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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

September 2017 Vol.44 No. 09

## Hirst Decision on Water Rights Indirectly Affects Key Peninsula

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

State funding for three community projects on the Key Peninsula is on hold because of a dispute in the Legislature over water rights raised in the so-called Hirst decision.

The projects under consideration in the capital budget include renovations to the Longbranch Marina and the Key Peninsula Civic Center and funding for The Mustard Seed Project senior housing construction in Key Center. Improvements for the Penrose Park sewer and Minter Creek Hatchery intakes were also included.

The Legislature passed a \$44 billion operating budget earlier this year without approving the \$4 billion capital budget that pays for monitoring water quality, water supply and flood risk reduction infrastructure, among other capital facilities and programs, because of disagreement over how to address issues raised by the court.

The problem began in October 2016 when a state Supreme Court ruling known as Whatcom County vs. Hirst required counties to change how they review permit-exempt wells—domestic wells using less than 5,000 gallons a day—for building permits. In the ruling, commonly referred to as the Hirst decision, the court said that the county's comprehensive plan failed to comply with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements to protect water resources.

Before the Hirst decision, many counties relied on guidelines from the state Department of Ecology to determine the availability of year-round water. The court, citing its decisions over the last decade as well as the language of the GMA, ruled that counties were responsible to make their own determinations about whether or not there was enough water physically and legally available to approve a building permit that would rely on a well.

As a result, many rural counties halted approval of well-drilling and building permits on property with wells that had

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Photo: Danna Webster, KP News

## Farms, Fiber and Scarecrows Return Oct. 7

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Get ready to celebrate: “100 Years of Farming” is the theme for this year's Key Peninsula Farm Tour, the oldest in Pierce County. Events start in September and culminate with the tour Saturday, Oct. 7.

“This is the best attended event on the Key Peninsula,” said Danna Webster, liaison between the Key Peninsula Community Council and the farm tour. “Last year, more than 1,000 people came.” At least that number of attendees is expected this year.

The tour was established in 2006 by Trillium Creek Winery to participate in the Pierce County/WSU HarvestFEST. When government funding for the program was depleted, local farmers established a committee of the community council and assumed responsibility for the farm tours.

In 2007, the Longbranch Improvement Club Fiber Arts Show joined the tour. Gateway Park became a part of the tour in 2012 and the KP Fire Department pancake breakfast was added in 2013.

A baker's dozen of locations are on the tour. Some may be familiar from previous years. The Key Center firehouse pancake breakfast is scheduled from 8 to 11 a.m.

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Eelgrass transplanted last year appears to be thriving. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

## Signs of Growth for Joemma Beach Eelgrass Restoration

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Teams of scientists from the Aquatic Division of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources took advantage of this summer's minus tides to conduct continuing research on large-scale efforts to re-establish native eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) in the waters off Joemma Beach State Park.

“This is by far one of our most successful sites,” said Dr. Jeffrey Gaeckle, a sea grass ecologist who leads the Eelgrass Stressor Response for DNR. “In 2015, two areas at Joemma Beach were transplanted with native eelgrass harvested from healthy donor sites near Rocky Bay and the Nisqually Delta,” he said. Two years later, monitoring showed an increase in shoot density up to five times the number of shoots transplanted. The vegetative area doubled from the original area planted.

In 2016, a third transplant method was applied by the environmental consulting firm Hart Crowser that consisted of weaving donor eelgrass shoots into burlap strips secured with long staples into the substrate below the water surface. The burlap strip method attempts to emulate an intact eelgrass rhizome mat to resolve challenges presented by burrowing shrimp. (KP News, September 2016)

Long recognized as problematic to the shellfish industry, burrowing shrimp stir up the substrate, causing commercially grown oysters to sink and preventing eelgrass

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**HIRST DECISION FROM PAGE 1**

been drilled but not used until they could clarify how the decision would impact development in their communities.

The Hirst decision did not halt permits on the Key Peninsula. Brad Harp, a program manager with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, said the county has been monitoring water quality and water rights for years. TPCHD rules say there can be no new wells in designated Urban Growth Areas within the service areas of large public water systems, such as the one that supplies Key Center, or close to smaller water systems or individual wells without an evaluation by a hydrogeologist to assure that senior water rights won't be affected. Pierce County Planning and Land Services requires a hydrogeologic evaluation for any new well if it is in a closed basin area as designated by the Department of Ecology.

"I worked on this issue in Olympia on behalf of the Washington State Association of Counties this session," said Pierce County Councilman Derek Young. "Water rights are ultimately a state issue and for good reason—watersheds rarely obey our political boundaries. Counties must be able to rely on Ecology to set up appropriate mitigation and make availability decisions. Counties have neither the authority nor the capacity to take this duty over from the state."

Brad Harp said there was another impact. "The TPCHD runs the Site Hazard Assessment Program to evaluate and work to help clean up hazardous spills that might impact water quality, and it involves at least 100 sites in a year. Funding comes from the state's Local Toxics Control Account, which is part of the capital budget. With no capital budget, the program is closed. I am worried that our water quality could be adversely affected."



This map of the Key Peninsula indicates in brown where groundwater is unavailable for new year-round water supply and where PALS will require a hydrogeologist's assessment before allowing a well to be drilled or a building permit to be approved. *Courtesy Washington State Department of Ecology*

A copy of the Hirst decision is available online at [www.courts.wa.gov/opinions](http://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions). The Washington State Department of Ecology website details the history and issues surrounding the decision at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs).

## Some History of Water Rights in Washington

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

**1917:** Washington's first water code covered only surface water appropriations, focusing on water diversion such as dams and irrigation.

**1945:** Groundwater code passed to protect senior water rights and the public welfare. Permit-exempt wells were established to encourage rural family farms.

**1955:** Water code updated to say water flow must be maintained to support fish and wildlife, provide recreation, and preserve scenic and aesthetic values and ensure water quality.

**1969:** Legislature authorized Department of Ecology to establish minimum instream flow to protect wildlife resources or recreational or aesthetic values.

**1979:** Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) established by the Department of Ecology delineating the 62 major watersheds in the state to better monitor water availability.

**1985:** Nooksack Rule developed by the Department of Ecology. It closed most streams in the watershed to new water right permits but allowed landowners to use permit-exempt wells in most of the area.

**1990:** The Growth Management Act passed by the Legislature after finding that uncoordinated and unplanned growth posed a threat to the environment, to economic development and to the quality of life in Washington. The GMA established state rules but focused on local control in the development of comprehensive plans. The Growth Management Hearings Board is established to determine whether or not any government agency has complied with the GMA.

**2000s:** A series of state Supreme Court decisions about water safety and supply including the Gold Star Resorts decision. This decision required Whatcom County to comply with the GMA's requirement that the county's rural element include measures to protect surface and groundwater resources. Whatcom County chose to use Nooksack Rule from 1985.

**2016:** The Hirst decision determined that Whatcom County was not complying with the GMA. The court reaffirmed the understanding that groundwater and surface water are linked, with each having an impact on the other. Of the 48 basins in Whatcom County, all had water-courses that fell below minimum instream flow goals at some point in the year, but only one was closed to all wells; the others were still open to permit-exempt wells. The Hirst decision stated: "Indeed, the county's reliance on the Nooksack Rule turns the GMA goal of directing growth to urban areas upside down. The county's comprehensive plan allows the unchecked growth of single domestic dwellings relying on permit-exempt wells in rural areas; this is precisely the 'uncoordinated and unplanned growth' that the Legislature found to 'pose a threat to the environment, sustainable economic development and the health, safety and high quality of life enjoyed by residents of this state.'"



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**FARM TOUR FROM PAGE 1**

are,” she said. “My goal is to create high quality, carefully finished clothing that can be savored with each wearing.”

School Bus Connects will provide transportation with continuous loops to selected destinations. The north loop will leave Gateway Park and continue to Bea’s Flowers, Minterbrook and Camp Seymour. The south loop will leave the LIC and travel to Kaukiki and Faraway.

Food and music will be available at various locations.

**Farm Tour Art Show** Sept. 1 to Oct. 10 at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center

**The Scarecrow Invasion:** Scarecrows on display in Key Center from Sept. 16 to Oct. 31. Businesses, individuals, groups and organizations are encouraged to join the competition. Entry forms available online at the farm tour website: [www.kpfarmtour.com](http://www.kpfarmtour.com).

**Farm Tour Night on the Town** Sept. 28:

- 6 to 6:50 p.m. Artists Reception at Blend Wine Shop
- 7 to 8 p.m. “Farm Tales—150 Years of Change” presented by Christine Anderson of the KP Historical Society at the Key Center Library
- 8 p.m. Winners of the Scarecrow Invasion announced

**EELGRASS FROM PAGE 1**

from taking root in the constantly shifting sand. “You can be walking along on firm sand and then suddenly step into a very soft spot; that’s the work of burrowing shrimp,” Gaeckle said.

“We are currently conducting a method study to determine the best techniques for successful transplanting using the most efficient and economical methods possible,” he said. “The burlap is very effective against burrowing shrimp because they come up and hit their heads on the burlap, however with the burlap there is also more surface for algae to stick and grow.” Algae compete with eelgrass for nutrients, light and space.

Native eelgrass is the predominant sea grass in Puget Sound, yet it remains nearly absent from the submerged shorelines along the Key Peninsula. DNR aquatic scientists are simultaneously studying potential causes of this relative absence as they continue working toward the goal set in 2011 by the Puget Sound Partnership targeting a 20 percent Soundwide increase in eelgrass by the year 2020. “We knew we couldn’t plant our way to that goal, so we focused on building a model that would identify sites throughout Puget Sound that were suitable for eelgrass restoration,” Gaeckle said.

Eelgrass occupies a fairly narrow range of depths, ideally ranging from plus 1.4 meters down to minus 11 meters relative to the average mean low water height. “Much deeper and the eelgrass doesn’t get enough light,” Gaeckle said. “Too much exposure at the lowest tides on hot summer days stresses plants. The eelgrass rhizomes need to store enough carbohydrates during the summer months to see them through the low light of winter.” Eelgrass grows anywhere from 16 inches up to six and a half feet tall.

Recently published work based on research by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the University of Washington and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife suggests eelgrass has been stable in Puget Sound for the last 40 years. A recently released report by DNR on the Puget Sound sea grass monitoring program for 2015 demonstrated that while some areas of Puget Sound enjoy vibrant expansion of eelgrass meadows, other less fortunate areas in the Sound are in serious decline, suggesting eelgrass ecosystems present very localized challenges to restoration.

Worldwide, eelgrass is in decline. Gaeckle said the scientific lessons learned at Joemma Beach may well influence future restoration efforts far beyond the shores of the Key Peninsula.

For more information, go to: [www.keypennews.com/joemma-beach-eelgrass](http://www.keypennews.com/joemma-beach-eelgrass).

## Building a Community Resource

Every month, the Key Peninsula News provides a voice for news, events, achievements and accomplishments in our vibrant community, right on these pages.

The KP News is better than ever, thanks to hundreds of volunteer hours from contributing writers and photographers. Our new website is easy to enjoy with added features and a new Community Calendar with up-to-the-minute event and activity details. Check it out at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT CAMPAIGN**

### We need your help

Once a year, we ask for contributions to keep the paper alive and growing. The enclosed donation envelope makes it easy to give a tax-deductible gift, or subscribe for twelve months of first-class mail delivery to friends and family. Use this form or fill in the green envelope — we’ll send a receipt along with our sincere thanks.

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Key Peninsula artist Mardie Rees adds detail to her recent sculpture, "The Guardian," a representation of Raphael, an archangel of Judaism, Christianity and Islam who is a healer in the Christian tradition. The sculpture will be installed at the CHI Franciscan Virtual Health Clinic in Tacoma this month. *Courtesy Mardie Rees*

## Local Sculptor Casts Emotion in Bronze

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

Mardie Rees is a Purdy sculptor with a long list of commissions, exhibitions and awards honoring her emotive, life-size sculptures made of clay and cast in bronze.

Rees has been a professional sculptor for 17 years. Even as a child, she was encouraged by her creative family to draw, paint, sew and color. When, as a teen, Rees moved with her family to Ecuador for three years to facilitate community development, she broadened her world view and used the experience as a catalyst for her art.

Known locally for her sculpture, "St. Anthony and Child," in the main lobby of St. Anthony Hospital, Rees also created the bas-relief sculpture medallion of a fisherman hauling nets at Skansie Brothers Park in downtown Gig Harbor. She's also created many sculptures for schools, hospitals and private residences around the U.S. and Canada.

In 2014, one of Rees' sculptures was installed in the National Museum of

Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia. The work is titled "Soul of the Forward and Faithful," and depicts three World War II soldiers trekking through enemy territory. It won Rees the Colonel John W. Thomason Jr. Award.

During the unveiling, Rees spoke to the crowd about her process of creating the piece. "I spent two years working on concept, reading, working in clay and overseeing the completion in bronze. I had two former marines who served two tours in Iraq that I came to know as brothers in the process of creating the sculpture. They each modeled about 30 hours for me in a span of six to eight months. As we worked on expression and the face we got into some of the heavy stories of warfare and their experiences. It was a very dark time for me as I witnessed their stories and brought the Battle of Bougainville 1943 into a three dimensional reality," she said.

Rees lives with her husband, architect Jeremy Broderick, and their children, Jasmine, Adam and Desiree near the Purdy Bridge. Their home is just a few houses

down from where she grew up. Inside her airy studio, Rees works with live models, handmade tools and a classical lost wax method for casting her sculptures.

Rees' busy schedule of installations and unveilings will continue with the unveiling of "The Guardian" at the CHI Franciscan Virtual Health Clinic in Tacoma in September.

Rees teaches art at Gage Academy in Seattle and also offers her expertise to youth of the Key Peninsula through art and sculpture classes in her home studio under the name Apprentice Academy.

"It was something new to try," said Noah Larsen, 13, about his recently completed summer art camp. "It was cool to use the hands-on tools a lot."

Sarah Larsen, Noah's mom, added that sculpting classes with Rees has helped her son feel calm and helped his ability to focus on a task. "She's phenomenal. It's really art," she said.

Rees' art camps run daily all summer, but she also teaches a variety of art classes once a week after school. She will bring back her popular clay angels class in December. Autumn classes will be posted on her website.

Contact Mardie Rees at [mardie@mardierees.com](mailto:mardie@mardierees.com) or visit her online at [mardierees.com](http://mardierees.com).

### Now Hiring: KP News Editor

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## YOYO on the KP: Disaster Preparedness Underway at Civic Center

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

"You're On Your Own," unless you can get to a shelter.

There has been a lot of digging lately at the Key Peninsula Civic Center this summer. The work is the result of the recognition that the civic center is the de facto emergency shelter for the community. James Allyn, the live-in caretaker responsible for the security and maintenance of the facility, said, "When there is an emergency, people show up."

The civic center board realized that upgrades to the HVAC heating and cooling system and an alternate power source were needed if the facility was to function as a shelter.

Phase I of the upgrade plan required replacing the HVAC at a cost of over \$100,000. Securing the funding took several years. Pierce County contributed approximately \$60,000 to the project and the state provided another \$50,000.

Phase II has a price tag of about \$90,000. Two-thirds is provided through the state capital budget and one-third will come from the county. Most of the site work has been completed but stopped because both the state House and Senate approved funding is on hold until the capital budget is approved. (See related article "Hirst Decision" in this edition). The last step is the purchase and installation of the new generator.

Site work involved adding a power drop at the north end of the field that was routed through a trench to the transfer switch. The trenching provided an opportunity to replace outdated and failing pipes from the well to the building and adding a water line from the building to the field. Accommodations for future construction were added during this phase of the project.

Peninsula Light Co. has provided a significant amount of in-kind help, as did Mark Knisely, who donated many hours of excavating and back filling. Once the funds for the generator are released, installation can proceed since a minimum amount of rewiring in the building will be required.

When Phase II is completed, the civic center will be an approved warming/cooling shelter in case of a major disruption of power. Unfortunately, the civic center does not have adequate bathroom and shower facilities to be considered a full-service emergency shelter.

Peggy Gablehouse will soon be organizing and managing a volunteer resource center (VCR) at the civic center. This is where people who have tools and equip-

ment that would be needed during an emergency can go to volunteer. Since the 911 and first responder agencies will be too busy to manage volunteers, the VRC will be in communication with those agencies to dispatch volunteers more appropriately.

One concern is that the general public is not adequately prepared to care for their families, pets and livestock. The Cascadia Rising Exercise in September 2016 provided a wealth of information that identified problems that could occur in the aftermath of a catastrophic event.

The Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition has organized an emergency preparedness fair Saturday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Gig Harbor High School. Attendees will learn about the problems they will face if bridges are impassable and how those living in communities in the throes of disaster can better help themselves and their neighbors.

PEP-C holds regular meetings the second Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. at Fire District 5 headquarters in Gig Harbor, 10222 Bujacich Road NW. For more information: [www.PEP-C.org](http://www.PEP-C.org).

## KGHP Brings Local Radio to Life

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

While most stations can be tuned in on a Key Peninsula radio dial, there's one that can be found a little closer: 89.9 FM KGHP, broadcasting from the Peninsula High School campus to Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula.

Four former World War II communications officers founded KGHP about 30 years ago. The station was established at the school to provide emergency information to the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula areas and give students experience with broadcasting.

"I think we give people a reason to tune in because it's an experience," said station manager Spencer Abersold. That KGHP experience includes interviews with local figures, on-air personalities and live coverage of high school sporting events by high school students.

But it's mostly about the music.

KGHP's library is made up of four terabytes that span half a century of popular music. A day's programming could survey classic rock, reggae, jazz, '90s hip-hop, movie soundtracks and indie rock.

This eclectic music library wasn't easy to construct; in the early days of the station, each individual DJ brought in CDs or tapes to play from their private collections. As digital music storage became available,

Abersold began adding to the station's song bank by "ripping" (copying) music from his own CDs.

"I went to my DJs and said, 'Why don't we rip your collections, too? We'll create a library,'" Abersold said. "Now I'm just going through all that music file by file and listening to it song by song. If it gets my feet tapping, it goes in the mix."

KGHP pays fees to music licensing companies to ensure they can broadcast their collected music legally.

Costs are sometimes reduced by the station's nonprofit status and a mostly volunteer staff runs it, but operating a radio station isn't cheap. "When I started, it was right about the start of the recession," Abersold said. "The school district was thinking to themselves, 'We can't keep this station on the air; we need public funding.'"

"We rallied, we did a Guinness World Record attempt, did a bunch of fundraising, and were able to come up with the money to basically replace the entire radio station, down to the paint and the carpet, and get all this brand-new equipment," Abersold said.

The fundraising involved Abersold attempting to stay at the console for 200 hours—nine days—to beat the existing continuous broadcasting record of 187 hours.

"I didn't lose my voice, but I did go crazy," he said. (The current record was set by a DJ in the Netherlands who broadcast for 198 hours straight in 2014, according to Guinness World Records.)

The station is kept running by a group of volunteer DJs, many of whom are current PHS students. "We have student DJs after school from 2 to 5 p.m.," Abersold said. Initiative is one of the main qualities he looks for in student DJs. "I like when people come to me and say, 'I really want this. I have an idea for a show.' It shows passion, and you need passion because sitting here doing this is a lonely thing."

KGHP also has a number of non-student program hosts. Some are music-focused, like Mike Kelly's Wednesday night reggae show, which has been running on KGHP for over 18 years. Others, like the interview-based K&A's Harborchat, examine local culture and events.

"I think the most important thing is I'd like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters and the listening audience for tuning in," Abersold said. "I'm grateful that they enjoy and are appreciating what we're doing, because they're the reason that we're doing it."

KGHP can be heard on the FM dial at 89.3, 89.9 and 105.7, depending on the listener's location. Broadcasts can also be streamed at: [www.tunein.com/radio/KGHP](http://www.tunein.com/radio/KGHP).

For more information, [www.kghp.org](http://www.kghp.org)

Sept 2017

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# Gateway Park

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FOURTH OF JULY

**Your opinion matters!** Please complete our short survey at <https://goo.gl/WBWBiv> about the 4th of July Community Hot Dog Social. Your feedback will help bring you the best event we can for next year.

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Ghoulish details: [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com)

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**Ted Olinger**  
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



## The Voice of the KP

The Key Peninsula News has been published more or less continuously by the KP Civic Center Association for 43 years. By now, even occasional readers will have seen our new look and new content, but this is not a new approach. It is an evolution of the foundation built by volunteers and their editors who labored over decades to create and refine what has become our community's newspaper of record.

We call ourselves the voice of the Key Peninsula, but that is only true when your voice comes through in the stories we publish, the images we print, and the columns and letters you write.

In just the past year, we have covered forest management and teen suicide, property rights and school funding, national trends in cybercrime and the local bake sales put together by neighbors to help our own.

We have also just launched a vastly improved website ([www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)) made possible by grants from The Angel Guild and other donors. Every article and image published by the KP News since 2004 is now available in our online archive. We are still working to collect and post digitized versions of all the hard copy editions we can find, all the way back to the original KP Newsletter (we're up to November 1982 so far).

The new website includes an interactive calendar of community events posted and updated by the event organizers with their latest information. It is a central clearinghouse of public services, fundraisers and activities for the KP that is not available anywhere else. (And we will continue to print that calendar in each edition too.)

We deliver 9,000 copies of the KP News to every address on the KP every month and to subscribers and local businesses where visitors and summer residents can pick it up—all for free—as part of our parent organization's mission “to foster and promote the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community.”

Our volunteer staff is larger now than at any time in the paper's history, even as the paid staff has been reduced; we have 14 regular contributors, 20 active guest columnists and almost a dozen others working behind the scenes providing distribution and oversight.

With this foundation in place, I am finishing my role as executive editor. Volun-

teer staff will take a larger role in creating the paper and a new editor will manage their work in the coming months. I will be returning to other professional commitments long neglected, but will continue to support the KP News in any way I can as we work to live up to our motto and our goal every month: to be the voice of the Key Peninsula.

I ask you to join us in that work.

In the pages of this edition, you will find the familiar green envelope that appears annually to ask for a donation, gift subscription or renewal. (You can also donate through our website.)

The KP News exists under the 501(c)(3) umbrella of the KP Civic Center, but operates independently when it comes to content and money. We earn 85 percent of our \$100,000 plus annual budget from advertising and subscription income. The rest comes from you.

The financial support of our donors is what has allowed us to reorganize, streamline and create a new look, new website and broader approach as we report more stories in more detail. Our writers know what to seek out. Our photographers know what to look for. The community knows they can trust us to get it right, to inform them and to support them.

That is what it means to be the voice of the Key Peninsula.

Be a part of it.

Thank you.

**Meredith Browand**  
KEY ISSUES



## Education Funding Battle Isn't Over

Washington state has been in violation of its own constitution for years—specifically the section that requires the state to fully fund basic education. Although the state has determined that a budget hastily passed last month rectifies the violation, it will be up to the Supreme Court to decide. The state filed court papers in July arguing that it has met its obligation under the court's 2012 McCleary decision. I argue that they may be getting ahead of both themselves and the court.

Yes, lawmakers have made significant progress toward ensuring basic education is fully funded and that the distribution of funds is more equitable across the state. However, there are still a host of unanswered questions.

How will the budget impact class sizes? Class size reduction mandates, passed by

the voters in 2014 as Initiative 1351, remain in place and by 2018 there will be a 1-to-17 teacher to student ratio in K-3 classes. This is good news. However, lawmakers moved the I-1351 staffing values to a new funding statute and plan to create a work group to make implementation recommendations by the end of 2019. This transfer of statutes may allow lawmakers to more easily make changes to the class size reduction and staffing values without full transparency to voters.

What is the impact on special education?

The state's budget includes an increase in special education funding, but many school districts doubt it will be enough. Districts that have a special education population greater than 13.5 percent of their total student population and those with more high-cost special education students than the state average will still have to rely on local levy funding to meet their budgets.

A year from now, we will have a better picture of how special education funding has affected individual districts. This new budget, along with allocated basic education funding dollars and local levies, may or may not meet the needs of districts, but it's nearly impossible to predict this before the school year begins.

What about teacher pay?

Teachers will receive a 2.3 percent cost of living adjustment for the 2017-2018 school year. The 2018-2019 school year will see most local school districts and teachers' unions negotiating new base salary schedules. These salary schedules will be required to meet both minimum and maximum pay requirements, but will eliminate the limits placed on average pay.

The statewide base pay has already been determined by the Legislature through the 2020-2021 school year. All negotiations with local teacher groups must be in accordance with the guidelines established as part of base pay. Specialty pay for bilingual, STEM, and special education teachers is required to be bargained and funded through wholly local sources.

I think the state should be cautious about claiming its work on education funding is done until we have answers to these questions and many others. Let's allow local teachers and administrators to work the 2017-2018 school year under the new budget before we decide that the long battle over education funding has been settled.

*Meredith Browand is a mother and activist living in Purdy.*

*The opinions expressed by columnists are not necessarily those of the KP News. We neither endorse nor oppose issues or proposals discussed on these pages and present these views for public information only.*

**Cathy Warner**  
KEY PEN & INK



## Don't Climb Every Mountain

A dozen mountain goats halted my husband and me in our tracks near the summit of Mount Ellinor. I'd read the guidelines and watched the video on hiking safely before our outing and knew the goats were after salt they find in perspiration on backpacks and clothing. I knew to stay 50 yards away, to back up and give the goats their space, to take aggressive measures—yelling, waving my arms, clacking my trekking poles, even throwing rocks—if they didn't yield ground.

Every guidebook says the steep hike—a 2,500 foot elevation gain in 1.6 miles—is a must, with a 360-degree Puget Sound to Pacific panorama at the summit. From Ellinor's ice field, we gloried in the view of Lake Cushman, Hood Canal, Puget Sound, Seattle, Mounts Rainier, St. Helens and Adams. The summit was almost in sight when we encountered the goats.

They didn't act like wild animals. Habituated to humans—10,000 people summit Ellinor each year—they didn't move, even when we dutifully yelled and clacked our hiking sticks.

Their bodies clamored for salt and I was a walking salt lick.

“Take a deep breath,” my husband said, abandoning his “let's summit” pep talk in lieu of strategies for descent. At each switchback, we encountered more goats—the same group actually—descending with us. I froze each time I saw them.

“The goats won't hurt you. I won't let them,” my husband said. “Get outta here, goats!” He beat his hiking staffs, brandishing them like spears.

I'd read an article days earlier about the Forest Service considering whether to relocate the mountain goats to the North Cascades, where they're native, or kill them since they've become such a nuisance. They were brought to the area in the 1920s, presumably to build a hunting population. When national park status was granted to Olympic Park in the late-1930s, they became protected and their numbers swelled to 1,100. In the 1980s, the park had a budget for capture and relocation of nearly 500 animals. But funding dried up and the mountain goat population is now estimated at 600 to 800. Human-animal encounters have intensified: In 2010 a man was killed near Hurricane Ridge when a goat gored his thigh, severing arteries. He bled to death protecting his wife and friend.

The goats stared at my yelling husband unimpressed and I worried he'd be injured trying to protect me as we crept toward the ice field we thought would return us to a goat-free trek. But our first steps onto the ice found three goats at our heels. I kneeled, thinking I'd shimmy down one cheek at a time using my boots for traction, but as soon as I sat I slid toward a huge boulder rising out of the ice and had to stab my poles into the snow to stop.

My husband pulled me up and we descended sideways. He kicked one level step at a time in the ice, then planted his pole to stabilize my foot as I stepped into the space he cleared until, after nearly an hour, we reached the trail below.

The goats followed us until we were well into the forest.

"I hate goats," I said.

"OK," my husband said, swatting at the cloud of blackflies that dogged him like goats.

"And I hate ice, too," I added.

Back at the trailhead, I climbed into the car, exhausted from goat-induced panic. Driving away, we came upon a view almost as dramatic as the high mountain vista.

"We could watch the sunrise from here," my husband said.

I pictured us bundled in his truck on a clear cold morning, drinking hot chocolate, watching Mount Rainier glow pink to herald the coming day with no mountain goat, ice field or biting blackflies in sight. The perfect way to mountain climb.

*Cathy Warner lives in Wauna.*

**Sara Thompson**  
SEASON'S SENSE



### Blackberries and Me

There is a time in August when I forget how ambivalent I feel about blackberries. I walk along the road or the beach. Knobby globes of dark purple hang from thorny branches and beckon to me. I pluck the biggest, warmed by the sun. The berry separates easily from its stem with the slightest twist of my wrist, still firm enough to maintain its shape despite the pressure of my fingers, and where the stem once existed there is now a hint of purple. My mouth waters as I pop it in. Sweet perfection.

I have a bucket and I fill it quickly. Even as it is at capacity I can't stop—every branch seems to offer bigger and better fruit. There will be a cobbler tonight, berries with yogurt for breakfast tomorrow. And if there are too many, into the freezer for jam or sorbet later in the year. Who could ask for more?

Fall comes and the pleasure continues.

Inebriated robins fly about eating fermented berries.

Then winter arrives and I am not so fond—brambles that could go head to head with anything out of "Sleeping Beauty" begin to thwart me as I consider working in my yard. Where did they all come from?



**Blackberry Sorbet**  
Yield: 3 cups, serves 6

- 3 cups berries
- ¾ cup syrup of cassis
- 2 tbsps. fresh lemon juice
- ¼ cup cream

Place all ingredients in a blender or food processor. Strain over a bowl to remove seeds. Freeze in ice cream maker. Eat.

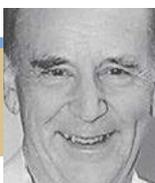
Spring and these invaders bring both admiration and despair. These plants are survivors. Any tiny piece of a root sends triumphant shoots into the air. Left untouched they could reach 30 feet. And a branch that bends to the ground will sprout roots and get a whole new lease on life. Not to mention the seeds that those drunken robins spread from here to kingdom come last fall. Early summer comes and new plants are everywhere.

Thanks, Luther Burbank! He introduced the Himalayan Blackberry to this country in 1885. Seeds came from India and he admired it as a vigorous backyard plant with abundant fruit. His enthusiasm took a nightmarish turn as birds spread the seeds and the plant's ability to grow 30 feet in a season became apparent.

I set about digging and pulling in my never-ending effort to tame nature. Briefly, my yard has a modestly urban look, but soon it is clear that I have no chance of winning this battle. I sit back, sigh and wait for August to bring solace.

*Sara Thompson lives in Longbranch.*

**Frank Slater**  
A VIEW FROM HERE



### Safe Spaces and Free Speech

Ours is a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

It derives its just power from the consent of the governed.

It is founded on the idea that all of us are created equal and are endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights,

CONTINUED PAGE 8



## CIVIC CENTER

## CORNER

**PEP-C Fair Sept 30 at Gig Harbor High School.** Join us at the first Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition Fair, 9:30am to 3pm at Gig Harbor High School. Numerous 45-minute sessions will include: Peninsula School District Emergency Plan; Cascadia Subduction Zone; Neighborhood Prep; Emergency Prep & Food Storage for Beginners, Disaster First Aid; Insurance - 8 things that can ruin you; Ham Radio Basics; Electrical Safety during Emergencies; Solar Power; Water Storage; Homeland Security Troops at Ground Zero; Post-Quake Fire Fighting; Disaster Prep for Vulnerable Populations; Animal First Aid; and Self-Defense for Women.

Committed to becoming a designated emergency center, the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association invites you to our monthly emergency preparedness meetings. Contact Peggy Gablehouse at 253-686-7904 or email [kpciviccenter@centurytel.net](mailto:kpciviccenter@centurytel.net) with "emergency preparedness" in the subject line.

**Skate Night Volunteers - a great youth opportunity!** Friday Skate Night is looking for high-school-age volunteers to learn job skills and have fun at the same time. Volunteer hours are recorded, with printouts available to meet school requirements or use as supporting documentation for scholarship applications. When appropriate, letters of recommendation for future employment are provided. A volunteer orientation meeting will be held August 25 at 7pm in the Whitmore room at the Civic Center. Applications are at <https://www.facebook.com/KPCC.SkateNight/>. For more information call the Key Peninsula Civic Center office at 253-884-3456.

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*10th Annual WINTER WARMUP*



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**SAFE SPACES FROM PAGE 7**

including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The First Amendment of our Constitution says, in part, "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

In order to govern such a nation, the people need to engage each other in civil discourse to determine the laws needed to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to our posterity.

If, for example, a group of us meet to consider rules to govern the conduct of a meeting and we are so offended by one another that we withdraw to our safe spaces and refuse to participate, then we abandon our effort to enhance the common good.

On the other hand, if we listen to each other, voice our opinions, hear and answer objections, we will generally get a clearer understanding of the problem, of each other's beliefs and a solution to the problem to which a majority can agree.

If I, as a citizen of the United States, see a way to improve our governance at the community, county, state or federal level, then I have a responsibility, if not a duty, to share my view with the person chosen to represent the people in that jurisdiction. If it is really important to me, I should discuss it with my friends and neighbors to refine it and get their support.

If I am dissatisfied with the current state of affairs, I should think "How can they be improved? What can I do to improve them?"

Write to your member of congress. Call your county councilman. Talk to your local officials. Join a local support group. Participate.

Retreating into isolation from distaste or disagreement can only encourage your opponents, just as surely as responding to them with anger or violence will transform them—and you—into extremists. As recent events have shown us, there is no space that is safe from that.

*Frank Slater, retired math teacher and Korean War veteran, lives in Vaughn.*

## Lorraine Hart ON LYME DISEASE



### Meet a Survivor

This fall, my daughter Anna enters her 20th year fighting neuroborreliosis (Lyme disease) and co-infections. We've written

articles, done print and radio interviews, and every May we spend the month in activism, holding signs and waving to cars at the Purdy-302 intersection, all in the name of educating folks about Lyme in the Pacific Northwest.

But every September for the last 14 years we have also held a Lyme Picnic for patients, their caregivers and families. It's a chance for Lyme patients to socialize and feel a sense of near normalcy for an afternoon. In a world where Lyme disease is so politicized, our picnic offers the gentle support of community.

This Sept. 9 marks our 15th Western Washington Lyme Picnic. We wanted to make it a standout event, so we're bringing in a very special guest speaker to mark the anniversary. He is a former park ranger in the Sierra Nevada, the author of the popular "Nature Noir," and his latest book, "Engineering Eden," is quickly winning acclaim as well. But in the Lyme community, Jordan Fisher Smith is the North Star patient—one who got well.

"Nature Noir" came out in 2005 and there was a chapter in it about his experience with Lyme disease. The book took off and he harnessed that notoriety to fight back against the dreadful situation he'd been through. He and newfound friends organized a fundraiser that collected \$425,000 for the Columbia University Lyme center, which was just in the planning stages at the time. This brought him to the attention of a film company called Open Eye Pictures and he spent three years working with them on the multiple award-winning documentary, "Under Our Skin."

I asked Jordan why he stayed committed to Lyme patients after regaining his health.

"To a great extent they, and the issue of tick-borne disease, chose me," he said. "Although I have been over my Lyme and babesia for 10 years now, I consider that role one in which I have the possibility of serving the public, as I served the public as a park ranger—a role that I was given so that I could help people and one I have no right to shrug off. What I went through, no one, including your daughter, should have to go through in a developed country where medicine to prevent and treat it is, or ought to be, available."

Jordan will join us Saturday, Sept. 9 from 2 p.m. to dusk at the Gig Harbor Viewpoint in Point Defiance Park in Tacoma. Please join us to learn more about Lyme disease and how we can stop it.

*Lorraine Hart lives in Vaughn. Contact her at: borreliaet@gmail.com*

## Letters to the Editor

### Thank You KP News

I had a chance this afternoon to read every article and scan every ad in your August edition.

You are doing great work!

Really good writing, interesting topics, great photos and graphics.

Very well done. Thank you.

*Larry Seaquist/Gig Harbor*



A DNR helicopter lifts water from Case Inlet to fight a wilderness fire Aug. 1 off Herron Road near 200th Avenue KPS. It started when an unattended trash fire spread. "The homeowner will be receiving a substantial invoice," said KP Fire Chief Guy Allen. *Photo: Rick Price*

### Thank You Firefighters

It may not come as a big surprise to you, but we on the Key Peninsula have one of the best fire departments around. Veteran Chief Guy Allen leads a staff of dedicated professional and volunteer staff at Key Peninsula Fire District 16 and marshals their resources with skill and creativity.

My wife and I and all our neighbors were lucky to have their response to the 200th Avenue brush fire early in August. This fire, caused by a foolish action by an unthinking neighbor, was hard to locate and difficult to fight, back in the woods by our house on a private dirt road in heavily forested area. Their crews fought this fire carefully and systematically for days with the assistance of a helicopter lifting water, several other fire crews, a prison work crew, DNR staff and many others.

We were lucky there was little wind that hot week. The future suggests we may not be as lucky, so I implore all of you to be careful with any outdoor fires and pay attention to burn bans. They are there for a reason.

*Mark Nelson/Lakebay*

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

**CORRECTION:** The August Out & About photo of the Tritt family and jeep in the Home Fourth of July parade was taken by Kathy Bauer. We regret the omission of her credit.

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The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, fosters and promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community



Photo: Carolyn Wiley, KP News

## Meet Lillian Page, New Principal at Vaughn Elementary School

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

Lillian Page started as the new principal at Vaughn Elementary School this month. She is no stranger since she's already been the dean of students there for three years.

Page described Vaughn as a fun, creative, flourishing environment and said, "I am there to serve the community and enhance the school's growth." Her goals for the new school year are "to be visible, to continue to grow the connections between the Vaughn community and the school itself" and to "maintain a positive school climate that will maximize student success."

Over the years, Page realized the Vaughn community is very supportive and contributes to the welcoming environment. Part of the depth of parent support is a result of the efforts of the PTA to recruit members and to engage parents in planning and working together for the benefit of the students, she said.

"I got into teaching because I had positive experiences in schools and had teachers who inspired me," Page said. She began her teaching career at age 15 as a gymnastics instructor. She earned her undergraduate degree in education at the University of Washington, where she also took a lead role preparing the cheer team for competition when the team lost their coach. The team ended up with a fourth place ranking in national competition.

Before arriving in the Peninsula School District, Page taught in Mukilteo, Federal Way and Steilacoom where she taught fourth and fifth grades while earning her credentials in administration at UW Tacoma.

She then taught at Harbor Heights before moving to Vaughn.

"I always felt Peninsula School District had great character," she said. "Students are the focus; they always come first. It was the district I wanted to be in."

As the dean of students at Vaughn, Page's responsibilities included student discipline, acting as counselor, attendance monitor and evaluator of classified staff. She also matched students with staff members to check in with them daily, so students would have a reliable adult to turn to in a time of need.

Page expressed appreciation to Susan O'Leary—the former principal at Vaughn—for her mentorship in preparation for the new challenges ahead.

"I want everyone to be their best," Page said. "I like the big picture—seeing the whole system. I feel confident in my instructional skills and feel that I can help both teachers and students become their best selves."

Page has two young children. Her daughter is pre-school age and her son will be attending kindergarten at Vaughn. "I am excited to have my children be a part of such a fantastic school district," she said.

Page is enthusiastic about the year ahead. "I am a life-long learner," she said. "I like to learn. Like to be challenged. I like the piece of being able to learn every day."



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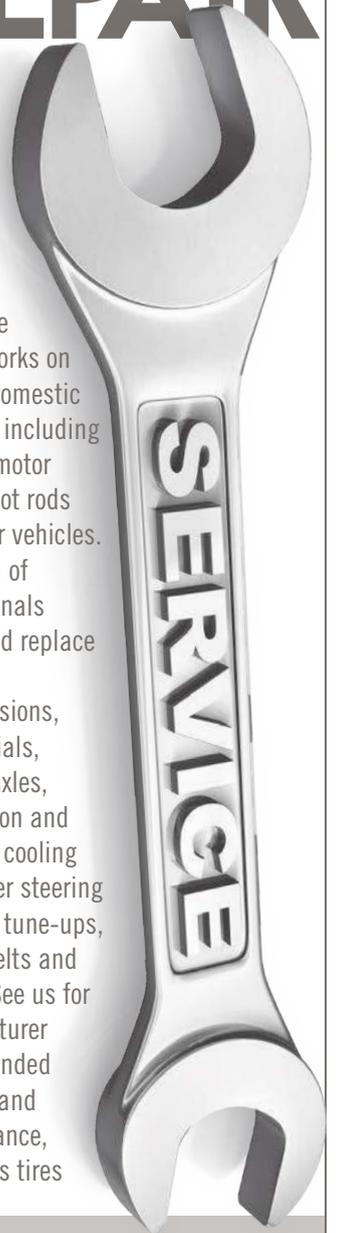
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Dylan Anderson at work identifying and sorting conifer seeds. *Photo: Sara Thompson, KP News*

## Home High School Senior Responds to Climate Change

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Dylan Anderson, a Home resident and incoming senior at Peninsula High School this month, has been thinking about climate change. The native trees that have thrived here may be threatened by rising temperatures, a change in rainfall and new pests. This summer he began to think about introducing trees from Oregon and Northern California to this area.

Anderson has been collecting seeds from conifers, identifying them using books and internet resources, and filing them by species. His next step will be to germinate them and when they are large enough to

plant, he wants to distribute them to anyone who wants them—for free.

“I have a lot to learn,” he said. “But I think that once I have free trees to distribute I’ll have a lot of takers.” He has a cousin who is a climatologist at the University of California, Berkeley and she has put him in touch with a paleobotanist there.

Anderson welcomes cones from donors, but notes that they are much easier to identify if they are attached to a branch. He’ll use social media to find homes for the seedlings when they are available, probably in a year.

For those interested in donating cones, email Anderson at [lakebaycones@gmail.com](mailto:lakebaycones@gmail.com).

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Stream water enters through an inflow pipe of a remote site incubator for salmon eggs, and then flows out through an outflow pipe at the top of the barrel back into the stream. A lid is secured on top of the barrel to protect young salmon and provide required darkness. Once hatched, alevin slip through their mesh egg trays to the substrate at the bottom of the barrel, where they absorb their yolk sac and become fry. The fry then exit the incubator at the barrel's top outflow pipe into the stream. *Courtesy Hood Canal Salmon Center*

## Fishermen's Club Helps Hatch Local Salmon

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The Gig Harbor Commercial Fishermen's Club has been collaborating with Minter Creek Hatchery for decades to bring chum salmon to local creeks.

Remote site incubators (RSIs) allow salmon to hatch in creeks where they may no longer spawn. Hatcheries provide eggs for the RSIs. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife developed the current model in the mid-1980s using 55-gallon barrels with trays that can hold up to 100,000 eggs. The trays are set up to ensure water flows over the eggs to supply oxygen and nutrients and to allow the fry to swim out to the creek. There, the fry will imprint on the stream and, if all goes well, will return as adults to spawn.

Chum salmon are especially well suited to RSIs since they quickly leave the streams to head to Puget Sound estu-

aries to continue to grow. Other species of salmon spend months in their home streams and if there are no adult spawned salmon bodies to provide nutrition, survival is more challenging.

Ed Manning, a longstanding member of the Gig Harbor Commercial Fishermen's Club, has worked with two projects: one in Gig Harbor at Donkey Creek and the other at Purdy Creek.

He said the Donkey Creek project started in 1974. In January, club members collect up to a million eyed eggs—the stage of development where the eggs are clearly fertile and when the shell is tough enough to be shipped.

The eggs are placed in about a dozen RSIs in Donkey Creek. Manning said one of the hardest tasks is cleaning the RSIs in preparation for the eggs. Each day, someone checks to be sure that the water flow is good and that no debris

from the creek has caused a problem.

Three months after the eggs are placed, the fish hatch and the fry swim out of the incubator to the creek and make their way to the harbor. A few years later, in November, they return. The return has been celebrated with the Annual Chum Festival since 2006.

The project at Purdy Creek is much smaller, Manning said. It started with a Peninsula High School project that is no longer active. About 15 years ago, Manning and a few friends scouted the creek, identified a good spot for an RSI and spoke to the landowners. They worked with the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group to get the incubators and eggs, and a few years later, about 20 fish returned. Now, with three incubators in place, the annual return is about 500 to 600 chum.

## NEW ONLINE CALENDAR

Enter your event online at keypennews.com. Click on "Submit an Event" and fill out the form. Events appear on the online calendar all month (after validation) and are printed here in the next edition.

## TECH HELP

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## SEPT. 2

## ROCK N ROLL DANCE

Celebrate Labor Day Weekend at the Longbranch Improvement Club with one of Seattle's premier bands playing your favorites from '70s, '80s and '90s. Doors open at 7 p.m. Food by Gnosh. Beer, wine and cocktails for 21+. Tickets at Sunnycrest, Blend and Longbranch Marina. \$12.50/advance; \$15/door

## COOL PLANTS

"Bogs of Doom," carnivorous pitcher plants and Venus flytraps and how to build a mini bog for a deck presented by Scott Valdera, a local grower with 25 years of experience. KC Library 7 p.m. Register at Piercescountylibrary.org/calendar.

## SEPT. 9

## WESTERN WASHINGTON LYME PICNIC

An afternoon gathering for Lyme patients and their families at the Gig Harbor Viewpoint in Point Defiance Park with guest speaker Jordan Fisher Smith, author of "Nature Noir" and "Engineering Eden." 2 to 5:30 p.m. www.metroparkstacoma.org/point-defiance-gig-harbor-picnic

## POLYNESIAN OHANA SERVICE /LUAU

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church hosts a Polynesian worship service and luau with guests Christian Warrior Cry from Puyallup. 3 to 6 p.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Rd KPN.

## SEPT. 11 &amp; 18

## QUILTERS MEET

Key Peninsula Quilters meet 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the meeting room at the Key Center Library. This is an open group for quilting, embroidery, general sewing, knitting and crochet. Come for the whole time or drop in.

## SEPT. 12

## CROCHET OR KNIT

The Loving Hearts group meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations welcomed and appreciated. lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com or Virginia, 253-884-9619

## SAFETY ON THE WEB

Learn to protect yourself from identity theft and online scams 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the KC Library. 253-548-3309

## KEY SINGERS CHORUS

Rehearsals start for the Christmas program and other events 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Rd. If you can carry a tune and enjoy music, you're invited. \$10 annual dues. 253-884-5615

## SEPT. 13

## BAYSHORE GARDEN CLUB MEETS

11 a.m. at the fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 253-332-4883

## SEPT. 14

## ASHES MEETING

The Ashes support group for FD#16 meets 10:30 a.m. at the fire station in Key Center. 253-884-3771

## SEPT. 8, 15, 22 &amp; 29

## FRIDAY SKATE NIGHTS

Skate Night at the KP Civic Center 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5. 253-884-3456

## SEPT. 16

## SUPPORT GROUP

The Lakebay Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group meets 11:15 a.m. to noon at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Rd KPN. Kimberly, 253-753-4270 or DBSALakebay@gmail.com

## SEPT. 17

## BLUEGRASS GOSPEL JAM

Longbranch Church 6 to 8:30 p.m. for all acoustic instruments, ages and skill levels. Everyone is welcome to play, sing or simply listen. Bring music stand and finger food to share; music and beverages are provided.

## SEPT. 18

## VETERANS MEETING

KP Veterans meet at 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church; 253-225-5130 or keypenveterans@outlook.com

## SEPT. 21

## AUTHOR LLYN DE DANAAN

Longbranch Improvement Club presents Llyn De Danaan, author of "Katie Gale: A Coast Salish Woman's Life on Oyster Bay." LIC 6:30 to 8 p.m.

## SEPT. 25

## SCRATCH CODING

Ages 8 to 18 use Scratch to learn basic coding and create an animated program 4:30 to 5:20 p.m. at the KC Library. Register at Piercescountylibrary.org/calendar.

## SEPT. 26

## NATIONAL REGISTER TO VOTE DAY

The League of Women Voters will provide assistance 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the KC Library to help folks exercise their constitutional right to vote. 253-548-3309

## SEPT. 28

## BOOK DISCUSSION

The Friends of the KC Library book group meets at 11 a.m. to discuss "Go Set a Watchman" by Harper Lee. Pick up a copy at the help desk. 253-548-3309

## SEPT. 29

## STOMP ROCKETS

Ages 6 and up create a stomp rocket and see how far it flies 11 a.m. at the KC Library. 253-548-3309

## SEPT. 30

## TWAA COLORS OF AUTUMN

The Two Waters Arts Alliance hosts its Colors of Autumn fundraiser. The evening will include a silent auction, music, hors d'oeuvres and cashless bar. The silent auction will include work from 25 artists. Volunteers welcome: Call Molly Swensen at 253-884-4223. \$35.00 per person. 6 to 9 p.m. info@twowaters.org.

## OFF THE KEY

## SEPT. 2

## PHS 1947-1962 REUNION

The 15th annual Fabulous '50s reunion for graduates and classmates of Peninsula High School from 1947 to 1962. 6 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Eagles. Donations asked to cover expenses. No meals served. Bring your Kwahaes yearbooks, photo albums and memories to share. 253-858-6901

## SEPT. 5, 12, 19 &amp; 26

## SUPPORT GROUP

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

## SEPT. 6

## DEMOCRATS MEET

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

## SEPT. 7

## RECOVERY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

The destruction of cultural resources from a disaster event causes remorse and hardship that impedes the recovery of the community. Help plan to ensure that laws and procedures are developed

and followed so that impacts to cultural resources can be minimized and the community can continue on a path to recovery. Washington State History Museum, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## SEPT. 8

## PULL FOR A SOLDIER

Trap shoot tournament benefits the Permission to Start Dreaming Foundation, which funds alternative therapy programs to help veterans and families with PTSD. Registration \$150/person or \$500/team of five. Bring your own hearing protection. Sportsman's Club, 9721 Burnham Drive, Gig Harbor. www.pullforasoldier.org

## SEPT. 9

## HARBOR HOUNDS CHARITY DOG WALK

Booths, services, fun and furry friends at this waterfront Gig Harbor charity dog walk between Skansie Park and Donkey Creek Park. www.harborhounds.com

## SEPT. 16

## WITNESS TO WARTIME EXHIBIT OPENS

Join curator Barbara Johns for the opening of an exhibition of Takuichi Fujii's artwork. A resident of Seattle, Fujii was incarcerated at the Puyallup Assembly Center and Minidoka Relocation Center during World War II along with thousands of other Japanese-American citizens. 2 p.m., Washington State History Museum

## SEPT. 20

## HISTORY TRIVIA HAPPY HOUR

Battle for the crown of history trivia! Facts, fun and prizes aplenty brought to you by the WA State Historical Society, City of Tacoma Historic Preservation Office and Tacoma Historical Society. Swiss Restaurant & Pub, 1904 Jefferson Ave in Tacoma. Minors welcome until 8:30 pm.

## SEPT. 23

## SUP IN THE HARBOR RACE &amp; PARADE

Stand Up for Peninsula Schools (SUP) is hosting the first stand up paddle boarding relay and parade. Event is for all ages and skills and includes an attempt to break a world record. 1 to 4 p.m. at Skansie Brothers Park.

## SEPT. 24

## RACE FOR A SOLDIER

This popular 5K and half-marathon benefits the Permission to Start Dreaming Foundation, helping veterans and their families with post-traumatic stress disorder. Start/finish at the Gig Harbor YMCA. Registration fees vary; discounts for active-duty military and veterans. www.raceforasoldier.com

**SEPT. 30**

**GLASS PUMPKINS UPTOWN**

Uptown Shopping Center's annual display of glass pumpkins until Halloween. Uptowngigharbor.com

**CIDER SWIG**

Sample over 80 hard ciders made by two-dozen regional cider makers at Sehmel Homestead Park. Gigharborfoundation.org

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

**MONDAYS & FRIDAYS**

**PLAY TO LEARN**

10 to 11:30 a.m. at KP Civic Center. Provided by Children's Museum of Tacoma. Free drop-in program for preschoolers under age 6 with adult caregivers.

**MON, WED & FRIDAYS**

**SENIOR EXERCISE**

S.A.I.L. class 10 to 11 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Participants register with Marilyn Perks, 253-884-4440.

**TUESDAYS**

**MARRIAGE CLASSES**

Seven sessions start Sept. 12 designed to help glorify God with our marriages. Class materials \$15 per couple, scholarships available; 6 to 8 p.m. WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Ave. KPN. Register at goo.gl/forms/QPQzri28cwEaCPEg1.

**BIBLE STUDY**

Women's Bible study 11 a.m. starting Sept. 12 at Grace Church on McEwan Road Bring a Bible and sack lunch and join a study of the Book of Acts.

**SENIOR TAI CHI**

Meets 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. 884-4440

**STORY TIMES**

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

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**

**PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME**

Beginning Sept. 12, the Children's Home Society/KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. Caregivers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. Tami, 884-5433

**SENIOR COMPUTER CLASS**

Class for ages 55+ at 10 a.m. at KP Community Services. This open forum is directed by your questions and needs, great for beginners or moderate users. 884-4440

**TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS**

**KP MUSEUM "THEN AND NOW"**

Key Peninsula Historic Society museum features "Then and Now" exhibit with special focus on the Vaughn Library Hall. Artifacts, pictures and stories from the whole KP. Free admission, located at the KP Civic Center. 253-888-3246

**WEDNESDAYS**

**READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS**

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

**BLEND HOOKERS AND TINKERS**

Does your fiber diet include skeins of yarn? Join us from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Blend Wine Shop for a rollicking good time. Bring projects, questions, show-and-tell, or just hang out with a fabulous group. All skill levels and fiber interests, must be 21+. Email hannah8ball@gmail.com.

**LAKEBAY WRITERS WORKSHOP**

A workshop for people who love stories. Share yours. Hear others. 1 to 4 p.m. at the KC Library. Loren Aikins, 253-884-2785

**WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS**

**SENIOR MEALS**

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

**THURSDAYS**

**SENIORS LUNCH**

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

**PROMOTE YOUR EVENT IN THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**NEW WEBSITE CALENDAR ADDED**

Publicize your special event, meeting or gathering with a free listing in the Community Calendar, at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com). Enter all the details including who, what, where, when and sometimes why. After proofreading, your event will be added to the web calendar as well as the monthly printed version. This new feature has been generously underwritten by The Angel Guild as part of their ongoing support of the Key Peninsula community.

**SATURDAYS**

**WRITERS GUILD**

The Writers Guild meets the first and third Saturday 10 a.m. to noon in the Community Council Office, Suite D at the KC Corral. 253-884-6455

**PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**Sept. 4, McNeil Island meeting** for those concerned about future of McNeil. 6 p.m., Lakebay Marina, markscott@lakebaymarina.com

**Sept. 6, 13, 20 & 27, KP Youth Council**, meets every Wednesday, 3 to 5:15 p.m., KC fire station; keypenncouncil@gmail.com

**Sept. 6 & 20, KP Lions**, 7 p.m., KC fire station; 253-853-2721

**Sept. 11, KP Parks**, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park office; public welcome. 253-884-9240

**Sept. 12 & 26, KP Fire Dept.**, 5 p.m., KC fire station; keypeninsulafire.org

**Sept. 12, KP Community Council**, 7 p.m., KC fire station

**Sept. 14, Peninsula School District Board**, 6 p.m., district office

**Sept. 14, TWAA Board**, 7 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; info@twowaters.org

**Sept. 14, KP Civic Center Assn. Board**, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; 253-884-3456

**Sept. 18, KP Democrats**, 7 p.m., Home fire station; johnpatkelly@aol.com

**Sept. 20, Longbranch Improvement Club**, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting, LIC; 253-884-6022

**Sept. 20, KP Advisory Commission**, 6:30 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; co.pierce.wa.us for agenda; Toni Fairbanks, 253-798-7156

**Sept. 20, KP Citizens Against Crime**, 7 p.m., KC fire station

**Sept. 25, KP Farm Council**, 6:30 p.m., in the Community Offices Suite D at the KC Corral; c.wiley@mac.com

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



*Angel Guild Thrift Shop*

**Open 10-4**  
**Tuesday to Saturday in the Key Center Corral 253 884-9333**  
 Donations: Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 3:30  
 P.O. Box 703, Vaughn WA 98394

Share the good news with the whole community

**Feature an engagement, wedding, birth or birthday announcement.**

Give special attention to a special personal event with an announcement ad in the KP News.



Simply provide a crisp photo and up to 50 words, we'll do the rest. Send, along with your phone number, to editor@keypennews.com. We'll send a proof before we print.

1/8 PAGE EXAMPLE SHOWN HALF SIZE

Rates: 3 lines of text, no photo \$30  
 1/16 page b&w announcement \$75  
 1/8 page color announcement \$175  
 Deadline: 15th of month before publication



**FOOD BY GNOSH**

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND  
ROCK & ROLL  
DANCE**

**KNEE DEEP**

FEATURING YOUR FAVORITE 70's & 80's GREATEST DANCE HITS

**Saturday Sept 2 8-11pm**  
**LONGBRANCH IMPROVEMENT CLUB**

253/884-6022 Facebook or www.licweb.org 4312 Key Peninsula Hwy  
 TICKETS \$15/DOOR \$12.50/ADVANCE AT SUNNYCREST, BLEND & MARINA

**Seeking Board of Directors  
for the Key Peninsula  
Community Council**



Become a part of  
our community

**KPC Council Umbrella**  
 KP School Bus Connects  
 KP Youth Council  
 KP Farm Tour  
 KP Partnership for a Health Community:  
 Transportation, Hunger, Health & Wellness  
 KPAC: KP/Pierce County Land Use Advisory  
 Candidates Forum  
 County & State Liaison

Applications due October 31.  
 Forms on line [www.kpcouncil.org](http://www.kpcouncil.org) and at  
 Community Office-KC Corral

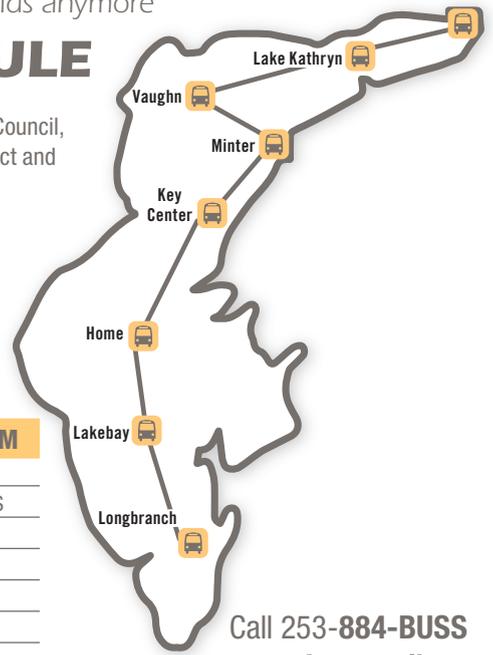
**KP SCHOOL BUS CONNECTS**

**FREE Community Transportation for All Ages**  
 KP Bus Connects Key Center, Lake Kathryn, Volunteer Park, KPCS & Food Bank,  
 local stops, Peninsula High School and Purdy Park & Ride

School buses aren't just for kids anymore

**FALL SCHEDULE**

A partnership with the KP Community Council,  
 Puget Sound Educational Service District and  
 the Peninsula School District.



Call 253-884-BUSS  
 or [www.kp.council.org](http://www.kp.council.org)

**EVERGREEN TUES & THURS AM**

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

**EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY AM**

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

**VAUGHN TUES & THURS AM**

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

**VAUGHN WEDNESDAY AM**

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

**TUESDAY & THURSDAY MIDDAY**

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

**TUES, WED & THURS PM**

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

PLEASE ALLOW ±10 MINUTES YOUTH UNDER 12 ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT NO BIKES

## The Mustard Seed Project

### Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula

We're at the Crandall Center 9016 - 154th Ave. Ct. KPN  
in UPTOWN Key Center

Announcing our newest offering,  
in partnership with Two Waters Arts Alliance:

#### “So You’ve Always Wanted To Try...”

A series of art classes especially for older adults  
to explore their creative talents in a supportive environment.

Fridays beginning September 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – noon

**September – Basics of Drawing with Adria Hanson**

**October – Beginning Watercolors with Patty Finnigan**

**November – Try Mixed Media with Pat Thompson**

at The Crandall Center - \$20 for 4 classes/month, call to register

Our September Third Thursday Community Forum  
in partnership with KP Fire District 16:

**Falls Prevention & Home Safety with Anne Nesbit**  
Thursday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 10 am, Crandall Center Always FREE

Office Hours Mon – Fri, 10 am to 4 pm 253 - 884 – 9814

Visit our website: [www.themustardseedproject.org](http://www.themustardseedproject.org)

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## WayPoint Church...pointing the way to Jesus

Sunday Services 9am, 10:45am & 6pm

12719 134th Ave KPN 853-7878

★ Register Online for Classes Starting Later this Month ★  
[www.waypoint-church.org](http://www.waypoint-church.org)

### Marriage Class

*You and Me Forever* by Francis and Lisa Chan, Tuesday Evenings

### Community Groups

Meeting in homes to learn more about God and each other.

**Women’s Bible Studies-** Tuesday Evenings & Thursday Afternoons

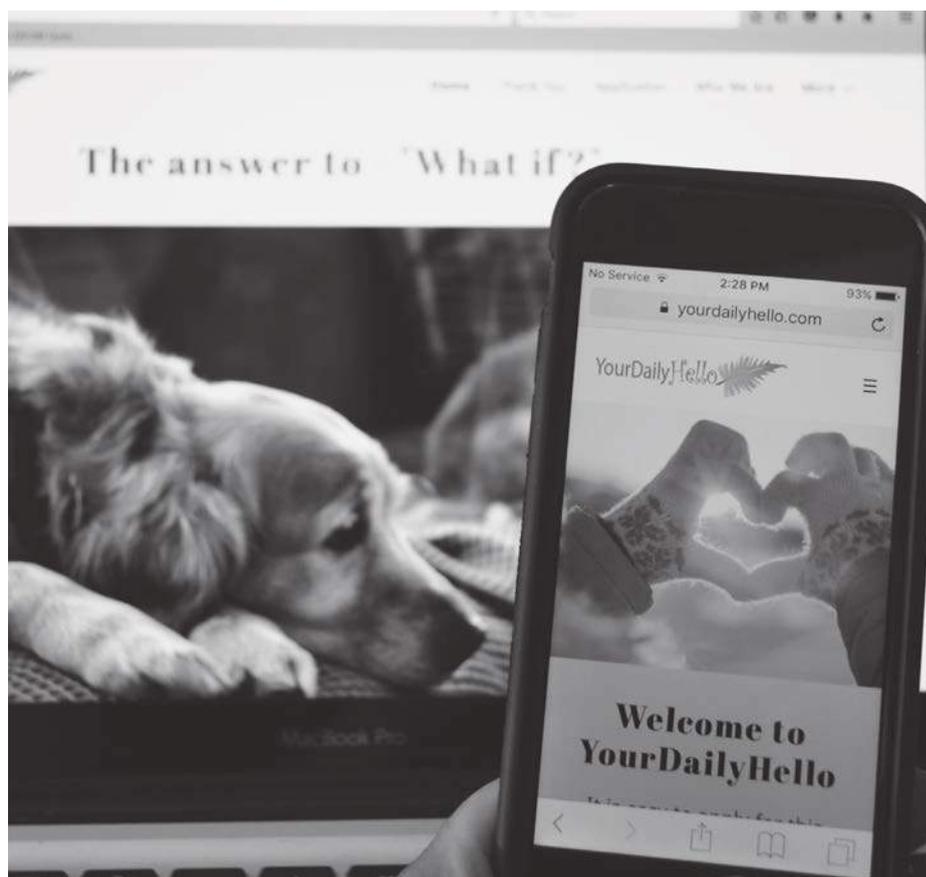
*Luke, Who is this Man Who Forgives Sins? A Precepts Study*

*Life’s Healing Choices...Freedom from Your Hurts, Hang-ups and Habits* Thursdays only

**Men’s Bible Study**

**MOPS**

*1 & 2 Samuel, Tuesday Evenings* Starting September 11th



Your Daily Hello gives people who live alone an extra layer of security. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

## Your Daily Hello: New Business Opens in Home

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

From the dining room of the house where she grew up in Home, Lori Deacon reaches across the country using technology to check in on her clients with Your Daily Hello.

While living alone, Deacon wondered if her farm animals would die of thirst before anyone was aware that something might have happened to keep her from tending them. She came up with the concept of a daily email subscription service that she has turned into a licensed corporation and an entrepreneurial business venture with her partner and marketing director, Leah Perfect, a recent transplant to the Key Peninsula.

Their mission is “to step into action before anyone else would even know there is a problem,” Deacon said. “We are up and running this month, giving an extra layer of safety for those who are caregivers, those who live alone and those who work from home.” Her service is a wellness check with guaranteed follow-up within 24 hours, she said. “It enables members to feel safer and stay independent, even without regular contact from the outside world. Those who are really vulnerable should have Life Alert, which is \$30 a month versus \$30 a year for our company.”

Your Daily Hello has an added compo-

nent for pets and animals that share property with the member, so first responders will know who needs care and any special needs that must be met.

“This venture resonates with my heart for seniors and those with disabilities and others who want to stay at home and be independent,” Perfect said. “I just latched onto it when Lori called to tell me we were going to do this.”

Membership costs \$30 a year, and nonprofit affiliates can qualify for a local donation of \$5.00 per subscription, Deacon said. “I’m teaching myself code to make it more techno-savvy moving forward,” Deacon said. “I didn’t know I was going to launch a dot-com. It’s almost like it was fate.”

“Our membership goal is 1,000 a month, 10,000 a year,” Deacon said. She has plans for building out office space on her property overlooking Joe’s Bay and Mount Rainier and hiring employees to take on the customer service aspect of this new startup.

“Growing up here, living in this house, knowing this concept evolved from my own head, I like the idea that this started here and having it go nationwide,” she said. “To come up with an idea and know it is a really good idea is so much fun.”

For more information, go to [www.your-dailyhello.com](http://www.your-dailyhello.com).

# Unforgotten History: The Old German Lutheran Cemetery



Original tombstones are still well maintained. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

The German Lutheran Cemetery of Longbranch is off the beaten path, but exploration reveals a story of immigration, faith, pride and prejudice in the melting pot of America.

Like many waves of hopeful migrants to the United States, German immigrants were not eagerly accepted into late 19th century American society. Frequently mocked in their new country, newcomers found in the Key Peninsula a familiar landscape and enjoyed easy fellowship with other German speakers. Eager to build a church of their own, its founders took heart in the idea of worshipping God in their native tongue away from public scorn.

“Many German families had abandoned their homeland to escape the hopeless poverty of the lower classes and to save their sons from the Kaiser’s military conscriptions,” according to R.T. Arledge’s 1998 history, “Early Days of the Key Peninsula.”

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity was founded in 1889. After meeting in private homes that first year, construction was completed in 1890. Built on eight donated acres, conveniently located along the main wagon road between Longbranch and Lakebay (now the intersection of 158th Avenue KPS and 24th Street

KPS), the gleaming white church with its tall steeple became the landmark of the fledgling community. Acreage allowed room for a proper cemetery. The church welcomed Scandinavian Lutherans but sermons and hymns were exclusively in German.



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity was built in 1890. It burned in 1971, one in a string of unsolved KP arsons. *Courtesy KP Historical Society*

Burial rights in the cemetery were at first restricted to parishioners. Later policies permitted burials of other denominations, although sale of the \$3 cemetery plots strictly excluded the “unbaptized” and “freethinkers.”

Early church records were written entirely in German. Meticulously translated into English for historic preservation by Arledge, the first few English words appeared in the church records in 1905, written by August

Rückert. The language slip may have been inevitable; in a single generation the name of Rückert became Rickert.

Real church growth was restricted by the language they sought to preserve—a regular point of contention between church elders and others more willing to adapt to American culture. Membership dwindled and debts piled up. The final entry in parish records was made in October 1916.

The old shell of the church stood neglected for over half a century. The church bell was rumored to have gone to the war effort in World War II. In 1971, the building was destroyed in a string of unsolved arsons that burned several Longbranch homes and the lighthouse on Filucy Bay’s McDermott Point.

Were it not for the tax collectors, the old cemetery might have been forgotten. A longstanding property tax error resulted in the accidental billing of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Tacoma and ironically resulted in new life for the small cemetery.

Pastor Wagner of the then new Key Peninsula Lutheran Church received a letter in the early 1980s from St. Paul’s Lutheran Church explaining the situation. Payment of approximately \$700 in back taxes was required to save the German Lutheran Cemetery, according to Jim Davis of Longbranch, church member and sexton of the cemetery.

Conflicting accounts remain of who exactly raised the \$700 to save the old cemetery, but the debt was paid to bring it back under Key Peninsula ownership. A nonprofit association was formed to govern the cemetery in a cooperative joint venture between remaining descendants and the KP Lutheran Church. The property was logged and \$18,000 from the timber sale, coupled with sales of new plots, funds continued maintenance and upkeep.

The late Ross Bischoff, a member of the Lutheran Church who died in 2008, initially took on the cemetery as one of his many community projects and is now buried there alongside his parents and wife, Joyce, who preceded him in death.

“After Ross died, we fenced the roadside, installed a gate and focused our attention on trying to make it look decent,” Davis said.

“The cemetery association decided no further burials will take place in the historic portion of the cemetery, to honor those early pioneers,” Davis said. “Numerous plots are available for purchase by residents of the Key Peninsula at \$200 each, regardless of religious preference. We plan to be here a long time.”

For more information, see “Early Days of the Key Peninsula” by R.T. Arledge, KP Historical Society, 1989.



From left to right, Eric, Manuela and Mathew Moreland own and operate Glen Cove Repair on the hill above Key Center. Photo: Danna Webster, KP News

## Family Owned and Operated

DANNA WEBSTER, KP NEWS

The Glen Cove Repair automotive business materialized from the study, planning and determination of Eric Moreland's youngest son, Mathew in 2012.

After graduating from Peninsula High School, Mathew started planning an automotive repair business built upon the foundation of his father's successful experience. Together, father and son studied and practiced in a little remodeled garage near their home. With the addition of technician Riley Bilyeu, the business grew, justifying a larger facility. The machine shop on the hill above Key Center seemed the right new location. Five years later, it is a thriving, successful business for the Moreland family partnership.

Mathew said the best way to learn auto mechanics is from experience. "I could barely do an oil change," he said. He learned everything from his father and Bilyeu. "It's hard to learn from a book in this world. The book tells you two different things to do. And at least half the time that's wrong," Mathew said.

Father-to-son lessons and support are traditions in the Moreland family. Eric Moreland had the benefit of his father's accounting skills as he developed an automotive repair business on the Key Peninsula 28 years ago. He started with a parts store called Riley's located on the northwest corner of the Key Center intersection and added the Black Forest automotive garage in 2002. He ran both businesses until the demands of retail were consuming his time seven days a week. He turned his focus strictly to auto repair at Moreland and Sons until he sold it to Absolute Auto in 2007.

"After five years off, Mathew and I started talking; he was looking to do this," Eric said. Many of Eric's former customers returned

to Glen Cove Repair. Dealing correctly with customers means treating them the way the Morelands expect to be treated, Eric said. Give them facts, options and some guidance. How to repair the car is ultimately the customer's decision. According to Eric, Mathew's projects are affordable and assure that the shop has the right equipment and right quality for the safety of the technicians. "He's the one who built the business," Eric said. "Our plan is to retire."

Consideration and support of the community is key to the Moreland's business practices, Eric said. These range from Christmas parties to calls to join them donating to Key Peninsula services, including the year they gave 800 pounds of food and \$1,000 to Food Backpacks 4 Kids.

Eric's favorite cause was the Passion Project, a work-training program developed by KP resident Dennis Taylor and the YMCA for students who had been expelled or suspended from high school. The students met every Saturday morning for three months to learn basic mechanics. Eric designed the study modules, cleaned the shop and made the coffee. The students' work was graded and the class was evaluated as a success.

"I have had a great time out here," Eric said about his 28 years in business. "Seeing people's (customers') kids driving in their cars to us. It's neat to be part of that community. And all three shops do a great job," he said, explaining that all three automotive shops on the Key Peninsula do good work and that the Key Peninsula can support all three. He said that "Jay [Key Center Auto] started in 2003 and Jim [Absolute Auto] started in 2007. Pat, at Northwest Auto [retired] first," Eric said. "I've enjoyed this. I want Matt to have a good chance to be successful."

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A sheep being shorn at Kaukiki Farm. Photo: Anna Brones

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

After shearing time at Kaukiki Farm in Longbranch last spring, local artist, knitter and weaver Britta Brones described the steps it takes to turn fleece into fashion.

"First, the sheep is shorn," she said. "The fleece is then flattened onto the floor and 'skirted'; the matted and dirtiest parts are discarded. Lanolin, the moisturizer in wool, acts as a mild detergent and so if the fleece is just placed in a container and covered with water it will foam. It is lightly agitated by hand and squeezed until the water is

the color of mud (the water makes good plant fertilizer). Once it is dry, the fibers are teased apart and then carded if needed, and finally spun into a skein of yarn. The skein of yarn is washed again, this time with mild liquid detergent or shampoo. Once dry it is ready to use for knitting or weaving."

Learn more about wool and weaving at the 10th Annual Fiber Arts Festival, part of the Key Peninsula Farm Tour at the Longbranch Improvement Club Oct. 7. The festival features more than two-dozen artists who demonstrate, exhibit and sell their work.



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Skirting the fleece. Photo: Britta Brones



↑ Washed fleece. Photo: Joseph Pentheroudakis ↓ Skein of yarn. Photo: Britta Brones



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Loyd and Sharon Miller are returning to their roots in Tacoma. Photo: Colleen Slater, KP News

## Longtime Community Volunteers Moving On

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

One night many years ago, when both of them were at a dance at the Spanish Castle in Des Moines, Loyd tapped Sharon on the shoulder and asked for a dance.

“I don’t tango,” she said, as the music played.

“Neither do I,” he said. But they danced.

Now, Loyd and Sharon Miller, Palmer Lake residents and stalwart community volunteers for 26 years, have moved back to Tacoma. Both Loyd and Sharon grew up there in different areas.

When they were considering a move in 1991, Sharon’s dad said “You guys ought to check the Key Peninsula.” He had visited a few times to pick up a man who worked for him.

Her dad drove them around the area and they opted to buy 18 acres that had been logged a few years prior adjacent to Palmer Lake.

“It was like a huge meadow,” Sharon said, “Ox-eye daisies all over.”

They built their home and both had their gardens. Loyd had the berries and fruit orchard; Sharon had flowers.

After living here a couple of years, Sharon realized the advantages of community—people who know and care about each other and want to make where they live a better place.

Sharon was the major force behind the founding of the Lakebay Fuchsia Society and was the first of the two to volunteer for the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association.

Marge Radonich invited her to help with the Flavors of Fall event. Claudia Loy met them and invited Loyd to attend

a civic center meeting.

“I agreed to be involved and was immediately elected to the board executive committee, as they were short a member,” Loyd said.

He also became a member of the Key Peninsula News publishing board.

“Loyd and Sharon were pretty low key,” said Phil Bauer, a former KPCCA president. “They did contribute to the center for many years with little fanfare. Loyd was our maintenance guy and spent many hours keeping our old facility running.”

Loyd helped Nancy Lind organize the founding of Volunteer Park and worked on passing local levies.

“One year we got a levy passed,” Loyd said. “I’m so glad it’s (Key Pen Parks) now in the Metro Park system.”

As much as they love their home here with their gardens, decent neighbors and lots of birds, “It’s getting to be too much for us,” Sharon said.

The other negatives are the increased traffic, long distances to places, limited shopping, local gunfire and deer eating their plants.

Their new home is the former house of Sharon’s recently deceased sister. “It’s a comfortable home with a smaller yard,” Sharon said. Loyd will have much less mowing.

They plan to spend the first year getting the roof and electrical panels replaced, then putting their personal touches on the interior.

A big plus is being closer to their family and not paying bridge tolls.

Their friendships and involvement in the community will be missed, but Sharon said, “We’ll still subscribe to the KP News.”

## KP’s Own Future Astronaut Impresses at Johns Hopkins

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Vaughn resident Mackenzie Mills, 19, completed her freshman year at Johns Hopkins University this year with a place on the dean’s list. Mills is pursuing a double major in physics and Earth and planetary sciences, along with a minor in space science engineering. “Students who earn a term grade-point average of 3.5 or above in a program of at least 14 credits with at least 12 graded credits” are honored for their academic excellence, according to the university.

“I’ve decided to study physics because of the astronomical and mathematical applications, and planetary science builds on that,” Mills said. “My ultimate goal is to become a NASA astronaut and live on Mars, so planetary science is perfect.”

Mills, whose parents are both educators, attended elementary and middle school on the KP and graduated with a 4.0 GPA



KP native Mackenzie Mills is entering her sophomore year at Johns Hopkins University on a full scholarship. Courtesy Mackenzie Mills

from Peninsula High School in 2016. Johns Hopkins offered her a scholarship covering the entire cost of her tuition.

“I would say that my high school years earned my scholarship for me,” she said. “I knew the basic direction of where I wanted to go and worked very hard, both academically and in my extracurricular activities, to

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make my resume and application strong.”

Mills also offered advice for her fellow Seahawks at PHS.

“Take advantage of all the opportunities before you; there’s so many of them if you only take the time to look,” she said. “The AP classes can give you an academic stretch if you want and the teachers are there to help you. Also, the KP community offers so many volunteer opportunities. I would say the best steps are to discover what you love and then find a way to pursue that.”

Leaving home to live on another coast and in a new culture brought its own challenges.

“It was actually very strange to leave last fall because I have lived here (on the KP) my entire life,” Mills said. “When I arrived in Baltimore, it was completely different than anything I had ever experienced before. However, I enjoy living on the East Coast much more than I thought—but don’t tell my parents (Matt and Lisa)”

In spite of her ambition, Mills said her plans for the future are “pretty nebulous.”

“I am excited for the career opportunities that await me on the East Coast because many of NASA’s space centers tend to be in the east or southeast of the United States,” she said. “But though I do love my studies at Hopkins, there’s something about the place you grew up that cannot be replaced.”



There’s more to the library than meets the eye: Librarians Rosina Vertz (left) and Carol Dike are ready to assist. Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News

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## It’s Not All About Books Anymore

DON TJSSEM, KP NEWS

Remember the “good old days” when the library was a place where you checked out books and returned them in two weeks or so? Many of us have this recollection of libraries, but there are many more features now; some if you have a current library card, and some if you do not.

Computer access is free at the Key Center branch of the Pierce County Library; specific times may be reserved if you have a library card. The library website is available in four languages: English, Korean, Spanish and Russian. The Key Center Library also provides workshops sponsored by The Friends of the Library to learn about 3D printing. There are many more sessions available on many topics.

Free museum passes are available to library cardholders on a first-come, first served basis. Partnering museums include the Harbor History Museum, Museum of Glass, Tacoma Art Museum and Wash-

ington State History Museum.

Online help with homework is available most days from 1 to 10 p.m. in Spanish or English to library cardholders. This service is free and may be accessed from a home computer as well as the library.

Reciprocal agreements with other libraries, including the Tacoma Public Library, Seattle Public Library, Kitsap Regional Library, the King County Library System and others allow people who live in one service area to check out books and other materials from another library for free. This service may be particularly valuable to individuals who are commuting outside of the Key Peninsula area for some reason.

If you know of a community service organization that needs a meeting place, there may be a room available at the Key Center branch of the library. Reservations may be made online after registering the organization.

An online writing lab is available to cardholders who would like input on any

projects or documents they are writing. Normally the turnaround time on this service is less than two days.

It is not original to say “Ask a librarian,” but if you haven’t in some time it is time to do so again. The Key Center Library is open every day but Sunday. For more information, call 253-548-3309 or go to: [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org).

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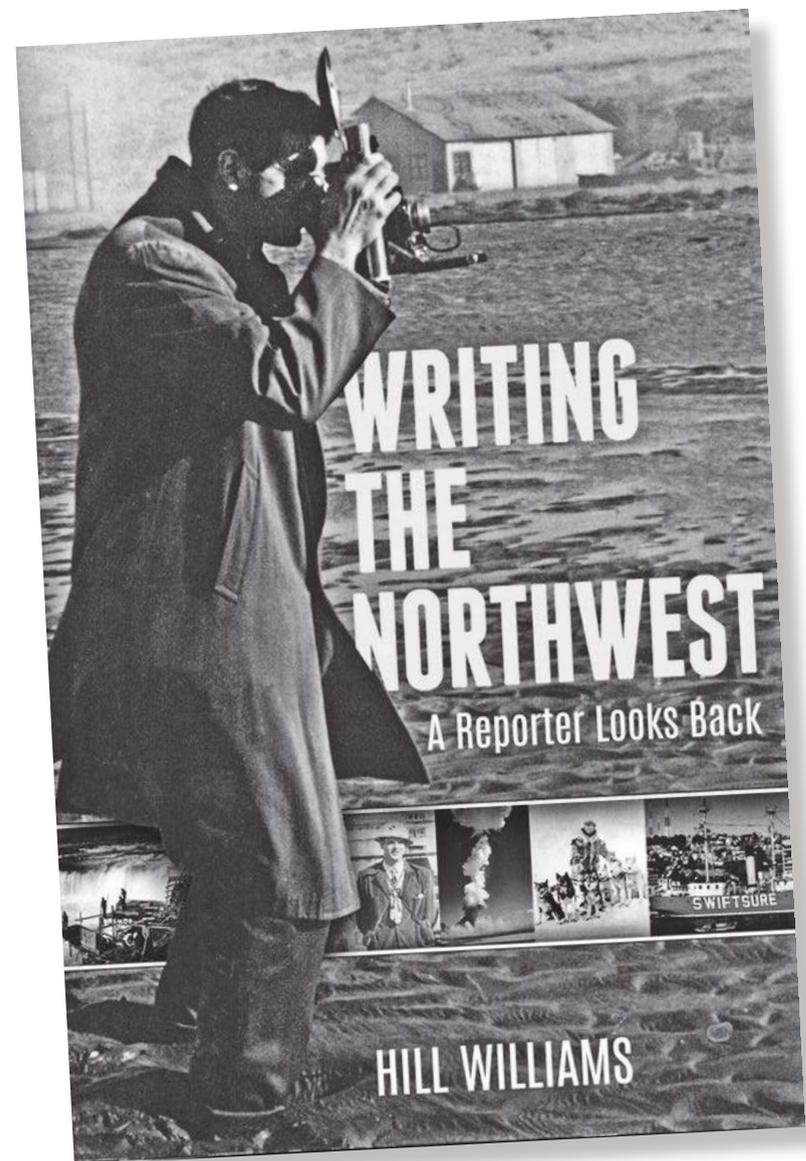
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### "Writing the Northwest: A Reporter Looks Back"

by Hill Williams WSU Press 2017

REVIEWED BY IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

Being at the right place at the right time seems to be a theme in this homey memoir of Hill Williams, veteran Northwest reporter.

From Williams' stories of growing up in small town Washington in the 1930s to his witnessing major world events through the 1990s as a science writer for The Seattle Times to his visit to the People's Republic of China, he was there and he wrote about it.

In the book, Williams recalls the wheat fields and sagebrush of Eastern Washington and a time before The Dalles dam floodwaters covered Celilo Falls when salmon could be bought for 25 cents. He remembers his early years living as a bachelor in boarding houses on Queen Anne in Seattle. He remembers interviewing Harry Truman before he was buried in the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens.

Williams visited Pacific atolls and assessed the fallout from nuclear testing there and documented watching an atomic bomb blast in Nevada in 1952. He wrote of the Columbia Basin irrigation project and the early days of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. He admits that he learned geology and science on the job, in a time before computers placed the world at our fingertips. He weaves in details of his travels as he reminisces about his life as a journalist in this, his third book by WSU Press.

Williams' style is clear, simple and straightforward—befitting a journalist of his years and experience. His book is more a recording of his personal recollections than documentation of history from a journalistic perspective.

Being from the same hometown (Pasco), some of his references to that part of the state brought a sense of nostalgia to me, as it will to anyone familiar with the newspaper writing style of a bygone era.

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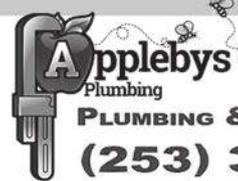
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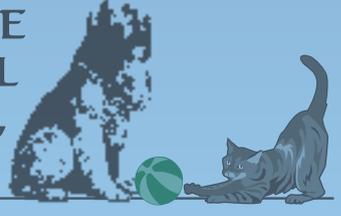



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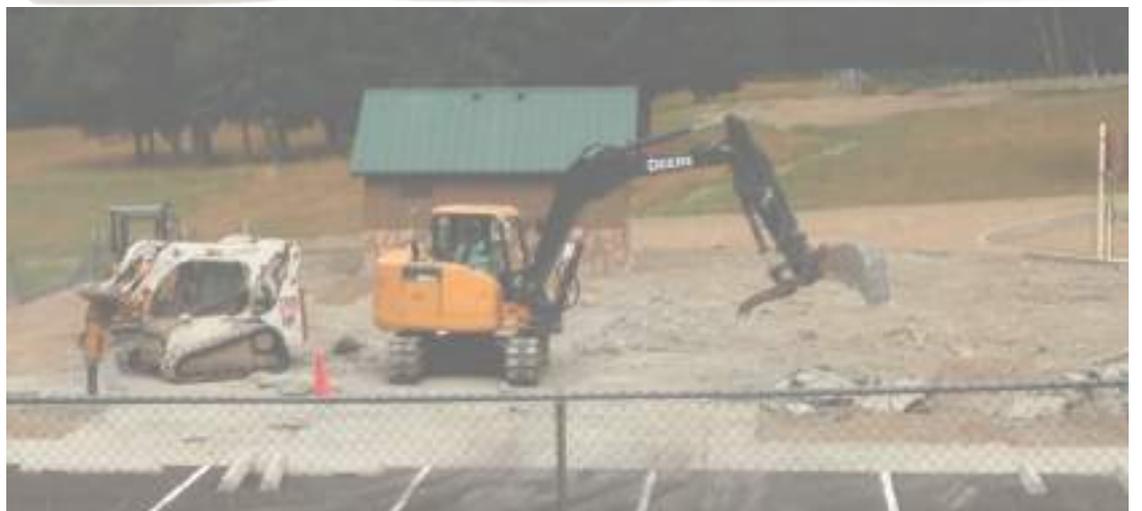
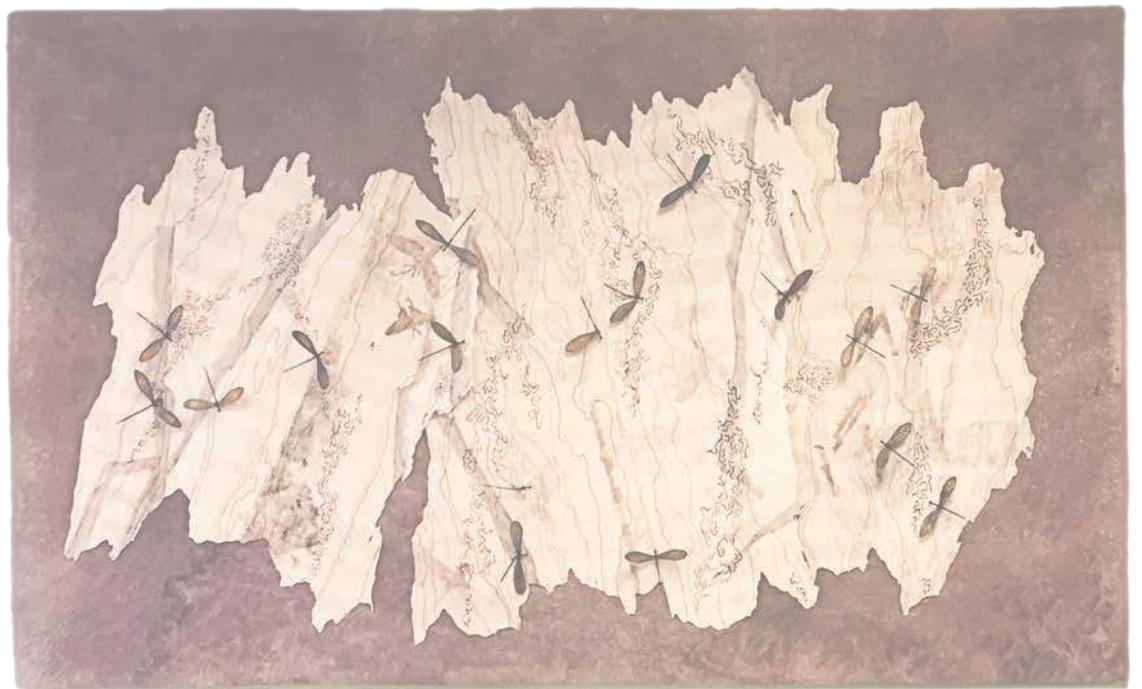
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**Top left:** August sunset tinged with the smoke of wildfires, looking west across Case Inlet. *Photo: Steve West*  
**Top right:** A male Anna's hummingbird takes a break from the summer heat. *Photo: Daniel Jackson*  
**Middle:** The third annual Art Walk Aug. 3 organized by Two Waters Arts Alliance included an exhibit at the Key Center Library of the work of local artists, including a collage of dragon flies by Barbara Lee Smith. This and other work will be auctioned at TWAA's Colors of Autumn fundraiser at the KP Civic Center Sept. 30. *Photo: Helen Dodge*  
**Lower left:** KP artist Magnolia Pearl Furstenwerth, age 5, ready for action at the Art Walk. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*  
**Above:** Contractors had to replace a large stretch of concrete at their own expense at the new Gateway Park in Wauna in August when it failed to set correctly. "Whatever the problems are, we want to solve them now instead of down the road sometime," said Scott Gallacher, executive director of Key Pen Parks. *Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News*