



PEGGE ERKENEFF  
Communications Liaison  
907.714.8888  
Fax 907.262.5867  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, Alaska, 99669

e: [Pegge@KPBSD.org](mailto:Pegge@KPBSD.org)  
Facebook: [KPBSD](https://www.facebook.com/KPBSD)  
Twitter: [@KPBSD](https://twitter.com/KPBSD)  
[www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us](http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us)

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## NEWS RELEASE

### *KPBSD Graduate Inspiration, Matthew Pyhala, D.C., Homer High School, Class of 1993*

**“Through Rotary International, I have opportunities to improve this community and touch lives around the world. I am also on the board of directors of the Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF). Growing up on my grandparents homestead on the Anchor River makes the KWF mission of “working together for healthy watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula” personally important. Serving on this board has been impactful and consequential to my life.” – Dr. Matthew Pyhala, Homer High School Class of 1993**

When he is not on the water in his kayak, helping with a Rotary service project, teaching an IPA\* class, telling a tale at True Tales Told Live, or adventuring with his wife Sarah, you’ll find Dr. Pyhala working as a chiropractic physician at Alaska Advanced Care Chiropractic, in Soldotna, Alaska. A graduate of Homer High School who grew up on his grandparents homestead in Anchor Point, Matthew earned a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science in 1997 from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, then returned to the Kenai Peninsula immediately after graduating in 2001 from Western States Chiropractic College in Portland, Oregon, and started his practice in 2002.

#### **Meaningful work**

“My favorite aspect of my work is the patient interaction and getting to know my patients. Helping people attain a healthier lifestyle is exceptionally rewarding. I continue to learn and grow as a doctor. I am currently pursuing more training as a sports physician. For the past 12 years, I have been the team physician for the Kenai River Brown Bears. I really enjoy working with teams and athletes of all ages. Working with lifelong athletes is especially gratifying. It is special to assist people toward successful lifelong fitness and competition.”

#### **Avid outdoorsman**

“For fun you’ll find me outdoors. Recently I established a sea kayaking instruction and guide business, Immersion Paddling Academy. Kayaking is so much fun. I love helping others improve their paddling skills and confidence. The thing I appreciate most about sea kayaking is that it requires a variety skills and complete seamanship. It is a sport where there is always more to learn and improve. Whether it is a flat-water scenic trip or a riotous surf session, I cannot spend too much time in my boat!”

#### **Service above self**

Matt is a longtime active member of the Rotary Club of Soldotna, an international service club, and is

**KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-FOUR DIVERSE SCHOOLS**

**The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.**  
ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT GRAHAM  
RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

**FOR RELEASE APRIL 4, 2019**

**1 OF 2**

often instigating projects and sparking ideas. “Through Rotary I have opportunities to improve this community and touch lives around the world. I am also on the board of directors of the Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF). Growing up on my grandparents homestead on the Anchor River makes the KWF mission of “working together for healthy watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula” personally important. Serving on this board has been impactful and consequential to my life.”

At Chapman Elementary and Junior High School, Mr. Doherty was an influence and inspiration. Dr. Pyhala recalls, “Mr. D taught art and physical education, and he was my wrestling coach. He was always encouraging and made learning fun.”

### **Advice to my younger self...**

“Take advantage of as many opportunities as you can. Do not be so focused on your goals that you pass up trying something new. You never know where you will find inspiration.”

### **Links**

Alaska Advanced Care Chiropractic: [www.SoldotnaChiropractor.com](http://www.SoldotnaChiropractor.com)

\*Immersion Paddling Academy: <https://www.facebook.com/immersionpaddlingacademy/>

*Do you have a story tip about a KPBSD graduate to profile in our Wednesday Inspiration? Kindly email Pegge Erkeneff, KPBSD communications liaison, [Pegge@KPBSD.org](mailto:Pegge@KPBSD.org).*

###

**KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-FOUR DIVERSE SCHOOLS**

**The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.**

ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT GRAHAM  
RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

**FOR RELEASE APRIL 4, 2019**

**2 OF 2**