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# petersburg pilot

PETERSBURG, ALASKA



February 1, 2018  
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2013, 2015, & 2016

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12 Pages  
One Dollar

## Eight power and light employees voice opposition to borough reorganization plan



Photo courtesy of Brannon Finney

### Blowing westerly

F/V Alaskan Girl crewmember Aaron Dukubber braced against westerly seas while setting Dungeness crab pots on Jan. 25 along the Washington coast. Brannon Finney strapped a Go Pro to the rail to get this photo. According to Finney, Petersburg boats Odin, Alaskan Girl, Jean C, Pacific Knight and St. Theresa braved huge waves to get their gear in the water on dump day.

By **BEN MUIR**  
Pilot writer

Eight current Petersburg Municipal Power and Light employees are in opposition of the borough's plan to reorganize the public works and electric utility departments, according to a letter given to the Pilot.

In a letter addressed to members of the borough assembly, dated January 27, eight power and light employees ask that the borough continues to search for an electric superintendent that has experience in the industry.

Advertising for the position was canceled after the assembly recently voted in favor of the borough manager's plan to reorganize internally, which would move Public Works Director Karl Hagerman to director of electric utility, formally known as electric superintendent. The manager had said the electric department needed someone with management skills, like Hagerman, who's been co-interim superintendent for about six months. And the assembly, as part of its defense of the reorganization, said it would save the borough more than \$100,000 a year.

"We have hesitated to publicly comment about the hiring of an electric superintendent," reads the letter. "However, after surprisingly hearing Assembly members speak out with comments indicating that employees were in support of the electric department reorganization, we felt we should comment on the issue."

The letter was signed by Kevin Hess, foreman; Adam Day, lineman; Sam Caulum, apprentice lineman; Daryl Toyomura, meter reader operator and groundsman; Bob Ziemke, mechanic; Susan Flanary, office manager; and Administrative Clerks Pam Jensen and Alice Williams. Authenticity of the signatures was confirmed with Ms. Flanary and Ms. Jensen.

"It was discouraging to hear the Assembly discuss bringing back the former reorganization plan," reads the letter, "that we understood had been scrapped."

The letter goes on to say that not having someone with electrical experience is a safety concern.

"Safety is serious business to us," reads the letter. "An electrical engineer, or some-

**Continued on page 12**

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Influenza A	17		4	1	9	3	36	10	2	8	65	155
Influenza B		3	1						13		1	18

Chart courtesy of Liz Bacom

Number of flu cases confirmed and tested by the lab at the Petersburg Medical Center.

## PMC sees 62 positive flu cases so far

By **BEN MUIR**  
Pilot writer

The end of 2017 saw more confirmed flu cases in Petersburg than any year since at least 2007, according to medical center lab records.

The medical center lab released statistics on the flu season in Petersburg so far. The results, mostly from those tested in the lab from November and December, showed that 62 people were positive for the flu.

Liz Bacom, laboratory director and in-

fection control manager for the Petersburg Medical Center, uses a metaphor in responding to those who ask why they have the flu despite getting vaccinated.

"I drive my car, and I wear a seatbelt, but I've never gotten into an accident, so what's the point?" Bacom said. "We have seatbelts for a reason, and no, seatbelts aren't going to save your life 100 percent of the time. You could be in a head on collision with a semi going 60 miles an hour on the interstate -- you're probably not going to make it and that seatbelt is not going to help you,

but that doesn't mean you're not going to wear them."

The 62 confirmed cases in November and December have brought a sharp difference compared to previous years. In 2016, there were eight flu cases; 2015, there were 15; and 2014, there were 10, according to lab records. The graphic accompanied with this article shows there were 66 flu cases in 2017, but four of those were from the previous season earlier in the year.

"This year was interesting," said Bacom,  
**Continued on page 12**



# 74 applicants for medical center CEO position

By **BEN MUIR**  
Pilot writer

In the search for a new CEO, the Petersburg Medical Center has received more than 70 applications from across the country, leaving it up to the hiring committee to narrow it down to less than 10.

As of Tuesday, 74 people have applied to replace Liz Woodyard, the CEO of the medical center, who plans to retire at

the end of June.

“We have some highly qualified candidates,” said Doran Hammett, the chief financial officer with the medical center. “I don’t think we’ll have any trouble coming up with some good finalists.”

The cutoff to apply was Wednesday, and Hammett expected a few more applicants. The hiring committee, made up of three board members and four hospital staffers, will each sub-

mit up to five of their top candidates by February 5, he said.

Hammett said the committee will meet to determine a collective top five or six candidates, and then conduct another round of interviews.

“And then after that, the expectation or hope would be that they could come up with three finalists,” Hammett said. “All the timing of that has not been set yet, but that’s kind of a general outline.”

Meanwhile, the medical center board of directors recently approved the purchase of new lab equipment. Costing about \$122,000, the laboratory is going to add a Siemens Dimension EXL, LM200, a chemistry instrument that provides diagnostic testing for patient care.

“It’s kind of the work horse in the lab,” said Liz Bacom, the laboratory manager. “Our unit is seven years old, and it’s time to get it replaced.”

The current equipment is two years past its five-year life expectancy and has caused reliability concern in the last six months.

“The analyzer was down for a total of 22 days in 2017,” wrote the board meeting agenda packet, “resulting in analysis being delayed for hours or even days. So far this month there have been four down days.”

The medical center anticipates the instrument being installed in March, Bacom said.

“Although no equipment is trouble free,” wrote the agenda, “a new analyzer will certainly provide assurances to our physicians and patients that diagnostic laboratory testing will not be delayed.”

## Yesterday's News

News from 25-50-75-100 years ago

**February 1, 1918** The Juneau Dispatch of Jan. 23, states that Captain Madsen had arrived in Juneau that day, with the information that A. Hansen of Petersburg has been missing since December 21. Hansen experienced some engine trouble near Cape Fanshaw and lost his small boat early in December. He finally managed to get to the Gardner cannery, where he was outfitted with a small boat, rifle and supplies. This was three days before Christmas, and he has not been heard of since.

**February 5, 1943** From the looks of the town, Kayhi has arrived for its annual visit to our fair city. It is with great pleasure that we welcome you even though the teachers, when they heard you were coming, seemed to double our assignments. All our local glamour boys and sirens have eagerly looked forward to your coming for the past few weeks. We plan to do our best, however, to make your stay here a happy one. Welcome to you, Kayhi and good luck, because you surely will need it.

**February 7, 1968** Petersburg is to have a theater which will operate every night of the week, showing color films of the best grade possible, it was announced this week by Lon Marifern who will build and operate the establishment. The theater will be built on the present site of the Harbor Bar and Liquor Store which will build a new structure on what is now the site of the Pacific Marine Electronics and a vacant structure. Marifern chose the

name: Viking Theater.

**February 4, 1993** Leaping orange flames lighting the black sky destroyed the two-story log home of Sally and Dave Powels at Mile 4.5 on the Mitkof Highway. The couple were away

at the time, and returned to find their newly purchased house being reduced to ashes. The house was totally burned down, including the contents and outbuildings. They were left with the clothes on their backs.

## Petersburg Happenings

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**GED Instruction:** 6:00 pm, Public Library

**Adult Soccer:** 7:00 pm, Community Gym

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**Jr. Roller Derby Practice:** 6:30 am, Community Gym

**Cancer Support Group:** 12:00 pm, Public Library

**Al-Anon Support Group:** 12:00 pm, Episcopal Church

**Petersburg Harbor Board Meeting:** 4:00 pm, Assembly Chambers

**Borough Assembly Special Meeting:** 5:00 pm, Assembly Chambers

**AA Candlelight Meeting:** 7:00 pm, Episcopal Church

**Hockey Club:** 7:30 pm, Community Gym

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**Kupreanof Council Meeting:** 9:00 am, Community Building

**Group of Advisory Teens Meeting:** 11:00 am, Public Library

**Free Soup and Bread Meal:** 12:00 pm, St. Catherine’s Catholic Church

**PHS Basketball Girls and Boys vs. Haines:** 5:30 pm, PHS Gym

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**PHS Basketball Girls and Boys vs. Haines:** 9:00 am, PHS Gym

**Jr. Roller Derby Practice:** 3:00 pm, Community Gym

**Adult Roller Derby Practice:** 5:00 pm, Community Gym

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

**Borough Assembly Meeting:** 12:00 pm, Assembly Chambers

**AA Women’s Meeting:** 7:00 pm, Presbyterian Church

**AA Men’s Meeting:** 7:00 pm, Lutheran Church Sunday School Rm

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

**Planning Commission Meeting:** 12:00 pm, Assembly Chambers

**GED Instruction:** 6:00 pm, Public Library

**AA 12x12 Mtg:** 7:00 pm, Lutheran Church Sunday School Rm

**Pastries with Parents:** 7:00 pm, High School Library

**Acoustic Jam Session:** 7:30 pm, 106 Gjoa St.

**Hockey Club Scrimmages:** 7:30 pm, Community Gym

**Elks Lodge Meeting:** 7:30 pm, Elks Lodge

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

**Jr. Roller Derby Practice:** 6:30 am, Community Gym

**Rotary Club Meeting:** 12:00 pm, Salvation Army Hall

**GED Instruction:** 6:00 pm, Public Library

**Free Supper:** 6:00 pm, First Baptist Church

**Women of the Moose Meeting:** 6:00 pm, Moose Lodge

**ANB/ANS Meeting:** 7:00 pm, ANB/ANS Hall

**Adult Roller Derby Practice:** 7:30 pm, Community Gym

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**SE Caregivers Support Group:** 12:00 pm, Call 1-866-746-6177

**USCG Auxiliary Meeting:** 6:00 pm, The Moorings

**GED Instruction:** 6:00 pm, Public Library

**Adult Soccer:** 7:00 pm, Community Gym

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## WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Precip
1/23	34	25	0.00"
1/24	37	26	0.25"
1/25	32	21	0.00"
1/26	36	28	0.00"
1/27	30	17	0.00"
1/28	32	17	0.14"
1/29	35	28	0.16"

This Week's Precipitation: 0.55"  
This weather service is provided by the FAA weather observation station at the James A. Johnson Airport.

## DAYLIGHT HOURS

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Feb. 1	7:52a	4:17p	8:25hrs
Feb. 2	7:50a	4:19p	8:29hrs
Feb. 3	7:48a	4:22p	8:34hrs
Feb. 4	7:46a	4:24p	8:38hrs
Feb. 5	7:44a	4:26p	8:42hrs
Feb. 6	7:42a	4:29p	8:47hrs
Feb. 7	7:40a	4:31p	8:51hrs

## FERRY SCHEDULE

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NORTHBOUND DEPARTURES				SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURES			
SUN 2/04	COLUMBIA	7:30 P.M.		WED 2/07	COLUMBIA	2:30 A.M.	
SUN 2/11	COLUMBIA	10:00 P.M.		WED 2/14	COLUMBIA	2:00 A.M.	
SUN 2/18	COLUMBIA	6:00 P.M.		WED 2/21	COLUMBIA	1:15 A.M.	
SUN 2/25	KENNICOTT	12:30 A.M.		MON 2/26	KENNICOTT	11:00 A.M.	
SUN 2/25	COLUMBIA	11:00 P.M.		WED 2/28	COLUMBIA	1:45 A.M.	
TUE 2/27	KENNICOTT	11:45 A.M.		THU 3/01	KENNICOTT	11:15 P.M.	
SAT 3/03	KENNICOTT	5:00 A.M.		MON 3/05	KENNICOTT	12:00 A.M.	

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## PETERSBURG TIDE TABLE

FEBRUARY 2018

		HIGH TIDES		LOW TIDES					
		A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.				
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.			
2	Fri	2:22	18.1	2:21	19.3	8:20	0.6	8:49	-3.1
3	Sat	3:04	18.1	3:06	18.2	9:06	0.6	9:31	-2.0
4	Sun	3:45	17.6	3:53	16.6	9:54	1.1	10:12	-0.5
5	Mon	4:27	16.9	4:42	14.9	10:45	1.7	10:56	1.2
6	Tues	5:11	16.0	5:37	13.2	11:40	2.5	11:43	3.0
7	Wed	6:00	15.0	6:45	11.8	.....	.....	12:45	3.1
8	Thur	6:57	14.3	8:10	11.1	12:39	4.5	2:00	3.4

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# Finance director outlines state of the borough

By **BEN MUIR**  
Pilot writer

In the last month, borough officials hosted three open houses for the public to offer cost saving or money making ideas, prompting a question that some folks would ask before submitting their suggestion: What's the problem?

If the borough is asking for input from the community on how to make money, in what areas is the borough in trouble financially? Finance Director Jody Tow offered some revenue areas that are in flux, starting with state

funding.

"In 2015 the State began to make cuts to Petersburg's funding," Tow said. "They started with reducing community revenue sharing by about \$200,000 each year."

At about the same time, the borough worked on offsetting losses, and has since, she said. It began generating new property tax revenue as the state also cut \$140,000 from the Petersburg Jail contract. The tobacco tax helped offset that loss, along with a reduction in community service grants and a cut of all funding to Petersburg Mental

Health Services, which saved \$85,000 in the FY 2018 budget, she said.

In the fall of 2017, the borough received notice that state funding for a security officer position at the airport would be taken away, a cut worth \$91,000, Tow said. The borough cut a police officer position to offset those costs.

Tow said the last few budget cycles have seen reductions in janitorial services, annual contributions to vehicle replacement accounts, overtime wages and travel.

"...Without being able to increase staffing levels or budgets," Tow said, "it has many departments feeling stretched too thin and not able to meet all the demands of the public."

Tow said a burden is subsidizing the Assisted Living facility.

"This facility is an amazing asset to have in our community," Tow said. "But it is also very expensive to run due to 24/7 staffing requirements and rate caps on what the borough can charge residents living there."

The borough gives about \$80,000 to Assisted Living each year -- a number that could increase to \$100,000 by next year, she said.

"This is in addition to the \$180,000 annual bond payments that property taxpayers are paying to cover the debt for this facility," Tow said.

At the federal level, the Se-

cure Rural Schools program, which funds the school district and road upkeep, has been cut entirely, Tow said.

in the future."

There are borough representatives in Washington D.C. discussing with the Petersburg delegation about Secure Rural Schools, among other key issues.

"Without this continued funding," she said, "there will likely need to be cuts to school funding, more cuts to general fund departments and programs and an increase in property taxes."

As for the borough's sales tax, it decreased by 5 percent in FY 2016 and remained flat in FY 2017, Tow said. A sales tax trend in the borough is the growth in senior tax exemptions. Total exempted seniors gross sales increased by 10 percent last year, and the average number of cards has increased 6 percent each year for the past five years.

"Attempts to increase the sales tax cap and modify the senior sales tax exemption," Tow said, "like other communities in southeast have successfully done recently, have failed in the voter box."

The only other options, Tow says, are to cut expenses or find revenue, like the borough manager's open houses have tried to do.

"We are all in this together and as we go into budget planning process this spring," Tow said, "we are very cognizant that we must strive to continue making Petersburg an enjoyable place for all residents to live."

**"We've been told many times in the past that this program has little hope of being renewed."**

— JODY TOW  
FINANCE DIRECTOR

"Historically, Petersburg has received over \$1 million each year to help fund our schools and maintain our roads," Tow said. "We've been told many times in the past that this program has little hope of being renewed."

Petersburg had been using about \$450,000 of SRS funding for school operations, while the rest went into a reserve fund for when the federal government cuts the program entirely, Tow said.

"We have roughly seven years left of these reserve funds available for school operations," Tow said, "unless the school has additional funding requests for capital projects or requests an increase in funding for operations

## Assembly member requests special meeting on electric reorganization

By **BEN MUIR**  
Pilot writer

A special assembly meeting is scheduled Friday at 5 p.m. in Assembly Chambers to discuss the borough manager's proposed reorganization of the electric utility and public works departments.

In its last meeting, the assembly voted in favor of the proposed reorganization, which would move Karl Hagerman, public works director, to electric utility director, while promoting Chris Cotta to Hagerman's current position. Scott Newman, acting superintendent of power and light, would return as foreman.

The assembly will have to approve this move in three readings, starting next week. Before, however, Member Jeff Meucci requested a special meeting to examine the details of the reorganization, he said.

"I am curious what the organizational structure of the utility director, [public works] 'director' and the P&L director will look like," Meucci said. "I am looking to see a flow chart that helps me understand what position will report to who."

Meucci said he also wants to discuss the duties

of each position, salaries, and the former electrical superintendent's responsibilities, like how much time he spent in the field versus the office, he said.

"It's hard to tell if there will be more disagreement," Meucci said. "But we all live in a small town and I am hoping we are all trying to do what we

think is best for the whole community not just a few disgruntled folks who appear to operate on rumors and innuendo."

The electric utility director -- if the reorganization is approved -- would oversee the electric, water and wastewater departments, according to the job description. The position would pay \$116,289, according to the meeting's agenda packet. The general foreman position would supervise the line crew, electrician and meter reader.

The proposed public works director would oversee motor

pool, sanitation and streets.

According to the agenda, Steve Giesbrecht, the borough manager, is slated to give a presentation to the assembly, after which members can ask questions. The meeting will then be open to public testimony with more discussion between the assembly and manager to follow.



Jeff Meucci

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BEN MUIR / Petersburg Pilot

From left: Anders Christensen, Van Abbott, Julia Murph -- who earned the Girl Scouts Gold Award in November -- Charles Christensen and Britton Erickson after the Eagle Scout ceremony on Monday.

## Four Scouts earn Eagle Scout honor

By **BEN MUIR**  
Pilot writer

Four Petersburg young men were awarded the Eagle Scout honor at a ceremony on Monday, coming after more than a decade of scouting each, about 325 requirements and at least 21 badges.

The Eagle Scouts, Van Abbott, Britton Erickson, Charles Christensen and Anders Christensen were honored in front of about 100 people at the House Cross House, a ceremony that included congratulatory remarks from their dads.

"It's really amazing that four people would come through the same troop and get their eagles all together," said Jeff Erickson, Britton's dad. "It doesn't happen very often, you guys, it's a very special moment."

Tom Abbott, Van's dad, joked and said he didn't think the four scouts would make it this far.

"Van, you've grown into a fine young man," Abbott said. "And you're receiving the highest honor in scouts tonight, and I'm really proud of that, so is your mother, so is your sister."

He added: "It took a lot of work.

It took a lot of respect for scouts and dedications to others. But it also took a lot of self confidence ... To make eagle a young man must show courage, determination, physical toughness, intellectual aptitude -- Van, you toughed it out and you did all of it."

Charlie Christensen, father of Anders and Charles, talked about having two Eagle Scout honorees at the same time, and what it was like achieving that feat.

"Double everything, double the time, and I wouldn't trade it for anything," Christensen said. "It's been a wonderful time going through scouts with these guys."

And going through losing the tools on the way.

"These guys started pretty young in scouts and the whole thing I think was for them to grow up and start camping and losing my shovels," Mr. Christensen said. "And my hammers, screwdrivers, pocket knives, and I don't know how many of those I donated to Tongass National Forest. It was well worth it. I'd do it again."

There were veteran Eagle Scouts in the crowd as well, including Randy Holmgrain, who ad-

ressed the four newly honored eagles.

"First and foremost," Holmgrain said. "They are each and every one of them an outdoorsman. They know how to camp, swim, hike and use wood tools. Build a fire, hopefully safely, and find their way with a map and a compass."

The four scouts were in troop leadership positions, earning 12 merit badges and nine elective badges. They spent 12 hours on service projects -- not including the hours spent on their Eagle Scout projects -- 20 days and nights camping, and completed about 325 different requirements in their scouting career, Holmgrain said.

"The eagle scout is a good citizen," Mr. Holmgrain said. "He has been to city council meetings and knows the city government and knows how the city government is organized. He knows how to manage his money and understands the value of saving.

"He is a young man who is qualified to help others as well as take care of himself. His badge is not a decoration, but rather a symbol of knowledge and ability. Congratulations, guys."

## Editorial

### Continue the search

by *Ron Loesch, Publisher*

As discussion continues on the Power and Light reorganization, it's important to quantify the savings and identify where they will be placed within the borough budget.

Saving money in the Power and Light Dept. will not help the borough's general fund. It will only bring savings to the Power and Light fund. The funds cannot be transferred to the general fund on an ongoing basis.

Since the PMP&L fund is a self-supporting enterprise, it operates independent of the borough's general fund. In other words, it pays its own way, as do the sanitation, water, wastewater and harbor funds. Revenue generated by each account has to stay in those accounts.

As long as the enterprise funds generate the needed revenue to operate them, the public is well served.

Professional managers with knowledge of the operation are the key to their success.

It wouldn't be prudent to let the Public Works Superintendent take over the harbor operations any more than allowing the Police Chief to operate the sanitation department. Each endeavor requires professional expertise that only comes from years of experience.

Power and Light has the funds to pay the wages for the next superintendent. The task will be to find the person to fill the position, even if it takes a while longer.

The voters expressed their wishes at our last municipal election. It's up to the Assembly to carry out those wishes.



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## Police report

**January 24** — Lost wallet found on N. Nordic Dr., owner informed.

Caller reported possible intoxicated driver on N. Nordic Dr.

An altercation was reported on N. Nordic Dr. Extra patrols were requested at an unknown location.

**January 25** — Police stopped vehicle for expired registration tab.

Police provided civil standby and welfare check on Skylark Way.

Police conducted welfare check on Chief John Lott St.

Caller reported a phone scam.

Caller reported vehicle blocking driveway on N. 2nd St. Owner moved vehicle.

Caller reported loud noise on Tango St.

**January 26** — Caller reported suspicious activity in the South Harbor parking lot.

Police issued a verbal warning for speed on Mill Rd.

**January 27** — Officer responded to report of suspicious vehicle on Wesley St. Vehicle gone on arrival.

Police issued a warning for broken tail light. Welfare check made on S. 2nd St.

Report that someone made a copy of her neighbor's key.

Police assisted with vehicle lockout.

**January 28** — Two verbal warnings were issued for tail lights and one for expired registration.

Caller reported vehicle hadn't been moved in three weeks. Vehicle moved by owner.

**January 29** — Verbal warning given for expired license.

**January 30** — Report of vehicle in ditch on Haugen Dr. No damage or injuries.

Extra patrol requested on Haugen Dr.

Officer closed rear door of vehicle, nothing appeared disturbed.

Vehicle in ditch on Cabin Creek Rd, no damage or injuries reported.

Verbal warning given for snow machine on roadway on Libby Straight.

Subpoenas served on Mitkof Highway and Cornelius Rd.

Motor vehicle accident reported on Haugen Dr.

There were four animal related reports during this reporting period.

## Trooper report

**On Jan. 24,** Alaska State Troopers on Prince of Wales conducted a traffic stop on a blue Ford pickup near MPI Kasaan Road. Investigation revealed that Heather McDonald, 41, of Thorne Bay, was driving under the influence of alcohol, in violation of her Conditions of Release, and driving with a revoked license. McDonald was remanded to the Craig Jail pending arraignment.

**On Jan. 26,** Alaska State Troopers on Prince of Wales were advised of a single vehicle crash at MP 6.6 Coffman Cove Road. Investigation revealed Christine Hull, 28, of Coffman Cove, was southbound on Coffman Cove Road when she lost control of her 2007 Toyota Tundra on the icy roads, left the roadway, and overturned. Hull was wearing her seat-belt, and alcohol was not a factor.

AST on Prince of Wales Island received a complaint of a telephone call that was made in which physical threats were made. The investigation revealed 66 year old

Craig resident, Dennis Parsons, made a telephone call in which he made physical threats of injury to a household member. Parsons was arrested and was transported to Craig Police Department where he was remanded.

**On April 24,** Prince of Wales AST received a report of attempted extortion in Hydaburg. Prince of Wales AST initiated an investigation with the assistance of Prince of Wales AWT, Hydaburg VPSO, Thorne Bay VPSO, and the Alaska Bureau of Investigation Technical Crimes Unit. Investigation revealed Eric Adams, 32, of Hydaburg, attempted to sexually exploit another by obtaining items of a sexual nature by threatening to expose confidential information, commonly referred to as "Sextortoin". On Jan. 25, a Grand Jury indicted Adams on one count of Attempted Extortion A.S. 11.41.520(a)(3), and an arrest warrant was issued for Adams. On Jan. 27, Prince of Wales AST contacted Adams at

his residence in Hydaburg, and arrested him on the warrant. Adams was remanded to the Craig Jail Facility and bail was set at \$1000.

**On Sept. 29, 2017,** Prince of Wales AST began an investigation into the Unlawful Exploitation of a Minor, and on-line enticement of a minor. The investigation stemmed from a 15 year old female receiving explicit images via messenger. Walter Forsberg, 18, from Metlakatla was interviewed and his cellular phone was seized. Ultimately, the phone was forensically examined by the Alaska Bureau of Investigations, Technical Crimes Unit and multiple images of child pornography were discovered.

The images are of children between the estimated ages of 18 months – 10 years of age being sexually abused. On Jan. 25, a Grand Jury indicted Forsberg on 10 separate counts of Possession of Child Pornography, A.S. 11.61.127. An arrest warrant was issued for Forsberg. Later that same day, Forsberg was arrested in Metlakatla on the outstanding warrant. Investigation into the identities of the children is ongoing with the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigations.



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### Rules of the Road

US Coast Guard



QUESTION & ANSWER

#### QUESTION:

While underway your vessel approaches a bend in a river where, due to the bank, you cannot see around the bend. You should \_\_\_\_\_.

- keep to the starboard side of the channel and sound one short blast
- sound the danger signal
- sound one prolonged blast
- slow your vessel to bare steerageway

ANSWER: C. sound one prolonged blast

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

## The young poets of Petersburg

Elisa Larson was the school winner at the annual poetry recitation competition last week.



Photo courtesy of Carissa Cotta



Photo courtesy of Carissa Cotta

Petersburg High School hosted the final round of their annual poetry recitation competition sponsored by the national Poetry Out Loud program on January 23. Elisa Larson, senior, was the school winner. Jack Byrer and Brooklyn Dormer, both sophomores, took 2nd and 3rd place.

## FS project being planned for Petersburg-Wrangell districts

By DAN RUDY  
Pilot writer

WRANGELL — The United States Forest Service is developing a new initiative for the Wrangell and Petersburg districts, encompassing state and private lands in addition to those managed federally.

Tongass National Forest supervisor Earl Stewart last month issued a call for participation to the general public, seeking input on the Central Tongass Landscape Level Analysis.

The announcement explains the purpose of the CTLLA will be to in a single analysis and decision plan a spatially large project for both districts, at the same time increasing the number of authorized activities there. It would identify and analyze the environmental effects of different activities that can be implemented over the next 10 to 15 years.

Six areas of need to address were cited in the announcement: developing diverse natural resource employment opportunities; maintaining existing recreation infrastructure and providing new opportunities in areas relevant to the public or tourism industry; improving watershed health through restoration activities; preserving or enhancing subsistence resources and access, to continue residents' traditional and cultural use of them; providing a variety of wood products in an econom-

ically efficient manner; and to implement young-growth stand treatments that promote future timber production while improving habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic species.

The CTLLA will follow the National Environmental Policy Act process, and its proposals must meet the requirements of the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan of 2016. The resultant activities would likewise need to comply with applicable laws and regulations.

To that end, USFS is soliciting feedback from the public through a questionnaire, available online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/landmanagement/projects/?cid=fseprd568085>. Participants are asked to keep comments concise and clear, stating which forest practices, projects, infrastructure and activities they either do or do not support.

Input from tribal governments and residents will help determine the location and types of activities to be pursued, as well as how extensively they will occur. The project area includes all island and mainland areas within the Petersburg and Wrangell Ranger districts.

Public meetings for the project are being planned for early March, with presentations set for Kake, Petersburg and Wrangell.

### First Baptist Church

Jesus said *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* John 15:1 & 5

**Sunday:** Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 am

Sunday Worship Service at 11 am

Youth – Ages 12 and up 5 - 7 pm

**Wednesday:** FREE SUPPER @ 6 pm

Bible Study for Adults and *TeamKid* @ 6:45pm



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## Valentine's Day

Wednesday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>

♥ Class Exchange Valentines

Assorted 16-34 Count

♥ His & Her Heart Tumblers 2pc set

♥ 3pc Gift Boxes "Love"

♥ Dangle Heart Decorations

♥ Velvet Rose w/earrings

♥ Conversation Heart Candies

♥ Paper Goods (Napkins/Plates)

♥ Gift Candy Containers

♥ Cookie Cutters

♥ Romance Cards

♥ Bubble Baths

♥ Gift Bags

♥ Stickers

♥ Window Clings

♥ Valentine Gift Bags

♥ Fruit Snack Class Exchange Bags



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# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH  
Fisheries columnist

## Pacific halibut to decrease this year, likely into the foreseeable future

As expected, catches of Pacific halibut will decrease for this year, and likely into the foreseeable future.

Following an increase in catches last year for the first time in several decades, the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) on Friday set a "suggested" coastwide catch for

2018 at 28.03 million pounds, a 10.7 percent reduction. Alaska's share could be 20.52 million pounds, a drop of 2.1 million pounds from 2017.

The numbers could decline further, as for the first time in memory since the IPHC began its oversight of the stocks in 1923, the six commissioners were not able to agree on catch allocations for the eight halibut fishing regions.

Halibut catch limits are determined by summer surveys at more than 1,200 stations from Oregon to the Aleutians.

"There was agreement that the general halibut stock is in decline, but no consensus on what the catches should be. Due to this impasse, the commissioners made suggestions for 2018 for their own countries," said Tom Gemmill, executive director of the Juneau-based Halibut Coalition.

"The Canadian's main issue on harvest reduction is that they do not agree with the U.S. on the distribution of the stocks. However, all agreed that stocks are down and that reductions are needed," Gemmill added in email posts from the Oregon meeting.

"The bottom line is both parties agreed on what we needed to do in terms of reductions, but couldn't agree on how to get it done," said IPHC chairman Jim Balsiger. "That's an awkward place to be, but I don't believe for a second that any of the commissioners did anything other than what they thought was best and what they were required to do by their own ideals as we try to get to a solution."

The impasse means that each country will set its own catch guidelines within recommended limits.

"The need to adopt quotas outside the IPHC process may result in a delay to the March 24 opening date," cautioned Gemmill. The U.S. halibut fishery will close on November 7.

Area	2017 (m lb)	2018 (m lb)	% of change
2A WA/OR/CA	1.33	1.19	-10.5%
2B Canada	7.45	6.32	-15.2%
2C Southeast AK	5.25	4.45	-15.2%
3A Central Gulf	10	9.45	-5.5%
3B Western Gulf	3.14	2.62	-16.6%
4A Aleutians/Bering Sea	1.39	1.37	-1.4%
4B Aleutians/Bering Sea	1.14	1.05	-7.9%
4CDE Bering Sea	1.7	1.58	-7.1
TOTAL	31.4	28.03	-10.7%

Chart courtesy of Alaska Boats and Permits, Homer

Total halibut removals in 2017 were 42.8 million pounds, up slightly from 2016. Of that, an estimated 26.6 million pounds were landed from commercial fisheries, 7.9 million pounds from recreational fisheries, 6 million pounds from bycatch, and 1.2 million pounds from subsistence.

By all accounts, the five day meeting was "spirited but agreeable."

"The U.S. and Canada are good friends and neighbors and we do not consider the result a failure," said attendee Bruce Gabrys in closing remarks that met with sustained applause.

"Principled people sometimes disagree. I do not see our relations changing irrespective of what path the IPHC takes as we move forward. We thank the commissioners for their efforts."

**Gold mine comments due** - Few Alaskans even know of it, but the world's biggest "pure" gold mine is being planned by two Canadian companies near Crooked Creek, a tributary ten miles from the Kuskokwim River.

The state plans to issue two draft permits for waste water discharges and waste management for the project and is taking comments now. According to KYUK in Bethel, one permit would allow 4,500 gallons per minute of treated wastewater to be dumped into Crooked Creek for the life of the mine. It also lays out the levels of contamination that would be allowed in the water. The other permit would regulate where other wastes from the mine would be stored. The draft permits also specify how that waste would be monitored.

An environmental impact statement says that Crooked Creek and connecting tributaries are classified as essential fish habitat for five species of salmon and 12 other fish species.

The Donlin mine, expected to operate for 27 years and yield nearly 40 million ounces of pure gold, would have a footprint of about 25 square miles. The open pit would be over two miles long, one mile wide and nearly 2-thousand feet deep. A 30 mile road would be built to the site and include housing and offices, an airstrip, a barge terminal at Bethel, a water treatment plant and a port on the Kuskokwim for offloading.

To power the mine, a 40 million gallon tank farm would be built on site for diesel fuel to be delivered via a 315 mile pipeline from Cook Inlet, including along the Iditarod trail from Skwentna to Finger Lake. The pipeline would cross streams for anadromous and resident fish species at 77 locations.

Waste materials from the mine, called tailings, would be stored in a manmade pond held back by a 475 foot main dam and a 345 foot high upper dam. The pond will cover 1,356 acres and hold 110 million tons of waste materials forever.

Donlin expects to receive a final impact statement from the Army Corps of Engineers in March. State and federal agencies will then decide on more permitting.

Comments on the water discharges can be made to the Department of Environmental Conservation through February 13.

**Crab shells protect meat** - An all-natural, crab shell-based spray keeps game meat free from bugs, bacteria and contaminants.

Game Meat Protector is the latest product from Tidal Vision LLC of Juneau that uses chitosan, a wonder ingredient extracted from the exoskeleton of crab shells.

"It protects game meat out in the field from spoiling, and it also prevents bugs and insects from landing and burrowing into it," said Craig Kasberg, Tidal Vision president. "It's a way for hunters to preserve the quality of the meat as it is being harvested."

The spray contains only water, chitosan and citric acid.

"It leaves a thin film on the game meat, and because of chitosan's natural, anti-microbial properties and low pH citric acid, it preserves the quality," Kasberg added.

One eight-ounce bottle is enough to cover an entire large game animal, Kasberg said, and it also can be sprayed on game bags for extra protection.

The game meat protector is sold on Amazon and will be carried later this year by major outdoor outlets. Learn more about chitosan and Tidal Vision's other products at tidalvisionusa.com.



**at Petersburg School District**

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WG Biscuit and Sausage Swd.,  
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**Tuesday - February 6**  
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Peaches

**Wednesday - February 7**  
Beef Chili, WG Cornbread Muffin,  
Pears

**Thursday - February 8**  
Chicken Fried Brown Rice, Applesauce

**Friday - February 9**  
Cheese Burger, WG Bun,  
French Fries, Fresh Fruit



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and Granola, French Toast,  
Oatmeal, Homemade Muffin,  
and Cereals

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# Fisheries board agrees to draft letter on otters

By **DAN RUDY**  
Pilot writer

WRANGELL — On its regional meeting's concluding day last week the Board of Fisheries agreed to draft a letter to federal authorities, encouraging them to support efforts to curb seafood predation by marine mammals.

During its 13-day meeting in Sitka, the board reviewed regulatory proposals for both finfish and shellfish for Southeast Alaska and Yakutat. Starting with shellfish on January 11, 155 different items relating to the region's crab, shrimp and dive fisheries saw comment from both Department of Fish and Game managers and user groups, as well as individuals.

Among both Dungeness crab and dive fishery items a common thread in testimony was the threat posed to those fisheries by marine mammals, sea otters in particular. In a report by Kyle Hebert on the opening day, ADFG research supervisor for dive fisheries in Southeast, he characterized the recolonization of the region by sea otters as the primary challenge to species in the dive fisheries, such as sea cucumber, geoduck and red sea urchin.

Eradicated by hunters in the region during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, around 400 otters were reintroduced from Southwest Alaska during the 1960s. The population has since found a foothold, with the federal Fish and Wildlife Service estimating their number at around 25,700 in 2014, the latest available report, from around 9,000 in 1994. Aerial surveys were used to collect the recent population estimates.

Southeastern sea otters are one of three distinct populations now living in Alaska, and unlike that found in Southwest the region's population is neither listed as depleted under the Marine Mammals Protection Act nor listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. However, the MMPA does protect the species from regular harvest. USFWS has jurisdiction over their management, and only

Alaska Native subsistence users are legally allowed to harvest and process them.

A joint letter by the Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance, SE Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association, Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association and Shellfish Preservation Alliance had been submitted advocating for support from the Board of Fisheries. Wrangell crabber Mike Lockabey had also testified he had submitted letters to the Secretary of the Interior, the Alaskan congressional delegation and Gov. Bill Walker, seeking their support in loosening restrictions on the harvest of otters.

**"It's not just sea otters, it's marine mammals,"**

— JOHN JENSEN

FISHERIES BOARD CHAIRMAN

Of the sea otters found in Southeast, the known level of direct human-caused mortality listed in the 2014 report is 447 otters per year, though uncertainties exist regarding mortality from fisheries. USFWS estimates an additional 1,733 more otters per year would need to be killed in order to threaten the stock's sustainability.

As board members concluded the meeting on January 23, among its final items of business was to deal with concerns about sea otters in Southeast. Chairman John Jensen noted the urgency of the problem as relayed by the days' testimonials.

"I heard a call loud and clear that we need to try to do something and address this predator population. It's not just sea otters, it's marine mammals," he said.

Jensen recommended the board draft a letter to encourage USFWS and other federal agencies to take a more active role in managing the otter population.

Fisheries board executive director Glenn Haight said one



BEN MUIR / Petersburg Pilot

## Aiming for gold

Split into two JV teams, Petersburg basketball played in a tourney over the weekend. Max Marohl shoots a three-point field goal on Saturday against Thorne Bay, a game the Vikings won, 57-31. After the tourney, Petersburg freshman Brennan Skeek was named to the All Tournament team.

had already been in the drafting stage but had not yet been finalized. Board member Robert Ruffner said he was working on the letter, but advised caution in how the matter would be approached due to the charged nature of the subject.

"This issue can be particu-

larly sensitive," he said. Ruffner said it would be important how the board might characterize its concerns, considering a broader audience as well as those affected. "We need to be a little methodical on this one so we don't raise some attention that we don't want."

Without any objections from other board members, Jensen suggested that the letter be drafted in time for the Board of Fisheries' statewide meeting, set for March 6 in Anchorage. Once composed, the board will then have time at the meeting to discuss possible action on a letter.

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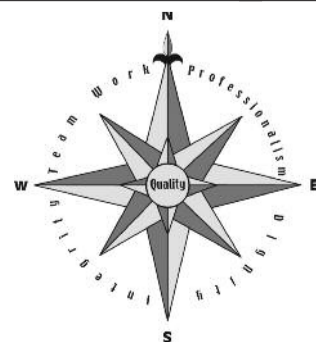
## Have you filed your PFD?

Consider donating a portion of your PFD to the Petersburg Medical Foundation through **Pick. Click. Give!**

**Foundation Causes:** Eden Project (birds in LTC), Emergency Travel Fund, LTC activities, PMC staff training, Paddle Battle in the Narrows (2017 new wheel chairs), high school graduate scholarship, and secondary education scholarships.

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Obituaries

Aril Mathisen, Jr., 75

Aril (Audi) Thormod Mathisen Jr., 75, passed on January 11, 2018.

He was born in Petersburg, Alaska on November 23, 1942, the first of four children for Aril and Klara Mathisen.

Summers growing up were spent fishing on his father's boat Lenor, or his uncle's boat Harmony.

In school he played basketball, French horn in the high school band, was in chorus, and the

honor society. He graduated with the class of 1961 at Petersburg High, and he liked coming back for the occasional reunions. After graduation he received a Masters degree in English at Western Washington State College in Bellingham, Washington. It was there he met his future wife Anne Brevig the daughter of John and Helen Brevig of Shelton, Washington.

They bought a gillnet boat he named the Brevig, and fished in Southeast Alaska and Washington. He later sold the vessel, but continued fishing on and off throughout his career. This included gillnetting in Bristol Bay, fishing halibut and salmon on family boats in Southeast Alaska.

He sold mobile homes for awhile before starting a home contracting business. He finally kept one of these for himself with a barn and land near Tumwater,

Washington. They had horses there, and started a home publishing business, Impact Magazine, for the Olympia area. Their two children Tiffany and Jon grew up there. He later sold the news magazine business, but kept up his fishing in Alaska.

He started selling vitamins, and health drinks to supplement income, and keep himself busy as age made it harder for him to keep fishing.

Audi had many fond fishing memories, seining with Neil MacDonald on the Little Lady, gillnetting with his own boat, Bristol Bay, and roller turns halibut fishing on the family boats. Stories of selling Christmas trees with Anne and her parents on Aurora Avenue, north of Seattle, always brought a laugh, as well as his time selling mobile homes.

He is survived by; his daughter Tiffany (Dave); grandson



Aril Mathisen

Henry; granddaughter Ava; sister Lenore; brothers Sig [Cynthia] and Wayne [Francine]; many cousins, nephews, nieces, and good friends.

A celebration of life will be held in Petersburg on May 16, 2018 at a family home.

Federal Subsistence Meeting

The public is invited to attend and participate.

February 13 - 15, 2018

in Juneau

at the Central Council Tlingit & Haida Vocational Training and Resource Center, 3239 Hospital Drive, starting daily at 8:30 a.m.

The Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council will meet to discuss proposals to change Federal subsistence fish and shellfish regulations and nonrural determinations, and other issues related to subsistence in the Southeast Region.

Participate in person or by teleconference, 1-866-560-5984 (passcode 12960066).

For meeting materials and other information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program, visit: <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence> or call the Office of Subsistence Management at (907) 786-3888 or (800) 478-1456.

If you need special accommodations for disabilities, such as sign language interpretation, please contact the Office of Subsistence Management at least seven business days prior to the meeting.

Ronald Lee Beckett, 80



Ronald Beckett

Ronald Lee (Pete) Beckett, 80, entered into Glory on Jan. 28, 2018.

He was born to Charles and Harriet Beckett on August 7, 1937 in Dayton, Ohio – the second of four children.

While attending West Carrollton High School, he joined the Naval Reserves, and he began active duty in the Navy after his graduation in 1956. He served as a boiler operator/tender on a destroyer radar ship during his two tours in the Mediterranean Sea, and he continued working as a boiler operator throughout his civilian career.

Upon return from the Navy, he married Carol Pfister in June, 1959, and they raised three daughters together.

The family moved west to Laramie, Wyoming in 1974; Pete and Carol moved to Petersburg, Alaska in 1996 upon his retirement.

Pete was a member of the Petersburg Lutheran Church and the Petersburg American Legion Post, as well as a lifetime member of the NRA and a life-long sports fan.

He is survived by; his wife Carol, daughter Karen (Jesse) O'Connor, granddaughter Eireann (18) and grandson Liam (15) from Jackson, Wyoming; daughter Kirsten (Robert) Simpson, granddaughter Elizabeth (29) from Longmont, Colorado; Katey (Lee) Gilpin, granddaughter Maddy (14) from Petersburg, Alaska: as well as many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Petersburg Lutheran Church or the Wounded Warrior Project ([www.wounded-warriorproject.org](http://www.wounded-warriorproject.org)).

A Memorial Service will be held at the Petersburg Lutheran Church on Sat., Feb. 3 at 11am, with a reception to follow in the Holy Cross House.

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Southcoast Region  
**PUBLIC NOTICE SEASONAL VEHICLE WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS**  
 Issue Date: February 5, 2018

This notice is to remind the public and the trucking industry that seasonal weight/load restrictions will be imposed soon by the Department on its highway system for all vehicles over 10,000# GVW. These annual weight restrictions are intended to reduce roadway damage caused by heavy vehicles traveling on highways weakened during spring thawing conditions. The weight restrictions are stated as a percentage of legal allowable weight and shall be applied to the maximum axle loading in accordance with 17 AAC 25.013(e).

These annual restrictions are very dependent upon weather, local soil conditions, and frost depth, but usually occur between late February and May each year for Southeast Alaska and Kodiak Island. Since these limitations may reduce the allowable gross vehicle weight by as much as 50%, it would be advisable to transport as much freight as possible prior to the above dates. All State routes may be subject to seasonal weight restrictions.

When imposed, or modified, these restrictions will be posted on the DOT&PF Division of Measurement Standards and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement webpage.

This can be found at: <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/mscve/main.cfm>

- Under Commercial Vehicle Enforcement tab at the top of the page, click weight restrictions
- Choose the latest Southcoast Region listing to view the current version of our posted seasonal weight restriction notices.

The Department of Public Safety and MSCVE officers will be enforcing these restrictions.

Issued by:  
 Marcus Zimmerman,  
 Maintenance & Operations Specialist  
 E-mail: [marcus.zimmerman@alaska.gov](mailto:marcus.zimmerman@alaska.gov)  
 Phone: 907-465-4655  
 Fax: 907-465-2021

If you or someone you represent requires special accommodations in order to respond to this public notice, please call or email the project coordinator listed above or call Alaska Relay at 711 or call

- (800) 770-8973 for TTY (800) 770-8255 for voice
- (800) 770-3919 for ASCLII (866) 355-6198 for STS

Ask the communications assistant to call the point of contact listed above so arrangements can be made to assist you.

Publish in PSG Pilot February 1, 2018

Senior Meals

- FRIDAY, February 2**  
 Chicken Roast, Potato and Carrots, Green Beans, Orange Slices, Ice Cream
- MONDAY, February 5**  
 Linguine with Clam Sauce, Broccoli, Green Salad, Peach Halves, Cake
- WEDNESDAY, February 7**  
 Baked Chicken, Stuffing, Gravy, Peas, Fruit Salad, Carrot Bars

Please call Mountain View Food Service at 772-4331 before noon for reservations. Dinner is served at Mountain View Manor at 5:00 p.m. The menu is subject to change without notice. Milk, juice, coffee, bread and/or rolls will be served with every meal. Mountain View Manor extends an invitation to those over 60 and their spouses.

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# Library News



**Toddler Time** - Every Tuesday at 11:15 a.m.

**Open Play** - Every Thurs. 11:15 a.m. - Come and enjoy a warm and inviting space where you and your child can play, listen to music, and share stories. Open Play is open to little ones ages 0-5 years and their caregivers.

**Curiosity Creates!** every Thurs. 3:30-4:40 p.m. - free drop in program - Open to kids grades 1-6.

**Lego Crazy**- Every Fri. 2-3 p.m. - All ages

**Online Library Catalog** - Search for and request material from libraries across the State. Manage your checkouts, renewals and holds in one convenient location with your library card and PIN (last 4 digits of card #) at psglib.org.

**Passport processing** is available at the library on Thursdays by appointment only, call 772-3349 to schedule.

**EBooks and Digital Audiobooks** are available through the Alaska Digital Library (<https://adl.overdrive.com/>). If you need help loading and listening to books on your device, book time with a library tech to get started.

**Petersburg newspapers online** - Discover people, places and events in the early days of our town. Use the archive to gain a local perspective on

historical news, to research your family history or to read about a person or event that interests you. Visit [www.psglib.org](http://www.psglib.org) to search the archive.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

The Pilot extends its best wishes to the persons listed on the Community Calendar.

Those with birthdays this week are: **Feb. 1:** Britina Lyons, Stan Hjort, Dorothy Bentley, Jim Lyons; **Feb. 2:** Paul Nice, Roger Thompson; **Feb. 4:** Helen Rockstad, Kara Newman; **Feb. 5:** Heather Bieber, Madailein Mae Jerabek; **Feb. 6:** Audrey Burrell, Lars Christensen; **Feb. 7:** Adele See, Thomas Schwartz, Tiffany Morehouse, Troy Anderson.

If you'd like to be included on our list, please call 772-9393.

## Public Notice

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Cheryl A. O'Neil has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Steven Thomas Davis. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Cheryl A. O'Neil, Personal Representative, c/o Faulkner Banfield, P.C., 8420 Airport Boulevard, Suite 101, Juneau, Alaska 99801-6924, or filed with the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, First Judicial District at Juneau, Alaska, 1JU-18-14 PR.

**Published: January 25, February 1 and 8, 2018**

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS: IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT PETERSBURG;

In the Matter of the Estate of KEITH H. GERLACH; Case No. IPE-18-02PR. Notice is hereby given that Susan M. Erickson has been appointed personal representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Susan M. Erickson, P.O. Box 53, Petersburg, AK 99833, or be filed with the Clerk of Court, Box 1009, Petersburg, AK 99833.

**Published: February 1, 8, and 15, 2018**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Petersburg Borough would like all property owners to be aware of the assessment and tax schedule for the 2018 calendar year. The Borough's contract assessor revalued land on Frederick Point and the land between Haugen Drive and the Cemetery. All property owners should be aware that assessment notices will be mailed out on March 1st and that there is only a one month window to appeal. Forms and information can be found online or in our office. More information will be going out with your assessment notice.

### 2018 Property Tax Timeline

February 15, 2018	Deadline for Fire/EMS, Fire Suppression System, Non-Profit, Disabled Veterans and Senior Citizen Exemption Applications
March 1, 2018	Property Assessments Mailed Out
March 1 - 31st, 2018	Appeal Process
April 9, 2018	Board of Equalization
May 1, 2018	Delivery of Assessment Roll to Assembly
Prior to June 15, 2018	Mill Rate of Tax Levy
June 30, 2018	Property Tax Invoices Mailed
October 1, 2018	Property Taxes Due, 5pm Finance Office

Petersburg Borough Finance Office  
Open 8-5 Monday-Friday  
Call 772-4425 or stop by 12 South Nordic Drive

**Published: January 11 and February 1, 2018**



## Public Notice

### PETERSBURG BOROUGH PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Petersburg Planning and Zoning Commission, on February 6, 2018 at 12:00 pm, will be holding a meeting and conducting a public hearing in the Assembly Chambers located at 12 South Nordic Drive. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the following:

A. An application from Karen and Mark Severson for variances from the 10' side yard setback requirement and the 35% maximum lot coverage requirement for the property located at 109 Cornelius Road (PID#:01-031-580). The variances would allow the applicant to expand an existing net shed.

B. Proposed Petersburg Development Code

C. An application from Island Ventures LLC to lease approximately 5,400 sq ft of tidelands at Scow Bay Turnaround to construct a temporary boat ramp.

D. An application from Roger Sampson and Cheryl Keegan for a variance from the front yard setback requirement to allow construction of a garage 5' from the property line at 208 Mitkof Highway (PID#:01-030-075).

E. Request from Borough Manager on behalf of Mayor Jensen

Interested persons desiring to present their views on the request, either in writing or verbally, will be given the opportunity to be heard during the above mentioned hearing. Written suggestions or objections to the provisions of said requests may be filed with the Community & Economic Development Department at or before such meeting and will be heard by the Petersburg Planning and Zoning Commission at the time and place specified. Said hearings may be continued from time to time as necessary.

**Published: February 1, 2018**



**The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is recruiting for an Administrative Assistant in Ketchikan.** Exciting and challenging full-time regular position with excellent benefits. Position offers a wide variety of duties and is well-suited for an energetic professional administrative person. The successful candidate will be expected to quickly learn and support new business processes. Performance standards are high and dedication to the Agency and its team of professionals is essential. Exceptional interpersonal skills, etiquette and professional appearance are required. A complete job description and the application process are available online at:

<https://seapahydro.applicantpro.com/>

Salary range is \$15.83 - \$22.83/Hour (DOE) + Benefits. SEAPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Published: January 18 and 25, February 1 and 8, 2018**



**The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is recruiting for an Operations Manager in Wrangell, AK.** This is a key management position managing daily operations and maintenance of SEAPA's generation and transmission system. Successful candidate will possess a broad range of knowledge, skills and experience encompassing typical power generation and transmission equipment. This position plays an integral role in long-range planning, budget development and has a strong ability to directly affect change. Candidate must exhibit an appropriately high level of knowledge and skills consistent with a well-rounded senior level electric utility person. Minimum 15 years of broad electric utility experience. For a complete job description and the application process, please visit:

<https://seapahydro.applicantpro.com/>

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SEAPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Publish: January 25, February 1 and 8, 2018**

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**Clerk of Court II**, Alaska Court System, Petersburg, Alaska. \$3,224.00 monthly. Closing Date: February 5, 2018. The Alaska Court System (ACS) is recruiting for a Clerk of Court II in the Petersburg Trial Court. The incumbent will plan, implement, direct, and monitor all non-judicial activities of the court and directly manage one part-time deputy clerk. How to apply: Complete recruitment information is available on Workplace Alaska, <http://workplace.alaska.gov>.

Applicants must submit an application through Workplace Alaska by 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 5, 2018. For more information, contact the Alaska Court System Human Resources Department at [recruitment@akcourts.us](mailto:recruitment@akcourts.us) or 907-264-8242. The Alaska Court System is an equal employment opportunity employer and supports workplace diversity.  
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**Position Opening in the Plant Operations** department performing Housekeeping/Laundry duties at Petersburg Medical Center. Provides cleaning of hospital and all of the departments within. Performs laundry duties at least two days a week. Housekeeping & laundry are physical jobs and the individual must be able to lift, stoop, bend and clean. Full time with benefits. Wage dependent upon experience. Position open until filled. Applications are available at the PMC business office or on the hospital website at [www.pmcak.org](http://www.pmcak.org). For more information, call Cindy Newman at 772-4291, extension 5719.  
 .....tfn1-18b91

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**Position open for Ward Clerk**, Full Time and Part Time, at Petersburg Medical Center. The Ward Clerk works at the

nurse's station at Petersburg Medical Center. Handles clerical duties on a nursing unit, including admission of patients, patient registration, working on insurance authorizations, reception, transmittal of messages, records, directing guests, mail and transcription. May assist in inventorying and ordering supplies. Requires knowledge of medical terminology, keyboarding skills, and at least 2 years prior clerical experience. Positions are with benefits, 10 hours per day. Starting wage is \$16.02 per hour. Position(s) open until filled. Applications available at [www.pmcak.org](http://www.pmcak.org) or at the Medical Center business office. Contact 772-4291, ext. 5719 for more information.  
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**Position Opening for** a Medical Assistant (MA), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or Registered Nurse (RN) in the PMC Clinic at Petersburg Medical Center. Will assist with procedures, patient care, triage of patients, interpretation of data and follow-up care as directed

by the physician(s). Must interact well with the public, and have excellent communication and customer relation skills. Position is full time with benefits, 32-40 hours per week. Starting pay is dependent upon experience. Position open until filled. To apply: applications available at PMC or on the hospital website at [www.pmcak.org](http://www.pmcak.org). For more information, call Cindy Newman, Human Resources at (907) 772-4291, extension 5719.  
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**NOTICES**

**Sons of Norway Bingo**, Friday nights 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Must be 19 to play.  
 .....tfn12-7b18

## PM&amp;L

## Continued from page 1

one with adequate electric background will bring in the experience we understand that this position needs.”

Accompanied with the letter are five others, which were sent to borough officials in May 2017 when the plan was introduced. Each accompanying letter is in support of hiring a superintendent with experience in the industry.

The letters came from Gary Morgan, former electrician for power and light; Nathan Midkiff, head electrician with Icicle Seafoods in Petersburg; Clay Hammer, electrical superintendent in Wrangell; Jay Rhodes, the assistant business manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547; and Don Koenigs, former Petersburg mayor and community member.

The letter then disputes the borough's claim that reorganizing the leadership would save money.

“... a person without electrical industry experience will need to rely more on consulting engineers than our previous electrical superintendent did,” it reads. “Confusingly, the borough manager appears to be disputing that notion in some of his statements -- but it is simply true that more outside expertise will need to be hired.”

An example the letter uses is the cost difference in doing electrical work internally compared to hiring an outside engineer.

“The ‘in-house’ cost for preliminary design work for the project was estimated to be \$1,500,” reads the letter, referring to an apparent estimate the former superintendent had prepared. “An engineer's estimate just recently obtained for design work for the same project was \$7,000.”

The employees next list questions they have if the reorganization were approved. Questions like, if a consulting engineer approaches a superintendent without electrical experience, who would he or she consult to answer technical questions?

“And on municipal upgrade plans, for instance at the harbor where borough-hired consultants would in the past submit design plans to the electric [department],” the letter reads, “would we plan to hire a consultant to review the harbor consultant's work?”

Even if an outside engineer is hired to design a project, the letter says, there will likely still be questions for the superintendent.

“So for example,” the letter reads, “if you don't know what the piece of electrical generating equipment is supposed to do in that situation exactly, then you may not get what you need in the final engineered project.”

At this, Borough Manager Steve Giesbrecht said he cannot speak to how much power and light employees knew about consulting work used in the past, but he said the borough's use of consultants in Power and Light was significant.

“Power & Light entered into contracts over \$1 million in value for electrical issues since 2012,” Giesbrecht told the Pilot. “In addition, while it was true our former

superintendent had a degree in electrical engineering, he was not a licensed engineer.”

Giesbrecht said borough code, and some state laws, require many projects to be approved by a licensed engineer.

“Over the past several years the Power & Light Department maintained an engineering firm on retainer so we would have the ability to use their services when needed, as well as using consulting engineers on various other projects,” Giesbrecht said. “A very smart decision on the part of the former superintendent, but quite a bit different from the understanding of the staff.”

The borough is not anticipating an increase in consulting fees that wouldn't have been done with a tenured electrical superintendent in charge.

“This is a false narrative that our employees may not be aware of,” Giesbrecht said. “I have full faith in the existing employees, our ability to consult with peers, and even our ability to use consultants where necessary.”

The letter also says the electric utility is responsible for not only power distribution, but also its own hydro and diesel generation facilities.

“Add to that the interconnection with the [Southeast Alaska Power Agency] transmission lines,” the letter reads, “and you can see that there are a number of responsibilities that the electric superintendent has for which electric experience is suitable.”

The letter ends by questioning the effort put into finding a new superintendent. The search started in late October 2017 and ended in mid-January of this year.

“An adequate length of time for a superintendent search could likely extend for months as this position calls for candidates with a particular set of experience in the electric industry along with managerial skills,” reads the letter. “... In the interim, we have Scott [Newman] and Karl in place to deal with the matters that need to be addressed.”

The letter ends: “Safety is paramount in this industry -- and we can't stress loudly enough -- electrical experience matters for this electric superintendent job.”

After reading the letter, Mr. Hagerman said he understands the concerns of the staff.

“I understand the concerns of the electrical line crew and electrician who are the staff members that are responsible for the more dangerous work of the utility,” Hagerman said. “They have received education and experience that has taught them how important safe operations are in their industry.”

However, the utility director proposal is an administration position, Hagerman said. And he wants to bring attention to the work by the utility over the last few months while the interim management has been in place, he said.

“Scott Newman, interim superintendent, and all of his staff, have been great to work with,” Hagerman said. “The community should be reassured that the electric systems that have been in place for many years are being operated with high regard for reliability and safety.”

Hagerman says he's confident that his leadership of the existing staff will result in a team effort to arrive at the best solutions for Petersburg.

“The requirements of the department are large and that is why the previous department head surrounded himself with capable staff that is able to effectively do their jobs, owing respect to the mandated training and gained experience that the power and light employees hold in high regard,” Hagerman said. “I feel that my work with the staff over the past several months has been very positive and accommodating of their thoughts, plans and required tasks for the utility.”

Hagerman went on to comment on one of the employees who signed the letter.

“Even though one employee openly gave me his support and now has changed his mind, for the

stated reasons in the letter and others, I know that he ultimately wants to do a good job for the Borough and I know that I can work with him and all power and light employees to get the work done,” said Hagerman, who had said earlier this month that Bob Ziemke

offered support.

“I am very confident that I can do this in the power and light department,” he said, “as I have in the other departments I have managed over the last 17 years and I would like the opportunity to do so.”

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## Flu

### Continued from page 1

noting that the hospital saw confirmed flu cases as early as September. “The vaccine was a good match earlier, but then for some reason the virus changes its properties and then the antibodies that you form aren't a perfect match.”

But the vaccination was not a failure, Bacom said.

“I won't say that,” Bacom said. “I believe that there is protection given with the flu shot. It's not 100 percent for some people, but the cases that we've seen, I don't think they got as serious a case.”

Bacom said she saw the sickness lessened in the 35 hospital employees who were tested, of which 14 were positive.

“I've seen a lot of hospital employees that got the flu shot and still got the flu but weren't as sick. They thought it was a cold,” Bacom said. “So it's just a weird presentation this year.”

The increase in flu cases brought an increase in hospital revenue for December, which is expected, said Doran Hammett, the chief financial officer.

The hospital budgeted about \$241,000 in inpatient operating revenue for December, and ended up logging nearly \$450,000 in actual gross operating revenue.

“That tells you that inpatient volume was pretty dramatic,” Hammett said. “That tells a story there.”

“December was a big month, revenue wise,” Hammett said. “It was one of the top revenue months of the year.”