

“He was having way more fun than me, so I switched over and a year or so later went to a contest and had so much fun I just couldn’t go back.”

The bulk of his time now is spent doing “production work.”

“Owls, eagles, bears, lots and lots of Sasquatches,” he said. “I sell through a place in Allyn, I’ve got another store down in Sandy, Oregon, and I’ve got one in Arkansas. They keep me pretty well busy.”

He has also done many commissions, including a life-sized mermaid fairy in Home — “a mermaid with a tail and fairy wings” — a seven-foot tall Pistol Pete — “the state mascot of Oklahoma” — and the infamous long-beaked plague doctor

from Scotland that became popular during the pandemic.

“Covid was really good for me sales-wise. Everybody stayed home and needed to work in their yard and decided they wanted a carving for it,” he said.

“I used to do the Oregon State Fair every year, and did the Puyallup fair once and that was exhausting. I didn’t want to talk to people for about a month afterward. But I was able to buy a house with what I made there,” he said.

These days, Whited mostly sells wholesale. “I used to do more commissions when I was out carving at shows and whatnot, but it has to be interesting now before I’ll do it.”

One of his favorite pieces, done for his two children years ago, is a giant dragon skull.

“It came from ‘The Voyage of the Basset,’” he said. “It was a great story for kids and the illustrations were wonderful and at one point the character steals this prized dragon skull, and the chase is on. My kids thought that was the coolest thing ever, and I thought how hard could it be? I’ve done a number of them since. They don’t sell quickly, but they do eventually sell. When I got down to the last one, I said I’m going to keep it for myself. I don’t usually keep my own carvings around. Most of the

carvings you see here were done by other people I admired.”

Whited works with western red cedar. He buys logs by the truckload, sets them up in his yard, and “blocks them down” with large saws into the rough shapes of whatever they will eventually become.

“I’ve carved all over the country and I’ve carved other woods, but this stuff has a tendency not to rot and it’s very predictable in its cracking and very forgiving so far as running the saw through it,” he said.

Whited uses electric tools as much as possible. “It’s quiet and I like my neighbors and don’t want to annoy them,” he said. “Once the piece is textured to the point where it doesn’t make sense to go any further, that is the minimalist syntax that we sculptors employ to infuse the piece with a sense of anthropomorphic presence.” That’s stolen directly from a sculptor magazine.”

Even after a full career, Whited doesn’t really think about retiring.

“For the most part, if I’m whittling with a big saw, I’m pretty happy. And every once in a while, I get to do something I really enjoy and that makes it even more worthwhile,” he said. “It’s paid the bills. I’m just going to keep getting slower and slower until I stop.” ■

# Council Candidate Josh Harris Not Charged in Self-Defense Shooting

STAFF REPORT

Pierce County Council candidate Josh Harris (R) will not be charged with any crimes after he shot a man in Tacoma May 30, according to the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Harris shot a man driving a vehicle at him; investigators determined he fired in self-defense. The man he shot survived and was charged with assault with a deadly weapon.

Harris is running for council district 7, which includes the Key Peninsula. If he had been charged and convicted of a felony, he would not have been able to serve without meeting certain conditions. Harris already has theft convictions, including one felony count. He had his right to possess firearms reinstated and legally obtained a concealed weapons permit, according to the prosecuting attorney's office. ■

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## Huckleberry Hand Pies, Anyone?

Step right up – don't be shy – and learn to master this portable pie.

BARBARA VAN BOGART

We have arrived at the time of year when the days are suddenly getting shorter, and the promise of fall is in the air. Before we say farewell to the summer of 2022 (short as it has been), let's celebrate huckleberry season. According to legend, when early American colonists first encountered huckleberries, they misidentified them as a European blueberry known as "hurtleberry." Over time, hurtleberry morphed into what we now call huckleberry.

The peak season for huckleberries is July through September. We in the Pacific Northwest are fortunate to be able to harvest our own, or buy them at local farmers markets. Be sure the berries you use are fully ripened when making jams, jellies, pancakes, scones — and hand pies.

Who can resist a fresh slice of pie? Not anyone I know, especially if it's transformed into a hand pie. Easy to make, easy to eat and easy to transport, it's a delicious ending to a late summer meal. Huckleberries are the perfect fruit filling for these tasty treats.

### Old Fashioned Huckleberry Hand Pies - Makes 8

1 recipe of your favorite pie crust (mine is below), or use a store-bought mix

#### Pie crust:

1½ cups unbleached all-purpose flour  
½ cup cake flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
6 ounces cold unsalted butter, cut into very small pieces  
4 tablespoons vegetable shortening or lard  
½ cup ice water

#### Huckleberry filling:

2½ cups fresh, ripe huckleberries  
2 tablespoons cornstarch  
½ cup sugar  
¼ teaspoon cinnamon  
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
1 teaspoon lemon zest  
Pinch of kosher salt  
1 egg

If using a food processor to make the pie crust, add both flours and salt to the bowl. Cover and pulse once or twice to mix. Add the butter, pulsing five or six times to break it up. Add shortening (or lard) and pulse until crumbly. Slowly add ice water through the tube, pulsing until you have a cohesive dough that holds together when you press it with your hand. Dump dough onto a floured work surface and form into two disks, kneading lightly to pick up any remaining bits of flour. Wrap each disk in plastic and refrigerate at least 30 minutes. Refrigerating the dough allows the gluten

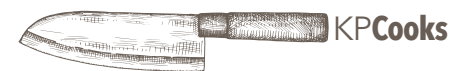
to relax, making the dough easier to work with. This dough also freezes very well.

This recipe can also be made by hand, using a pastry cutter. Follow directions above, mixing in the butter and then lard with the cutter. Add ice water and mix just until well blended. Form into disks and refrigerate as above.

Once the dough has been refrigerated for 30 minutes, it's ready to use. Lightly flour work surface. (Using a pastry cloth makes for easier rolling. Lightly flour the cloth before rolling the dough.) Shape the dough into a rectangle, then flatten with your hands, keeping the rectangle shape. Roll the dough to ¼ inch thickness, rotating the dough to prevent sticking. Re-flour the top of the dough as needed. The dough rectangle should be approximately 14-by-16 inches, but it doesn't need to be exact. Cut the dough into a large rectangle, trimming away the ragged edges, then divide the dough rectangle in half. Wrap each half in plastic wrap and chill for at least 30 minutes.

#### Filling:

In a medium pot, add the huckleberries, cornstarch, sugar, cinnamon, lemon juice, lemon zest and salt. Bring just to a boil and then simmer, uncovered, about five minutes or until thickened. Stir often to prevent scorching. Let cool to room



temperature before proceeding.

Preheat the oven to 425. Lightly grease a baking sheet or line with parchment paper. Remove the two sheets of chilled pie dough and cut into even numbers of the same-sized rectangles, circles (a 3-inch biscuit cutter works well), or squares. You should have 16 pieces of dough for a total of eight hand pies.

Make an egg wash by whisking one egg with a few drops of water.

Lay the bottom pie dough pieces on the lined baking sheet. Brush the edges of each dough piece with the egg wash. Spoon a heaping tablespoon of the cooled huckleberry pie filling onto the center of each bottom dough piece. Gently top with the same size dough piece and press the edges with a fork to seal.

Lightly brush the top of each hand pie with remaining egg wash. Use a paring knife to cut slits into the top of each pie. Dust with a little sugar and bake for 25 minutes, until golden brown.

Let cool to just warm or room temperature before serving.

*Huckleberry filling recipe adapted from Unpeeled Journal.com. Pie crust recipe adapted from Food52 and the incomparable Julia Child. ■*

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## NOVELISTS HAVE INSPIRED REAL-WORLD CHANGE BEFORE

### Saving the Planet isn't Science Fiction: 'The Ministry for the Future'

Can the same capitalist system that runs the fossil fuel industry be used to change it? This novel describes how it could.

RICHARD GELINAS

Kim Stanley Robinson's 2020 novel presents a sobering but plausible time for us as our planet warms due to sunlight-trapping gases derived from the use of fossil fuels. While fiction, its descriptions of the changes taking place as Earth continues to warm are scientifically accurate and easy to understand. This a book of enormous scope that unfolds with short, punchy chapters.

Unlike many nonfiction books on climate change, 'Ministry' explores why it is so hard for us to reduce the use of fossil fuels by discussing the economics and geopolitics of the companies and countries that control them. The novel develops a rational plan based on taxes and incentives that monetizes the removal and storage of carbon, and the world's central banks and economies adopt it.

The story starts when Frank May, an American aid worker in rural India, tries to cope with high heat and humidity by jumping into the town pond, along with everybody else. By the next day everyone in the pond except Frank had poached

to death. Frank survived but suffered from a form of post-traumatic stress. Here is a first takeaway for us: When heat and humidity are so high that perspiration can't cool the body by evaporation, heat stroke is likely unless the body cools off.

Wet bulb temperatures measure both heat and humidity. Wet bulb readings of 95 degrees Fahrenheit can be fatal, even if one is unclothed and in the shade. Deaths from extreme heat are increasing in the U.S. as they are in parts of Africa and Asia.

As Earth's climate changes, entire ecosystems suffer as well. The novel lists more than 200 species of mammals, 700 species of birds, 400 species of reptiles, 600 species of amphibians, thousands of species of plants, and an uncounted number of insects that are extinct or nearly so. Extinctions, along with sea level rise and ocean acidification and deoxygenation, are examples of things we have done to the Earth that we can't easily reverse, even if we stopped the use of fossil fuels tomorrow.

The story reminds us that we are "burning more than 40 gigatons (a gigaton

is a billion tons) of fossil carbon fuels per year" and that if we burn as much as 500 gigatons total, we will "push the average global temperature over 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) higher than it was when the industrial revolution began."

Fossil fuel companies or nation-states have "already located at least 3,000 gigatons of fossil carbon in the ground," and consider them assets. At current prices "the notional value of 2,500 gigatons of carbon that should be left in the ground ... is on the order of \$1,500 trillion. Even as the climate worsens, the owners of the fossil carbon continue to sell and burn the portion they own while they still can. The novel presents the dilemma: how do we transition away from the use of fossil fuels, since as the temperature increases, the problems it leads to cannot be undone?"

Our reluctance to take more serious steps to slow and hopefully reverse climate

change has roots in human nature: We are not very good at taking personal action to solve collective problems. It's a phenomenon known as "The

Tragedy of the Commons." Many of us and our institutions still ignore or deny the effects of climate change, even as climate problems become increasingly urgent, obvious, and potentially catastrophic. That we tend to discount the value of future human lives and thus underinvest in climate mitigation is another phenomenon: "The Tragedy of the Time Horizon."

The agency commissioned to solve these problems, the Ministry for the Future in the book, was created and funded by the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is led by Mary Murphy, a former minister of foreign affairs for the Irish Republic.

To prevent a full climate catastrophe, the ministry devises a carrot and stick plan for the world economy: various taxes on burning carbon would be imposed but there would be a payment of a fungible currency called a carbon coin to any person or corporation for carbon not released or carbon that is sequestered for at least a century by a verifiable method. The carbon coins



would be tradeable or could be exchanged for other fiat currencies. "The central banks would guarantee it at a certain minimum price so it wouldn't crash. But also, it could rise (in value) as people get a sense of its value."

Murphy tells the central bankers "You can short civilization if you want (by not participating), but there will be no one to pay you if you win ... but if you go long on civilization, we all win. So go long." Bankers began to realize that money was worthless unless there is a civilization to back it up, so they signed up.

Not everyone is happy about the actions of the ministry; some feel it should pursue more direct or brutal methods while others want it abolished. One direct action group stops all jet aircraft travel virtually overnight, using swarms of small smart drones that fly into the engines, killing thousands. This came to be called "crash day" and seems quite credible given the use of drones right now in the Ukraine war.

Climate change shows that the Earth responds to humanity's use of fossil fuels. It reminds me of the insights of the British chemist James Lovelock, who suggested that life transforms and, in many ways, regulates our planet. Perhaps all other living creatures are not just inhabitants of Earth — we are Earth, an outgrowth of its physical structure.

Just as we perceive that our climate problems appear not only unjust, unsustainable and entrenched, can we find ways to use the Earth's innate natural climate stabilizing processes in time? "Ministry" will take you to that future. ■

"The Ministry for the Future" Orbit Press 2020, 576 pages.

Kim Stanley Robinson is a New York Times



bestselling author and winner of the Hugo, Nebula and Locus awards. He is the author of more than 20 books. In 2008, he was named a Hero of the Environment by Time magazine. He works with the Sierra Nevada Research Institute and lives in Davis, California.

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# Roundabout Ahead for Rural KP Highway at Lackey Road

**Like all road construction projects the timeline depends on securing adequate funding.**

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Following countless near misses, fender benders and more serious collisions, the Pierce County Department of Planning and Public Works recently announced its plan to develop a roundabout design to improve safety at the three-way intersection of Key Peninsula Highway, Lackey Road and Jackson Lake Road NW.

While construction won't begin anytime soon, the county has notified adjacent property owners in the area they will be kept apprised through every stage of design, and to expect surveyors soon for County Road Project No. 5769.

"It's a very awkward intersection with some challenging angles and safety issues, which is really what brought this intersection to our attention," said Transportation Improvement Section Manager Leticia Neal in a presentation she made at the May 11 meeting of KP Community Council via Zoom.

From the beginning, Neal said the team saw multiple alternatives to simplify the problem intersection and sought input from the community to help inform a design choice.

County engineers hosted an online open house to encourage the public to compare the features, costs and merits of five alternatives, including doing nothing.

The open house held between March 2 and March 31 generated over 4,400 visitors to the county webpage where they were asked to complete a brief survey.

A total of 327 people completed the survey that Neal said generated some interesting data.

The most popular alternative and the least favored choice were both roundabouts.

"Roundabouts tend to be a polarizing option," she said. "People either love them or hate them before they're built."

Fifty-five percent of survey respondents selected the roundabout solution. Neal said the reasoning behind their choice included comments like "easy to implement," "safest overall," and "the

most efficient alternative." Several people noted that while they weren't typically fans of roundabouts, they thought it a good use for this particular intersection.

"Everyone thought there was a problem there and it needs to be fixed," Neal said. "There were comments about safety, confusion and strange angles. The overwhelming response was, 'Doing nothing just isn't a good solution. Something needs to be done at this intersection.'"

"It's a validation that the community recognizes what we in the engineering field are seeing as a problem," she said. "Very good comments to hear."

The survey asked respondents the most important factor in their decision.

"Seventy-six percent of the people cited safety as their biggest factor," Neal said. "That's overwhelming to say the least."

She said a lot of the comments were very revealing and "largely focused on the long-term, not the quick and easy solution but something that would last into the future."

The design process as well as property acquisition typically takes a couple of years, according to Neal.

"Timing always depends on funding and right now the project is not fully funded," she said. "We are requesting funding in the next year's transportation improvement program to continue with the design process."

"It's possible that construction may be able to be completed in one construction season, but those may not be consecutive time frames because we may have to wait for grant funding for authorization through the Pierce County Council."

The original project was more ambitious. Beyond reconfiguration of the problematic three-way intersection, the county envisioned a short extension to Jackson Lake Road by several hundred feet of county right of way to meet 186th Avenue NW. That plan would have provided an alternate route for emergency access to the south end of the KP in the event the KP Highway was blocked. The county pared back the scope of the project after it met fierce neighborhood opposition to connecting the two dead end roads. ■

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### Upcoming Dates and Events

- 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25  
PSD Board of Directors Regular Meeting
- 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 29  
Icecream Social/Open House at **Evergreen Elementary**
- 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 29  
Open House / Meet the Teacher at **Minter Creek Elementary**
- 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 29  
Meet the Teacher at **Vaughn Elementary**
- Wednesday, Aug. 31  
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- Tuesday, Sept. 6  
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- 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28  
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1946 Baseball at LIC field, courtesy KP Historical Society

Saturday, family games include old-fashioned games like whiffleball, cornhole



1949 Labor Day baseball at LIC, courtesy KP Historical Society

and croquet. Grab a plate at the BBQ Picnic. Saturday afternoon, it's a Contra Barn Dance in the clubhouse with live fiddlers until 5pm.

Sunday kicks off with a Centennial Breakfast, then Antique Car Show and Hay Rides.

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**Aug 3 Key Center Art Walk.** Seventh annual free evening of art, music, wine and food. Key Center 4 p.m.

**Aug 3 Gig Harbor Literary Society Book Club.** "Plainsong" by local author Kent Haruf, Harbor History Museum, 6 p.m.

**Aug 12 Low Tide Beach Walk.** Explore life in the intertidal zone. Penrose Point, Harbor WildWatch, 11:30 a.m.

**Aug 13 & 14 Community Clothing Giveaway.** Free clothing of all kinds and sizes, KP Civic Center, Saturday 10 a.m., Sunday 9 a.m.

**Aug 19 KP Logging Show.** 33rd annual; logging events, food trucks, tractor pulls, auctions and kids' games. Benefits KPCS and FBP4K, Port Orchard Airport, 10 a.m.

**Aug 25 KP Book Club.** "Travels in West Africa" by Mary Kingsley, KP Historical Museum, 11 a.m.

**Aug 27 Taylor Bay Community Yard Sale.** Taylor Bay Beach Club, 17826 83d Street Court SW, Longbranch. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Aug 27 LIC Centennial.** Old-fashioned games, BBQ picnic, contra barn dance in afternoon. Longbranch Improvement Club. [licweb.org](http://licweb.org)

**Aug 28 LIC Centennial.** Centennial breakfast, antique car show, hayrides. Longbranch Improvement Club. [licweb.org](http://licweb.org)

**Aug 28 Cruisin' Sunday 2022.** Car show, church service, food, kids' activities and live music. Christian Life Center, 1780 SE Lincoln Ave, Port Orchard, 8 a.m. [www.cruisinsunday.com](http://www.cruisinsunday.com)

## WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

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

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

**T-TH Food Backpacks 4 Kids.** Summer lunch in the park at noon, Home and Gateway Parks. [www.foodbackpacks4kids.org](http://www.foodbackpacks4kids.org).

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

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

**Thursday Fresh Express Mobile Market.** First and third Thursdays 11 a.m. at KP Community Services.

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

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

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

**KP Business Association.** Luncheon, third Fridays, noon at El Sombrero. [kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com](mailto:kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**KP Historical Society.** First Tuesdays, 11 a.m. at museum. [kphsmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:kphsmuseum@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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## The KP Community Calendar is open and ready.

Tell everyone about your upcoming event, meeting, fundraiser or fun run. Send the details to [calendar@keypennews.org](mailto:calendar@keypennews.org) or post your event at [keypeneventlink.creativecirclemedia.com](http://keypeneventlink.creativecirclemedia.com)

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# Local Youth Does Local Good

GRACE NESBIT, KP NEWS

Many people around the world picked up a hobby while in pandemic lockdown; anything from home improvement projects to a sudden interest in knitting.

But future Peninsula High School junior Gavin Hendrickson filled his alone time by fixing up bikes and donating them to the Red Barn Youth Center in Key Center.

His newfound interest began after a mountain bike crash, and he wanted to teach himself how to repair the damage done to his own bike. In that instant a passion started, not only in bicycle mechanics but through creating an opportunity for community members to grow their own love for bike riding.

With help from the Key Peninsula Fire

Department and Red Barn, Hendrickson received around 45 bikes and has already donated 15 to Red Barn.

He launched his mission in November 2021 by asking for donations on his neighborhood Facebook page. He gave away his first five bikes in January of this year. He has fixed many different kinds, from road bikes to mountain bikes and everything in between.

Red Barn is currently the only recipient of Hendrickson's newly refurbished bikes, but he looks to expand his services to other nonprofits in Tacoma and Bremerton.

"I understand that not everyone has the same opportunity to have a bike like I did, so I wanted to give back by giving kids the opportunity to have a fun time," he said, describing how he turned an effort at self-improvement



Gavin Hendrickson, 16, feels for wheels. *Tina McKail, KP News*

into a philanthropic journey.

To donate a bicycle in need of repair to Hendrickson, message him through his Face-

book page @GavinsBikeRepair.

For more information on the Red Barn Youth Center, go to [www.redbarnkp.org](http://www.redbarnkp.org) ■

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TOP LEFT: Granddaughter Amelia sweet talked David and Sally Brower to parade in their '57 Thunderbird. TOP RIGHT: How about: Maggie Glover on the flute joined the Down Home Band last year. CENTER: Grandchildren along for the ride. BOTTOM LEFT: KPFD Volunteer Firefighter Nathan Reader delights crowds. *Above photos by Tina McKail, KP News* BOTTOM RIGHT: The Virginia V, of Mosquito Fleet fame, steams her way to Longbranch. *David Zeigler*

