



April - 2020

Issue No: 351

It's a Boy!



# Bridget And Bryce Welcome Their First Child

By Bridget Sorem



**Kieran Frances Sorem**

Born March 29th at 8:53pm  
3lbs 8oz, 16 inches



Bryce and I became proud parents 9 weeks early (due date May 29th). Not only was Kieran's early arrival a surprise, but his gender too. Around 24 weeks I began having signs of complications, and after 5 hospitalizations, I went into labor due to a placental abruption. There's no way of knowing how it happened, but it did, and our baby boy is here.

After he was born, I held him for a few brief moments, Bryce cut the cord, and then he was brought to the NICU where he will be for 5-6 weeks. He is completely healthy and doing what babies do best.

Due to COVID-19, Bryce and I only had a few days to be with Kieran in the NICU together. Now we are restricted to only 1 parent for 2 hours. Although Bryce has been furloughed because restaurants in NYC can only do takeout and delivery, the silver lining is that he was with me through it all, and now he gets to visit Kieran every other day. Sometimes unemployment works in our favor! Despite the stress of the virus and having a premature baby that we don't get to wake up to and hold, we are trying to look on the bright side of it all. I just hope time goes a little faster so we can bring him home.



*Bryce at about 10 months old*

To honor Francie, Kieran's middle name is Frances. I know it is the female version of the name, but Francie wouldn't have had it any other way. Besides, I like this spelling better! When Kieran was whisked away to the NICU after birth, I remember thinking how Francie must've loved looking over him all alone with no one else there. She got to be the first to spend time with him as a proud grandma.

Currently, we are preparing for our new beautiful life with Kieran and looking forward to the day we finally get to take him home. When all this is over and the quarantine ends, we can't wait for everyone to meet the little guy. We're so excited to bring a new addition to the Riel/Sorem/Hall/McCarthy clan!



# Ed Announces Retirement

By Ed Riel



So, I am retired; more or less. There will be no party. In the construction world, when you finish a project, be it your first or your last, you just get paid and move on. In the last 20 years I have managed the building of 116 houses, a commercial center in Vista, and don't let me forget to mention a very cool bus stop at the Silver Strand State Beach Park.

Riel Construction, as well as Riel Construction Inc., was never a "company" It was just me, a person who found the employer/employee relationship too difficult to endure (a significant defect of mine) and felt lucky enough to find an industry and a place in it, as a general contractor, where I was neither. I always felt myself as a partner with other contractors, owners and investors in being a productive enough team that we could turn over a great product and all of us make an honest living. 🌈



While there is a whole lot of gut wrenching in construction, I have always felt pride in the final product delivered and have very much enjoyed seeing that brief beginning when families move in and begin the process of building their home. One of the things that I will always hate about this covid thing is it prevented me from being the one, turning the house over, to the customers of my last seven units.



I never made much money. That is a serious defect in not having employees or not working for the big boys and I feel some guilt that over my otherwise charmed life that I couldn't provide more time and money to building my family. Fortunately, I married well and my four boys can take great pride in being the strong, resilient, self-made individuals they are today.



In addition to the 116 houses mentioned above I have built one home, it is the home Jan and I started building, and have been continuously been building for over 40 years; indeed, there are numerous enjoyable projects awaiting my retirement.



# Easter and Social Distancing - Our Family Knows how to Adapt!



Just as the world has struggled with adapting to a stay home order by the Governor of California, the Riel family has had to adapt by having our first Easter Sunday without a family gathering.

The day started for me with my first-ever virtual run with Robert and Joyce. We spoke on the phone while running in separate parts of the city. After that we shared family text messages as we planned our surprise Easter egg hunt for the Keith family. Annie, Kevin, and Evie showed up to watch the Keith brothers find eggs hidden in the front yard.

After the hunt the three families stood on the sidewalk in a socially distant way sharing a beverage or two and being a family as best we could. 🌈





For dinner birdy wanted to share a meal so she suggested we stage a progressive dinner without hosting it at different houses. We joined forces with close friends Kym, Doug, Holly and Rex and each couple took on one cooking task for the meal.

I made twice baked potatoes, birdy had a Honey Baked Ham to share, and with our friends we created an amazing meal that we zoom ate together that night. David and Bethany joined us for that part, and we were able to create a family gathering of sorts.

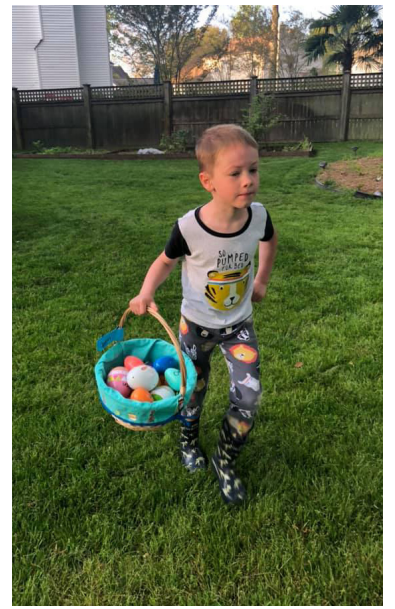
It's very similar to our Riel family lunches as those have become zoom dates as well. So though Easter isn't what we typically do it had essence of family throughout the weekend.

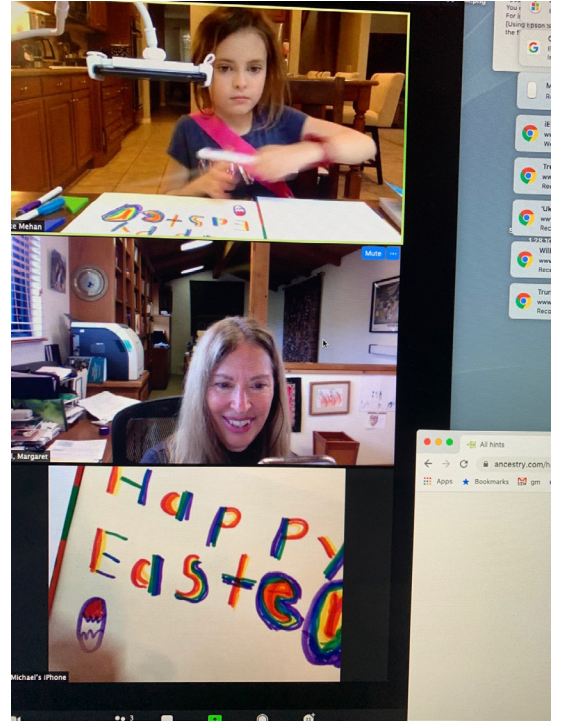
I look forward to better days ahead and hope that our true family traditions will Thrive once restrictions we've come to know this month that has put a sudden halt to schools, shopping, and life as we've know it come to end. I miss holding my grandkids and eating out with my siblings and kids. Let's hope for better days ahead for everyone.

# Memories From Easters Now and in the Past











# FAMILY SHORTS

## Can you find all the Easter eggs?

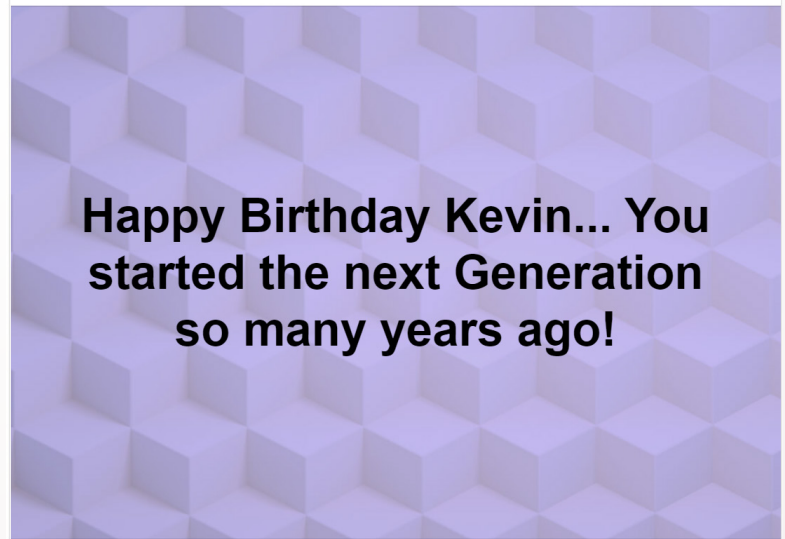
Since the family couldn't all get together, we thought it might be nice to have a virtual Easter egg hunt that everyone can participate in. There are Easter eggs hidden throughout this edition of the newsletter, can you find them all? The first person that texts the correct amount of eggs to Robert wins a special prize. The eggs look like this one here 🥚 and this is also number 1. Good Luck!

**Carol Benesch** is with [Birdy Hartman](#) and 4 others.  
April 9 at 7:26 PM · 🧑‍🤝‍🧑

Happy Birthday little brother!! I hope these pictures bring good memories your way!! I looked for a picture from our trip to Disney World, but couldn't find one, so Disneyland will have to do. We will celebrate...soon!!



**Robert Riel** ▸ **Kevin Riel**  
April 11 at 10:09 AM · 🧑‍🤝‍🧑



👍 Kevin Riel 1 Comment

👍 Like Comment

**Listy Gillingham** Hope you have a great Bday month!  
Like · Reply · 4d 1

**Drew Riel** was live.  
April 5 at 2:58 PM · 🧑‍🤝‍🧑



👍❤️ Brian Riel, Timothy Riel and 11 others 83 Comments 104 Views

**Jessica Rios**  
April 12 at 8:31 PM · 🧑‍🤝‍🧑

So... almost everything about this virus sucks. However- today, we did a puzzle as a family, found Waldo, taught the kids how to blow bubbles with bubble gum and use whoopee cushions , and I zoomed with EVERY member of my dad's side of the family together!!! It was not a perfect Passover/Easter, but it was pretty awesome. ❤️ Miguel Rios Jeff Benesch Carol Benesch

