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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

April 2018 Vol. 45 No. 4

Lakebay Girl Drowns

STAFF REPORT

Lacey Renee Foy of Lakebay, 8, died March 21 at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma after being found unconscious in a pool at the Tom Taylor Family YMCA in Gig Harbor March 17.

According to a statement issued by the YMCA, Lacey was in the instructional pool around 2 p.m. with 11 children and 9 adults, including an adult family member, under the supervision of three lifeguards when she was found submerged and unresponsive. Lifeguards and bystanders performed CPR and Gig Harbor Medic One transported her to Mary Bridge, but she never regained consciousness.

Lacey was a second-grader at Evergreen Elementary School.

Peninsula School District Superintendent Rob Manahan said in a statement, "It is my understanding that Lacey was a bright light who inspired all who knew her with her sweet and joyful personality. As a district family, we are especially saddened as Lacey was the daughter of one of our bus drivers."

Lacey's father, Adam Foy, is a substitute bus driver for the district. He lost his younger daughter to brain cancer four years ago.

Plans for a memorial service are underway, according to a friend of the family.



Lacey Foy enjoys a 2017 field trip to Penrose State Park. *Courtesy Evergreen Elementary*



Olympic Mountains in full spring glory, captured on a March afternoon from Vaughn. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

School Superintendent Argues for Construction Bond at Community Meeting

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

With a 20-year \$220 million school bond measure going to voters April 24, Peninsula School District Superintendent Rob Manahan is on a mission: to inform the public how this capital bond measure came to be and why he believes it is vital to act now in order to meet the opportunities and challenges facing the growing district.

"The district's facilities planning committee, including nearly 115 community members coming and going over nine months, made recommendations to the school board last October," Manahan said March 1 at a community meeting at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center—one of 70 such meetings he will address between January and Election Day. "We consulted the engineering department from WSU, administrators, teachers and students, in order to assess the overall conditions of each school."

Manahan said the committee identified needs to update safety and security at decades-old school buildings; replace outdated infrastructure; replace systems and

equipment that are no longer cost-effective to maintain and repair; address overcrowding that fails to meet the maximum class size mandated by the state; and update and enhance learning environments to provide the necessary intellectual and vocational skills for students to be successful in today's world.

"All of our buildings will be over 30 years old by 2023; most of them are 40, 60, or in the case of Peninsula High School, 70 years old," Manahan said. "People have asked me what we've been doing about preventative maintenance, 'Why don't you keep your buildings up to par?'"

"How many people keep their cars past 300,000 miles?" he said. "After a while that engine just can't keep going."

"About \$1 million in maintenance goes to Peninsula High School every year, just to keep it up," said PSD Chief Information Officer Kris Hagel, who also attended the meeting.

"But there is confusion about the 'maintenance' of the maintenance and operation levies we have," he said. "Maintenance' refers to maintenance of our programs

more than maintenance of our buildings. So, to maintain a science program that works, you have to provide materials and equipment to keep it up and staff for those positions. That's what levies pay for."

The district would also like to build a new elementary school to address overcrowding. "We tried redistricting and it didn't work; kids keep showing up," said board President Marcia Harris at the meeting.

"The board is having a discussion and finalizing where (a new elementary school will be). We own 94 acres by the fire station headquarters (on Bujacich Road NW) but that property doesn't have any infrastructure. There's a lot of traffic at the other site we own (near the YMCA off Borgen Boulevard), so there are trade-offs."

"This is the way we fund schools in Washington state," Manahan said: "Bonds are for building. Levies are for learning."

"With a bond, we are kind of taking out a loan, like you would with a house," he said. "The interest rate is about 4.4 percent. With the bond, we are asking you to increase

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SCHOOL BOND FROM PAGE 1

your tax rate by 45 cents per thousand more than what we're currently getting and that additional 45 cents will cover the \$220 million and the interest in 20 years, provided it goes that long."

The last school bond passed by the voters was in 2003 for \$45 million and became the foundation for the district's existing capital budget. "We did everything with that bond we said we were and more," Manahan said. "That was a 20-year bond as well but that's going to be paid off in 2019. Plus, we refinanced it twice along the way, so that saved taxpayers dollars in terms of interest."

Many in the audience expressed concern about the increased tax burden the bond would bring.

"Our M&O levy is \$1.98 (per \$1,000 of assessed property value)," he said. "When McCleary kicks in at 84 cents, we drop down our levy rate to \$1.50. That will offset it a bit, but it's going to hurt."

On March 8, after this meeting, the Legislature approved a supplemental budget to increase spending on public schools to comply with the state Supreme Court's McCleary decision to fund basic education. Property taxes will be reduced from \$2.70 per \$1,000 in assessed value to \$2.40 starting in 2019 and lasting at least until the state passes its next budget. Manahan addressed the tax burden if the bond passes before this occurred.

"I want to be clear about this, because I've been accused of lying," he said. "The total bond is a 79-cent package per thousand. But to you (the taxpayer), it's an increase of only 45 cents (over the existing bond). We'll retire the old bond a year after the new one passes, but you won't be paying both.

"If the average home in the district is \$400,000, it will cost you an extra \$15 a month," Manahan said. "Is the value that we get from our schools worth it? You have to make that decision."

Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN, EDITOR, KP NEWS

True confession: I am not a Facebook user.

Fortunately I have friends who send interesting tidbits they think I might find useful for the newspaper. The following Facebook post from Joe Hendricks Feb. 26 had me smiling from ear to ear:

"Yesterday my friend Ron and I were solving all the world's problems in front of my fireplace. And then the topic of our local Key Pen Newspaper came up—we were both bragging about how refreshingly different it is from most media! The balance between uplifting, inspiring stories as well as sad news. Stories and event calendars that encourage locals to get out to help and enjoy each other. Stories of practical use that help citizens handle property or business frustrations instead of just instilling anger. Love the KP!"

A print version of Joe's Facebook post lives on the bulletin board above my desk. It's why our staff loves being part of the Key Peninsula News team and reminds me, as editor, of the importance of balance in our lives together as a community.

Most of my extended family uses Facebook, some with greater abandon than others. After years of badgering, I succumbed to the pressure and briefly had a Facebook account. I admit, at first it was fun but overall it wasn't my cup of tea. It was about that time I learned the letters TMI stood for "too much information." I deactivated my account after seeing people I genuinely like posting things they would never think to share face to face in a social setting, at least I hoped they wouldn't. In my neck of the woods we call that "dogs behind a fence syndrome."

Great good has been accomplished

through the power of social media and to a certain degree it is the great equalizer. In theory, any of us with a smartphone has access to the exactly the same tool as the President of the United States to get our messages out—raw, unfiltered and unvarnished. When you stop to think about this, it's quite amazing. Granted, more people care to "follow" those who wield great power and influence, but the tool to deliver a message is essentially the same. One smartphone, a short message and maybe even a hashtag and you too can tweet. Well, you'll have to sign up for Twitter, but it's free, right?



As Ted Olinger wrote in "Following Things on Facebook? Facebook is Following You, Too" (KP News, January 2018) our online privacy is far from assured.

Free search engines, email and social media come at a price. A day of reckoning is near as both Facebook and Google's business models face intense scrutiny by users. It remains to be seen if technology is seductive enough to make us sacrifice our private thoughts for the convenience.

Heartwarming social media success stories are all around us. KP Facebook groups like the one moderated by Susan Freiler Mendenhall do a fantastic job helping to strengthen our community, free from hateful rhetoric.

And yet social media cannot take the place of journalism. In the thriving economy of Puget Sound, newspapers struggle to survive. Consolidation brings

fewer local reporters, fewer relevant stories, and eventually no newspaper at all. Journalism is fundamental to democracy. Local community newspapers with strong journalistic ethics matter more than ever before.

Several folks have commented to me lately that people seem to have forgotten how to communicate with anyone who doesn't already agree with them. As a society, this is not a good thing.

It's no news that politics and religion divide people. And yet time and time again, I see the strength of the Key Peninsula come together to make life better. Our nonprofit groups have

formed to help bridge our divides, to care for each other in times of need and in times of plenty. Both exist simultaneously on the KP. Our physical location divides us from the mainstream and, frankly, I like that.

The Key Peninsula News strives to give readers something to think about. We want to bring you the richness of our community. We want to spark conversation in our own backyard. Real communication begins with three equal parts: speaking, listening and considering. And yes—please keep reading too.

Correction:

Ed Robison was incorrectly identified in the March story "Pavilion at Gateway Park Nears Completion." Ed Robison, P.E., is a licensed professional engineer, civil and structural. We regret the error.



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Racers ready for heat in 2017 BUDU event at 360 Trails. Photo: Team Pearson, Woodinville Bicycle

Championship Mountain Bike Race at 360 Trails

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

The 360 Trails at Gateway Park will host hundreds of cyclists competing in this year's state championship mountain bike race April 15. This event typically draws riders from the Puget Sound area, the Olympic Peninsula and occasionally eastern Washington. About a dozen teams also participate.

This year's race has been selected by the Washington State Bicycle Association (WSBA) as the state championship mountain biking event, which means that winners will be awarded state champions' jerseys at the end of the race. The competition has also been sanctioned by USA Cycling, making racers who finish over a certain ranking also eligible to advance to the national level.

"There hasn't been (a mountain biking championship) formally in Washington state that I know of, and this is the first time the WSBA is offering that," said Deanna Muller, who cofounded BuDu Racing with her husband Rory in 2002. The company specializes in organizing cycling, multisport and running competitions. A typical mountain biking event for BuDu can involve 200 to 300 cyclists, split across three skill categories and age brackets from elementary school to 50 years or older.

BuDu began by promoting events in the Auburn area, but investigated 360 Trails as a possible racing location after an invitation from local mountain biker and trail builder Courtland Capwell.

"Rory and I met in December and it was 37 degrees, pouring rain and snow," said Key Pen Parks Commissioner Mark Michel. Despite the less-than-ideal conditions, "(Rory) looked at the trails and said he could do an event there ... that was about six years ago, and ever since then they've had one of their races every year

at the 360 Trails."

The Mullers and Michel both praised the work of Capwell and KP volunteers on the trails. "None of this would have been possible without his volunteering to build those trails, and then maintaining them and keeping them so nice," Michel said. "Usage in the park has just skyrocketed, based on how good those trails are."

"People like single track but they also want places where they can pass, for races, and that course really provides opportunities to do all the different things that mountain bikers are looking for," Deanna Muller said. The Mullers also praised the overall trail design, drainage and continued work of volunteers.

"Those guys put in hours and hours of work to maintain and keep trails good and add new trails, so each time we come there, it's slightly different," Rory Muller said. "People get tired of doing the same old thing, so each year it's got that little bit of different that makes it new and exciting."

This is one of the first major regional events held at Gateway Park since its opening. "That's one of the things we've built the park for. The whole design was to have that, to be able to host events," Michel said. Very large events are likely to stay out of reach for Key Pen Parks for the moment due to parking and space concerns, Michel said. "But small-to mid-level events, whether that's equestrian, like poker rides or stuff like that, we absolutely hope to host events like those."

The April 15 event will begin at approximately 9 a.m. at Gateway Park. Those with mountain biking experience can register online for the event, but observers are also welcome. "If somebody wants to come and just spectate, the park is open and the team tent area is a great place to take in the event," said Rory Muller.

Burley Lagoon Water Quality Downgraded

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The water quality in Burley Lagoon was downgraded by the Washington State Department of Health in February. Eighty-one acres were downgraded from approved to conditionally approved for shellfish harvesting, and 20 acres were downgraded from conditionally approved to restricted. Minter Bay showed some small decreases in water quality, but there was no change in its classification as approved.

WSDOH routinely tests water at all sites where shellfish are harvested recreationally or commercially, though testing is more frequent in the commercial areas. Water is tested for coliforms, bacteria associated with human and animal waste, and quality is based on the concentration of these bacteria.

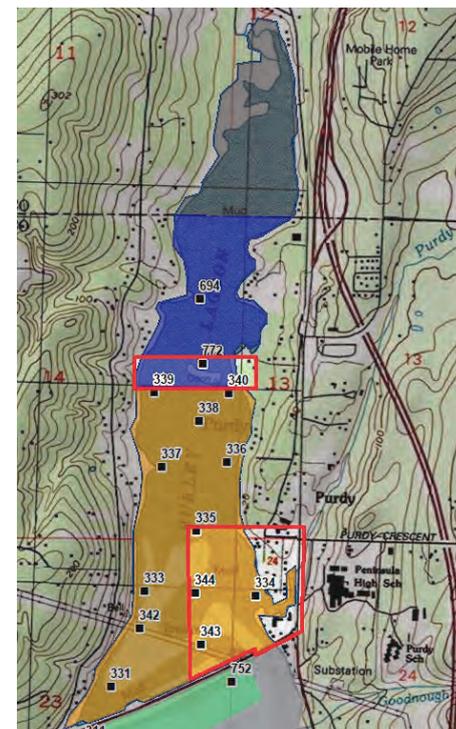
When water quality is approved, shellfish can be harvested anytime unless there is an emergency closure. If it is conditionally approved, shellfish cannot be harvested for a defined period of time following a certain amount of rainfall or other condition that has been found to negatively affect water quality. If an area is restricted, shellfish cannot be harvested directly from that site, but they can be relocated to cleaner water to flush themselves and then be harvested. This relay does not negatively impact the approved area.

For any site where marine water quality does not meet the standards for safe shellfish harvest, state law requires formation of a shellfish protection district. There are four such districts on the Key Peninsula: Burley Lagoon, Rocky Bay, Vaughn Bay and Filucy Bay. The Burley Lagoon district is about 10,000 acres and straddles Pierce and Kitsap counties.

The Burley Lagoon and Minter Bay water quality protection team met in February to develop a response plan to the downgrade. Ray Hanowell, environmental health specialist with Pierce County Environmental Health Surface Water Quality, said the plan will focus on identification, correction and prevention of sources of contamination. He said the most likely sources are humans, pets and livestock. Wild animals such as Canada geese and raccoons can be a problem, but they are usually not as significant as those related to human activities.

Hanowell said it is possible to improve water quality once it has been downgraded, but that it can be difficult depending on the source of contamination. It can take two to eight years to see changes.

Barbara Ann Smolko, watershed coord-



The small area (339, 340) outlined in red was previously conditionally approved. The area in red below was previously approved. Courtesy Washington State Dept. of Health

dinator for Pierce County Water Quality and Watershed Services, said at the meeting that she is working to find grant funding to increase water sampling to identify the sources of contamination, and then work with landowners to make corrective changes.

Erin Ewald, environmental compliance manager for Taylor Shellfish, also attended the meeting. Taylor owns and operates a 300-acre growing operation in the Burley Lagoon, with 175 acres planted at any given time with oysters and Manila clams. They will continue to farm, moving any clams or oysters to safe waters before harvest.

Ewald said Taylor continues to work closely with all parties to improve conditions in the lagoon. As she has stated previously, "Shellfish is just the canary in the coal mine. The real issue with water quality is human health. Taylor wants to be a part of any community effort to keep our water clean and safe." ("Rocky Bay Water Quality at Risk," KP News August 2016)

Taylor submitted a permit to plant geoducks in up to 25 acres in Burley Lagoon in 2016. An environmental impact statement is part of that permit process. Ewald said the change in water quality did not change those plans and that Taylor hopes to complete the EIS this spring. A public hearing will follow at the Key Peninsula Land Use Advisory Council. A final EIS with the Pierce County Department of Land Services recommendation will then be presented to the Pierce County hearing examiner. That decision will then go to the Washington State Department of Ecology for review.

April 2018

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Vaughn Elementary teacher Lisa Mills shares a music tip. Photo: Anna Brones, KP News

Local Teacher Couple Ensures Dynamic Music and Science Education at Vaughn Elementary

ANNA BRONES, KP NEWS

For students at Vaughn Elementary, a love of music and science starts early. That's largely thanks to the work of teachers Lisa and Matthew Mills, who share their love of music, science and education with their students and the Key Peninsula community at large.

Born and raised on the Key Peninsula, the couple met in second grade at Vaughn Elementary. Decades later, they teach where their own education started out. Lisa is a music specialist and Matthew teaches science, technology and math as a STEM specialist. Both at school and at home, the Mills have an approach to education that's rooted in balance and treating the child as a whole.

"Music is a language," Lisa said. "Music is science too," said Matthew. "Everything is interrelated."

Just like there is crossover and connection between their two subjects, the same is true for their students. "Sharing students is helpful to us as we analyze what's best for kids," Lisa said. "Matthew says something that he has experienced with a student and I have an 'Aha' moment."

Both began their teaching careers in 1990 with Lisa in the South Kitsap School District and Matthew in the Central Kitsap School District. Eventually, they made their way back to their roots. Lisa came to

Vaughn in 2013 followed by Matthew in 2014. Teaching at the elementary school they both attended has made for a special relationship with their jobs.

"I understand these kids because I am one (of them)," Lisa said. "The community has put time, energy and money into us as individuals, so now it's our turn to move forward and help the next generation."

She has done so through her love of music. In 2017, Lisa put together a funding request using DonorsChoose.org. The organization was founded on the premise that there are plenty of people who would like to help a classroom in need of the tools and experiences needed for a great education, if they could decide on and be assured how their money was spent. Teachers can post classroom project requests and potential donors choose the projects they want to support.

Lisa was able to raise \$2,200, which allowed her to purchase 13 guitars for her music class. Later, a Kiwanis grant funded two left-handed guitars. That makes Vaughn Elementary the only school in the Peninsula School District to offer a string program. "The kids are loving it," she said. "It's high physical engagement, it's high focus. I think they get a lot of personal satisfaction when they can play a little song or chords."

Learning guitar has affected how Layla Hawkins, a fifth-grade student at Vaughn, experiences music outside of the

classroom. “Every time I see someone play a chord at a concert, I go home and try to master it,” she said.

Fellow fifth-grader Kristopher Davis said that learning music has made listening to music different. “It’s different because Ms. Mills has taught us a lot,” she said. “When I hear an open E or an F sharp, I picture a guitar and someone holding down that string.”

Originally thinking that he would be a “pure scientist”—like a marine biologist or ornithologist—Matthew turned a passion for science into helping students be more curious and think about how they look at the world. “I say to the kids all the time ‘I don’t expect all of you to be scientists, but at least you should have a basis for arguing with evidence.’”

If there is one underlying principle that drives both of them, they said, it’s that every child has potential and, whether it’s music or science, they want to make sure all of their students can explore their own possibilities. A child “might be a great singer, but if no one ever told them, how would they know?” Lisa said.

“The reality of what humans are here for is to help other humans,” said Matthew. “And when I think about it, teaching is the best way that I can impact the future of the planet.”



Ellen Fay Award Winners Jodi and Barrie McDougall. Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News

Evergreen Teacher Shares PSD Award with Purdy Teacher—Her Husband

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Jodi McDougall, who taught fourth grade at Evergreen Elementary School for 17 years, received the Peninsula School District’s Ellen Faye Award for outstanding service at the March 8 school board meeting. She shared the award with her husband, Barrie McDougall, a third-grade teacher at Purdy Elementary School for his own contribution to educational excellence.

The Ellen Fay Award is named after the district’s longtime human resources administrator. Upon her retirement, the district created the award in her honor to be given to any district employee who, in the opinion of their colleagues, goes “above and beyond” what is expected, according to PSD Superintendent Rob Manahan.

“Ellen Fay gave a lot of herself to this district, to students, to staff, and just made a difference in changing the world and creating miracles,” Manahan said. “We have a couple of individuals with us tonight who have done the same thing.”

Evergreen third-grade teacher Therese Souers, herself a 2015 Ellen Fay Award recipient, presented the award to Jodi.

“There are always people on every teaching staff to whom others look for inspiration and guidance,” she said. “Jodi’s passion for doing what is best for students brings clarity and inspiration to others. Her term, ‘getting muddy,’ is a phrase that was frequently used to describe hard but meaningful work.”

“I don’t have to say anything, do I?” Jodi said after receiving the award.

But she did. “Many of you know the

medical journey I’ve been on and that I have to retire early. This is a nice acknowledgment of what I’ve done and what I believe in, but it’s also kind of a kick in the pants to do something meaningful as I move forward. So, thank you.”

Nearly eight years ago, Jodi was diagnosed and treated for breast cancer. Later she was diagnosed with a pre-leukemia condition of the bone marrow called myelodysplastic syndrome, or MDS; left untreated, it was likely to develop into acute leukemia. Forced to retire from teaching at Evergreen in October 2016, she underwent successful stem cell transplant surgery in January 2017, which she said cured the disease.

With her immune system severely weakened after the surgery, Jodi spent four long months recuperating at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. She used Facetime to stay connected with Barrie and other family, and to continue developing her relationship with her young grandchildren.

After telling Purdy Elementary School Principal Dina Rivera all about their Facetime experience, according to Barrie, Rivera asked, “Why couldn’t she do that in the classroom?”

“That’s where the idea really started; from there we took it and ran with it,” Jodi said. She typically spends 40 minutes a day tutoring her husband’s third-grade math students using Facetime.

“The kids treat me as if I’m right there with them,” she said. “I don’t know how comfortable parent or community volunteers might be as tutors on the screen, but it comes naturally to me. I still have that teacher voice and the kids really respond to it.”

“Now that I have decided I agree with my doctors—that I shouldn’t be back in teaching—I need to find where to put my passion,” Jodi said. “I haven’t really dealt with that yet, how to intentionally and purposefully fill my time in the next stage of my journey.”

“Even with being at home, she’s still finding a way to impact kids’ lives,” Manahan said at the award ceremony. “Not only is that a great opportunity to stay connected, but it’s also a great, innovative practice and role model for others in our district to use their talents, expertise and passion for kids and continue that work, and I am very appreciative of that and thankful to both of you for being so creative.”

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Vote to Raise Your Taxes? Why You Should Support the Peninsula Schools Bond

Taxes—the very word provokes strong feelings. Frustration, aggravation and even helplessness rear up against the apparent onslaught of new taxes, fees and charges that government agencies from the state on down to the county, city and local public services impose on us to drain more and more hard-earned dollars out of the family budget.

This April would appear to be a particularly bad time to ask local voters to approve a school bond measure, considering those same voters are viewing their recently received tax assessments for 2018. Many are questioning whether they can afford yet another increase on top of the substantial increase that some are already seeing on their tax statements. While much of the recent increase has to do with the rebounding economy causing home values to rise, some of it is due to the new State School Levy 2 line item that has appeared on this year's tax bill.

This new levy was the Legislature's response to the state Supreme Court's McCleary decision requiring the state to fully fund basic education. While the pros and cons of this fix are the subject of an on-going debate, the fact of the matter is these dollars cannot be used for capital improvements. This is where a local capital levy or bond measure comes in.

So why run a capital bond measure rather than a capital levy?

Traditionally, bond measures have been the preferred method for funding capital improvements over levies because they can span 20 years or more, which keeps the annual taxes required to repay the bonds much lower than what a far smaller levy would require. Additionally, once capital bonds have been authorized and sold, the dollars are available immediately, enabling projects to be constructed far sooner than they could be with a levy where the tax dollars must be collected before construction can begin.

One benefit I feel is often overlooked that favors capital bonds over levies is the fact that repayment of the bonds over a longer-term essentially shares the tax burden for capital improvement construction with future taxpayers who will benefit from these improvements, rather than forcing current

taxpayers to shoulder the entire burden up front. Passage of a local bond (or levy) is also a key component in making the district eligible for state matching grants, which can stretch the bond dollars even further.

The last capital bond measure passed by PSD was in 2003 and funded improvements to Purdy Elementary and Harbor Ridge Middle schools, among other things. The district has taken advantage of lower interest rates over the intervening years and refinanced these bonds twice, with the result being that these bonds are currently scheduled to be repaid in 2019, a full four years early.

Essentially, you could view the proposed bond measure as a renewal of this expiring bond that will provide ongoing funding to address the significant facilities improvements that the district, through the work of their facilities planning committee, identified as priorities for the coming years.

This bond measure, as outlined in the bond resolution text itself, would provide much needed modernizations and improvements to facilities throughout the district, along with major renovations or complete replacement of certain older schools. Finally, construction of an additional new elementary school will help ease overcrowding in one of the fastest growing counties in the nation.

While I understand and sympathize with the anti-tax message, especially in light of some of the tax proposals coming out of Olympia this year, I strongly encourage support of local tax measures to fund local needs in our own community. If we, as local voters, won't support our local agencies that provide services directly to our citizens, how can we expect others across the state to come to our rescue?

The Peninsula school board, superintendent and staff, together with the facilities planning committee, have done their homework and presented what I believe is a realistic plan to address the capital facilities needs of the district. It is a plan that I feel deserves our full support.

Please join me in voting "Yes" for Peninsula Schools April 24 to ensure all Peninsula students have access to safe, modern learning environments.

Shawn Jensen is commissioner at large of Key Pen Parks and Fire Commissioner for District 16. He lives with his wife, Sami, in north Key Peninsula. The couple's six children attend or attended school in PSD.

Dan White
GUEST COLUMNIST



Against the Bond— There is a Better Way

The deteriorated state of the Peninsula School District buildings is a known fact. Taxpayers have approved \$190 million in maintenance and operations levies since 2012 (\$87 million in 2012 and \$103 million in 2016); however, less than 15 percent of this money has been spent on buildings. The school board has misallocated funds leading to the neglect of our precious facilities. The board has no experience managing large construction projects; the last approved bond was \$45 million in 2003. The voters rejected the 2013 bond proposals of \$50 and \$60 million.

What is wrong with the bond? The bond provides for six years of spending with 23 years of paying, resulting in a minimum interest expense of \$132 million. This is the minimum interest as the bond rates are based on old rate data. Only one-third of the bonds will be issued in 2018, then again in 2020. The six-year appropriation subjects taxpayers to probable interest rate increases.

PSD has a long list of facility needs. PSD purchased land near the YMCA over four years ago, but the board is undecided about whether this location is suitable for a new school. Planning, design, bidding, scheduling builders and obtaining permits is a lengthy process that has not even started yet. The taxpayers deserve a more fully developed proposal rather than a "wish list" of projects before we throw \$220 million at the school board and hope for the best. The bond resolution before the voters does not contain a list of identifiable projects. The board could fund any capital projects they deem necessary whereas incremental voter approval could give the voters the power to monitor and assess the school board performance.

The McCleary decision of the state Supreme Court changed how public schools are funded. The state is now responsible for 100 percent of teachers' salaries for basic education. Our current M&O levy can now be redirected to building maintenance. Voter-approved M&O funds will

be about \$20 million in 2019 after the levy rate adjusts to \$1.50, as required by the Legislature.

There is a better way. Give maintenance a chance; reallocate a large share of the 2019 M&O levy funds to commence facilities maintenance and repairs immediately. Incrementally approve funds for capital projects, not a \$220 million six-year blank check. Fund capital projects with short-term capital levies. Capital levies have no interest cost, saving us—the taxpayers—\$132 million instead of the current school board plan proposed to voters.

Responsible Taxation of Citizens advocates an 83 cent per thousand, \$50 million, four-year capital levy, coupled with a reallocation of the \$20 million in the M&O levy going all toward repair and maintenance as a good start. In four years we will have provided \$130 million to repair every school in the district and build a new, more appropriately sized and geographically located elementary. And the best part is we will be debt-free at the end of that four year period. Incremental voter approval would give the voters the power to monitor and assess school board performance.

Let's start being creative and thinking outside the box. The vacant CenturyLink building located at 8102 Skansie Avenue, Gig Harbor is 23,310 square feet and available for \$3.25 million. This low cost, centrally located building should find a way into our plans. Potential options: (1) Move the administrative offices to CenturyLink, tear down the old offices and repurpose the land for an elementary school. (2) Move Henderson Bay High School to CenturyLink, repurpose Henderson Bay into an elementary school, solving immediate overcrowding issues. (3) Move the bus yard to district-owned land across from the Purdy prison (over 100 acres) and construct an elementary school on the vacated bus yard property. (4) Sell the land across from the YMCA to help pay for the new elementary. (5) Cost-saving modular construction and two-story buildings save too as was proven in the construction of Henderson Bay. (6) Survey other districts that successfully built schools and use their plans. We might even know what the cost will be before construction begins.

Let's go slow—vote no.

Dan White owns Whitehouse Properties LLC, is a retired CPA and co-chair of Responsible Taxation of Citizens. He lives on Fox Island.

The opinions expressed by columnists and letter writers 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. 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 clarity. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to editor@keypennews.com.

Christie Fierro
OPEN AIR



Communication Blossoms

By the time April tulip blossoms arrive, my New Year's resolution is usually not only broken, it is not even remembered. This year, I did not even bother. I took a completely different approach that has paid off huge dividends. I juggle the hats of college professor and single mother every day. I decided to wear both at once and test a classroom listening technique to potentially enhance communication with my teenager.

Teachers often embrace vulnerability and ask for feedback. One exercise is called the minute paper. This is done anonymously, so the student can speak freely. You ask what about the teacher and the class has been useful, meaningful, valuable. You ask what the teacher could be doing better. You ask about any lingering questions. There are usually some they were afraid to ask out loud or via email that they now can ask anonymously. This is outside of the traditional student surveys seen by school supervisors. I explain to my students that those surveys are only seen by the teacher at the end of the year. There is time to make corrections for the next year, but not the current term. I would rather get a chance to make potential improvements during the course, especially because these particular students might not be in my classroom again.

I decided to try this exercise with my teen. We all know parenting a teen has its challenges. I learned long ago when my daughter was a toddler that communication can make all the difference (thank you sign language classes). Instead of making resolutions this year, my daughter and I did a unique exercise. I had to make a strong commitment to allowing her to speak freely without judgment because we couldn't do the exercise anonymously.

At first she felt a little overwhelmed, so I suggested she start with three things she likes about my parenting and three things she would like to change or see improved. She asked to add three new things she would like to start that we haven't been doing. (Great idea!)

There were genuine comments of praise and honest "opportunities for growth" that were expressed thoughtfully. I won't share all of her comments, but I'm most happy she wrote she loves that she can be honest with me and she loves the feeling that I make her happiness and growth priori-

ties. She had really great suggestions that can help our thirteenth year together go more smoothly than one might expect with a teen. Don't fear the conversation. It is very rewarding.

For this to work, there has to be a relationship of trust. If the child doesn't trust they can speak freely, start with building trust. Depending on the age of the child, you might start with asking for one piece of feedback in each section instead of three. Most importantly, listen without defending. That will be the hardest part, but it is also the most important part. When your teen sees you listening to understand, that is when trust is built. Trust will lead to better communication.

This is a time for everyone to put down their phones. You might talk about being excited for summer and wanting to set goals. Explain you are looking for some feedback and emphasize that the teen can speak freely without any negative consequences. Suggested questions are: (1) What do I do as a parent that you want me to keep doing? (2) What am I doing that you want me to stop doing? (3) What am I not doing that you want me to start doing? Embrace the vulnerability. Effective communication makes everything better.

Christie Fierro teaches Communication at TCC and lives in Purdy.

Ted Olinger
ANOTHER LAST WORD



Here's to Lookin' Up Your Old Address

It has been my observation in recent years that true Key Penners are not very familiar with change. Still, they are against it.

But as of April Fool's Day, fittingly enough, we have all been changed.

Over a year ago, some deep state actor in the guise of Pierce County set into motion a series of events culminating in the April 1 erasure of the long-cherished post-directional-sobriquets of our otherwise uninspiring street names—the now extinct KPN and KPS. And, yes, that's "KP—no space—N (or S)," just like Glen Cove is Glencove, Long Branch is Longbranch, and Bay Lake is Lakebay.

My family has lived here for about 15 years now—hardly a ripple on the surface of time as far as the KP goes. But it's been long enough to lose reliable contact with our mainland friends. We learned quickly not to bother giving our street address to any outlanders who wanted to visit. Their

CONTINUED PAGE 8



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Coming Events

April 28 Parks Appreciation Day
9am to noon at Civic Center

May 5 Livable Community Fair

May 26 Community Garage Sale

June-July 4 Fireworks Stand



repainted the entry and stairs to the Library. We're excited to keep this momentum going. Future plans include painting the lower balcony and ultimately replacing the carpet. Anyone interested in helping out with these projects should contact the Civic Center 253-884-3456 as we'd like to continue our progress!

OLINGER FROM PAGE 7

GPS devices directed them down logging roads or into uncharted wetlands, while they tried to find, read and follow the local so-called street signs that led only to the fenced compounds of unsympathetic strangers.

Instead, we began to offer directions by landmark rather than address or street name, as in, "It's five minutes past the intersection with the light, then bear right at the intersection without the light, then slow down when you get to this weird cedar stump and turn at the scary gravel road next to a bunch of battered mailboxes."

Even this set us apart from longtime Key Penners who still persist in navigating their peninsula by the undiminished memory of landmarks that no longer exist. "You go past that Station Break place that got burned down to where Makin' Bacon was, then keep going to where there didn't used to be a light till you get to Not Walt's, then turn on that right side road before—that's BEFORE—you get to the wine shop that didn't used to be there till you get to the house that did, and you're there."

Ours was never much of an address—far too many numbers and letters mixed together—and was always better suited to a simple grid system instead of the organic macramé of roadways that carry us to our neighbors over the many and varied contours of this peninsula. But at least that "KPN" at the end anchored my home to the Key Peninsula, even if it also repelled all but the most intrepid delivery drivers.

Now reduced to the homogenizing "NW" (and what are we supposed to be northwest of?), there is nothing standing between us and a misapplied ZIP code unjustly linking us to a city overpopulated by drivers who could never survive our road system, unable as they are to safely navigate even large, well-marked circles.

The original street sign at the top of our road was a homemade affair; an awkwardly cut, greenish rectangle that, when observed through squinting eyes at the right time of day, seemed to reveal a faint pattern of silvery hieroglyphics appended by the ever-ennobling "KPN." It is now nailed above the grill on our deck.

I replaced this inscrutable icon soon after our arrival, back when I thought street names mattered. The sign I installed remains a bright, reflective green metal beacon, defiantly declaring this patch of land as Key Peninsula North.

It's not going anywhere.

Ted Olinger lives in Vaughn, KPN.

Letters to the Editor

School Impact Fees

It's been almost 20 years since I began working with the Peninsula School District to adopt the city of Gig Harbor's first construction impact fee for schools. Since then I've heard one consistent theme. Whether it's participating with PSD's facilities planning committee, talking to constituents or listening to our school board, the current calculation is insufficient for our needs.

Impact fees are charged to new development by cities and counties to help pay for the cost to government services generated by growth. The Legislature allowed local governments to charge developers under the Growth Management Act.

Using a formula adopted by the Pierce County Council, school districts calculate their capital needs generated by each new housing unit. The formula is careful to back out other sources of capital revenue like state funds or the share of payments made toward school bonds through property taxes. In our district the final number is \$8,061. The unmet need is then reduced by half.

However, that rate is not what's paid by new construction. Years ago, the county council established a maximum fee obligation (MFO) which caps rates at \$3,485 for a single-family residence. Because school district boundaries typically include territory in cities and unincorporated Pierce County, the MFO is typically adopted within cities as well.

My proposal will increase the MFO by 50 percent to \$5,228. That's closer to the amount requested by our school districts, and to peer jurisdictions in King, Snohomish and Clark counties.

It's important to state clearly that impact fees will not solve all our schools' capital needs. Even if I could persuade my council colleagues to increase fees to 100 percent of the need to accommodate new growth, the clear majority of the capital needs in our schools would remain.

But at a time when we're asking our constituents to support our schools, we owe them our best effort to exhaust every other available source of funds.

Derek Young

Pierce County Councilman, District 7

Gig Harbor

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Longtime lunch lady at KPMS, Wendy Hennessy. *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News*

Food for the Belly, Food for the Soul

POLLY ROBINSON, KP NEWS

One of the best parts of Wendy Hennessy's job as "Lunch Lady" for Key Peninsula Middle School was having a student say, "I told my mom you are my lunch lady and my mom says you were her lunch lady, too!" After 30 years in the kitchen at KPMS, Hennessy has been the lunch lady for a lot of students.

When she moved here from Connecticut with her husband, Hennessy left her family behind. "We left with nothing," she said. "We didn't know anyone here. But working as a lunch lady, I have a huge family today."

Hennessy's family includes her co-workers and the students. She's been in the kitchen longer than others by two years. Over those years she's seen changes in the students.

"The kids have changed over time...more of a lack of respect—that's a difference. They're still polite to me, though not always," she said. She remembers that someone once told her, "Always be nice to the lunch lady."

Hennessy takes time out to notice her students and they, in turn, appreciate that. She does, she said, "take the 'troubled' kids," those who seem to need more attention, and treats them "extra special and make sure they get some contact and some acknowledgment, and it makes all the difference. If I know who they are before they give their information (to get their lunch), it makes them smile."

Not every child is entitled to lunch, as a matter of course. There's paperwork that must be completed and that doesn't always

happen correctly. Hennessy does what she can to make sure those children still have something to eat. If a child has no food, she helps parents with paperwork so children can get food. "I have not, and will never, take a lunch away from a student due to lack of money," she said.

She also hates to waste food. Despite being very careful to cook the right number of meals to meet the specific demand, there are sometimes small amounts left over; she used to pass it out to the children. "That's against the rules," she said, "but every now and then you have a growing kid who asks for extras and I hate the idea of throwing the food away."

It takes a great heart to cook and feed nearly 400 children every day and Hennessy has no immediate plans to leave her KPMS family. She is waiting for her husband to retire before making plans to do that herself, she said. For now, she can be found in the kitchen of the school, really enjoying the work she does.

"I love hearing the kids laugh and joke," she said. "I don't know what I'd do if I didn't have that. Besides, it's hard to find someone to do this kind of work. People don't seem to want to do it. I love it, though."

Hennessy hopes that someday they can find someone to come in to work there as long as she has and to appreciate the fun and light the children bring each day; someone who will feel, as she does, that "there's no reason any of those kids have to go hungry."



Cyclists enjoy a sunny ride along the shoreline in Vaughn. *Photo: Anna Brones, KP News*

A Ride for Everyone: Bicycling on the Key Peninsula

ANNA BRONES, KP NEWS

John F. Kennedy once said, "Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of riding a bike." The Key Peninsula has a lot to offer those who enjoy the simple pleasures of a bike ride, whether it's on the road or on a trail.

Key Pen Parks' 360 Trails has become a hot spot for riders near and far, giving the community access to an impressive mountain biking playground. "There's something for all skill levels at 360," said Mark Michel, a Longbranch resident and Key Pen Parks commissioner.

As both a road cyclist and a mountain biker, Michel is drawn to the two-wheeled world for the chance to get outside and explore. "You can see so much scenery," he said. "Every ride is different; every road is different."

"It's much better than being in a gym," said Alyssa Eckert. "You get to be in nature while working out, so it doesn't feel like working out." A resident of Port Orchard, Eckert is a part of Ms. Fit, a group of women mountain bikers that regularly rides at 360 Trails. Founded by Jessica Combs in March 2017, the goal of the group is to get more women mountain biking.

"Any age level, anyone who has an interest, we want them to come," Eckert said. "Really, we just want more women on bikes." As the spring and summer weather make for warmer weather, the group aims to host a weekly ride at 360 Trails.

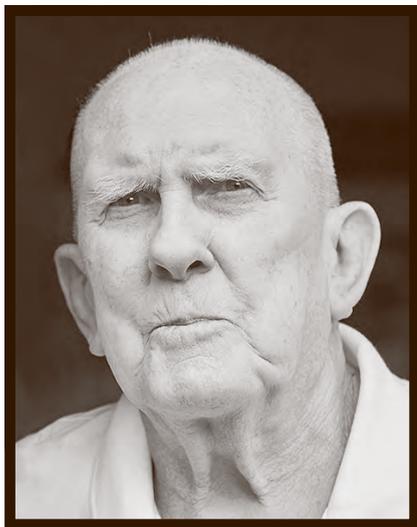
While the hills and fast cars of the Key Peninsula Highway may put a lot of people

off riding, Michel said those interested in cycling should explore other roads. "There are places you can get off of the KP Highway and there are big roads that are very seldom used," he said. Those types of riding conditions make cycling "enticing and appealing." Those roads also draw people from farther away; both Joemma and Penrose state parks offer hiker and biker campsites for those arriving by bike or by foot.

Cycling also makes good health sense, and those health benefits can come with even a small addition of cycling habits to an everyday routine. A San Francisco Bay Area study found that increasing biking and walking from four to 24 minutes a day on average could reduce cardiovascular disease and diabetes by 14 percent. Being physically active outside has its benefits too. A 2009 study published in "Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise" showed that people exercise longer when they did so outside. Studies also show that cyclists age better, and it helps keep your immune system young.

"The cycling community is so open to anyone who wants to try," Eckert said, suggesting that beginners reach out to others who ride and groups that offer classes. For those new to cycling, look for dedicated bike trails like the Cushman Trail in Gig Harbor. Other bike trails in the region include the Pierce County Foothills trail, which goes from Puyallup to Orting, and the Olympic Discovery Trail on the Olympic Peninsula.

OBITUARY



Leonard Christiansen

Leonard Elmer Christiansen died at his home in Longbranch on the morning of Feb. 19 at the age of 90 following a long battle with prostate cancer, bone cancer and congestive heart failure. He was born to Eva Umbach and Elmer Christiansen Aug. 16, 1927, in Monroe County in the town of Byron, Wisconsin.

Christiansen was a beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, grandpa, friend and veteran. His sense of humor was so contagious that family and friends often referred to him as the "Jokester." His family agreed he was one of the hardest workers they have ever known. Among his numerous jobs, including work at the shipyard, driving a school bus and logging, Christiansen found his true calling in farming. He loved growing his garden and raising cattle. His haying and tractor skills were phenomenal; all the locals called upon his services. He also provided years of service to his community as a volunteer firefighter for the Key Peninsula Fire Department.

Christiansen is survived by his brother Herman and his wife Charlotte; sister Betty Haley; son David and his wife Mary; son Mike and his wife Ella; daughter Deborah; and grandchildren Britney, Ashlee, Jonathan, Emma, Lathan, Nolan, Cora and Jamie. Christiansen was preceded in death by his mother Eva, father Elmer, seven of his nine siblings, Clarence, Rose, Daisy, Helen, Edith, Evelyn and Lily; his son Jim; and his beloved wife Dorothy.

A celebration of Leonard Christiansen's life will be held April 14 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 South Vaughn Road NW in Vaughn.



Edward Pilotte

Edward Anthony Pilotte II died shortly after midnight March 6, 2018, at age 18. He was a bright light with a wonderful smile, infectious laugh and loving heart that strived to lift the spirits of all who knew him. He was too young to leave this world.

Pilotte grew up in Port Orchard and the Key Peninsula, where he attended both Peninsula and Henderson Bay High schools. He moved to Olympia with his family just months before his death.

Known for his love of music, Pilotte was a master at rapping, stringing together words into a meaningful, heartfelt song. He dreamed of getting into the music industry to change how rap was perceived. He recorded many songs and uploaded them to SoundCloud.

Pilotte loved cars and racing. He planned to attend school at a Universal Technical Institute to become a certified mechanic. He bought, sold and traded cars, rebuilding them and helping friends with his skills. He recently won a drag race and was invited to participate on a racing team.

Pilotte is survived by his parents Edward Anthony Pilotte and Shannon Roos-Pilotte; sister Justine Ivy Pilotte; and his large, extended family and friends who may as well have been family for the closeness between them. A memorial service was held at the KP Civic Center in March.

In Memory Obituaries are printed free of charge by the Key Peninsula News as a service to community members. Please limit submissions to 300 words and provide high-resolution photographs when possible. All submissions will be edited. Send to editor@keypennews.com.

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APRIL 2 & 16**VETERANS MEETING**

The KP Veterans group meets behind the KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW, at 7 p.m. All veterans, military service members and families with children 16 and older are welcome. 253-225-5130

APRIL 5**LAKEBAY FUCHSIA SOCIETY**

Come join us in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center at 7 p.m. April's program is on upright, trailer and lax fuchsias. We will be talking about planting, pruning, combining and starting them. Great snacks and good information. 253-686-7904 or gablehousep@aol.com

APRIL 7**ALL THINGS MEDICARE**

Turning age 65 soon? Bring your questions to this presentation by Sound Outreach and the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA). Call Sound Outreach at 253-596-0918 to register; walk-ins also welcome. Key Center Library from 1:30 to 4 p.m. 253-548-3511

APRIL 7 & 21**DEPRESSION & BI-POLAR SUPPORT**

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

APRIL 10 & 24**CROCHET OR KNIT**

Join Loving Hearts on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Avenue NW, to knit or crochet for charity. Yarn donations are needed and very much appreciated. Virginia at 253-884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com

APRIL 14**NEEDLE FELTING**

Create your own fuzzy felt animal friend from 11 a.m. to noon at the Key Center Library. All supplies provided. Ages 6 and up. Registration required at piercecounitylibrary.org/calendar or call 253-548-3309

SWING INTO SPRING

Attend a lively swing dance workshop with local ballroom dance instructors Tames and Jim Alan at the Key Center Library from 2 to 4 p.m. 253-548-3511

KIDS ART JAM

Two Waters Arts Alliance presents Kids Art Jam for kids 9 to 15 years old with a professional painting artist. Kids will paint and explore artistic methods and ideas learning style, composition and structure in painting, drawing, clay and ink. KP Civic Center from 4 to 6 p.m. \$10 per child or \$15 per family. Register in advance at twowaters.org

BIG BAND SWING NIGHT

New to the KPCCA fundraising line-up this year: big band swing night from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. 253-884-3456

BLEND WINE SHOP CONCERT

Doug MacLeod ~~CANCELLED~~ the blues from 7 to 11 p.m. Get tickets in advance. 253-884-9814

APRIL 16**READING MAGIC**

Every book is a magic book, but only when you read it. Jeff Evans' career in magic began from a book of coin tricks he read when he was 12 years old. Discover the amazing things that happen when you open a book and read. Key Center Library from 11 a.m. to noon. 253-548-3309

APRIL 18**KP LAND USE**

The Key Peninsula Advisory Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. KPAC reviews applications for proposed developments in the community requiring a public hearing and makes recommendations to the Pierce County executive, county council, hearing examiner, planning commission and the Planning and Land Services Department. 253-432-4948

APRIL 19**EMERGENCY PREP**

Meetings on emergency prep topics are held at 7 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. Contact Peggy at 253-686-7904 or at gablehousep@aol.com (Put E Prep in the subject line)

APRIL 21**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT**

The KP Alzheimer's Association caregiver support group meets the third Saturday of each month. All unpaid family caregivers, their family and friends are welcome.

Come exchange practical information on caregiving problems and possible solutions, share feelings, needs and concerns, and learn about resources available in the community. From 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Crandall Center, 9016 154th Avenue Court NW. 253-820-2213

APRIL 23**RELATIVES RAISING KIDS SUPPORT**

This new support group for grandparents and relatives raising kids meets the fourth Monday each month at Evergreen Elementary from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Potluck dinner and childcare is provided. For more information call Lori Mertens at Children's Home Society of WA 253-884-5433.

APRIL 28**LIC YARD SALE**

Multifamily yard sale for Longbranch Improvement Club from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 253-884-6022 or parodi12@centurylink.net

STEM SATURDAY: PHYSICS

Explore STEM at the Key Center Library from 11 a.m. to noon. Play math games, create amazing marble runs, explore kinetic energy, experiment with density and build simple machines. 253-548-3511

APRIL 28 & 29**KP SPORTSMEN'S CLUB SALE AND FISHERMANS BREAKFAST**

Annual garage sale held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon at 3503 Jackson Lake Road NW in Lakebay. Annual fisherman's breakfast served Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to noon. Tickets \$6.00 for adults, free for children age 6 and under. Raffle tickets for sale; need not be present to win. 253-857-5184 or www.kpsportsmensclub.org

OFF THE KEY**APRIL 3, 10, 17 & 24****TOBACCO-FREE SUPPORT**

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

APRIL 5**DEMOCRATS MEET**

26th Legislative District Democrats meet on the first Thursday of each month; 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting. Public invited. Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard. 26thdemocrats@gmail.com

APRIL 11**KGI WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING**

The Key Peninsula-Gig Harbor-Islands Watershed Council provides educational programs, outreach and workshops for watershed residents and encourages community collaboration and involvement. The council hosts public meetings from 3 to 5:00 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Fire HQ, 10222 Bujacich Road NW in Gig Harbor. Contact 253-514-0187 or info@harborwildwatch.org

APRIL 14**OLALLA CLUB CONCERT**

Writers in the Round will be playing at Olalla Community Club, 12970 Olalla Valley Road SE, Olalla. Suggested donation is \$20. Potluck starts at 6 p.m.; concert starts at 7 p.m. www.olallahouse.org

WEEKLY EVENTS**WEEKDAYS****SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES**

The S.A.I.L. senior exercise class meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Register with Marilyn Perks at 253-884-4440.

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS**PLAY TO LEARN**

Play to Learn 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Provided by Children's Museum of Tacoma. This is a free drop-in program for preschoolers age 5 and under and their adult caregivers. No session April 16 or 20. 253-884-3456

TUESDAYS**TOPS**

Take Off Pounds Sensibly is an affordable wellness education organization where members learn about nutrition, portion control, food planning, exercise, motivation and more. Visitors are welcome to attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge and without obligation. Weigh-in from 8:35 to 9:25 a.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN

SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior tai chi meets 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. 253-884-4440

STORYTIMES

Discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the Key Center Library. Music and

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

JOIN THE KEY SINGERS

Join the Key Singers to learn and rehearse music for the annual May concert, "Fun, Faith and Fidelity," 7 to 8:30 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church sanctuary, 4213 Lackey Road NW. No audition required. Annual dues of \$10 pay for rent, music and PHS scholarships. 253-884-5615

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME**

The Children's Home Society/KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. Caregivers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. Tami, 253-884-5433. No session April 17 or 19.

WEDNESDAYS

READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS

The Children's Home Society of Washington sponsors this free cooperative preschool class for 3- and 4-year-olds at KP Civic Center. Parents or caretakers participate with the children, playing learning games, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. 253-884-5433. No session April 18.

LAKEBAY WRITERS

Lakebay Writers is a workshop for people who love stories. Share yours; hear others'. From 1 to 4 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Loren, 253-884-2785

KP YOUTH COUNCIL

Meets from 2:30 to 5 p.m. at the Key Center fire station. Keypercouncil@gmail.com

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

SENIOR MEALS

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

THURSDAYS

TOASTMASTERS

Have fun improving your public speaking ability and leadership skills at the Key Center Library 8 to 9 a.m. 253-858-5761 or 253-548-3511

SENIORS LUNCH

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

FRIDAYS

SKATE NIGHT

Skate night at the Key Peninsula Civic Center from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5. 253-884-3456 or kpciviccenter.org/skate. No sessions April 13 or 20

SATURDAYS

WRITERS GUILD

The Writers Guild meets the first and third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon in the community council office, Suite D, at the Key Center Corral. 253-884-6455

MONTHLY MEETINGS

April 3, KP Historical Society meets first Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in the museum at KP Civic Center. 253-888-3246

April 4 & 18, KP Lions meet first and third Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

April 9, KP Parks commissioners meet second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

April 10 & 24, KP Fire commissioners meet second and fourth Tuesdays, 5 p.m., Key Center fire station. keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

April 11, Bayshore Garden Club meets second Wednesdays, 10 a.m., fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 253-332-4883

April 11, KP Community Council meets second Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. Guest speakers: Kelsey Potter, coordinated care and Scott Gallagher, Key Pen Parks update. 253-432-4948

April 12, Ashes support group for Fire District 16 meets second Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Key Center fire station. 253-884-3771

April 12, Peninsula School District board meets second Thursdays, 6 p.m., district office in Purdy. 253-530-1000

April 12, KP Civic Center Assn. board meets second Thursdays, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 253-884-3456

April 16, KP Democrats meets third Mondays, 7 p.m., Home fire station, johnpatkelly@aol.com

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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.

**Fishermen's
Annual Breakfast and Raffle**

Sunday April 29 7:30am to Noon
\$6 per person
Children 6 years and under FREE

Yard Sale

Saturday, April 28 9:00 to 3:00 and
Sunday, April 29 7:30 to Noon

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Sportsmen's Club**

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The Mustard Seed Project.....	\$2,500
KP Boy Scout Troop 220.....	1,350
KP Boy Scout Troop 222.....	1,700
KP Children's Home Society.....	3,000
KP Partnership for a Healthy Community.....	2,500
AAUW Tech Trek program for girls.....	1,900
Longbranch Improvement Club.....	1,600
Evergreen Elementary School.....	1,000
Henderson Bay High School scholarships...	2,000
KP Backpacks for Kids.....	1,800
KP Cooperative Preschool.....	1,000



Angel Guild Thrift Shop
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Civic Center Secures State Capital Funds for Generator

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula Civic Center has been granted \$60,000 in the state capital budget for the purchase of an emergency power generator.

The generator will be the latest improvement towards the building's use as an emergency shelter. "We started this process close to five years ago," said Bruce Macdonald, treasurer of the KP Civic Center Association. "As a board, we recognized that while the civic center cannot fulfill all the needs of the community in an emergency situation, we can and will be a significant part of emergency preparedness on the Key."

The board of directors developed a plan for updating the civic center, starting with an upgrade to the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning. The HVAC system was replaced by 2016, after which the board turned to the question of emergency power. Several upgrades were made to the infrastructure and electrical systems to allow hooking up a generator to the building. Now that the new budget allocation has come in, the KP Civic Center Association can move forward with acquiring the generator itself.

"Next, there will be a contract between us and the state of Washington, detailing what we plan to do with the funds and spelling out the obligations that go along with public funds projects," said James Allyn, caretaker of the civic center. Once the contract is finalized, all that will be left is to purchase the generator itself after receiving bids from electrical contractors. A Cummins 1,000-kilowatt propane generator selected by the board will be ordered as soon as the funds are in place. "We're expecting the generator to be in place in the next couple of months," said Peggy Gablehouse, a KPCCA board member.

With the HVAC upgrades and a new electrical generator, the civic center will

stay warm and keep the lights on in a major emergency or natural disaster. According to Gablehouse, the civic center would mostly be used as a "warming shelter" in a crisis; a place for people to come during the day to warm up, dry off and have some soup and coffee.

The building would also serve as a communications hub, connecting people who need help with willing volunteers. "The idea is that it's where you come and say, 'I have a tree on my house, I need to have someone come and cut it down,' and I'd say, 'I know this guy over here, he's a good guy, we can send him out,'" said Gablehouse. The major limitation on the building's ability to serve as an emergency shelter is its lack of beds and showers, which makes it unsuitable as an overnight shelter in all but the worst emergencies.

The emergency upgrade improvements made at the civic center have been supported by dozens of individuals, from state representatives securing funding, to local volunteers contributing their own time and money to the project. "As undignified as it may seem, we just kept talking to everyone we knew until we found the right connections," said Allyn, who added that although a large amount of funding has come directly from the government, "there are tens of thousands of dollars in in-kind donations and volunteer hours involved in the process as well, without which it would never have been affordable."

The generator is currently on track to be installed and operational this summer. The installation will complete the KPCCA's plan for upgrading their emergency shelter capacity, although possible future upgrades aren't being ruled out. "We're not able to do everything simply because of the physical limitations of the facility, but what we can do, we hope to do well," said Allyn.

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25 Years of Espresso 'Close to Home'

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

Close to Home Espresso has been the stopping place for the Key Peninsula coffee-loving public for 25 years.

Owner Laura McClintock opened the stand in May 1993 in a space that was barely 7-by-8 feet, neither plumbed nor insulated and "very primitive," she said. "For 19 years we had to carry fresh water in and all wastewater out. It was either freezing or like being in an oven."

The business was transformed in 2016 together with the rest of the new shopping area anchored by the Food Market at Key Center. The new site is not only plumbed and air-conditioned, but is approximately three times the size of the original stand. The outdoor tables are a favorite meeting place for locals and their four-legged guests.

McClintock had a background in business before moving to the KP. She owned an upholstery shop in Seattle and had been a partner in another business, but commuting hassles prompted the decision to make a change.

"If you want to cry when you get in traffic, it is time to look for something else," she said. "Once you decide to change, be tenacious about it."

Before starting her own non-commute business, she enrolled in a small business incubator class sponsored by the Small Business Administration at Tacoma Community College. The class focused on developing a sustainable business plan. McClintock took the classwork seriously, she said. "I really worked at the plan. I needed to know if I could make enough money to keep the business going, needed to know if the venture would bring in enough money to support myself."

"You also need to realize how it will impact your life. You really have to think about that, it is not like working for someone else," she said.

To assess the business potential, McClintock sat outside the old Walt's market and counted cars and spent about a year working in a coffee stand in Gig Harbor to be sure she liked the work, and then scraped and saved to start up. "My mom had an old car," she said. "I bought it from her really cheap and sold my newer Nissan Pulsar to get enough to start the business."

One bit of advice she has for people who want to go into business for them-



Laura McClintock pulling a café. Photo: Carolyn Wiley KP News

selves is to have a plan that includes flexibility to take time off, and before signing a lease be sure to know your landlord. "If they aren't reputable, the lease won't do you any good," she said.

Her business usually employs between seven and nine people. McClintock said they are a really tight group that works well together. If someone is ill, everyone pitches in to adjust the schedule.

"Nothing is more valuable than a good employee," she said. "Perhaps the most important thing about being the boss is to appreciate your employees. I knew I had been a good worker (at past jobs), but felt that my work was not appreciated. It doesn't cost anything to treat employees well."

Margaret Heidal, one of those employees, said, "I have been here 19 years and I don't even have seniority; that goes to Jamie, who has been here from day one."

Four members spanning three generations of the late Delores Leigh's family including daughters Christa Halinen, Jamie Beimford and granddaughter MacKinzie Feyedelem have all worked at Close to Home Espresso over the years.

"Eventually, I would like to devote more time to artwork, do something different, get an RV and go traveling," said McClintock, who is also an accomplished artist. But in the meantime, "The best thing about the job is the customers," she said. "I love my customers, love those special customers, and the best part of the job is talking to people."

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2018 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

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



Key Pen Parks replaced the ball field lights at Volunteer Park with new LED fixtures with the help of Penlight linemen and bucket trucks to remove the old fixtures and replace them with new, brighter and more energy-efficient ones. *Photo: Peninsula Light Company*

Peninsula Light Co. Growing and Glowing

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Just over 90 years ago, Jan. 8, 1927, electricity flowed for the first time on the west side of the Tacoma Narrows. Peninsula Light Co., which now has more than 1,000 miles of line and 32,000 meters in Gig Harbor, Fox Island and on the Key Peninsula, has come a long way.

In 1924, the state issued Peninsula Light Co. a license to operate. A year later, the articles of incorporation were adopted and the company, a nonprofit cooperative, was established. Members paid \$100—worth \$1,400 in today's dollars—to join.

The budget was tight: In August 1925, the board approved purchase of a binder for the meeting minutes “if the price was reasonable.”

In December 1926, PLC was officially energized with power supplied by Tacoma City Light, but operation apparently ceased when funds ran out. Board members began membership drives and personally collected the memberships. For those who could not pay the \$100 membership, an in-kind option was available: installing a pole was credited at \$5.

The drive was successful and three months later 55 miles of line were up.

PLC, now Peninsula Light Co., was ahead of its time. According to America's Electric Cooperatives website, the electric cooperative movement came into full force in the 1930s. The Rural Electrification Administration was established by the Roosevelt administration to provide federal loans to serve sparsely populated rural areas. Invest-

ment-owned utilities were not interested, but loan applications from farmer-based cooperatives poured in, and ultimately electric cooperatives made rural electrification a reality. They continue to provide power to most rural communities.

Jafar Taghavi, who has been Peninsula Light Co.'s chief executive officer for 10 years, described the benefits of the cooperative structure. “We are owned by the community,” he said. “This means we are here to benefit the community and not stockholders.” All members pay membership—it is still \$100—at the time they sign up for service. It is refunded when the member leaves.

He said the board structure assures that the board works for all members and not any special interests. Nine members are

elected at-large to three-year terms, with election of three members each year.

Board President Signo Uddenberg said, “We are extremely proud of our accomplishments. Peninsula Light's rates remain among the lowest in the region even while we maintain the top quartile in the nation for reliability. In addition to this, our member services department consistently rates among the best in the nation for customer service.”

Taghavi said that Peninsula Light's focus on customer service and reliability have especially paid off in the last seven to eight years. Reliability is measured by the frequency and duration of outages, and since 2010 the ranking has gone from the bottom quartile to the top quartile.

“Staying in the top quartile is harder than getting there in the first place,” he said, noting that all companies continually work to improve. “Our customers have high expectations.”

Lines were undergrounded wherever economically feasible, Taghavi said, with about 700 miles completed. For those lines where poles were still in place, bare conductors were replaced with insulated conductors. “About 80 percent of power outages on poles are caused by branches falling across lines and shorting them out. Insulated conductors prevent that,” he said.

Finally, technology has been critical. “We are not at the bleeding edge, but we are at the cutting edge of technology,” Taghavi said. In 2005, the company began installing automatic meter readers. They provide two-way communication over the power lines, eliminating the need for meter readers, but also provide a way to troubleshoot and analyze outages and to confirm power restoration.

Peninsula Light does not plan to enter the telecommunications business, Taghavi said, though it did install extra conduit when the undergrounding took place to accommodate fiber optic cable in the future. Currently, CenturyLink, Wave and Comcast participate in a Joint Pole Agreement where they rent access maintained by Peninsula Light.

Peninsula Light does more than provide electricity.

In 1995, it entered the water business, managing or owning class A and B systems. They are responsible for about 3,000 systems, including Key Center and the school district, taking care of billing and testing.

Taghavi is also proud of the role Peninsula Light has played helping people in its service area. Its Community Support Fund provides \$50,000-60,000 a year to various programs and Project Help matches up to \$80,000 a year to help customers in need pay their electric bills.



A newly electrified chicken house, typical of many on the Key Peninsula in the 1930s through the 1960s. Photo: Peninsula Light Company archives

The Early Days of Pen Light

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

In 1998, Peninsula Light Co. collected interviews with early customers, including these two. They are no longer with us, but we thought our readers would appreciate this bit of local history.

Don and Shirley Olson

For Don and Shirley Olson, Peninsula Light is a family affair. Don's father, Elmer, and Shirley's uncle, Albert Rickert, were founding members of the board. They helped wield the shovels and machinery that brought power to the Key Peninsula.

The Rickerts lived at Devil's Head. "I don't ever remember not having electricity, but my dad helped dig a lot of the holes for the poles," Shirley said. Her father was

a logger.

Don, too, grew up with electricity. His family ran the Sunnycrest hatchery and dairy in Key Center. They were among the first on the Key Peninsula to buy a refrigerator and an electric clothes iron.

Don's mother also had a vacuum cleaner with galvanized pipes. His enterprising father blew air through the pipes into a hole in an old stump, to burn it out. "Of course, he also blew the vacuum cleaner out," Don said.

"We didn't have an electric refrigerator—just an icebox for quite a while," Shirley

Get Your Houses Wired at Once

The local Light Company is very anxious that all members of the company get their houses wired at once, as "juice" will soon be ready for use. The City of Tacoma is fast putting the transformer in place, and the smaller transformers are now being put up. Light and power for the Peninsula will soon be a reality.

Notice published Oct. 22, 1926

Courtesy Peninsula Light Company archives

said. "But we were one of the few with running water and electricity, and I thought we must have been pretty modern."

"Every spring, we went out and cut cedar poles for replacement poles," Don said. "We'd put out about 50 of 'em. We got about \$5 apiece..."

As trunk lines extended farther down the peninsula, there was "a great exodus from the back country," Don said. "Everybody moved close to the power lines. That was the advice I gave everyone: see if there's a power line and how deep the well is. If you don't have

those two, you won't be in business long."

Paul and Helen Alvestad

When power first arrived at the Alvestad home on Crescent Drive, the family was raising chickens by the light of white gas lanterns. The lanterns were lit early in the morning and burned until 8 or 9 at night.

"Chickens produce more eggs with more light, so you can imagine the impact on that when we got electricity," Paul C. Alvestad said. His father, Peter Alvestad, bought the 184th membership in the young power company.

"My mother was real happy, because having electricity meant she could get a washing machine," Paul said.

Helen Murray, whose family had a dairy farm near Horseshoe Lake, knew who Paul was in high school. The couple's courtship began years later at the local VFW hall. When they married Feb. 5, 1950, Helen was working as a Peninsula Light company clerk.

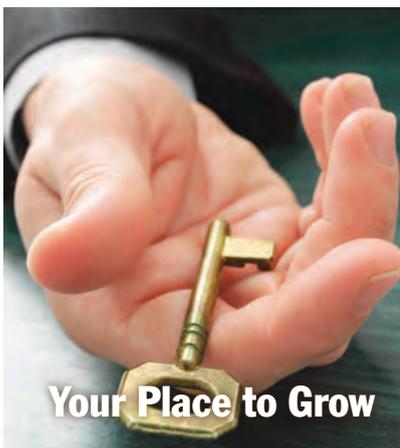
Helen's father had helped bring in the Cushman line, using a team of horses to pull the equipment. She remembers a family camping trip to visit her father at work.

The arrival of electricity had a huge impact on the Murray family dairy, which had about 100 cows. Milking machines replaced hand milking, though refrigeration had not been a big problem for the dairy; the milk was kept cold running over a system of tubes that constantly circulated cold water.

Paul was elected to the Peninsula Light board and would become the longest-serving board member in company history. Among the highlights he recalls were the break from Tacoma City Light; the sale of Mason County's system to the local public utility district; the addition of new substations; and, of course, the advent of the Washington Public Power Supply System, or WPPSS, better known as "WHOOOPS."

Although local customers felt the impact of the WPPSS default through higher rates, the members escaped a lot of legal costs because the board had chosen not to accept power from the two power plants that eventually were not built.

"Maybe it was good judgment—and maybe it was luck," Paul said.



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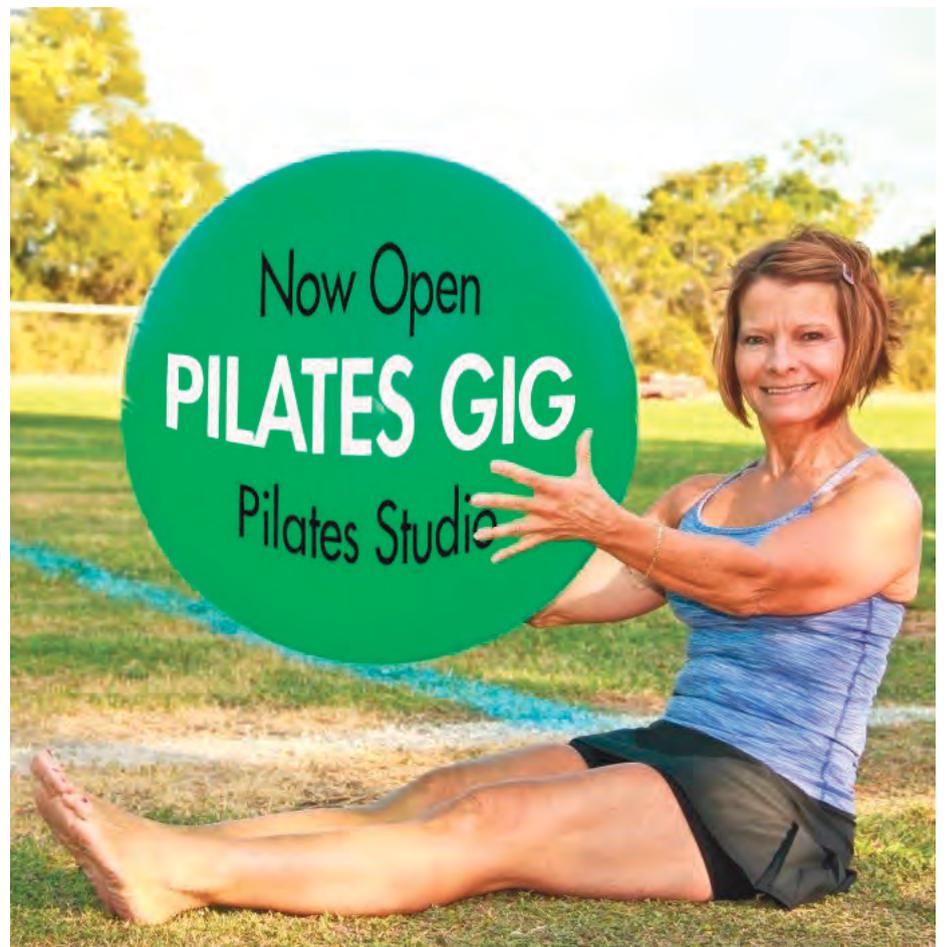
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ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

The Longbranch Improvement Club and The Longbranch Foundation

In 2017, we worked to preserve our properties and environment, and to provide resources needed in the community. Highlights include:

The Longbranch Improvement Club (LIC)

Membership: We gained 50 members in 2017 for a year-end total of 201 people. We created a new membership class called “Friends of the LIC,” which is free and includes our monthly Newsletter and email communications about events. The LIC is a 100% volunteer organization, and our members logged more than 5,630 hours for dozens of activities in 2017.

Our monthly membership meetings feature either potluck dinners or desserts. Odd numbered months have a dessert potluck and feature programs ranging from local interest to world-wide adventures. You need not be a member to attend meetings and are invited to do so—meetings are normally the third Wednesday of the month starting at 6:30 pm, except December when it is the second Wednesday.

Buildings and Grounds: In 2017, the LIC received its second Preservation Grant from Pierce County for restoration work on our historic clubhouse. The work included renovating windows, installing correct period doors, and staining/painting the kitchen cupboards, supports and ceiling timbers in the meeting room. We will apply for another grant in 2018 to continue the restoration. Incidentally, the plaque commemorating the building’s listing on the National Historic Register indicates it was built in 1938, so we’re marking its 80th year!

The trail system was expanded and portions re-graveled with the help of Boy Scouts, who also assisted with replacement of a long bridge over the creek flowing through the property, and construction of two shorter pedestrian bridges.

Events and Activities: We held numerous events in 2017, including “Suds & Spuds” in March, and three holiday weekend dances (Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends). Our “Kids & Christmas” program followed through with the pledge that every

child who attends receives at least one gift at Christmas time. More than 150 children attended in 2017, had lunch, and went home with a gift that came about from our partnership with the “Toys for Tots” program. Forty-seven local Girl Scouts hosted craft tables so the kids could make ornaments and gifts.

The LIC again participated in the Key Peninsula Farm Tour and hosted its Fiber Arts Festival, showcasing numerous artists that work with threads and other fiber mediums. It also hosted, along with Evergreen Elementary PTA and local Girl Scouts, approximately 400 kids at “Trunk-or-Treat” in October, which included a haunted house, crafts, gifts, and treats galore. The LIC is part of the “Adopt-A-Road” program and we conducted two clean-ups of approximately three miles of KP Hwy.

These activities are a rich part of the LIC heritage and we look forward to even greater participation from the community in the years to come. See www.licweb.org for more info.

Marina: We passed the 60-year mark in operating the Longbranch Marina. It presently has 40 moorage slips ranging in length from 22’ to 40’, plus a dinghy dock float for visiting boaters that anchor out in Filucy Bay. Approximately one-third of the marina’s linear footage is devoted to guest moorage and we hosted 960 guest moorage overnight visits in 2017.

The LIC agreed to a new 15-year Aquatic Lands Lease with the WA Department of Natural Resources in April 2017. This lease requires a number of future upgrades designed to improve Filucy Bay water quality and public safety.

In 2017, seven creosote pilings were replaced with steel pilings. Over the past seven years, the LIC has invested significantly to make upgrades that enhance water quality, marine life and public safety. Recently, a grant from the state was approved for additional environmental and public safety measures, and that grant gives us a jumpstart on our upgrade schedule.



The Longbranch
Improvement Club

BETTERING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1921

The Longbranch Foundation (TLF)

The Longbranch Foundation, established in 2016, is dedicated to “Investing in the South Key Community.” In 2017, TLF financially supported LIC goals to maintain and improve our historic clubhouse and recreational grounds.

Thanks to incredible support from the community and LIC members at our biennial dinner and auction, enough money was raised to establish a sustainable plan that increases support for Key Peninsula children over time. In our Higher Ed Scholarship program, TLF awarded two new scholarships to Peninsula High School students and one continuing scholarship. In our Student Programs, TLF increased the level of support to send Evergreen Elementary School fifth graders to Environmental Camp. The plan for 2018 is to again increase funding for both programs.

In addition, TLF was able to donate to Red Barn Youth Center and the KP Farm Council. Support for qualifying organizations comes from targeted donations as well as filling grant requests. Grants are currently awarded to qualifying organizations on a rolling basis, but we will be implementing a change in 2018 to a fixed schedule. Please check www.longbranch-foundation.org for grant information.

In February 2018, we held our first Annual TLF Open House. The charitable purposes of the Foundation were explained by LIC volunteers and many members of the community stopped by to learn more about us. In addition, LIC volunteers are currently planning the “Longbranch Super Sale” scheduled for April 28 with proceeds going to preserve and improve our historic building and grounds.

Summary

The Longbranch Improvement Club has remained committed for nearly 100 years to fulfilling its mission, ...for the Betterment of the Community, and it is now joined by The Longbranch Foundation in that effort. Both organizations are evolving and we look forward to continuing to improve our support for the South Key Peninsula. Much credit goes to our members and residents of the broader community - **Thank You!**



Ed Ricketts examines the beach near Port Townsend sometime in the 1930s. *Courtesy Pat Hathaway Collection.*

Local Historian Explores Cannery Row Connections to the PNW

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Michael Kenneth Hemp relocated to Wauna from Carmel, California in early 2017 to research the role of Puget Sound in the work of Ed Ricketts, a Monterey marine biologist of the 1930s and '40s whose work laid the foundation for the modern science of ecology and whose reputation was made famous by John Steinbeck.

Ricketts ran a marine specimen supply business in Monterey called Pacific Biological Laboratories that had an outsized impact. His work is curated by Stanford University and specimens he collected are housed in museums around the world. The lab itself was a center of intellectual exploration as well, with frequent gatherings that included the likes of Henry Miller, Joseph Campbell, Francis Whitaker and Steinbeck.

Ricketts also served as the inspiration for the character “Doc” in Steinbeck’s 1945 novel “Cannery Row” and its 1954 sequel, “Sweet Thursday.”

Hemp’s interest started early.

“I was born and raised in Berkeley and was going to Monterey ever since I had a driver’s permit,” he said. “It was 1980 when I fell for Cannery Row.”

After attending college at Gonzaga and Berkeley, and after four years in the Air Force (including one in special ops in Laos and Cambodia), Hemp was working for a Monterey magazine in the late 1970s when

he was asked to do a profile on Cannery Row.

“There was no history then; a couple of academics had touched it, but nobody had really done it,” he said. “I happened to end up pals with Charlie Nonella, one of ‘Mac and the boys’ from ‘Cannery Row.’”

Hemp delved into the history of what was originally Ocean View Avenue—the name was changed to Cannery Row in 1958 after Steinbeck’s novel made it famous. Hemp conducted hundreds of hours of interviews with men and women who’d worked in the canneries and on the fishing boats from the early part of the 20th century until the collapse of the fishery in the 1960s. The last cannery closed in 1973.

Hemp created the Cannery Row Foundation in 1983 to collect and preserve this history and published his book, “Cannery Row: The History of John Steinbeck’s Old Ocean View Avenue,” in 1986. The book is now in its third edition.

“In the last few years, I had reached the end of my arc,” Hemp said. “I’d done over a thousand interviews to put this book together since 1980; there was no one left.”

His book includes hundreds of historical photos collected by Pat Hathaway. While assembling the book, Hathaway showed Hemp a 1930s-era photo of Ricketts in Port Townsend.

“And when I saw that shot of Ed Ricketts kneeling in the bull kelp in front of Point Wilson Light, I thought, ‘Holy Moses—

there’s a whole different story up here.’”

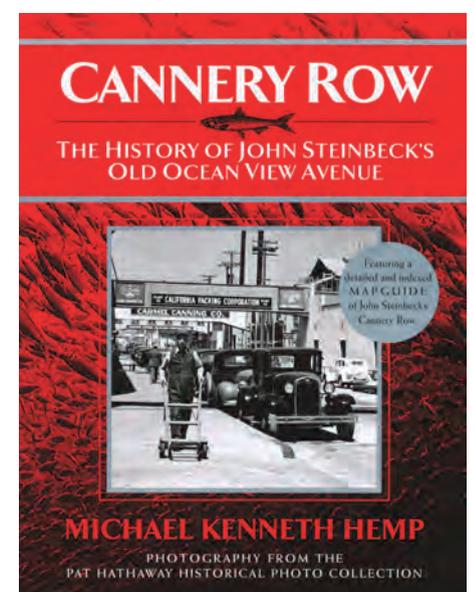
Hemp and his wife, Terri, have been tracking down signs of Ed Ricketts in the Northwest ever since.

“We put everything we could into our two Hondas and headed north,” he said, before finding a house to buy in Wauna. “I’m having a ball looking for where Ed Ricketts and his family stayed during his forays all over Puget Sound, all the way up to Comox, B.C.”

“Ricketts talks about Wollochet Bay and how great the clamming was,” Hemp said. “His 1930s work was based from Hoodspout all over the Sound and up to Vancouver Island, and then in the ‘40s he shifted to the Queen Charlotte Islands. And that’s where he and Steinbeck were going to go when (Ricketts) got killed.” Ricketts was hit by a train in May 1948.

In 1940, Steinbeck and Ricketts chartered a Monterey purse seiner called the Western Flyer to explore sea life in Baja, a voyage and vessel Steinbeck made famous in 1951 in his nonfiction work “The Log from the Sea of Cortez.” This was an abridged version of the more technical and less popular book, “Sea of Cortez,” which the two wrote in 1941.

“A month after Ricketts got hit by the train in May of ‘48, he and Steinbeck were supposed to be on their way to the Queen Charlottes to do another book,” Hemp said. “If they’d done it, it would’ve completed what they called the trilogy: the three books where Ed Ricketts basically surveyed



Courtesy Michael Kenneth Hemp.

the entire intertidal west coast of North America: ‘Between Pacific Tides,’ ‘Sea of Cortez,’ and this one on the outer shores. He was that close to being a household figure. He’s better known as ‘Doc’ from ‘Cannery Row,’ but that has masked the fact that he is one of the greatest naturalists we’ve ever produced.

“I wanted to come up here because of that picture of Ed Ricketts to launch the rest of my career with whatever time I’ve got left,” Hemp said. “There may not be enough time to complete his story up here, but I’ll get it started.”



The Western Flyer in Monterey Harbor on her return from the 1940 voyage to Baja described by John Steinbeck in "The Log from the Sea of Cortez." *Courtesy Michael Kenneth Hemp*

The Saga of the Western Flyer

The Western Flyer was a 77-foot long purse seiner built by the Western Boat Building Co. in 1937 at their yard near 11th and D Streets in Tacoma. The company was founded by Martin Petrich and operated from 1916 to 1982.

In 1940, the Western Flyer was the only boat in the Monterey fishing fleet that John Steinbeck could charter for his trip with Ed Ricketts to Baja California. After publishing "The Grapes of Wrath" the year before, Steinbeck was viewed with suspicion by the community as a possible Communist. But the Flyer's captain, Tony Berry, one of the few non-Sicilian sardine fishermen in the fleet, was also an outsider and proved sympathetic.

After being made famous by the voyage, the vessel seemed to disappear into oblivion.

But in 1983, a man stepped out of the crowd during a Cannery Row Foundation street festival organized by Michael Hemp and asked him, "How'd you like to get your hands on the Western Flyer?" The man was Bob Enea, a nephew of Tony Berry and Sparky Enea, another of the original crew who also appear in Steinbeck's book.

The boat fished up and down the West Coast and Alaska for decades. The name had been changed to Gemini, but Enea tracked it down through its original call sign (WB 4404), which stays with the vessel for life.

"He knew where it was," Hemp said. "We spent 30 years trying to get it and never could. Nobody came up with a check when it was in good condition, and it wound up there under the bridges in Anacortes from around '86 on, rotting."

But the vessel was eventually purchased by a Salinas, California developer who planned to truck it back down the coast and turn it into a motif inside one of his buildings. But the boat never moved.

"It sunk twice on his watch and NOAA

or somebody finally told him to fix it or they were going to bulldoze it on the levy there like they do all the other old boats," Hemp said.

The Western Flyer was towed to Port Townsend in 2013 and sat neglected in a boat yard for two years.

"In the meantime, John Gregg had been keeping an eye on it and making offers for maybe a year or two, and finally got it," Hemp said.

John Gregg is a marine geologist with his own fleet of deep-sea survey vessels. "John became interested in the marine sciences at about age 11 due to 'The Log from the Sea of Cortez' and 'Between Pacific Tides,'" Hemp said. "He didn't know he was going to pay a million bucks for it—a boat that wouldn't float—but John said at the time, 'It was worthless, but it was priceless.'"

The Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op is restoring the vessel and converting it into a seagoing lab and classroom with a target completion date of 2020.

"The Monterey Bay Aquarium will certainly be part of it," said Hemp, who consulted at the outset of the restoration effort but is no longer working on it. "It's not going to be just a static display to walk aboard; it will be a learning laboratory for kids to learn about the ocean environment," he said.

"I think a good shakedown cruise would be a definitive tour of the entire Puget Sound," Hemp said. "Every dock, every little backwater that you could get to, where there are kids who'd otherwise never get a chance to spend a day doing stuff that could change their whole life.

"How could you have a better mission than to inspire kids to get into the ocean sciences?" he said.

For further information, go to the Western Flyer Foundation at westernflyer.org.



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Terry Thomas of Lakebay visited London, England last summer and toured the famous Highclere Castle, the location for Downton Abbey.

Book Review: "March, Books One-Three" by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

"March" is a graphic novel trilogy describing events from the Civil Rights Movement told by one of the people who made it possible, Georgia congressman John Lewis. He wrote the book with his policy adviser Andrew Aydin and it was illustrated by Nate Powell. Not only a best-seller, it is also the first nonfiction graphic novel to win the National Book Award.

John Lewis is a year younger than I am, and I thought I had followed his career fairly closely, but this book gave me a greater appreciation for his role in the Civil Rights Movement. I lived through these times in the South, but I did not comprehend

the dangers of being black in a white-ruled society. Reading these volumes and absorbing their images, I rediscovered personal reactions to the story they tell.

During my public school days, I attended segregated schools, as did Lewis. The year before I enrolled at the University of Texas in Austin, it became the first major university in the South to allow black students admission into undergraduate classes. But while I was there, two memorable events shaped my thinking because they affected people I knew.

One was the student stand-in that led to the desegregation of the locally owned off-campus movie theater. Until reading "March," I didn't know the stand-in was a model adopted by Lewis and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), one of the major Civil Rights Movement organizations of the 1960s.

The other event was an action taken by the UT Board of Regents. They refused to allow the role of Aida to be performed by an African-American girl, because it was deemed "inappropriate" to portray a white boy romantically linked with a black girl.

"March: Book One" traces Lewis's life from his childhood as the son of a sharecropper in Alabama through his college years as a student advocate, joining SNCC and participating in the lunch counter sit-ins in Nashville. His parents discouraged him from taking any action that challenged the

status quo, but Lewis became committed to nonviolent actions that would draw public attention to segregation.

In "March: Book Two," Lewis gives an account of the expansion of SNCC membership following the success of the sit-ins. Along with success, there came an escalation of attacks on demonstrators, including the freedom riders in 1961.

The freedom rides were designed to test the 1960 Boynton v. Virginia Supreme Court decision that outlawed segregation on buses and in bus terminals. The freedom riders boarded buses in Washington, D.C. bound for Birmingham, Alabama. Lewis said joining them was "the most important decision in my life." The first bus was bombed and the riders on the second were brutally beaten by Klansmen while police stood by.

"March: Book Three" covers some of the most brutal and memorable incidents of the Civil Rights Movement, including the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham that killed 4 little girls and left another 21 children injured.

Lewis also describes voter registration efforts in Mississippi. The demonstrations brought enough public pressure that the federal law protecting voter rights was passed in 1965.

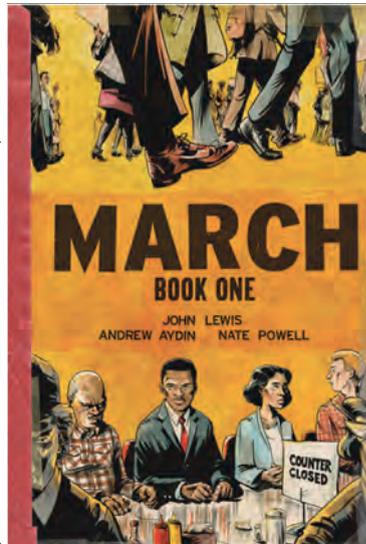
But the unwillingness of the federal government to enforce civil rights laws led to a drive to register black voters, unleashing a flood of violence resulting in over 1,000 arrests, 80 beatings, 35 shootings, 35 church burnings and 35 bombings.

Although many in the movement wanted to meet violence with violence, Lewis persevered and did not waiver from his belief in nonviolent tactics. He was invited to speak at the March on Washington in 1963, though friction over the content of his speech continued up until moments before he took the stage.

"March" reminds me of how far our nation has come from the days of Jim Crow, and I am even more amazed at how far we still need to go.

The Pierce County Library System chose "March" for its 11th Annual Pierce County READS program this year. The program encourages Pierce County residents to read the same book at the same time (from March through May) and engage with each other to discuss it.

The Key Center Library will host one such discussion Thursday, April 26, at 11 a.m. Copies are available at the library.



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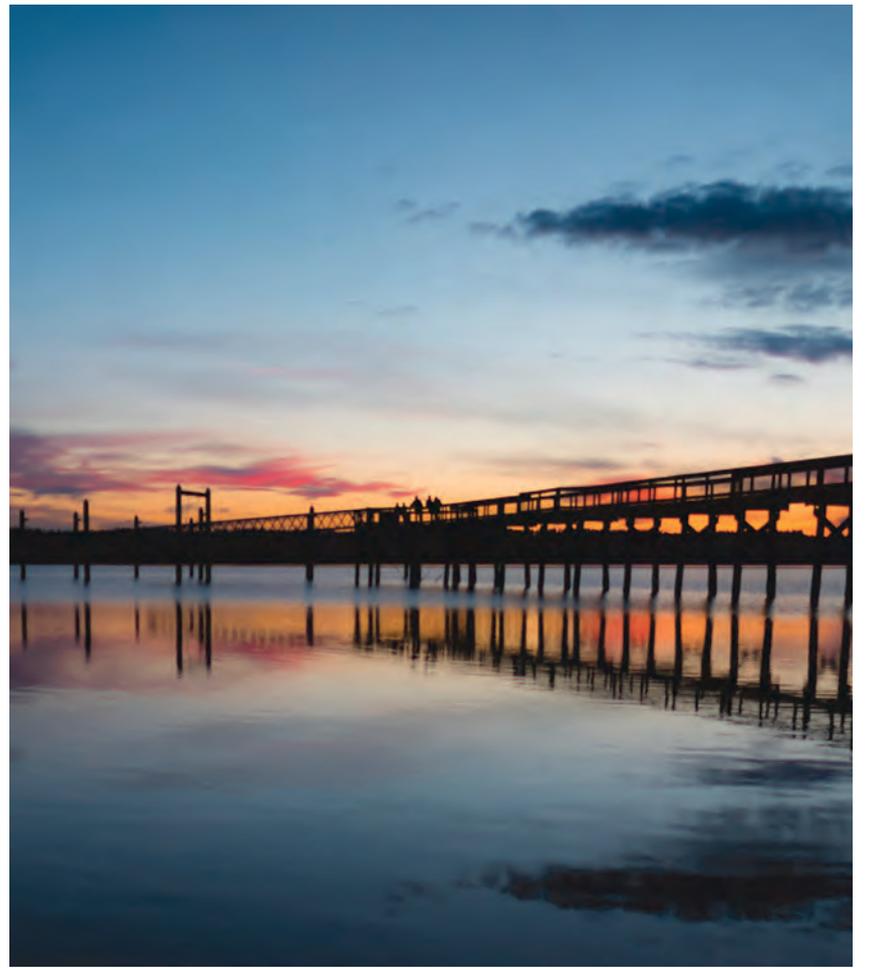
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TOP LEFT: Coyote pups reviewing back yard construction project. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **TOP RIGHT:** Joemma State Park pier silhouetted at sunset. *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News* **LEFT:** Dutcher Cove, shot mid-March (on an iPhone). *Photo: Jim Bellamy* **MIDDLE:** Rainbow connects Herron Island with the mainland. *Photo: Joseph Pentheroudakis, KP News* **ABOVE:** Spring clouds over Pitt Passage. *Photo: Rich Hildahl*