



# KEY PENINSULA NEWS



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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

February 2019 Vol. 46 No. 2



Peninsula High School Seahawks Kara McKinney (23) and Esther Pappuleas (13) under the basket for a rebound during the Jan. 9 game against their crosstown rivals, the Gig Harbor Tides. The undefeated Seahawks came up short 52-51 in a hard-fought game and incurred a penalty that could hurt their chances to make the playoffs. Peninsula will have its last shot at the league championship and postseason play at a rematch with the Tides at PHS, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. Get the whole story at [keypennews.org](http://keypennews.org). *Photo: Richard Miller, KP News*

## Power Outage Kills 6.2 Million Salmon at Hatchery

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Disaster struck the Minter Creek Hatchery Dec. 14, 2018, at 5:30 p.m.

It was Friday night and the wind howled as the power went out over the entire Key Peninsula. Power loss is particularly dangerous for salmon fry, which depend on the flow of oxygen-rich water to survive. Depending on the stage of development of the young fish, there may only be a 15-minute window to ensure survival. For that reason, the hatchery is a 24/7 operation. If the power fails, an automated system fires up a diesel generator to keep the oxygen flowing.

Within minutes the staff at the hatchery realized that the automatic system had malfunctioned and attempted to override

and start it manually. When those attempts failed, staff notified South Puget Sound Hatchery Operations Manager Jim Jenkins. Jenkins called the maintenance crew for additional suggestions, notified the diesel mechanic to come to the site, and called in an emergency crew.

"We have an excellent and dedicated group of people. They are waiting for that call and head out to where they are needed immediately," Jenkins said. "One staff member was on the Narrows Bridge headed to a Christmas party. He turned around and arrived in minutes, going to work in his holiday clothes."

Within 15 minutes several backup staff arrived, and within an hour nine people, coming from the Olympia and Tacoma

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## Henderson Bay Drowning Puts Light on Transient Boaters and Liveaboard Laws

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

**After losing their friend in a fatal accident, two transient sailors are trying to figure out how to get out of a dangerous place.**

Michael Scott Christie, 24, was presumed drowned after the skiff he and two others were paddling swamped and capsized off the Purdy Spit during the early evening of Dec. 28. The two men with him made it to shore, together with their two small dogs, but Christie remained missing after a search that lasted two days.

Christie and his companions, William Harris, 32, and Chris Marx, 39, had been living on three sailboats anchored in Henderson Bay for some months. They were returning to their boats after grocery shopping in Gig Harbor when the accident occurred.

"We got in the boat, everything was good," Harris said. "We were using 2-by-4s to row because someone had stolen all our stuff off the beach several days earlier."

"We lost a really good canoe and the paddles and lifejackets with it," Marx said. Because of that, none of the three men or the two dogs that accompanied them were wearing life jackets.

"When we left, it was clear and calm and about halfway across from the bridge, it was just starting to get dark, the water really churned up," Marx said. "We got about 30 feet or so from the boat and one of the waves spilled over the front end, followed by a second and a third real quick, and it literally just swamped us and we keeled over and went."

Christie and the dogs somehow remained in the swamped boat while Harris and

Marx clung to it for maybe 15 minutes as the current carried them toward the Purdy bridge, recirculated them back along the eastern shoreline of the bay and then back again toward the bridge, according to Marx.

"When we got near the edge (of the beach), I noticed we were going under the bridge, so I started telling him (Christie) he needed to let go and swim the rest of the way," Harris said.

"He wouldn't let go," Marx said. "I was like, 'we gotta let go, we gotta let go.' He finally started swimming with us. We got to land and literally turned around and he was back in the boat."

Harris said, "I went right back down in the water under the bridge trying to get to him; about waist deep, the water was pulling me away. I took one more step and there was



This unnamed 21-foot boat was blown ashore for the third time in a year Jan. 6.

*Photo: Chris Konieczny, KP News*

no bottom. I got back up on the beach and we started yelling our names back and forth trying to keep track of where everyone was at. He (Christie) yelled my name and then I saw the boat flip over and then we never seen him again."

"All you could see was just the tip of the boat and it rolled and that was the last time he (Christie) said anything and I just ran (to call for help)," Marx said.

"As soon as he crossed under the bridge and out of the lights from the gas station it was like trying to look into midnight."

Multiple agencies responded, including the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor fire departments, the Tacoma fireboat and rescue divers, Pierce County sheriff's divers, West Pierce Fire rescue swimmers and the U.S. Coast Guard.

"For a water-related rescue, the number of people that get dispatched is huge," said Anne Nesbit, the public information officer for the KP fire department.

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# Here's What I Think About That

LISA BRYAN,  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR, KP NEWS

With all due respect to groundhogs everywhere on their national day of honor, February is the season of love. The branches are bare but the promise of blossoms rests just beneath our feet. Soon Valentine cards, heart-shaped boxes and bright flowers will provide the warmth of love to carry our hearts into spring, a season of hope with the assurance of renewal.

My earliest memories of the Key Peninsula begin along the shores of Henderson Bay in the 1970s. We drove across the Narrows Bridge from Tacoma to a waterfront restaurant in Purdy named Pearls by the Sea. We ate our fill of clams and oysters, happily blinded by the setting sun.

Who could have imagined today's endless stream of traffic across that Purdy Bridge? Times have changed but one thing is clear: more people live here today and the idea that growth will stop is simply unimaginable.

The passion to preserve and protect the quality of life we enjoy here begins shortly after we arrive. For many transplants, the places we left behind grew unrecognizable before we made the move.

Who wouldn't want to guard against spoiling the life-sustaining marine environment that surrounds and delights us? Or the native plants that sing in harmony with towering trees? Newcomers are filled with wonder at this magical place but are aghast at thoughtless litter. Protective feelings are natural when surrounded by such loveliness.

That feeling grows even stronger as we begin to tap into the depth and character of the community. One acquaintance leads

to another and, before you know it, this is home and where your heart lives.

How did the indigenous people who spent countless summers feasting on salmon and clams react to pioneering settlers who began arriving around 1850 with visions of their own? And what of their descendants remaining here today? Was it better before we came?

The need to manage growth is pressing. How do we preserve opportunities for everyone to enjoy this rich quality of life without destroying it? Is it possible? Who decides which kind of growth is too much?

The Key Peninsula Community Plan was adopted in 2007 after assessing the conditions at that time, along with identifying the goals, objectives and values of the community. The 20-year vision is a guide to developing policies to achieve shorter-term goals while keeping the bigger picture in mind. It is not a one-time thing set in stone forever, but flexible enough to set aside additional land for parks and recreation as community priorities change. The Pierce County Council has already adopted amendments to regulations affecting shoreline, agricultural resource land, logging, public nuisance properties and more in tandem with Pierce County's Comprehensive Plan.

A current battle rages between the group "No on HRC" that objects to the proposed location of Hope Recovery Center (see "Hope Recovery Center: Progress and Pushback," KP News, January 2019). Group

leaders agree the need for addiction treatment is real but argue that the proposed location is inconsistent with its Rural 10-acre zoning and that the facility would be best sited in a Rural Activity Center like Key Center or Lake Kathryn Village.

KP News requested and received letters from opposition members, including Caleb Lystad and Tracy Geiss (Letters, page 8). The group maintains a Facebook page sharing their passion with the unifying message "Save Our KP—

No on HRC—Zoning Matters." Signs are popping up all over the KP.

On the other growth-related issue this month, the Peninsula School District bond measure, KP News received no letters from KP residents opposing it. We proactively sought

out KP voices and spoke with plenty of people who are opposed, but no Key Penners were willing to go on record despite voicing opposition on social media. Instead we published the single letter we received opposing the school bond from Fox Island activist Dan White (Letters, page 8).

January was a month of extremes during unprecedented times for all Americans. If you find yourself still clutching a pitchfork, please drop it. This Valentine's Day, my humble love note to you asks that we be patient with ourselves and each other, and that we allow the steadfast nature of the true love we feel for family and friends to spill over into our broader community.



## Volunteers wanted

You can be a part of the KP News team as a staff writer, photographer or graphic artist. With a few hours a month, you become a valued member of the Key Peninsula community.

Email [editor@keypennews.org](mailto:editor@keypennews.org) and let's get you started.

## Corrections

The news brief "KP Pedestrian Fatality of SR-302" reported Brian Richmond's age as 22; he was 20.

The article "The Warmth and Charm of Wood Fires" reported that the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency offers a \$1,500 replacement program for old but working wood stoves. That program is only available currently in Snohomish County.

An Out & About photo caption incorrectly identified Fred and Mary Ramsdell as residents of Bainbridge Island. The couple resides on the KP at Lake of the Woods.

We apologize for the errors.



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## HENDERSON BAY FROM PAGE 1

“We had to pull divers because the water was so rough and the current was moving so fast,” she said. “We had to focus on shore-based search with the aid of a helicopter, and the sheriff and fireboats were doing sweeps.” The overturned dinghy was found on the east side of Burley Lagoon north of 146th Street NW.

“The fire department rescue and all of the police that were out here have been absolutely phenomenal,” Marx said. “One fire chief, the night that it happened, everybody was leaving and he refused. He told everyone, ‘you can go, I’m gonna stay.’ They really, really tried to find our friend.”

The search for Christie continued until midnight and then resumed the next day, accompanied by Harris, Marx and numerous others in small boats and along the shoreline. The search was suspended late Sunday.

“We got a hold of his dad in San Diego,” Marx said. “It seemed like he comes from a pretty solid family, a big family, he talked about them all the time. He sounded pretty fortunate in that department.”

One of the three vessels the three men had been living on, a 21-foot fiberglass boat built in the early 1980s, broke loose from its anchor during high winds the night of Jan. 5 with Marx onboard. The boat rolled over at least once and took on water before washing ashore against the bulkhead below the 76 gas station in Purdy. Marx and his dog escaped uninjured.

Later that night, a second boat, a 40-foot, two-mast sharpie built in 1985, also lost its anchor and was blown under the bridge where it was dismantled, holed and sank.

“The sharpie was doing fine until about 3 a.m., then I don’t know what happened,” Marx said. “Now it’s gone and it was the only thing of any value we had.”

Harris came to Washington in May 2018 from California to buy the sharpie for \$2,000. He invited Christie to join him from California and, together with Marx, they spent the summer sailing Puget Sound, selling jewelry Harris made and working on the boat.

They picked up another boat for free in Des Moines, a 36-foot Rhodes Evergreen sloop built in 1948 and missing her mast.

The original plan was to get to Port Townsend, find work and restore the boats. “There’s a lot of resources there and a lot of work, like carpentry, which is what I do,” Marx said.

But neither vessel had a working engine, so Harris later traded his car for two outboard motors, neither of which worked for long. The seller offered to repair them



William Harris, left, and Chris Marx with their dogs, Quagmire and Icky, spend most of their time on their smallest boat since it’s the easiest to heat. Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News

at his place on the north end of the Key Peninsula, which is what drew the three to Henderson Bay. It was there they were given the 21-foot boat by its owner, who had left it at anchor off the Purdy Spit for at least a year.

“We’ve pretty much just been waiting on the motors,” Harris said. “The weather hasn’t really given us any options to do anything.”

Shortly before the sharpie sank, Harris had decided to sell it. “I don’t have the resources to take care of her,” he said. “She’s a really good boat, she’s an epic boat.”

The sharpie was refloated with the help of some community members a few days later and beached near the Purdy Spit boat ramp, badly damaged. At press time Harris and Marx were at work cutting it apart and local volunteers were hauling away the pieces.

The 21-foot boat Marx was on was moved off the bulkhead and rafted up next to the Rhodes.

“At this point we just want the motors back and then we can take them somewhere else,” Marx said. “I’ve been hoping we could offer a trade to work for one.”

But their extended stay has attracted the attention of local residents concerned about the danger to themselves and the community from anchoring in an unshel-

tered stretch of water and about what they are doing with their waste. It is illegal to discharge human waste into Puget Sound or to remain at anchor more than 30 days in a single location.

The Rhodes has a working marine toilet and holding tank, as did the sharpie, according to Harris. The smaller boat has a portable toilet they take to shore to empty. “If we can, we wait to land so as not to fill the holding tank as fast,” he said, adding they have a friend who pumps out the tank when needed. KP News could not independently confirm whether

**“AS LONG AS THE COUNTY KEEPS TURNING A BLIND EYE TO THESE SITUATIONS, WE’RE GOING TO HAVE A BIGGER AND BIGGER PROBLEM WITH MORE TRAGIC ENDINGS.”**

that was true.

“We just really want to straighten it out,” Marx said. “People have complained and they had some points. There’ve been a lot of nice people that have come forward too and we’re very, very grateful to this community.”

One shoreline resident, who witnessed these events but declined to be identified, said, “How does this end? I get that people are sympathetic, as if it’s this romantic, vagabond lifestyle. But it’s not. It’s dangerous for them and a burden for us.”

Another resident added, “To be a responsible boater, you need at least two things: knowledge of what you’re doing, and the funds to afford the necessary equipment to operate and maintain a safe ship. In my opinion, these men had neither of these things.”

“As long as the county keeps turning a blind eye to these situations, we’re going to have a bigger and bigger problem with more tragic endings.”

Both abandoned and unseaworthy vessels with people living on them are growing in number in Puget Sound and around the country, according to the state Department of Natural Resources. The DNR is charged with removing abandoned vessels and also has an incentive program for owners to turn in unwanted vessels.

For more information, go to [www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services).

The state Department of Ecology responds to spills of all types into the environment.

Reports can be made 24 hours a day to 360-424-8802.

*Editor’s note: At press time, Harris told the KP News that he and Marx had been given another boat with a working engine and marine toilet, and that he would be putting the Rhodes Evergreen up for sale or trade.*

*Michael Christie had not been found.*

Harris and Marx cut up and disposed of the remains of their one of a kind sharpie by press time. Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News





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## Peninsula Light Co.

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**POWER OUTAGE** FROM PAGE 1 areas, were working with flashlights in the winter storm to save the fish. They formed three teams. Team one worked to plumb surface water into the incubation room from the gravity fed surface water intake. Team two checked oxygen levels, installed and maintained a small pump to move creek water into the incubation room, and also drained incubators with eggs in them. Team three worked to restore the generator, including an unsuccessful attempt to restart it using car batteries.

A call went out to the fire department to see if they might be able to help with a pumper truck, but they were busy tending to human emergency needs. The diesel mechanic arrived, and about three hours after the power failed the generator was running. Ten minutes later power was restored.

The chum (about 4.2 million) and coho (about 2 million) stock survived. They were in the egg stage and far more resilient to oxygen loss. If eggs are moist but not submerged in water, they can

absorb oxygen from the atmosphere and survive for several hours. If they are in water with dropping oxygen levels, they will die. More than a thousand trays with about 5,000 eggs per tray were drained one by one to save the eggs, Jenkins said.

The Chinook salmon—fall and spring—were at the most vulnerable fry stage. The crew worked to divert water from the gravity-fed sources to their incubators, but with limited success. Initially they thought all had been lost, but Jenkins said the efforts of the crew saved 10 percent and those hatched fry were moved to holding tanks, earlier than ideal, but safer for the fish than the incubators.

The spring Chinook program is designed to help increase the stock of an endangered species and more recently to also increase the food supply for the southern resident orcas. Minter is one of two sites for this program; the other, slightly larger, is at White River. The Minter Creek program had an estimated 500,000 fry on hand, an increase of about 100,000 fish compared to prior years. There is no replacement for those lost fish, but when the spring Chinook return to Minter this coming year, eggs will be collected and fertilized,



Top: Only about 10 percent of the Minter Creek Chinook fry, similar to these, survived the power outage. Below: Salmon eggs at the hatchery, similar to those shown here, largely survived suffocation. *Courtesy Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*

and the program will continue.

Chinook, unlike coho and chum, cross age brackets when they return to spawn. Just over half return after four years, but others may come back between one and five years. This gives them more resilience in the face of an environmental disaster, according to Jenkins.

About half of the lost fall Chinook (5.7 million) will be replaced with hatched fish, delivered to the holding ponds starting as early as mid-January from hatcheries with excess supply. The fall Chinook program supports state fisheries and does not represent new production.

Jenkins said that the hatchery program is designed to have redundancy. No program is standalone. "We don't want to put all of our eggs into one hatchery."

All Minter systems operated as expected when a second power outage occurred the following week. An outside office is now investigating the incident and protocol for power outages. Washington Fish and Wildlife Department Director Kelly Susewind said, "I've instructed staff to hire a contractor to determine what went wrong and help us identify steps we can take to prevent such a loss in the future."

# Superintendent Answers KP Bond Questions

STAFF REPORT

**Art Jarvis argued the case for the Peninsula School District's second ask for a major capital funding bond in less than a year.**

Peninsula School District Interim Superintendent Art Jarvis, Ph.D., addressed a standing room only crowd at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center Jan. 3 to describe and defend the school capital bond issue to be put to voters Feb. 12.

Jarvis, who has worked 54 years in education including 31 as a superintendent, was hired after the failure of a PSD bond in April 2018. That 20-year, \$220 million measure would have financed school

construction and renovation throughout the district. A supermajority of 60 percent voter approval was needed but, according to the Pierce County Auditor, out of 23,068 votes cast the bond lost by 240, or 1.04 percent.

The Key Peninsula voted against it by 206 votes.

Jarvis said he reassessed the district's immediate needs and recommended the school board offer a second bond issue to voters specifically to build two new elementary schools and rebuild two existing elementary schools in Gig Harbor and on the KP to relieve overcrowding and replace aging infrastructure.

The bond issue of \$198,550,000 would be collected at an estimated rate of 79 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

"Right now your tax rate on the (existing) levy and your tax rate on the old bond from 2003 is \$2.32 per thousand," Jarvis said. "In 2020, we pay off the 2003 bond, the levy rate goes down to \$1.50 and the rate will be \$2.29 combined or less."

Jarvis said there are 66 portable classrooms in use at PSD elementary schools and that there is no room for more. "We're over 1,000 kids beyond the capacity of our elementary schools. Another way to look at that is we have two entire schools of kids and teachers in portables because we're out of space."

Increased enrollment following a slump in home buying after the Great Recession 10 years ago, combined with smaller class sizes recently mandated by the Legislature, have contributed to overcrowding. "We had the biggest kindergarten class coming in this fall that we've seen in 25 years, right on the heels of the last two classes that were the biggest in the last

20 years," Jarvis said.

After evaluating the needs of the district, Jarvis said the priority was to house students in permanent school buildings. "I'm not trying to tell people that we're going to double-shifting or that your kids are unsafe... A great teacher in an old school can still do some wonderful stuff, but compared to what we could do with an appropriate building it's not even close."

"The painful part is we had to leave a bunch of needs on the table," he said. "This district, contrary to some rumors, has spent good money on maintenance, but

**"WE HAVE TWO ENTIRE SCHOOLS OF KIDS AND TEACHERS IN PORTABLES BECAUSE WE'RE OUT OF SPACE."**

certainly can't keep up with the needs of this aging fleet of schools."

Board member Marcia Harris added later, "We reconsti-

tuted the audit and finance committee and brought outside people on as an oversight committee that reported back to the board and the public on how the money is being spent. The commitment from the school board is that we want that accountability."

The plan is to build one new school on district property off Harbor Hill Drive (between Costco and the YMCA), a second at a site to be determined, and to rebuild both Artondale and Evergreen Elementary schools where they are without closing them down or moving students during construction.

"There are eight permanent classrooms and six portables at Evergreen for a total of 14," Jarvis said. "They will have 18, including 10 more permanent classes than they have now. Evergreen is going to continue to grow these next 10, 15 years, and we're trying to build not for the minimum but for as much as we can do."

"Somewhere on the other side in Gig Harbor we're going to be doing some boundary changes because of the growth, but not here (on the KP)," he said, referring to school attendance areas within the district.

"Elementary school No. 10, that elegant name, is still up in the air. We own the Bujacich (Road NW) site (on Swede Hill opposite the McCormick Forest Park), but there are some issues, like no sewer connection. We're trying to move very carefully without driving up the price of land if we have to buy (a new site)."

Audience members raised many concerns about the bond, starting with the price.

"Some of the people who are opposed to the bond say it can be done for around \$100 million," said one attendee.

"You cannot do what I just described



Interim Superintendent Art Jarvis described and defended the upcoming school capital bond issue Jan. 3. *Courtesy Art Jarvis*

for \$100 million," Jarvis said. "Once in a while, somebody says to me 'I don't want you to spend that much money on a school, I want it cheap.' And the answer is you can't do a school cheap and you should never do a school cheap, because cheap means you cut the codes or the materials or the safety or something."

Others asked about using existing buildings instead of constructing new ones.

"We didn't find anything," Jarvis said. "I

looked, for example, at the district office. If necessary we could lease office space but that building itself is so old, we'd spend as much money bringing it up to code to turn it into a school."

Another question was raised about the wisdom of using a bond instead of a levy.

"I've had a long career and I've used a lot of capital levies; it's the wrong tool for this," Jarvis said. "A bond issue says we're all going to pay for a number of years, including the next owner of that house and the one that's being built, and people will share in that cost over time."

"The other problem is with a six-year levy you get one-sixth of the money each year for six years. You have to wait to get enough money to do the project and by the time you waited the cost of that construction has gone up so much you've actually lost ground."

"I'd love to have a levy at 50 percent (required voter approval) instead of a bond at 60, but there's not enough money there to do the work that needs to be done and we've got a lot of work after this round, so we can't afford to be further behind when we finish," Jarvis said. "That's opinion, but it's opinion based on experience."



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**Michelle Caldier**  
FROM THE LEGISLATURE



## School Funding Reform

Last June, when the state Supreme Court ruled that the Legislature finally complied with the McCleary decision, many lawmakers declared “Mission Accomplished!” as if it was completed after six grueling years.

You may remember those legislative sessions (I do) where Legislators sought a solution that would reduce local school districts’ reliance on local levies to pay teacher and staff salaries—and place more of that responsibility on the state. The Legislature also invested billions of additional funds into K-12 education.

We did a great job addressing the salary issue. McCleary, however, wasn’t just about salaries. It was about the state stepping up to do its constitutional duty to ensure our children get the best education possible to be successful in life.

Kids need a safe and functional school building in which to learn, not to be stuffed into classrooms like sardines. Across Washington, school buildings that have served our children well are coming to the end of their useful lives. Many are overcrowded. Some even border on being unsafe or dangerous. Unfortunately, the Legislature hasn’t done enough to address additional school construction needs.

School construction is funded through both the state and local sources. Local funds typically come from general obligation bonds approved by voters of the school district. The local school district may receive state money through several options, but primarily through a program known as the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP). To be eligible for SCAP, the school district must have a space or remodeling need, and it must pass a school bond measure to show local support for the project or have another source for the local share of the construction project.

Unfortunately, SCAP funds only a percentage of specific square footage per student and only a maximum recognized cost per square foot of construction—a limit set by the Legislature.

When a school construction bond fails, opponents often say the cost per square foot was entirely too high. They have a valid point. Between 2015 and 2017, the average cost for new school construction was \$328.18 per square foot. SCAP only covered \$213.23 per square foot of qualified costs, leaving the other costs to be

made up by school districts. Compare this to the average 2015 construction cost to build a home in Washington at \$150 per square foot, half as much.

Those who blame our school boards for the high costs are mistaken. School boards are generally doing their best to meet the SCAP fund qualifications. It’s not the school boards’ fault. It’s the Legislature’s. Policies approved by the Legislature have driven up school construction costs.

Some examples of these policies include:

- A set of high-performance building standards that mandated public buildings, including schools, be constructed to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver standard.

- Frequent updates to the state building and fire codes have significant cost impacts.

- The state charges sales tax on the cost of construction materials. This is like the state paying itself and getting a rebate back from the local school districts in the form of sales taxes. This drives up local costs.

- The state requires prevailing wages be paid to construction and maintenance contractors for work paid by public funds, including school construction. That’s much different from home construction.

- SCAP funds only cover specific expenses, largely leaving school districts to find other ways to cover costs.

- Many schools have trouble qualifying for SCAP. Districts with low property values may have trouble qualifying for bond capacity necessary to replace an aging facility. This is what prompted the Legislature to provide grants to distressed schools, to rural districts with less than 1,000 students and for emergency repairs.

- Debt service on the bonds increases costs.
- Bonds that fail in elections are usually higher next time because the construction costs increase each year.

The Legislature needs to take action to reduce school construction costs, increase funding and help those school districts in need of new facilities. I am glad the Legislature created a task force last year aimed at improving school construction funding, and hope the results of these recommendations will result in fixing how we fund school construction in our state.

Meeting the demands of McCleary was a difficult task, but the mission is only partially accomplished. When we can ensure our kids have a safe, functional and affordable place to learn in every Washington school district, only then can we truthfully declare “Mission Accomplished!”

*Rep. Michelle Caldier, R-Port Orchard, is a member of the House Education and Appropriations committees. She represents the 26th Legislative District.*

**Shawn Jensen**  
GUEST COLUMNIST



## School Capital Bond

On Feb. 12, we will be asked to approve a Peninsula Schools capital bond measure focused on the most pressing need—overcrowding—in a district that has not built a new elementary school since 1992.

You may be asking, why the shift in focus from the 2018 bond proposal? The simple answer is local school districts are responsible for constructing local facilities to meet the instructional needs of local citizens. Over nearly 16 years Peninsula School District (PSD) voters have rejected five capital measures for facilities. Because of those failures, current 2018 to 2019 elementary enrollment in the district is currently 690 students beyond the capacity of the existing 148 permanent classrooms.

The district has been forced to address this shortfall by using an ever-increasing number of portables at each of the eight elementary schools. However, as enrollment is projected to soon reach 900 students over current capacity, there simply isn’t space for more portables. The only answer is to build new elementary schools (two are now needed) and replace our two oldest with new, larger schools to handle both current and future enrollment projections and address the smaller K-3 class sizes mandated by the Washington state supreme court McCleary decision.

The state currently requires that facility construction funding come from local taxpayers through either a capital levy or a capital bond measure. The last capital measure approved by PSD voters was in 2003 when 60.89 percent of voters authorized up to \$45 million in bonds primarily to modernize Purdy Elementary and Harbor Ridge Middle schools. Those 20-year bonds will be paid off this year, a full four years early.

Since then, five capital measures have been at the polls: In 2011, a \$78 million bond garnered 57.67 percent approval; in 2013, a \$50 million levy got 48.67 percent; in 2014 a dual \$60 million bond and \$55.9 million levy received 49.08 percent and 47.08 percent, respectively. Last April’s \$220 million bond came just 240 “yes” votes short of passage with 58.96 percent approval. Unfortunately, with each failure and the passage of time the cost of new

facilities continues to escalate and overcrowding increases, straining existing, aging facilities even further.

For those that will not approve any tax measure that is placed before them, I don’t expect to change your minds. I would, however, like to appeal to those who may be ambivalent or leaning against it because you feel we are taxed too much already. If that is you, I would like you to consider the following reasons for why your vote to approve this bond is actually crucial to keeping more of your own money.

There are three primary reasons why bonds are the preferred method for school construction over capital levies. The first is because funding is available as soon as the bonds are sold, whereas with a levy sufficient funding is often not available for several years, until the taxes are collected to fund specific projects. Second, since bond funding is repaid over many years, bond measures can request larger amounts than levies because taxes are collected in smaller amounts over two decades or more. A capital levy of an equivalent dollar amount would require a significantly higher tax assessment over each of the four or six years the levy is approved for.

With facilities construction needed immediately, a bond measure would allow construction much sooner, with a smaller annual tax hit to the voter. By paying the 2003 bonds off early, after refinancing them twice and saving taxpayers millions, PSD has demonstrated accountability for the resources the voters have entrusted to them.

But what about that third reason to support a bond measure over a levy?

Well, who do you believe should fully pay for school facilities construction? Should current taxpayers, many of whom may be on limited incomes or seniors, pay for the entire cost of these facilities, or is it more equitable to share the burden of these costs with future taxpayers who choose to move here to raise their families? With a bond measure, costs are shared among both current and future taxpayers who each pay smaller amounts over the additional years as bonds are repaid.

This is the responsible taxation of citizens that should be approved for the common benefit of all.

*Shawn Jensen is commissioner at large of Key Pen Parks and a 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.*

**CURRENT ELEMENTARY  
ENROLLMENT IS  
690 STUDENTS BEYOND  
THE CAPACITY OF 148  
PERMANENT CLASSROOMS.**

## Meredith Browand

KEY ISSUES



### Just Say Hello

Just say hello. They may seem like three simple words but their impact can be life-changing for someone experiencing homelessness. When many of us encounter people living outside we are uncomfortable, we avert our gaze to avoid eye contact, and we hustle by to prevent any communication. That is exactly how I used to feel and behave. My lack of understanding led me to act in ways that built invisible barriers to separate myself from those in our community who were experiencing homelessness. It wasn't that I didn't empathize or I didn't want to help, I simply didn't know what to do or to say.

Several years back I stumbled across a Facebook page for Facing Homelessness, a nonprofit organization that serves those experiencing homelessness in Seattle. I quickly realized their mission was different. Rex Hohlbein, the founder of Facing Homelessness, is an amazing photographer and uses this gift to share the stories of those living outside. Each of its social media posts highlights the beauty of the person while never shying away from the stark realities that come with being homeless. His work is both beautiful and brutal at the same time. And it serves to bring the reader closer to what living homeless actually means. It strips away the labels, the stereotypes and the preconceived notions to show the true person.

I followed the page for a while, donating when I could and sharing its posts via social media. Their basic mission of "Just Say Hello" encourages each of us to kindly acknowledge our shared humanity instead of just dropping a dollar in a cup and quickly shuffling by, hoping not to engage. They are asking all of us to pull closer, say hello, ask someone's name and to make a connection.

Our family has spent the last two years volunteering with the organization and building relationships with individuals experiencing homelessness. We have spent many afternoons working at Window of Kindness, a conduit for a connection between those living outside and those of us living inside. Yes, handing out the socks, coat or sleeping bag is vitally important to the person in need—but there is much more to deliver through the window. A smile, a personal connection and love are more

important commodities.

Rather than being overwhelmed by the complex community crisis that homelessness presents, Facing Homelessness is committed to shining light on the beauty, resilience and individual story of each person. They believe that you don't have to know all the answers to begin—you just need to find a way to show up for someone else.

I am constantly amazed by the transformation that our family has experienced by simply saying hello and making a concerted effort to connect with individuals experiencing homelessness. Our volunteering has helped us form deep bonds with neighbors living outside

and has provided us experiences that have changed our family.

But homelessness isn't something that

only occurs in urban centers such as Seattle. We have neighbors on the Key Peninsula who are currently experiencing homelessness or lack reliable housing. If we take a hard look at homelessness in our area we'll realize this is a community crisis and it affects all of us. To make a difference in solving this crisis we don't need to wait for one ultimate answer; but commit to human-sized solutions that can better the lives of others in our community. Even the smallest acts will add up to helping end the community crisis of homelessness on the Key Peninsula.

My challenge to you is to try and look at others around you through a different lens. The person on the street you may want to rush past to avoid feeling uncomfortable? Try saying hello, asking his or her name and making a connection. That was the simple and beautiful beginning of our family's transformation and it changed everything for us.

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

## Derek Young

COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE



### Happy New Year

Heading into my second and final term, I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve Pierce County again. We're proud of what we've been able to accomplish so far and excited to complete several projects underway.

#### BUDGET

We had another successful budget effort thanks to the ideas sent my way by the public and your community leaders. We start with a focus on continuing improvements to

public safety. The 2019 budget includes the addition of six new positions in the Sheriff's Department as well as one position each for Superior Court, Medical Examiner's Office and Emergency Management.

We have also continued to scale up investments to increase cleanup of nuisance properties that present health and public safety hazards. You've probably seen the fruits of those efforts around the Key Peninsula.

While we can't get to every property as quickly as we'd like, and the appeal process does take some time, we've been able to improve from four percent to 62 percent resolution within 120 days. That's a remarkable turnaround and shows that with the right resources, our staff can get things done.

I am thrilled that the council supported amendments I sponsored, like fee credits for affordable housing, support for a new pre-apprenticeship program managed by Workforce Central, and expanding South Sound 211, a statewide database of community resources managed by United Way to cover all behavioral health services, a recommendation from the Opioid Task Force.

We were also able to secure funding for a number of other programs and organizations important to Key Peninsula residents.

- Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community
- Key Peninsula Civic Center
- The Red Barn Association
- New lieutenant and deputy for Drug Nuisance and Abatement
- Communities in Schools of Peninsula
- KP Family Resource Center
- Key Pen Park District Capital Projects

#### NEW COUNCIL

This year we'll be joined by two newly elected members: Dave Morell from District 1 (R-South Hill) and Marty Campbell from District 5 (D-Tacoma). I'm looking forward to seeing what they'll each bring to the council.

During reorganization, I was appointed chair of the Community Development Committee responsible for land use, environment, parks and recreation. I will also serve on the Public Safety and the newly created Human Services committees.

In addition to our duties as members of the Pierce County Council, we represent the county on several external boards and commissions for various different agencies and advisory bodies.

This year I've been asked to continue to serve as co-chair on the Legislative Steering Committee for the Washington State Association of Counties. This will be a hugely important session for counties on a variety of issues, particularly behavioral health, Puget Sound recovery and criminal justice funding.

The Growth Management Policy Board

is Puget Sound Regional Council's land use body where I've represented Pierce County since joining the council. We're in the midst of updating our regional land use plan called Vision 2050. A wide range of social and transportation problems all find their roots in the region's rapid growth and our inadequate response. We need a change of direction to ensure that we protect our quality of life and environment, and make sure everyone benefits from the explosion of economic development we've seen.

The Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health is made up of members from city and county government. We're responsible for protecting and improving the health of all people and places in Pierce County.

Other boards and commissions I've been asked to continue on:

- Alliance for a Healthy South Sound
- Ecosystem Coordination Board
- Pierce County Regional Council
- Rainier Communications Commission
- Sentencing Guidelines Commission
- West Sound Local Improvement Organization

#### THE MONTH AHEAD

The council will consider adding Lakebay Marina to our Register of Historic Places Feb. 12. The application is under the name it originally operated under (Washington Co-Operative Egg & Poultry Association Lakebay Station). If approved, the property would be eligible for grants and tax breaks designed to encourage preservation.

*Derek Young (D-Gig Harbor) represents the 7th District, including the Key Peninsula, on the Pierce County Council.*

## Letters to the Editor

#### APOLOGIES TO MY GRANDCHILDREN

I want to apologize to my grandchildren for not getting involved in the bond campaign last April. Frankly, I expected it to pass. I come from a generation when there was strong support for education and schools.

I was unaware the Peninsula School District contends with a small political action committee that makes a game of opposing every measure the school board places on the ballot, always insisting their own ideas are better and should be adopted instead.

Fifteen years have passed since the last bond was approved. The need is greater every year.

My grandchildren attend Discovery Elementary, one of the most overcrowded schools where portables take up much of the outdoor space. I have volunteered at Evergreen and know that it is 68 years old and needs to be replaced. The current issue

CONTINUED PAGE 8

## Letters to the Editor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

focuses on building four new elementary schools, including replacement of Evergreen and Artondale.

I am not trying to persuade any “no” voters, but would like to make a special plea for all “yes” voters to vote. The requirement of a 60 percent supermajority for approval is a high hurdle.

This bond issue will replace the last vote of 15 years ago, so the tax rate for schools will not change significantly. Our rate is by far the lowest in Pierce and Kitsap counties.

Every delay makes building schools more expensive because of growing construction costs and interest rates. We need your “yes” vote before Feb. 12.

*Bob Anderson, Gig Harbor*

### VOTE NO ON BOND

Gamesmanship by the Peninsula School District lowers their credibility and prevents real solutions to upgrading our schools. The latest reason to vote for school bonds is “overcrowding.” They are threatening parents with year-round schools and 5 a.m. start times to get votes.

Consider that PSD currently makes room for over 200 out of district students, the 2016 PSD redistricting plan to rebalance enrollment was tabled for lack of need, class sizes average 18 for K-8th grade and total district enrollment is less than it was 10 years ago.

The problems endemic of the PSD are poor long-term planning and underfunded maintenance resulting in a “wear ’em out, tear ’em down” mentality. Portable buildings costing millions (\$3.4 million approved in March 2018) are knee-jerk reactions to facility needs.

Vote no Feb. 12 and start the real work with careful planning, cost control and maintenance of our existing facilities and keep special interests out of our pocketbooks.

*Dan White, Co-Founder of Responsible Taxation of Citizens, Fox Island*

### YES ON BOND

When I first moved to the Key Peninsula as the principal of Peninsula High School in 1997, I was impressed by the area’s beauty, but I soon came to be more impressed by the people of this community. We have come together over and over again to resolve local issues and problems.

The upcoming school bond addresses an education crisis in our community, and I implore our neighbors to come together

again to pass this bond. It is no longer a conversation about “prettier” versus “more functional.” One or two portables may have been inconvenient, but one-third of classrooms in portables, professionals trying to teach students in hallways and closets, and overcrowded central areas means our facilities are more stressful, less effective environments for children and teachers.

As I visit our schools, I see dedicated groups of educators, engaged families and community members trying to make the best of aging, overcrowded facilities. It is time for us to make our children and the quality of their education our number one priority. This bond will build two new elementary schools, plus replace our two oldest, Evergreen and Artondale. Please join me in voting “yes” for the upcoming bond.

*Patricia Scott, Home*

### NO HRC

Myself along with some other wonderful folks started No HRC to oppose the construction of Hope Recovery Center (HRC).

We understand there is a need for treatment facilities not only in Pierce County but also throughout the state. However, we also recognize that such facilities create lasting impacts in the communities where they are built—even more so in a rural residential area (zoned R-10), like the one HRC is proposing to build in.

Some might ask why, with the local drug problems we face, one of our neighborhoods shouldn’t bear the impact of constructing and operating a massive drug and alcohol treatment center. The answer is because that neighborhood will not be the direct beneficiary of the facility.

Think of the nearest fire station to your home. If that station took most of its calls to Belfair or Gig Harbor, your neighborhood would no longer be the majority beneficiary of the fire station. But it would continue to be the most impacted by sirens, speeding trucks and so forth.

HRC intends to operate as a regional center, taking patients from all over the state. To ask a small rural neighborhood to bear that impact is wrong. If HRC would like to build on the Key Peninsula, we believe it should be in one of the two appropriate zoned rural activity centers here: Key Center or Lake Kathryn Village. This would lessen the impacts on our neighborhoods and community overall. That’s not NIMBYism; that’s doing what is right.

*Caleb Lystad, Lakebay*

### NO HRC

The Hope Recovery Center’s (HRC) proposed site is in a Rural 10 zone. The base density is one dwelling unit per 10 acres; the maximum density is supposed to be two dwelling units per 10 acres. The closest conditional use permit that the county could find to assign to HRC is as a “cultural center” and a cultural center is for the use and benefit of the community by at least 50 percent or more.

HRC is clearly not a cultural center nor will the promise of reserving 50 percent of the beds for local residents make it one. There are no such legal terms as a “pre-homeless shelter” or “homeless prevention center,” as used in the permit application and public discussions about HRC. These are attempts to pull on the heartstrings of our residents in order to gain support.

The NO to HRC building is not a NIMBY movement. Concerned residents question the rural location of the center and have suggested to the HRC board four alternative sites on the Key Peninsula that are legitimately zoned for a facility of this size and scope.

Concerned residents just ask the community to objectively look at the zoning laws and the community plan and ask well-informed questions. I also ask the Key Peninsula News to provide contact and meeting information for both sides of the issue when it prints articles like “Hope Recovery Center: Progress and Pushback” (KP News, January 2019).

*Tracy Geiss, Vaughn*

The KP News invites all community members to contact us directly with any information, concerns or complaints at [editor@keypennews.org](mailto:editor@keypennews.org) or 253-884-4699. Community members are also invited to post any public meetings or events on our online calendar at [keypennews.org](http://keypennews.org). Entries received by the 15th of the month will be printed in the next edition.

The opinions expressed by 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. 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.org](mailto:editor@keypennews.org)

Obituaries are printed free of charge as a service to community members. Please limit to 300 words and provide high-resolution photographs. All submissions will be edited. Send to [editor@keypennews.org](mailto:editor@keypennews.org).

## OBITUARIES

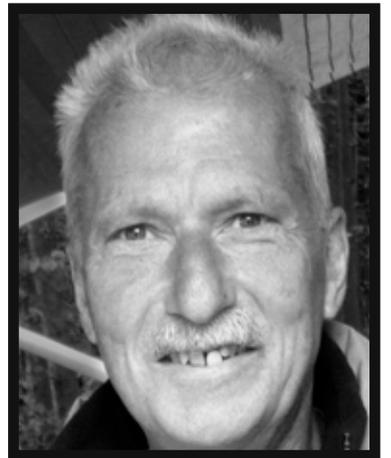


### Katrina Brickles

Katrina (Lewis) Brickles died from an unexpected illness Jan. 12, 2019 at the age of 36. Born May 1, 1982 to Steven and Dora Lewis, she grew up and fell in love with Matthew Brickles of Gig Harbor. The couple wed August 25, 2001 and moved to the Key Peninsula to raise their two daughters.

A devoted wife and stay-at-home mother, Katrina was bubbly, playful and full of laughter. She enjoyed campouts with extended family, cousins and friends. She especially loved Fourth of July on the KP.

Katrina is survived by her husband Matthew; daughters Kaylee Ann and Chloe Grace; mother Dora Lewis, all of Lakebay; and brother William Lewis of Gig Harbor. She was preceded in death by her father, Steven William Lewis.



### Steve Kramer

Steven Merrill Kramer, 64, a longtime resident of Herron Island and the KP, passed away Jan. 6, 2019, after a series of illnesses. Born to Robert and Anita Kramer and raised in Renton, Washington, he began working at the family business, Kramer’s Imperial Carpet Company, at age 15.

His parents were among the first owners on Herron Island in the 1960s, and in 2001, after 40 years in the carpet business, Kramer started Kramer’s Excavating, a

hauling and excavating business based on Herron, putting his heavy equipment to work helping neighbors on the island and the mainland. A hard worker always with a sunny smile on his face, he didn't quit even when his health started to fail.

Kramer met Jodi Comer in 1997 and they divided their time between Herron Island and north Key Peninsula.

Early on, Kramer discovered a passion for hydroplanes. He was the proud owner/driver of a vintage Carpetbagger hydroplane that he loved to race. He later became the owner/driver of two more vintage boats that he lovingly restored, the Water Scamp and the Sun Up. Kramer and Jodi became members of the Vintage Hydroplane Boat Racing Club and spent many weekends traveling to races, winning awards and making many friends.

Kramer is survived by his loving companion Jodi Comer; brother Kevin Kramer and sister-in-law Shelly; daughter Stephanie and son-in-law Xavier Olivares; four grandchildren; and more Kramer and Anderson family. He will be missed by his family and his many friends on Herron Island and around the country.

A celebration of life will be held March 30, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. at the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum in Kent.



**Brian Richmond II**

Brian David Dorris Richmond II died Dec. 8, 2018 at the age of 20. His family lovingly called him Junior. He was a wonderful human being. Brian was active in his community by supporting the Key Peninsula Bischoff Food Bank, where he unloaded delivery vans and stocked the shelves. He lived and loved passionately.

Brian is survived by his father, Brian Richmond Sr.; mother Kimberly Miller; brother Darren Richmond; grandfather Dorris Richmond; grandmother Cheryl Richmond; uncle Darren Miller and numerous cousins, aunts and uncles.

A celebration of life was held in January at WayPoint Church in Gig Harbor. Donations in Brian's name may be made to the KP Bischoff Food Bank in Lakebay.

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**Terry Thomas**

Terry Lee Thomas of Lakebay died Dec. 29, 2018. She was the owner of Country Gardens Florist, past president of the Key Peninsula Civic Center and vice president of the Bayshore Garden Club. Terry loved to travel and made a once in a lifetime trip to England and Scotland in 2017. She enjoyed many trips with her husband to Hawaii. She also had a great love for her dog, Sadie.

Survived by her husband of 43 years, her father, brother, sister, children and grandchildren, Terry will be greatly missed.



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The Burmarks are still smiling after 47 years in this selfie from the Pacific coast. *Courtesy Denise Doering-Burmark*

## Lakebay Couple Approaches 50 Years Together

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

Denise Doering-Burmark and Dave Burmark, who began dating as eighth-graders at Truman Middle School in February of 1972, are still going strong 47 years later and awaiting their third grandchild.

“Love is the first thing,” Denise said regarding the longevity of their relationship. “But you need to choose to stay in the relationship. You’ve got to have two people who are willing to work.”

The Lakebay couple knows something about empathy and listening. Both are longtime Peninsula School District employees, having worked in counseling at various schools. Dave now works at Peninsula High School as a career counselor; Denise is the counselor at Evergreen Elementary.

However, long before beginning their careers—through college, lean financial years, job changes, graduate school, and a growing family over nearly five decades—the couple has managed to make their relationship work.

Both are quick to point out that a long relationship does not equal an easy one.

“This is not a story where we’re going to tell you we never argue,” Denise said. “I have learned a lot from Dave about being more low-key and relaxed.”

“Denise and I are opposites in many ways,” Dave said. “We help each other. We still drive each other crazy sometimes.”

At Wilson High School, Denise saw leadership potential in her boyfriend and encouraged him to run for senior class president. He won.

Decades later, when Denise was feeling burned-out and exhausted in her job and considering leaving counseling to buy a mobile espresso stand, her husband researched the numbers, discussed their retirement plans, and helped her decide that transferring to a new school would be a wiser choice than leaving the profession entirely.

The relationship survived college at separate schools: Denise went to Pacific Lutheran University, while Dave took classes at Tacoma Community College. Both worked. Denise got an apartment with friends; Dave moved into his parents’ basement.

They were each 20 years old when they made the decision to marry.

“I said to him one day at Baskin-Robbins, ‘We should just move in together and get married,’” Denise said. “We might as well. We could save money.”

“She’s very practical. I’d thought we would get married. But I thought I’d propose, and it would be after we were done with college,” Dave said.

### Peninsula School District Capital Facilities Bond

Since 1955, **Evergreen Elementary School** has been at the heart of the KP community.

This bond will fund the full replacement of Evergreen, so it can continue to serve our kids into the future and provide them with the best opportunities to succeed!

For a complete list of projects, please visit [www.psd401.net/bond](http://www.psd401.net/bond)



This is not a new tax. It replaces the previous capital bond expiring in 2019.

**Ballots due by Feb. 12**  
[www.standup4schools.org](http://www.standup4schools.org)



Paid for by Stand Up for Peninsula Schools  
PO Box 2184, Gig Harbor, WA 98335  
Top 5 Contributors: Patinkin Research Strategies, Deborah Krishnadasan, Gateway Capital LLC, Bifrost Industries LLC, EJH Investments.

The couple raised their two kids in Gig Harbor, but by 2006, with their younger child nearly 18, they were ready for a smaller house and moved to Lakebay.

The couple's living room opens up to a view of the water and their porch stairs lead down to the shore. With kayaks, inflatables and a sailboat, the couple has succeeded in making their home on Joe's Bay fun. Grandchildren Violet, age 8, and Rosie, age 2, live close to Peninsula High School and visit often on weekends and in the summer.

While the vast majority of adolescent relationships peter out within two years, camaraderie and enjoying the same activities helped the Burmarks make their love last, they said. "One of the secrets to their success is that they're good friends," said longtime friend Jon Torgerson.

The deliberate approach the couple takes to their relationship also makes a difference. "They still do everything together. Even small things, like taking the dog for a walk," said son Keegan Burmark.

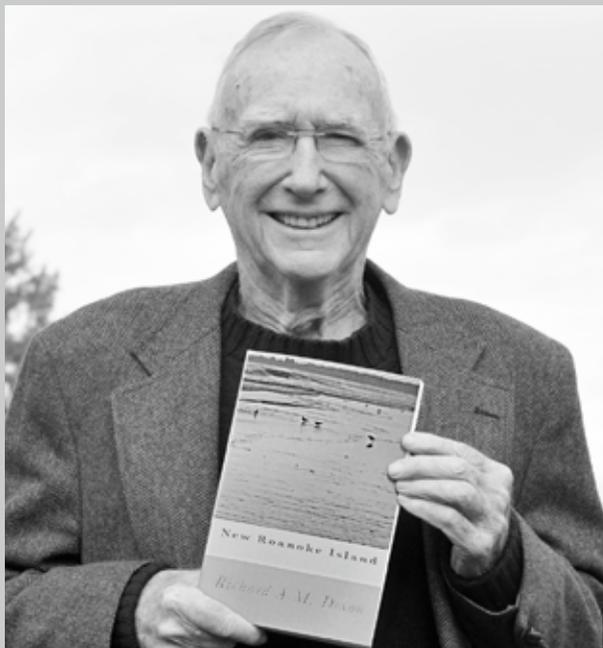
Ever since their childhood playing and riding bicycles around the neighborhood together, the Burmarks have made the most of every moment. "On nice evenings, we will just head out to the boat and float around. Sometimes we just leave it on the buoy and go out and sit," Denise said.

Love wins.

## Dixon's Back!

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The Burmarks met in middle school, when selfies required more work than today. *Courtesy Denise Doering-Burmark*

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Free listings for your event or meeting on our website calendar at [keypennews.org](http://keypennews.org). Click on "Submit an Event" and fill out the form, including contact information for verification. Send questions or updates to [editor@keypennews.org](mailto:editor@keypennews.org) or call 253-884-4699.

**FEBRUARY 5 & 12, 19 & 26****CHILDREN/ADULT ART CLASSES**

Inviting local adults to join children from the Key Peninsula Homeschoolers Co-Op for an introduction to drawing class. Classes 1/2: Feb. 5 & 12 (ages 4-10); classes 3/4: Feb. 19 & 26 (ages 11-15). \$10 per adult (includes materials). To register: 253-884-9814. The Mustard Seed Project, 9016 154th Ave. Ct NW in upper Key Center

**FEBRUARY 5****FREE SPAY/NEUTER CATS & DOGS**

6:45 a.m.-5 p.m. Arrive by 6:45 a.m. sharp. Key Peninsula Community Center, 17015 9th St. Ct. NW, Lakebay. Pasado's Spay Station. Free for feral/unowned cats regardless of income & low-income pets. For detailed local info, visit [tinyurl.com/KeyPenSpay](http://tinyurl.com/KeyPenSpay). Visit Pasado's web site at [tinyurl.com/PasadosSpay](http://tinyurl.com/PasadosSpay) for income guidelines & more information.

**MOBILE COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICE**

10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Apply for cash, food, and medical assistance and Medicare Savings Program. Key Pen Comm. Resources; 17015 9th St. NW, Lakebay 253-884-4440

**FEBRUARY 9 & 16****KEY PEN LITTLE LEAGUE TRYOUTS**

Register online at [www.keypeninsulalittleleague.com](http://www.keypeninsulalittleleague.com). Questions: Lynda Burton [askkpl@hotmail.com](mailto:askkpl@hotmail.com)

**FEBRUARY 10****POET'S MEMORIAL READING**

2-4 p.m. Blend Wine Shop, 8914 Key Pen Hwy NW, in Key Center. A memorial for local poet Claudia Patchen, where poets will take turns reading from her book, November Rising, then read one of our own, either for Claudia, or relevant to the event. For more info please contact Lorraine Hart at (253) 307-4264

**FEBRUARY 21****THINKING THURSDAY**

10-11 a.m. Simple brain games that keep you alert and happy, no matter your age. This is a Mustard Seed Thinking Thursday event, held every 3rd Thursday of each month. Free and open to the public. To register: 253-884-9814. The Mustard Seed Project, 9016 154th Ave. Ct NW in upper Key Center

**FEBRUARY 21****MEET AND GREET ERIC BLEGEN**

4-6 p.m. Join us for an open house to hear updates about our assisted living project; see our office upgrades and rental space; mingle with staff, board, and community; and, most importantly, help us give a warm welcome to Eric Blegen, our new Executive Director. Complimentary snacks & drinks. RSVP at 253-884-9814. 9016 154th Avenue Court NW in Key Center 253-884-9814, [themustardseedproject.org](http://themustardseedproject.org)

**FIRE CHIEF CANDIDATES RECEPTION**

6-8 p.m. Meet and greet the candidates following a short presentation from each. All KP residents are invited to attend the reception at KPMS, 5510 Key Pen Hwy NW, Lakebay. Seeking 3-4 citizens to participate in final candidate selection panel the next day; contact Commissioners Davies 253-307-1766 or Grubaugh 253-509-8656

**FEBRUARY 23****CRAB FEED**

4-7 p.m. KP Civic Center. Adults \$30; children 6-12 \$15; children under 6 free. Tickets available from Blend Wine Shop, Sunnycrest Nursery, Civic Center Office, and Brown Paper Tickets. The annual event is family-friendly and benefits the KPCCA. Information: <http://www.kpciviccenter.org/contact.htm>

**FEBRUARY 25****FREE SPAY/NEUTER**

Free spay/neuter for cats, low cost for dogs. Shuttle picks up pets at Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road, Vaughn at 7 am Monday 2/25, brings them back 9 am next day (2/26). Surgery performed at Northwest Spay and Neuter Center, Tacoma: [www.tinyurl.com/NWShuttle](http://www.tinyurl.com/NWShuttle). Reservations required: 253-627-7729. Local volunteers ([www.tinyurl.com/KeyPenSpay](http://www.tinyurl.com/KeyPenSpay)) will help KP neighbors with pet carrier loans, etc.

**FEBRUARY 25****RELATIVES RAISING KIDS SUPPORT**

6-7:30 p.m. Grandparents and relatives raising children meets at Evergreen Elementary. Potluck dinner and child care provided. Call Lori at CHSW at 253-884-5433 or 253-391-0144.

**OFF THE KEY****FEBRUARY 2****PIER INTO THE NIGHT LIVE DIVE**

6-8 p.m. Stay warm and dry on the dock while Harbor Wild Watch's divers live stream what they encounter below the surface onto a 10ft screen. Staff biologists will narrate and identify the plants and animals. Dress for the weather and bring a chair. \$2.00 suggested donation. Jerisich Public Dock, 3215 Harborview Dr., Gig Harbor. 253-514-0187, [lindsey@harborwildwatch.org](mailto:lindsey@harborwildwatch.org), [www.harborwildwatch.org](http://www.harborwildwatch.org)

**FEBRUARY 9****DAN WEBER CONCERT**

6-10 p.m. Potluck 6 p.m. Concert 7 p.m. Suggested donation \$20. Olalla Community Club, 12970 Olalla Valley Rd. SE, Olalla. Dan is a sought-after touring folk artist for his upbeat and engaging performances, insightful songs and hilarious off-the-cuff stories. [www.olallahouse.org](http://www.olallahouse.org).

**FEBRUARY 13****KGI WATERSHED COUNCIL**

The KP-Gig Harbor-Islands (KGI) Watershed Council fosters watershed stewardship; provides educational programs, outreach and workshops; and encourages the collaboration and involvement of all watershed residents and businesses. Meets 3-5 p.m. Gig Harbor Fire HQ, 10222 Bujacich Rd NW, Gig Harbor. [www.harborwildwatch.org](http://www.harborwildwatch.org), [lindsey@harborwildwatch.org](mailto:lindsey@harborwildwatch.org), 253-514-0187

**THROUGH MAY 26****UNLOCKING MCNEIL'S PAST: THE PRISON, THE PLACE, THE PEOPLE**

History of McNeil Island as a place, and the prison that opened there 143 years ago. Washington State History Museum, Tacoma. Information about the exhibit: [www.washingtonhistory.org/visit/wshm/exhibits/McNeil](http://www.washingtonhistory.org/visit/wshm/exhibits/McNeil) or call: 1-888-be-there. Schedule and cost: [www.washingtonhistory.org/visit/wshm](http://www.washingtonhistory.org/visit/wshm)

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

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10-11 a.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Register with Marilyn Perks at 253-884-4440.

**MONDAYS & FRIDAYS****PLAY TO LEARN**

10-11:30 a.m. Mondays: Feb. 4, 11, 25. Fridays: Feb. 1, 8, 15. Free program for children (ages 6 and under) and adults to play together! Individual play, fun group activities, songs, and a group circle time. Drop-in program, please join us. Michelle 253-530-1097 or [harrisonm@psd401.net](mailto:harrisonm@psd401.net)

**TUESDAYS****STORYTIMES**

11 a.m. Preschoolers discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the Key Center Library. 253-548-3309

**LOVING HEARTS**

Join Loving Hearts to knit or crochet for charity. First Tuesday of the month: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; all other Tuesdays 1-3 p.m. WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Ave. NW. Yarn donations are needed and very much appreciated. Virginia at 253-884-9619 or [lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com](mailto:lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com)

**TOPS**

Take Off Pounds Sensibly is an affordable wellness education organization; visitors attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge and without obligation. Weigh-in from 8:35-9:25 a.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road NW. [margrubb1990@yahoo.com](mailto:margrubb1990@yahoo.com)

**OASIS YOUTH CENTER**

Are you a queer or questioning youth between the ages of 14 and 24 in the Key Peninsula area? We are bringing Oasis Youth Center to you at our satellite program Tuesdays from 3-6 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. There will be games, new friends, activities, learning and snacks. [www.oasisyouthcenter.org](http://www.oasisyouthcenter.org), [oasis@oasisyouthcenter.org](mailto:oasis@oasisyouthcenter.org), 253-671-2838

**KEY SINGERS REHEARSALS**

Rehearsals for KP choral group 7-8:30 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church. All singers welcome. Membership \$10 per year. Marianne: 253-884-5615

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS****PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME**

Weekly except during school breaks. The Children's Home Society of Washington/KP Family Resource Center offers a

preschool/toddler indoor-park program 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. Caregivers stay with child. Drop-ins welcome; stay as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. 253-884-5433

### SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior tai chi class, 10:15-11:15 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Sign up in advance if you're not already in the class. 253-884-4440

## TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

### KP HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN

The Key Peninsula Historical Society museum at the civic center is open Tuesdays and Saturdays 1-4 p.m. Free admission. 253-888-3246. www.keypeninsulamuseum.org

## WEDNESDAYS

### READY SET GO!

Free Early Learning Program for 3- & 4-year-olds. Limited to 16 children with their parent/caregiver. Focus on kindergarten readiness and lots of fun. KP Civic Center VFW room, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Lori Mertens 253-884-5433.

### LAKEBAY WRITERS

A writers' workshop for people who love stories. Share yours; hear others. 1-4 p.m. at Key Center Library. Loren Aikins, 253-884-2785

### BLEND HOOKERS AND TINKERS

Does your fiber diet include skeins of yarn? Join in 5:30-8 p.m. at Blend Wine Shop for a rollicking good time. Bring projects to work on, questions, show-and-tell or hang out with a fabulous group of Key Penners. All skill levels and fiber interests welcome; however, must be 21+ due to location. hannah8ball@gmail.com, 817-929-3943

### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Current group is full. New group will start March 27 at 6:00 p.m. Please call or text for specific dates. Facilitator: Suzanne Hickel, suhickel@gmail.com, 253-565-1200

## 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. Key Pen Community Services, 17015 9th St. Court SW, Home, 253-884-4440

## THURSDAYS

### TOASTMASTERS

Have fun improving your public speaking ability and leadership skills at Wright-Bliss fire station, 12310 Wright Bliss Rd NW, 8-9 a.m. Guests are welcome to come and observe with no obligation to speak. keypeninsulatoastmasters@gmail.com

### 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

### GENTLE YOGA SERIES

Drop in yoga class for older adults \$12/class. Feb. 1, 8, & 15. Instructor: Lisa Dunham. Must call to register ahead: 253-884-9814. The Mustard Seed Project, 9016 154th Ave. Ct NW in upper Key Center

### SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior tai chi drop-in class, 8:45-9:45 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. 253-884-4440

### TRIPLE P PARENTING CLASSES

Children's Home Society of Washington partners with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to sign up families for Triple P Parenting classes and provide assistance with basic food and health insurance applications. Representative available at Key Peninsula Community Office, Suite D, KC Corral Fridays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 253-432-4948 or 253-884-5433

### KP YOUTH COUNCIL

2:30-5 p.m. at the Key Center fire station. Keypercouncil@gmail

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

**Feb. 2, Writers Guild**, 10 a.m., Community Council office, Suite D, at the Key Center Corral. 253-884-6455

**Feb. 2 & 16, West of the Narrows Depression and Bipolar Support Group** - Lakebay Group, 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m., KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Rd. NW, Kimberly 253-753-4270 or dbsalakebay@gmail.com

**Feb. 4 & 18, KP Veterans** group, 7 p.m., KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Rd NW. Veterans, military service members and families with children 16 and older are welcome. 253-225-5130

**Feb. 5, KP Historical Society Board Mtg.**, 11 a.m., in the museum at KP Civic Center. Members, guests, others interested in museum and local history are welcome. 253-888-3246

**Feb. 5 & 15 Key Peninsula Business Association** business meeting Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center; Feb. 15 at noon at El Sombrero. www.kpba.org/about; Nancy Carr, kpbusinessassociation@gmail.com or 253-312-1006.

**Feb. 6 & 20, KP Lions Club**, 6 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

**Feb. 7, Survivors of Suicide**, 5:30-7 p.m. Boys and Girls Club, Gig Harbor. Bob Anderson at 253-753-3013 or bobtanderson@me.com

**Feb. 7, 26th Legislative District Democrats**, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting. Public invited. Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard. 26thdemocrats@gmail.com

**Feb 7, Lakebay Fuchsia Society** meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., KP Civic Center. Myvanway Shirley 253-884-2283

**Feb. 11, KP Parks Commission**, 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

**Feb. 12, KP Fire Commission**, 5-7 p.m., Key Center fire station. www.keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

**Feb. 13, Bayshore Garden Club**, 10 a.m., Longbranch fire station. Wendy, 253-332-4883

**Feb. 13, Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition**, 10 a.m., Gig Harbor Fire District Headquarters, 10222 Bujacich Road NW, Gig Harbor. www.PEP-C.org, curtescott45@gmail.com, 253-380-7240

**Feb. 13, KP Community Council**, 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-432-4948

**Feb. 14, Ashes** support group for Fire District 16, 10:30 a.m., Key Center fire station. 253-884-3771

**Feb. 14, Peninsula School District Board**, 6 p.m., district office in Purdy. 253-530-1000

**Feb. 14, KP Civic Center Assn.** board, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. www.kpciviccenter.org, 253-884-3456

**Feb. 15, Two Waters Arts Alliance** board members welcome artists and art lovers to join its meeting, 1 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center. www.twowaters.org 253-884-1163

**Feb. 16, Key Peninsula Caregivers** Support Group, 10:30 a.m.-noon at The Mustard Seed Project, 9016 154th NW, Key Center. Please call Debra Jamerson before attending. 360-621-1110

**Feb. 17, Bluegrass Gospel Jam Session**, 6-8:30 p.m. For all acoustic instruments, ages and skill levels to play, sing or just listen. Bring music stand and finger food to share, music and beverages are provided. Longbranch Church, 16518 46th St. SW. 253-884-9339

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

**Feb. 20, Key Peninsula Advisory Commission**, 6:30 p.m., KP Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road, reviews applications for proposed developments and makes recommendations to Pierce County. Verify date, venue, agenda, and check for cancellations at www.piercecountywa.gov/5937/Key-Peninsula-Advisory-Commission

**Feb. 21, Key Peninsula Emergency Preparation**, 7 p.m. Topic: Port Orchard tornado. Speaker: Asst. Div. Chief Jeff Faucett of So. Kitsap Fire Dept. Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road, 253-686-7904 or gablehouse@aol.com (Put E Prep in the subject line)

**Feb. 25, KP Farm Council** planning meeting, 6 p.m., KP Community Council office. 9013 Key Peninsula Hwy N Ste D, 253-432-4948 or email keycouncil@gmail.com; visit kpfarmtour.com

**Multiple dates, KP Sportsmen's Club** board meets first Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.; general meeting/potluck second Thursdays at 6 p.m.; bingo \$1/card and potluck fourth Fridays at 6 p.m.; Ladies Bunco last Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Bring snacks and \$5 to play. Sportsmen's Clubhouse, 5305 Jackson Lake Road NW, 253-884-6764.

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



## Angel Guild Thrift Shop

Open 10-4

Tuesday to Saturday in the Key Center Corral 253 884-9333

Donations: Tue-Sat, 9:30 to 3:30  
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## Thrive

If your group has an annual budget under \$25,000 for a secular program that helps local people, our new Thrive program is made for you!

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- Plan your ad for your fundraising event publicity
  - Place your ad at 50% off, thanks to the support of Angel Guild.

Email to sign up now: operations@keypennews.org

In December, Angel Guild awarded \$17,200 to:

KP Civic Center.....	\$1,000
Mary Bridge WIC.....	\$2,700
KP Community Council.....	\$2,000
Peninsula High School Scholarships.....	\$4,000
Backpacks for Kids.....	\$2,000
Key Peninsula Parks.....	\$5,000
Minter Creek Elementary School .....	\$500



## Angel Guild Thrift Shop

Tues-Saturday 10 to 4 Key Center Corral 253 884-9333



In the event of a major emergency with widespread damage and impassable roads, KP residents could be on their own for weeks rather than days. Photo: Jim Bellamy

## Be Prepared: Weather Events Offer Lessons

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

Port Orchard was hit by an EF-2 tornado Dec. 18, with winds estimated at 130 mph in the affected areas. The South Kitsap Fire Department was immediately flooded with calls for help.

“It overwhelmed the 911 system and emergency responders,” said Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Faucett. “Our dispatchers dispatched units from as far north as Port Gamble and as far south as Joint Base Lewis-McChord.”

Zac Stephenson, 57, and her 12-year-old son Samuel, were among several families given shelter at the Westwynd Motel and Suites in Purdy through the Red Cross. Both are on disability.

Stephenson’s home is four miles from the path of the tornado, but damage to power poles left it without electricity for nearly two weeks. “It was the week before Christmas. We couldn’t find an electrician. Businesses were closing for the holidays. We had no place to go. There was nothing we could do. Westwynd stepped up,” she said.

“We’re not talking about a five-star hotel, but they should be listed as a five-star. They had extra food and other things the victims needed. They made sure our rooms were cleaned every day. Because of Mindy Wilkins (who put them in touch with the Red Cross), Marilyn (in the front office) and the Westwynd staff, we were able to have a decent Christmas,” Stephenson said.

“In the initial 90 minutes of the incident we had several streets that had free-flowing natural gas,” Faucett said. “Our firefighters worked very hard to get people to evacuate. Some simply would not listen and chose to stay put or worse—passed through barricades to get to their property. We want to help people, but most importantly we need our space to work and not have to worry about people coming in and out of the area who should not be there.”

Key Peninsula Battalion Chief Chuck West, in charge of emergency operations, said, “People on the KP are ahead of the game because of the frequency of events, power outages, wind storms. But they need to be prepared for a longer-term incident like an earthquake. They should be prepared to camp at home for up to three weeks. They should consider their animals, kids, medication for themselves, things outside the food realm.”

KP Fire District Assistant Chief Hal Wolverton said, “When we participated in the Cascadia Rising (earthquake) preparation drill, we learned that KP Fire wasn’t truly prepared to maintain ourselves. People will be on their own for a period of time.”

Peggy Gablehouse is the emergency preparedness liaison for the Key Peninsula Civic Center. For the past several years, she has been working to have the Red Cross designate the civic center as a warming and cooling shelter in the event of an emergency. “The project was on hold until the generator could be installed,” she said. “Now that it’s up and working, we can move forward.”

Gablehouse is planning to put a book together to centralize all local community resources that can be accessed when needed. “Someone has a tractor, another has chainsaws, someone else has things that others will need,” she said.

The Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition, known as PEP-C, will host an Emergency Preparedness Fair on March 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Gig Harbor High School. “There will be vendors and live demonstrations. We’re planning 10 speakers in the morning and 10 in the afternoon,” to instruct on preparing for emergencies, Gablehouse said.

Faucett will be the speaker at the monthly emergency preparedness meeting in the Whitmore Room at the civic center, Feb. 21 at 7:00 p.m.

# WAYPOINT north south

ONE CHURCH...TWO LOCATIONS

## WAYPOINT NORTH

meets at 12719 134th Ave NW Sundays @ 9am, 10:45am & 6pm

## WAYPOINT SOUTH

meets at Evergreen Elementary Sundays @ 10am



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**Men's Study**  
*The Spirit Filled Life*  
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Led by Mark Plummer  
Free Materials

**Women's Study**  
*Power in Praise*  
Tuesdays 6:30pm  
Led by Terri & Katie Goins. Book \$10

Free childcare is provided for these classes - Questions? Email the church - office@waypoint-church.org

# SAIL! Stay Active and Independent for Life

## SAIL Fair

Wed, Feb 27

from 10am to 1pm

Learn more and enroll so you can stay active and independent for life

## Meet & Greet

Eric Blegen

February 21, 4pm

Come say hello to our new Executive Director



The Mustard Seed Project  
OF KEY PENINSULA

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www.themustardseedproject.org

Visit us Mon-Fri, 10-4 in The Crandall Center uptown Key Center

Please include The Mustard Seed in your annual charitable giving plans. You'll be helping our mission to support our elders who wish to remain in their own homes.

## Thinking Thursday

Brain Games

Feb. 21 at 10am

Have fun and keep your brain nimble.

## Tuesday Art Classes

Introduction to Drawing

Multi-generational art class

in partnership with

Two Waters Arts Alliance.

Every Tuesday in February from 1 to 2pm, \$10/class



There are usually 13 to 16 linemen available at all times for emergencies, according to Peninsula Light Co., but for the Jan. 6 storm, "all hands were on deck." Photo: Jim Bellamy

## When the Lights Go Out

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

High winds and trees falling across transmission lines led to several power failures between mid-December and mid-January on the Key Peninsula.

Peninsula Light Co. offered an explanation of how power is transmitted to the KP and how the utility co-op responds to a loss of power.

"Transmission lines from Tacoma Power supply power to Peninsula Light. There are multiple transmission lines, with each one supplying about half of the Key Peninsula," said Ashley Haynes, public relations manager at PenLight.

"Tacoma Power is responsible for maintaining and repairing those lines. Tacoma Power's transmission lines supply power via taps, or connection points that are a part of the Peninsula Light system, and we are responsible for all the maintenance and repair from that point on," she said.

The taps are connected to substations where distribution lines then route power to different parts of the peninsula by an intricate grid of supply lines, poles and wires. This grid carries power to the utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings.

When there is a power outage, PenLight is notified by phone calls or texts from customers or through technical feedback from its automated meter reading system, which sends information to the central office and allows staff to pinpoint the location of the power outage.

Customers with cell phones can sign up for the outage text response program,

Haynes said, which enables them to send a simple text whenever the power goes out. When the office is closed, direct customer input by call or text is the quickest way to inform PenLight when there is an outage.

During office hours there is a supervisor available to respond to calls or meter feedback. If a failure occurs after hours, the calls are routed to a call response center and the on-call supervisor is notified. The supervisor then responds, according to established protocols, to find and resolve the problem.

"There are 13 to 16 linemen available at all times," Haynes said. "But, for instance, in the case of the January 6 storm, all hands were on deck. All of our crews came in to work even before they were called by the supervisor—they knew based on the severity of the storm that there was going to be a lot of damage to repair. Our crews worked nonstop until the power was fully restored."

The size of the crew will vary from job to job. "If a single street is involved, the crew might be one or two people. If a pole is down at least four will be needed," she said.

Haynes said that the company has linemen as well as a meter shop and a mechanics shop. The meter and maintenance shop staff are cross-trained so they can work as support staff when an emergency arises. In addition, for big emergencies, there is cooperation with other utility companies and co-ops.

The Jan. 6 outage was caused by a tree falling across a transmission line, leaving nearly 12,000 co-op members without power. The tree was on private land and out of the right-of-way maintained by Tacoma Power. Haynes said that the storm

lasted for 90 minutes with gusts of 51 mph before the power failure. Although the crews could begin to work on problems affecting PenLight distribution lines, they could not be sure of the extent of the damage and success of their repairs until Tacoma Power fixed the transmission lines.

Three poles owned by PenLight were replaced. Initial reports about power failure came in at about 2 a.m. Many had power restored by later that morning or early afternoon, but Herron Island was without electricity until about 10:00 p.m. that night.

"Peninsula Light crews and employees are dedicated to the restoration of power and to the safety of our members," said Jafar Taghavi, CEO of PenLight. "During storms, our members can rest assured that every lineman and crew member are out working to restore power as safely and as quickly as possible."

Members can stay informed about the progress in restoring power through the PenLight website, where there is a power outage map, or through their Facebook page.

To report an outage, members can call 877-853-1388 from the phone number registered with their account or use the outage text response program. To sign up for the text response program, call PenLight customer service at 253-857-5950.

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# Welcome aboard!

## KP SCHOOL BUS CONNECTS



### EVERGREEN TUES & THURS AM

8:50	Evergreen Elementary School
8:59	Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
9:00	Palmer Lake 21st St SW @ 193rd Ave
9:05	KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
9:06	Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
9:10	67th Ave Ct NW @ KP Hwy N
9:14	Food Market in Key Center
9:15	KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr NW
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 SW
9:55	Palmer Lake 21st St SW @ 193rd Ave
10:00	KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
10:01	Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
10:05	67th Ave Ct NW @ KP Hwy N
10:09	Food Market in Key Center
10:10	KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr NW
10:16	Lake Kathryn Village SR 302 & 92nd Ave NW
10:21	Purdy Park & Ride

### VAUGHN TUES & THURS AM

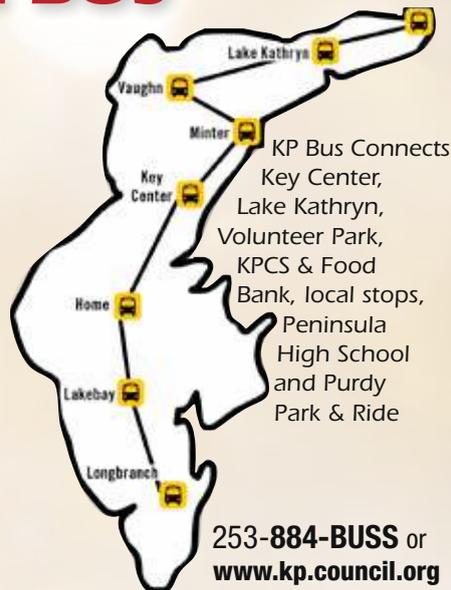
8:50	Vaughn Elementary School
8:59	Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr NW
9:00	Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct NW
9:05	Wright Bliss Road @ SR 302/4-Corners
9:06	SR 302 @ 150th Ave/Lake Holiday bus shed
9:10	SR302 @ 140th Ave/Lake of the Woods
9:14	SR 302 @ Charbonneau Construction
9:15	SR 302 @ 92nd Ave NW/Lake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

### VAUGHN WEDNESDAY AM

9:50	Vaughn Elementary School
9:51	Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr NW
9:52	Wright Bliss Road @ 104th St Ct NW
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

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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 NW
10:58	Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr NW
11:00	Food Market @ Key Center
11:06	KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct NW
11:09	Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
11:12	KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
11:18	Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
11:19	Palmer Lake 21st St SW @ 193rd Ave
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 NW
5:03	Wright Bliss Road @ Olson Dr NW
5:06	Food Market in Key Center
5:06	KP Hwy N @ 84th St NW/Red Barn
5:10	KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct NW
5:14	Home Gas Station @ KP Hwy N
5:14	KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
5:19	Palmer Lake public access 24th St SW
5:20	Palmer Lake 21st St SW @ 193rd Ave
5:24	KP Hwy N @ 17th St Ct SW
5:36	KP Hwy N @ 84th St NW/Red Barn

# A New Day as Key Center Chiropractic Changes Hands

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Dr. David Krympec, D.C., known by his patients as Dr. Dave, retired Dec. 2018. He started Key Center Chiropractic 33 years ago, with little money and a diploma from Sherman College of Chiropractic. He spent most of his time at the office, trying to build up a clientele from nothing. He went on to partner with neighboring dentist Dr. John Olsson and together they built the Key Center Corral.

“Those days were real lean,” Krympec said. “I lived in a crummy trailer down in Longbranch. Some of those cold winters back then, during power outages that lasted many days, I thought I might just die.”

Nate Hove grew up on the Key Peninsula, where his family lived on Creviston Road. He didn’t know it at the time, but

his family chiropractor would do far more than give him chiropractic adjustments—he influenced the trajectory of Hove’s life.

“Dave gave me my first chiropractic adjustment; I must have been around six or seven years old,” Hove said. “My mother had been in a car accident and came to Dave for treatment.” Krympec ended up treating the whole family, grandparents too, and gave

complimentary adjustments to the kids.

A wrestler throughout his school years, Hove suffered an injury as he moved from collegiate to freestyle wrestling. His opponent threw him overhead; he landed on his neck, suffered headaches for a week and went to see Dr. Dave. After a single adjustment, his headaches were gone.

“My junior year at Peninsula High School, I looked into chiropractic as a profession and Dave gave me a book back then,” Hove said. “Honestly, I never read it. But every time I moved my stuff I looked at it and thought this is where I want to go.”

At first Hove said he wanted to drop out of college altogether, feeling unprepared for the rigors of university life. His parents encouraged him to stick with it. He attended Whatcom Community College

for a while and graduated from Western Washington University with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Sports. From there he went on to Palmer College of Chiropractic Medicine. After graduation, Hove signed on for three years at Gig Harbor Chiropractic and Massage.

Krympec said he thought Hove could be a good fit to take over his practice in Key Center someday, but it was still some time before he was ready to retire.

That was until a bad injury to his knee would prevent him from working for at least three months. Krympec had to refer his patients to another chiropractor friend. He recalled breaking his wrist once and being out for six weeks. “Your hands are your life as a chiropractor...you can’t afford to get hurt,” he said.

On the other side of the KC Corral one

day, Hove was having his teeth cleaned at Dr. Olsson’s office. Olsson asked Hove if he’d heard about what happened to Dr. Dave and suggested he check to see if he could help. It turned into the perfect transition for both chiropractors.

“Being back out here—I really like the people,” Hove said.

Hove said he appreciates the time Krympec spends with patients to figure out what is

causing the problem and systematically working through it.

“I like focusing on relationships; that’s what Dave has done here and what I will continue to do with my patients,” Hove said. The office however is being given a remodel, fresh paint, new equipment and the addition of in-house massage therapy. “I’m excited to make it my own.”

“Everything just came together,” Krympec said. Without his knee injury he may have continued working a few more years. “There is a reason for everything I guess. I mean, Dr. Olsson just happening to mention it to Nate while he was in the chair?”

Krympec said he is considering becoming a snowbird but added, “People keep telling me I’ll be busier than I ever was before retirement.”



Dr. Nate Hove, D.C. took over the practice in January. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News



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## Fighting Wildfire Brazilian Style: KP Firefighter Goes the Distance

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

In November 2018, Key Peninsula native and veteran firefighter Lt. Dale Heidal of the Key Peninsula Fire Department traveled to Brazil to teach a course in fighting wildfires.

Heidal visited the Brazilian town of Ponta de Pedras, making the journey with Texas Fire Chief Paul Fidler and a Russian volunteer. Ponta de Pedras is a town of about 25,000 located in north-eastern Brazil, inside the Amazon River delta. Wildfires in the region are common and are combated by a force of volunteers.

The Brazilian firefighters face several challenges due to their location and lack of funding. Many members of the local fire department live in a different town and must travel two hours by boat to reach Ponta de Pedras. Once assembled, firefighters travel to the site of the blaze on motorcycles in pairs or trios. Equipment is limited, although Fidler was able to supply some helmets, pump kits and medical supplies with his department's discretionary money. One part of Heidal's role was helping to make basic hand tools. "They rely on donations, and I don't think they get a lot of them," he said.

Although Ponta de Pedras is in the heart of a rainforest, jungle fires spring up often and burn fiercely.

"It's amazing," Heidal said. "You would think, 'it's the jungle, it's not going to burn that well,' but every ecosystem with plant life has what we call litter on the ground floor – that's dead vegetation like leaves, needles, caps, fruit, and all these things that die and fall to the ground. That stuff burns really well." He compared the Brazilian jungle to rainforests in Florida, where wildfires are frequent. Some living jungle plants contain incendiary chemicals that allow them to burn despite high humidity.

Regardless of the challenges facing the local department, the firefighting itself was familiar.

"It was pretty much the same way we would do it here, except we would have more equipment and more human resources," Heidal said. He delivered four days of classroom instruction and one field day of practical training on a variety of topics. "We knew because of the language barrier that we had to really focus on the key elements, and the most key elements are safety, understanding and determining fire behavior," he said.

Heidal speaks some Spanish but needed



Lt. Dale Heidal, middle row, second from right, sweats it out with his volunteer training class in Brazil. *Courtesy Dale Heidal*

an interpreter to translate the class into the department's native Portuguese. Despite the language barrier, Heidal's other travel experiences prepared him well for Brazil.

"It reminded me of being in the Philippines as far as the climate and the people – really friendly people. We had a lot of fun, I played soccer with them one night and actually scored a few goals."

This was Heidal's first international trip volunteering his firefighting knowledge, although he's traveled around the United States for classes and incident response before. International cooperation between emergency services is common and crews often come from all over the world to battle large fires.

"I've worked with people from Australia and Canada many times," Heidal said. "I think it really has to do with the fact that there's so many more fires and they're a lot bigger. We need help."

Fidler contacted Heidal in early 2018. Fidler is the chief of the Black Sheep Volunteer Fire Department in Texas and was searching for an individual certified to teach a basic course in wild land firefighting. Heidal was originally scheduled to go to Russia in April of 2018, but the plan fell through after he encountered trouble obtaining a visa. Heidal was offered the opportunity to go to Brazil instead later in the year.

Heidal also thanked the KP fire department, which allowed him to participate in this trip without charging him paid time off. "It says a lot for the type of administration we have, and the department in general that they were more than happy to let me reach out," he said. "I think it speaks to the good will and integrity of our organization."

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## Building on the Key Peninsula: Knowing the Basics

SARA THOMPSON KP NEWS

It's no secret: Houses for sale on the Key Peninsula can be hard to find. For some that means building a home of their own. If embarking on that adventure, consider a few pointers from the departments that determine if, what and where you can build.

The first step: Get your property parcel number and find out if there are any factors that could limit building. Important issues include wetlands, flood zones, steep slopes, setbacks and erosion control requirements. There may be a building moratorium due to recent logging or there may be parcel alerts that will need to be resolved before any development takes place.

Mike Halliday, from the communications section of Planning and Land Services (PALS), said the initial search can be done online at the PALS website on their "About My Property" page. Staff is also available to talk to directly at the Pierce County Development Center in Tacoma.

The Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) staff joined PALS staff at the development center in October 2018, streamlining the permitting process, according to its communication specialist, Steve Metcalf.

TPCHD helps with septic system and drinking water permits and PALS answers questions related to other aspects of property development. People can also use a live chat feature or Skype on the planning website during the permit center's hours to talk with staff.

Bob Suggs, TPCHD environmental health specialist for the on-site sewage and well-permitting program, is at the Key Peninsula Community Council office in the KC Corral on Tuesdays and Thursdays to answer questions. "Two things are nonnegotiable if you want to build—access to water and the ability to safely discharge waste water," he said. "Everything else can be negotiable. It might be expensive, but there can be a resolution."

Metcalf concurred. He said, "Contact the health department to find out if the property is on a water system or will need a well. If it is on a public water system, you'll need a water availability letter from the water provider. If you need a well, you'll have to work with the health department to get permits." For septic systems, the owner needs to contact a septic system designer who can evaluate soil conditions on the property, and then prepare and submit the septic design applications to the health department for review.

The two significant changes that have

impacted permits in the last year are the recent update in the Shoreline Master Plan and the logging moratorium regulations.

Halliday said that the new shoreline regulations "establish a more deliberate process to ensure impacts to the shoreline are avoided or minimized and, when impacts are unavoidable, to ensure adequate mitigation is provided." He added, "Of course, the most immediate effect on new shoreline development is to require it be set back farther from the water to protect the shoreline."

The old regulations had a uniform 50-foot setback from the ordinary high water mark, defined by the Washington State Department of Ecology as the biological vegetation mark. The buffer now varies from 0 to 150 feet. For most parcels on the Key Peninsula the buffer is 75 feet but, for example, where the shoreline environment is deemed conservancy rather than residential the buffer is 100 feet.

If the parcel has been logged using a state permit, there may be a development moratorium. The regulations surrounding building on logged property were tightened in 2018. The current ordinance eliminates the ability to lift the six-year moratorium on applications for any nonforestry uses except for single-family dwellings.

The changes were designed to encourage landowners to protect critical areas by following county rules when they log. Before the new rules, county regulations allowed the lifting of that development moratorium, for a fee, without a waiting period, whether or not logging occurred in compliance with Pierce County's development regulations. This resulted in a "logging loophole" (see "State Rules Open Logging Loophole," KP News, April 2017).

The new ordinance eliminated the ability to lift the moratorium on applications for any nonforestry uses except for single-family dwelling exceptions. Under the new rules, the moratorium can be lifted immediately if the landowner qualifies for a single-family dwelling exception—if no logging occurred in areas prohibited by the county.

If critical areas were logged, the moratorium can be lifted in four to six years, but mitigation and reforestation requirements must be met. Law requires that the logged land be reforested, and work such as stump removal is prohibited, as it is considered a conversion activity.



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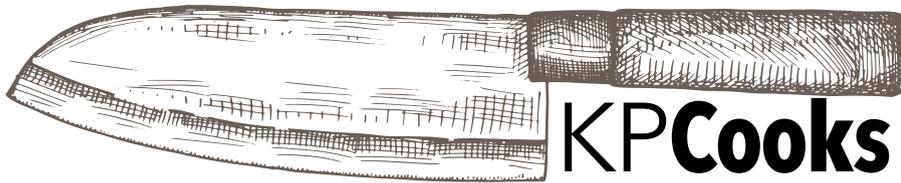
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## For Your Dipping Pleasure

STEPHANIE BROOKS

It's that time of year when the air is crisp or the rain won't stop.

But most importantly: Super Bowl!

Besides all those commercials during the game, food is definitely a highlight. Oh yeah, and football.

I love a nice cheesy dip that can be served hot from a crockpot. Quick, convenient, warm and delish.

I'd like to share a recipe that was given to me by a sweet lady named Pam. I've made variations of and even eaten it cold while camping before. It's so good every time.

### Chicken Smack Dip

Bake or boil 2 chicken breasts, then shred. I've found the easiest way is to use two forks. Toss in a medium sized mixing bowl.

Pop your oven to 350 and turn your crockpot to medium or high, depending upon when you plan on devouring the dip.

Next up, mash 8 ounces of cream cheese and toss in with the chicken. Add ½ cup of Frank's Hot Sauce into the bowl.

Then add 1 cup of ranch dressing. I prefer making some buttermilk ranch but either way you can't go wrong.

Grate 1½ cups pepper jack cheese (or substitute cojack or cheddar); add about half to the bowl.

Now the fun part: mixing all the ingredients together! Once complete, use a spatula to get all the goodies out of the bowl into your crockpot, casserole or throwaway aluminum pan.

Sprinkle the remainder of your cheese over the top and place vessel in the oven for 30 to 40 minutes or until top is bubbly and brown.

Next—and I know this is the hardest part—you need to wait a few minutes to try it because dang it's hot and might just burn your mouth.

Once you're ready, serve with some good tortilla chips, veggies or a spoon! Dip in and enjoy the Super Bowl.



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# Bruce Dammeier at the Halfway Point

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

## The Pierce County Executive reflects on his first two years in office.

As Bruce Dammeier begins his third year as Pierce County executive, he told the KP News his greatest accomplishments relate to strengthening the behavioral health system in Pierce County. “I felt that the system was stuck in a crisis with a system unable to respond appropriately to people in crisis,” he said.

One effort addressing opioid addiction and mental health care is the Mobile Community Intervention Response Team (MCIRT), he said. This is a three-person team capable of responding to the physical and mental health needs of individuals who are in crisis but do not require the level of care, intervention and equipment that paramedics and sheriff’s deputies provide.

The first MCIRT team began operation in the Parkland-Spanaway area Oct. 20, 2018. After a month of work, 94 people had been contacted, 16 percent of whom were frequent 911 callers or so-called “high utilizers.”

Most of the contacts were with people who have severe behavioral health needs and live in isolation or are homeless. This population does not have the personal resources or an emotional support network that they can turn to in crisis, so they call 911, according to Dammeier. The MCIRT team was able to connect many of these people to housing, behavioral and medical care, and case management services.

The MCIRT effort has lowered the cost of 911 responses, Dammeier said. Because of the distances and time involved in emergency contacts in rural areas, such as the Key Peninsula, expansion of MCIRT teams would enhance the ability of local law enforcement and fire departments to respond to residents by lowering their call load. Based on the positive results to date, it is hoped that countywide expansion of the program will be deemed financially feasible in the future, according to Dammeier.

Dammeier also credited council members with fund allocations designed to improve access to health care and mental health services. He listed several projects set to open between 2019 and 2020. A new 120-bed facility located on the Allenmore Hospital campus will have the capacity

to treat approximately 5,000 patients annually. A new 16-bed crisis recovery center, located near Franklin Pierce High School, will provide 48-hour to two-week care. According to Dammeier, the center—a replica of one that has operated in Fife for 16 years—will provide a more appropriate placement “when people need help, not jail or hospital.”

Dammeier said another “step forward for residents” was made in 2018, when Pierce County reached an agreement with the state Healthcare Authority (HCA) to integrate physical and behavioral healthcare for Medicaid patients beginning January 2019. Washington state

is required by state law to integrate physical and behavioral healthcare by January 2020, at the latest. Pierce County’s agreement with the HCA accelerated that process by one year.

Dammeier also described a newly streamlined procedure for the county to respond to citizen concerns through the Open Pierce County portal at [www.openpiercecounty.wa.gov](http://www.openpiercecounty.wa.gov).

As an example of how the system works, Dammeier described recent improvements in code enforcement. Between April 2018 and January 2019, the average time between filing a report about a neglected or nuisance property and resolution was reduced from 119 days to 102 days; by December 2020, the target for resolution is 90 days. The main reason response time



Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier (R-Puyallup) is midway through his first term. *Courtesy Bruce Dammeier*

has been shortened is because citizens can track the status of their complaints online and less staff time is spent responding to their queries, freeing staff to devote more time to problem resolution.

Dammeier also said that within the next two years he hoped more county services would be available to KP residents, such as restoration of Pierce Transit, expansion of job opportunities in coordination with Pierce County Economic Development, and that there would be enhanced support for residents in crisis and crisis recovery.

Asked if anything had surprised him since taking office, Dammeier immediately responded that he was surprised at the remarkable job the road division had done maintaining the 13,000 miles of county roads. He also said he is against any diversion of funds that would negatively impact road maintenance and improvement, and that addressing the serious congestion on State Route 302 must continue to be a lobbying priority with the state.



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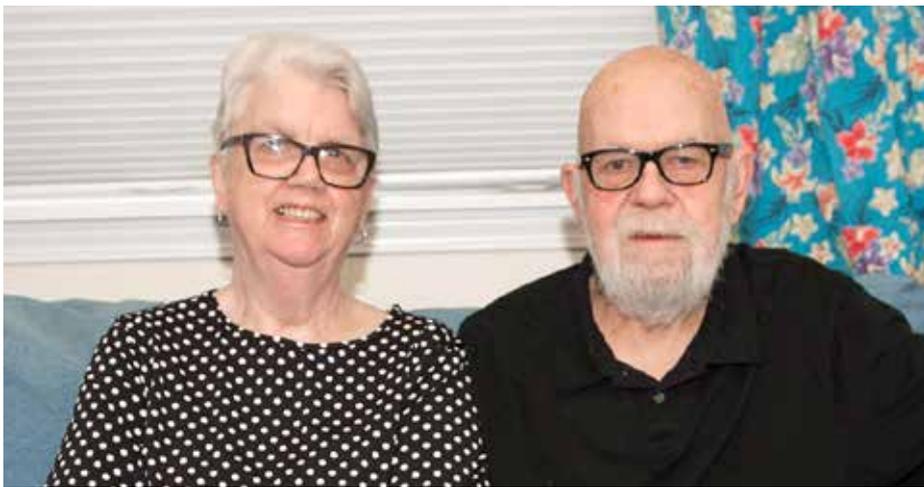
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Connie and Vic Renz, married nearly 54 years, moved to the KP in 2003. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

## Connie Renz—Retiring and Remembering

STAFF REPORT

Connie Renz retired from the KP News Publishing Board after joining the staff as a volunteer more than 15 years ago.

Connie and Vic, her husband of nearly 54 years, moved to the Key Peninsula in 2003. “We moved to find a ‘flat house’ for my really bad knees and some property for our three greyhounds,” she said. “We ended up with an acre of grass with a 6-foot fence around it.”

Soon after arriving, she met Danna Webster at the Easterseals Camp Stand By Me pool. “I was looking for something to do after 32 years of teaching,” Connie said. “Danna put me in touch with Rodika Tollefson, editor of the KP News at the time.”

Immediately put to work, Connie cleared file cabinets, archived the old papers, proof-read and wrote an occasional article. Within a few months she was in charge of subscriptions. In 2006 she and her husband joined the distribution team, helping first with bagging and then later taking over the logistics and financial aspects of getting the paper out. By 2008 she was appointed as the community pages editor for the newspaper until the KP News launched its online calendar ([keypennews.org/events](http://keypennews.org/events)) in 2017. She joined the Publishing Board in 2013 and served as secretary until she retired.

Connie mentored grade-schoolers in math and reading for a dozen years. She has worked at Minter and Vaughn Elementary Schools and now serves as a math mentor for third-, fourth- and fifth-graders at Purdy. Both she and Vic have been honored as Mentor of the Month by Communities in Schools of Peninsula.

Active in Friends of the Library for several years, Connie served as treasurer and organized their book sale.

Connie and Vic’s then 6-year-old son started playing when the family was living in Spokane. “We coached our son’s soccer team even though we knew nothing about

the sport. I would take the kids into my classroom to show them movies about how to play, and Vic worked with them on the physical skills,” she said.

Years later when their son was recruited to play for teams in western Washington, he and Vic moved to Federal Way. Their daughter finished middle school and then also moved west with her dad and brother. For the next four years Connie continued to teach in the Spokane area, driving to Federal Way each weekend.

“One October Friday afternoon in 1984, I decided maybe I could get a job on the west side of the Cascades. I found some teacher-wanted ads the week before Halloween, went to one interview on Friday, was hired within a couple hours, drove back to Spokane on Saturday, loaded my car up with all my personal teaching stuff, left a goodbye note for the fourth-graders, and drove back to Federal Way in time for Halloween.”

Connie spent the next 12 years teaching in Buckley, first as a fourth-grade teacher and then teaching math to all primary grades. “My favorite teaching memory is the kindergartners at Mountain Meadow who called me ‘Mrs. Parallelogram’ forever after learning the correct name for that shape,” she said. Many of those students are now Facebook friends; she has been invited to their weddings and gets their birth announcements.

“By far the best reward is our two children. They both graduated college with honors and both have had the same job for more than 25 years. They have won awards and they are both excellent parents. We are very proud of them and our five grandkids and now our great-granddaughter, too. I’m glad we had the time and resources to travel so much—first tent-camping and later in our RVs—with our kids and grandchildren.”

Remembering her time with the paper, her teaching career and her family, Connie said, “This helps me realize that I’ve had overall an amazing life so far.”



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KP locals Daryll and Penny Grant took KP News to Maui Dec. 2018.





**TOP LEFT** This beautiful barred owl took quick care of rodents stealing food from resident chickens. *Photo: Chris Konieczny, KP News*

**TOP RIGHT** Herron Island deer on a foggy January morning. *Photo: Joseph Pentheroudakis, KP News*

**LEFT** The epitome of rural elegance of Longbranch in winter. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*