

We all love our Key Peninsula News.



Producing the KP News takes more than money. It takes talent, perseverance, generosity and time. The writers, photographers, editors, production artists, sales and office people all love what we are doing.

It's not what you might expect from a little rural newspaper.

But we're hearing that it's not only expected, it's encouraged.

We've seen comments from readers like Dawn Rickey: *"Congrats on all the awards! Very much deserved. Thank you so much for providing us with the best newspaper."*

And Susan Schwartz says: *"Thanks! Keep up the good work."*

Or *"Truly, KP News is our favorite newspaper—we read every page and always look forward to finding*

it in our mailbox. The wonderful coverage of local personalities and accomplishments, the human interest articles, along with local history coverage are just the Best," from Virginia Seely.

There's still time to add to the applause and accolades.

NewsMatch will match personal donations received in December.

NewsMatch doubles the impact of your support of independent local news. It magnifies your gift and supports our mission of providing free, unbiased and independent news to everyone living on the Key Peninsula.



Mail your check in the handy green envelope or give online at keypennews.org. Your donations make the paper possible. Your comments make it worthwhile.

We're making the News faster, fresher and friendlier.

Our long-promised new website will launch in the next few weeks. It's going to change the way you look at the Key Peninsula News online. Dramatically.

The news-filled site is optimized to work perfectly on your smart phone, tablet or desktop. Graphics are big and bright and text is even easier to read.

When local activities resume, the calendar will show even more including photos for events and organizations. Ads from our loyal newspaper advertisers will be included, so you won't miss anything online. We're even planning a classified section!

And there are lots more community-news features coming later this year.

Thanks to a grant from Rotary Club of Gig Harbor, the website development has been made possible.

Next time you have an itch to see the latest news, pictures and "What's Open," hit www.keypennews.org for everything that's printed here, plus so much more.



REMOTE LEARNING FROM PAGE 1

people (ages 40 and under) are becoming infected and remaining ill longer, according to the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

Members of the school board expressed conflicted feelings about adopting the remote learning plan, some having stated in a meeting the week prior their preference to fully reopen in September.

According to members David Olson and Natalie Wimberley, the school board faced making the decision in the absence of mandates or consistent statements from state leadership, health department officials, or the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction on whether returning to classrooms would be safe for children, staff and families this fall.

Dr. Anthony Chen, director of the TPCHD, said in a statement to superintendents: "Based on the COVID-19 disease activity in Pierce County and our region, I do not feel it is safe to open schools in September for traditional classroom learning," but fell short of issuing a mandate.

"Ours is not a world of production and machines. Ours is a universe of personal touches and interactions," Jarvis said. "Kindergarten hugs and runny noses are but two in a list of hundreds of normal happenings each day."

After conducting a district-wide survey, nearly 71% of 4,270 respondents said they wanted to return to in-person learning while approximately 22% were undecided. Of those undecided, many preferred to have full remote learning provided by PSD staff.

Jarvis said there are clear indications many families are weighing whether it is safe yet for children to return to a school setting. Direct concerns about child safety, as well as concerns about children being asymptomatic carriers, raise significant questions about whether schools can provide the necessary level of safety.

"PSD is the largest employer in the community and recent surges in the virus have translated into extraordinary levels of concern and anxiety in the staff," Jarvis said.

"One thing we do know is that remote learning in the upcoming year is not the same as last spring, which was an emergency contingency learning plan we were forced into by the pandemic," said Kris Hagel the PSD executive director of digital learning.

PSD will email a Remote Learning 2.0 Guidebook for students, families and staff Aug. 5 about how teaching online will work in the fall, saying it is not simply a matter of uploading curriculum but of continuing to engage and support students as much as possible.

The guidebook will also be posted to the PSD website and print copies will be available upon request.

"This is not going to be like it was," said one Key Peninsula elementary school teacher, who declined to be identified for this article. "We spent a lot of time learning what to do while we were doing it; now, we've got that part down. It will be hard for everyone but it can work."

In a July 24 statement to PSD families, the district said: "We recognize these are unprecedented times and decisions about how to navigate school during the pandemic may represent relief for some and significant disappointment and hardship for others.

HOME

EXCAVATING & DOZING



NATURE TRAILS,
BEACH ACCESS,
SITE CLEARING & PREP.,
LOGGING,
ROCK WALLS & STEPS,
DRAINAGE SYSTEMS,
ROAD GRADING,
DEMOLITION,
STUMP REMOVAL,
GRAVEL &
TOPSOIL DELIVERIES,
& MUCH MORE.

DIFFICULT JOBS ARE OUR SPECIALTY!

(253)884-5798

ADVOCATE/ REPRESENTATIVE

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

Helping disabled clients since 1992
96% approval rate 2006-2018

MISSION POSSIBLE

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, INC.



360-798-2920

www.mpes.net

*The Difference is
Personal Service*



CIVIC CENTER CORNER

Enjoy a greater garden this year *and* support your Civic Center with top Cedar Grove Compost products



Compost

Feed soil, seal in moisture, great start for grass seed, natural fertilizer. Use to top-dress beds, fertilize lawns, amend seed beds.

\$6.50
1 cubic foot bag

QTY



Garden Soil

Feed soil, control weeds, seal moisture, fast draining, ideal for annuals. Use in new flower, herb or vegetable gardens, top dress beds, amend raised beds.

\$6.50
1 cubic foot bag



Landscape Mulch

Dark rich color, control weeds, natural fertilizer, seal in moisture. Use to top dress beds.

\$7.50
1½ cubic foot bag



Potting Soil

Energize plant growth, naturally fertilize and seal in moisture. Use for new flower or herb gardens.

\$7.50
1½ cubic foot bag

Order your Cedar Grove Compost products before March 6, plan to pick up at Civic Center on March 13, noon to 8 pm.

Fill out this form with quantity of each item, total order amount and your details. Mail with check to PO Box 82, Vaughn WA 98394 or call 253-884-3456 Tuesdays or Fridays 9am-noon for credit card orders.

\$Total Order _____ Your Name _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

Warming Shelter

Civic Center is open when temperature drops below 35° for two days or more. Call Peggy for information at 253-686-7904



Introducing an easier way to celebrate Mother's Day

We're creating a new, free **Moms We Love** feature on keypennews.org to commemorate our wonderful mothers. The section will show dozens of Moms with name, photo and your loving words.

Watch keypennews.org for it next month. We'll have a whole section of honored Moms during April and May.

It's painless, free and you won't have to take off your shirt to show your undying love.