

**School district anticipates  
\$343K budget deficit**  
see page 6

**Lighthouse volunteers  
install new generator**  
see page 8-9

**Reduced commercial  
salmon harvest forecast**  
see page 16

# petersburg pilot

PETERSBURG, ALASKA



April 30, 2026  
Vol. 52, No. 18

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16 Pages  
\$2

## Small-scale data center proposed at former Ocean Beauty cannery

By **ORIN PIERSON**  
Pilot writer

A Silicon Valley company and a Petersburg-raised developer are teaming up to bring a small artificial intelligence data center to the former Ocean Beauty pier and cannery facility, a proposal that drew both cautious enthusiasm and skepticism from the public at last week's borough assembly meeting.

Sam Anoka, founder and CEO of Greensparc, addressed the assembly April 20 via Zoom, outlining plans to deploy what he described as a micro-scale data center at the property owned by Andrew Mazzella, CEO of Mazzella Alaska who also addressed the assembly remotely.

Petersburg Municipal Power and Light utility director Karl Hagerman told the assembly that PMP&L supports

the project, saying it could generate up to \$2.1 million in gross annual revenue for the utility and help reduce electric rates for local customers.

"It is very rare that any utility that I've been involved with in Petersburg sees an opportunity to have downward pressure on rates," Hagerman said.

The project would use a 2-megawatt transformer at the former cannery that Mazzella said came with the property when he purchased it. Greensparc plans to start the operation at 1 megawatt and scale to the full 2-megawatt capacity of the transformer over time.

Mazzella said the data center would occupy roughly 1,500 square feet — about 2 to 3 percent of the 65,000-square-foot facility — and could physically fit inside the assembly chambers. The remaining space, he said, is intended for marine uses.

"While we are going to move ahead with this and allocating this power, most likely, all for the large portion of the data center, that leaves 95-plus percent of buildings and space, all of which the intention of course is to be marine use," Mazzella said.

Rather than locating the unit at the end of the pier, Mazzella said the preferred site is at the entrance to the pier on shore, an open area where an old bunkhouse once stood.

There is no deal finalized between Mazzella and Greensparc. No borough money is involved. PMP&L's role would be to sell power through the existing service connection.

Continued on page 3



Andrew Mazzella



Photo courtesy of William Moulton

Three hundred feet of the wooden boardwalk connecting the Hungry Point trail system to the Mountain View Manor area has been dismantled as road construction begins for the Airport Addition Subdivision. The trail is expected to remain closed until early next spring.

## Road work begins on Tlingit Haida subdivision expansion, closing popular muskeg trail

By **ORIN PIERSON**  
Pilot writer

Construction has begun on the expansion of the Tlingit and Haida Airport Subdivision near Mountain View Manor, and the first visible sign of that work — the removal of roughly 300 feet of the area's popular boardwalk trail — has prompted some dismay from residents who say they were caught off guard by the closure.

The boardwalk trail section that runs through the muskeg from the Mountain View Manor area to the Airport Addition Subdivision is expected to remain closed until early next spring.

Continued on page 7

## Senate passes public pension reform after years of failed efforts

By **IRIS SAMUELS**  
Anchorage Daily News

The Alaska Senate on Tuesday passed a bill to reform the state's pension system for public employees, ending months of debate on future retirement benefits for Alaska's state and municipal employees, including teachers and police officers.

The measure aims to address the consequences of a 2006 decision by Alaska lawmakers to eliminate the state pension plan that guaranteed income in retirement, and replace it with a 401(k) style plan that has since left many public-sector workers without the funds to retire se-

curely.

Union leaders and other public-sector advocates have been warning since the 2006 decision that it would cause a crisis in recruiting and retaining qualified public-sector workers in the state.

Such a crisis has emerged in recent years, as the state struggles to provide basic services amid constant turnover. Supporters of pension reform say that a worst-in-the-nation public retirement system, which incentivizes workers from committing to a career in Alaska's public sector, is at least partially to blame.

"Today is a really big day,"

said Heidi Drygas, director of the Alaska State Employees Association, the largest public-sector union in the state. "Everything that we said would happen — about recruitment and retention and problems in just basic government functions — has happened."

Lawmakers for years have tried various avenues to recreate a bolstered public-sector pension plan. But such a plan has never passed both the House and Senate in a single session, until Tuesday.

The bill creating a new pension option passed the House last year in a 21-19 vote, along caucus lines. The Senate has

since spent months considering changes to the bill, and it finally passed after several additional amendments on Tuesday, in a 12-8 vote. It must now return to the House, which will vote on whether to accept the changes.

House Majority Leader Chuck Kopp, an Anchorage Republican, said he approves of the changes.

"House Bill 78 comes down to a single fundamental question: Can Alaska attract and keep the people it needs to function effectively as a state and as local government?" said Senate Majority Leader Cathy Giesel, an Anchorage Republican

who has spearheaded efforts to reform the retirement system since 2023. "Twenty years ago, we made a decision. We eliminated pensions, and since that moment, we have watched — not all at once — but steadily and unmistakably the erosion of our public workforce."

The legislation is set to cost

Continued on page 16



# Yesterday's News

News from 25-50-75-100 years ago

**1926** - There are no issues in the archive until May 19, 1926. Thank you for your patience.

**April 27, 1951** - In November we may berate the weather. In January we may say, "I've had enough of this damn country." In January more than one man came home to announce, "Yep, I've given up fishing." But as May 1 rolls round Alaska is a thrilling and a good place to be. The fleet's going out and most of those men who quit fishing are going down the dock with a bedroll on their shoulder, ready to take their chances with their brother

fishermen. Here's wishing smooth sailing, a good catch and a safe return to every boat in Petersburg's fishing fleet this season. There's a thrill, a feeling of urgency and a note of optimism as the deadline for departure of the fleet nears which communicates itself even to the stay-at-homes who never caught a halibut in their lives. Fish may have been scarce last year; the winter may have been a hard one. But this is a new year. Hopes are high and thrilling plans are made for next winter "if this is a good season." Men gather in knots on the corner, greeting old friends and exchanging news of fishermen from all over Alaska. Harassed clerks try to get supplies out for a dozen boats that are all iced up and ready to go. Little trollers and big halibut boats are lined up six deep waiting to take on ice. Maybe it will turn out to be one of those fabulous ones, when the fish are plentiful and the prices are good.

**April 28, 1976** - Police are investigating suspicions that the apparent prankster causing a bomb scare at Whitney-Fidalgo here last week was a man from out of town. The bomb scare started with a telephone call alerting police

that a bomb was set to blow up Whitney-Fidalgo between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. last Friday. The voice on the phone was that of a man. The call came through the city police dispatcher on the state trooper's telephone line. The threat reportedly was made against Whitney-Fidalgo specifically. No bomb was found during those three hours, and as of last Friday evening the apparent prankster had not been located. Police noted the presence of many people visiting Petersburg for the day last Friday, and suspect a male visitor. The three hour alert saw evacuation of government vessels, evacuation of cannery

workers and police securement of the dock areas. Cannery workers left for coffee break at 10 a.m. and didn't return to work until 1 p.m. Coast Guard boats anchored in the bay to avoid danger. The Forest Service and Department of Fish and Game also evacuated their vessels from the area.

**April 26, 2001** - The new South Harbor launch ramp is open for business while construction continues on the uplands parking area. Public works superintendent Bruce Jones said the longer float and dredged tidelands now allow for launching at a minus 4-foot

tide. Additional lighting is being installed both on the floats and in the parking area. The float sits higher out of the water and features new ultra-high molecular weight black plastic rub rails which won't rub off on boats. The concrete launch ramp is the same width as the old ramp, but has been straightened, allowing for easier backing while launching boats. Harbormaster Jim Stromdahl hopes to place the fish cleaning station directly off the end of the floats to allow boats to tie up on either side of the station. Tamico Inc. is the contractor for the project.

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**PETERSBURG HAPPENINGS**

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**THURSDAY, April 30**  
**Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention:** 10:00 am, Mitkof Dance Studio  
**Share Coalition Meeting:** 12:00 pm, Dorothy Ingle Conference Room PMC  
**High School Baseball- Petersburg vs Hutchinson (Fairbanks):** 4:30 pm, Baseball Field  
**Hospital Board Regular Meeting:** 5:30 pm, Borough assembly Chambers  
**Invincible Versus Video Game Tournament:** 6:00 pm, Scandia House

**FRIDAY, May 1**  
**Cancer Support Group:** 12:00 pm, Public Library  
**Al-Anon Support Group:** 12:00 pm, Episcopal Church  
**Retirement Celebration for Sgt. Derek Thorsen:** 12:00 pm, Sandy Beach, Shelter #2  
**High School Baseball- Petersburg vs Hutchinson (Fairbanks):** 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm, Baseball Field  
**PIA Culture Club Program - All Students Welcome:** 2:30 pm, Elementary School Cafeteria  
**Family Game Night:** 6:30 pm, Parks and Rec Gym  
**AA Candlelight Meeting:** 7:00 pm, Episcopal Church

**SATURDAY, May 2**  
**Indoor Park- Toys, Trikes, and Fun:** 9:00 am, Parks and Recreation Gym  
**Rainforest Festival Open House:** 11:00am, John Hanson Sr. Hall

**SUNDAY, May 3**  
**Devil's Thumb Shooters:** 2:00 pm, Gun Range  
**Knitting Group - All Welcome:** 2:00 pm, Mt. View Manor Social Hall

**MONDAY, May 4**  
**Tai Chi:** 7:00 am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall  
**Tide Turners Leadership Group:** 3:30 pm, WAVE Community Space  
**Burger Night:** 5:30 pm, Moose Lodge  
**AA Women's Meeting:** 7:00 pm, Presbyterian Church  
**Volleyball/Open Gym:** 7:30 pm, Parks and Rec Gym

**TUESDAY, May 5**  
**Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention:** 10:00 am, Mitkof Dance Studio  
**MMIP day Noise Parade:** 5:00 pm, Bushmann Park  
**AA 12x12 Meeting:** 7:00 pm, Holy Cross Classroom

**WEDNESDAY, May 6**  
**Tai Chi:** 7:00 am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall  
**PIA Community Meal:** 5:00pm, John Hanson Sr Hall  
**Burger Night:** 5:30 pm, Elks Lodge  
**Free Dinner For All:** 6:00 pm, First Baptist Church

**FERRY SCHEDULE**

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NORTHBOUND DEPARTURES			SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURES		
SUN 5/3	KENNICOTT	06:15 P.M.	WED 5/6	KENNICOTT	05:00 A.M.
SUN 5/10	KENNICOTT	08:30 P.M.	WED 5/13	KENNICOTT	12:00 A.M.
SUN 5/17	KENNICOTT	04:00 P.M.	WED 5/20	KENNICOTT	12:30 A.M.
SUN 5/24	COLUMBIA	08:15 P.M.	WED 5/27	COLUMBIA	12:00 A.M.
MON 6/1	COLUMBIA	12:30 A.M.	WED 6/3	COLUMBIA	04:00 A.M.

PRESENTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY:

**petersburg pilot**  
PETERSBURG, ALASKA

**WEATHER**

	High	Low	Precip
Apr 22	48	36	T
Apr 23	54	38	0.00
Apr 24	52	34	0.00
Apr 25	50	32	0.00
Apr 26	55	33	0.00
Apr 27	52	41	0.00
Apr 28	55	34	0.00

This Week's Precipitation: 0.00"  
This weather service is provided by the FAA weather observation station at the James A. Johnson Airport.

**DAYLIGHT HOURS**

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Apr 30	5:09a	8:30p	15:21hrs
May 1	5:06a	8:32p	15:25hrs
May 2	5:04a	8:34p	15:30hrs
May 3	5:02a	8:37p	15:34hrs
May 4	5:00a	8:39p	15:39hrs
May 5	4:57a	8:41p	15:41hrs
May 6	4:55a	8:43p	15:47hrs

**PETERSBURG TIDE TABLE**

APRIL/MAY 2026

	HIGH TIDES				LOW TIDES			
	A.M.		P.M.		A.M.		P.M.	
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
30 Thu	0:52	16.6	1:34	14.7	7:25	-1.0	7:23	1.8
1 Fri	1:23	16.8	2:11	14.7	7:59	-1.4	7:56	2.3
2 Sat	1:53	16.8	2:47	14.5	8:31	-1.4	8:29	2.8
3 Sun	2:23	16.6	3:22	14.1	9:04	-1.2	9:01	3.3
4 Mon	2:54	16.2	3:58	13.6	9:38	-0.8	9:34	4.0
5 Tue	3:26	15.6	4:37	12.9	10:14	-0.1	10:09	4.6
6 Wed	4:02	14.9	5:20	12.1	10:53	0.6	10:49	5.2

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# Mini data center

Continued from page 1

Hagerman walked the assembly through the project's potential benefits. He said the key driver is the data center's constant, around-the-clock power consumption, which he contrasted with the variable demand of typical residential and commercial customers.

"What we see in small communities' utility rates is that we have a very small customer base, and when costs increase... that same small customer base has to shoulder those increases," Hagerman said. "A customer like this, that is using a tremendous amount of power comparatively to other customers in Petersburg, helps dramatically the rate picture."

Using rate study projections, Hagerman said a customer with a \$300 monthly electric bill today would likely see that bill rise to \$427 in 10 years without any new large customers on the system. However, with a two-megawatt data center in place, that same bill would reach \$362 — a savings of roughly \$65 per month.

Hagerman also pointed to stranded energy at Tyee Lake as a factor. He said the Southeast Alaska Power Agency spilled 48,000 megawatt-hours of water past the Tyee Lake turbines last year — power that went unused because there were not enough customers to consume it. He noted that 25,000 to 30,000 megawatt-hours are spilled in an average year.

"If we're using power, we're not spilling, so it would be good for SEAPA," Hagerman said. "It keeps our wholesale power rate low."

Hagerman said the data center would likely only create one to two local jobs, though Greensparc has committed to local hiring for any permanent positions. He described the facility as quiet — air-cooled servers housed inside a building — with no harmful emissions or radiation, and said water cooling, if used, would be a

closed-loop system with no ongoing draw on the municipal water supply.

Steve Harbour, also representing PMP&L, said the borough's Tyee Lake power supply is essentially self-limiting — the finite output of the hydro system means there is only so much power available for any would-be data center development. This project is likely the only project of its kind that Petersburg's hydro power resource could accommodate.

### Greensparc and Mazzella

Anoka, who was born in North Pole, attended Eielson High School and earned a business degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1995. He said he has spent 30 years building a career in Silicon Valley and now lives in San Francisco but remains active in Alaska, including past service on the UA Alumni board and as an advisor to the Alaska Center for Energy and Power.

He founded Greensparc specifically to utilize communities with surplus energy capacity that large tech companies have overlooked.

"Everything that everyone's been reading... how the world of artificial intelligence or AI, is sucking down every last electron that it can find in the NFL cities across the United States. That's true. These markets are out of energy, and the Amazons and the Googles, the Microsofts of the world don't have the energy from the utilities in those cities to be able to build their 500-megawatt 1000-megawatt-style data centers," Anoka said. "Greensparc is distinctively different than those companies because we focus on finding communities where there is stranded energy."

Anoka said he has visited Petersburg and toured the facilities. He said Greensparc is also in discussions with Wrangell, though the structure there differs: Wrangell's negotiations involve the city directly,

while the Petersburg project is a private arrangement between Mazzella and Greensparc, with PMP&L serving only as power provider.

Mazzella said he had been exploring uses for the transformer since purchasing the property roughly a year and a half ago, but that discussions with Greensparc specifically have been underway for only a few months.

Several community members used the public comment period at last week's assembly meeting to raise concerns or questions about the project.

Tom Kowalske questioned whether the spilled Tyee Lake water should be characterized as unused surplus. He noted that last year was exceptionally wet — a La Niña period — and said forecasters are now predicting a strong El Niño cycle ahead, which historically brings drought conditions to Southeast Alaska. He asked what the borough's diesel generation capacity is when Tyee Lake output falls.

"In dry conditions, we don't have the output from Tyee Lake, and so something to consider," Kowalske said.

A former Petersburg planning and zoning commissioner and City of Kupreanof mayor, David Beebe, raised broader concerns about AI infrastructure, data privacy and federal preemption of local land-use authority, referencing pending federal legislation he said could limit local review of wireless facility expansions.

Greg Browning expressed skepticism and stressed the importance of upfront due diligence.

Aaron Hankins of the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department noted that some modern data center battery backup systems use lithium-ion technology, which presents a fire risk that Petersburg firefighters could not fully suppress. He suggested the assembly consider where such equipment could be sited

safely if additional data centers were proposed in the future.

"My concern is more directed at if more data centers were to come to town and they start looking at places close to downtown," Hankins said.

Mazzella responded that when the project submits for a building permit, it will include whatever fire suppression is required, and said his goal as a developer would be a completely self-contained suppression system.

Assembly members asked Hagerman a series of detailed questions about generation capacity, the condition of the existing transformer — which Hagerman said tested well — and whether the borough should adopt an ordinance governing data centers.

Hagerman said this project is a "square peg for a square hole" that fits within the utility's available capacity, and that additional data centers in Petersburg are unlikely due to the finite power supply. He said the assembly's instinct to think ahead to an ordinance was reasonable.

"We should think ahead to

that situation and come up with some language that might help us," Hagerman said. "This particular data center, in my view, is probably the one that we're ever going to have."

Assembly Member Jeff Meucci said he had drawn a deliberate parallel to the cell tower process and spent time trying to understand the project before the public presentation.

"I don't want to go down the cell tower path here with the data center," Meucci said. "I've got a couple pages of questions, and people have been calling me for the last couple of weeks."

Meucci said he was "cautiously optimistic" about the proposal, citing its small footprint, lack of new housing demand, potential rate relief and the possibility of technology-related educational opportunities for Petersburg high school students.

"If there's a way to keep the rates down for community members and get rid of that diesel surcharge in the winter and in the summer, I'm all for that," he said.



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# TO THE EDITOR

**Thank you to a wonderful community and greetings to everyone in Petersburg!**

**To the Editor:**

I am Pastor Ken Severa, the new Pastor here at Petersburg Lutheran Church.

I would like to highlight one of our projects. Earlier this month we hosted our annual "Basement Sale."

The purpose of the sale is to provide slightly used clothing, kitchen articles, and other treasures, along with soup and bread and goodies and books to the

community in an inexpensive way.

The other purpose is to raise money for the food programs in Petersburg.

We raised over \$11,000, which will be divided and donated to the Salvation Army Thanksgiving Turkeys, Humanity in Progress, Monday Night Meals at the Narrows Inn and the new Salvation Army Fresh Food program.

Blessings and thank you to all of you who helped make this a very successful

project.

Blessings and thank you to all of you who purchased items here to make this a successful project.

And most of all, blessings on those who will receive the food from this project.

**Much peace and love,  
Pastor Ken Severa  
Petersburg Lutheran Church**

# COMMENTARY

## Pondering America's Semiquincentennial

By **CHRIS VAN ETTINGER**, Petersburg, Alaska

I do declare the following quotes challenge my independent thinking of American history and current day America. Perhaps these words sound familiar:

"...deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..."

"He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good."

"He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained..."

"...relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature..."

"...fatiguing them into compliance..."

"He has dissolved Representative Houses

repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people."

"He has refused for a long time...to cause others to be elected..."

"He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither..."

"He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers."

"He has made judges dependent on his Will alone..."

"He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our People..."

"He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our

legislatures."

"He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power."

"...giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences..."

"...For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: For suspending our own Legislatures, and

declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever."

"...Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy of the Head of a civilized nation."

"He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands."

"He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us..."

"Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people."

"...been deaf to the voice of justice..."

These words, many of which resonate especially today, were written 250 years ago, part of "IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776, THE UNANIMOUS DECLARATION OF THE THIRTEEN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," or The Declaration of Independence, as we refer to it today. The signers

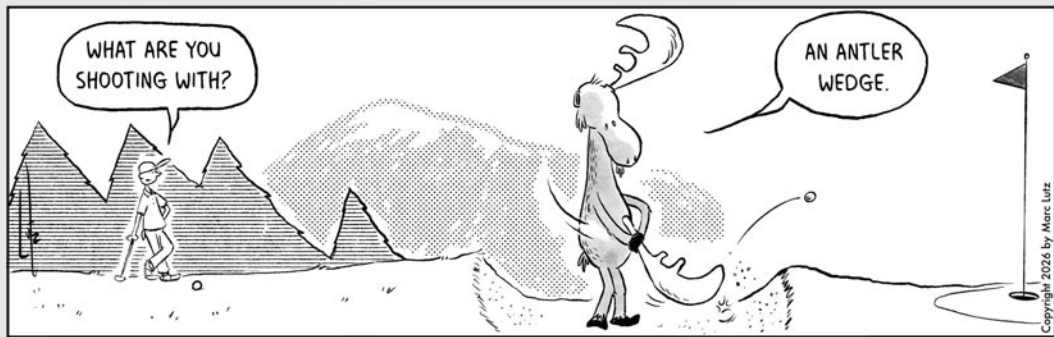
published their grievances against Great Britain's tyrannical King George III, and declared themselves independent.

"The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world." The list of 27 grievances then follow. But probably the most remembered and repeated, throughout our history to the present, are these words from the second paragraph: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Powerful words that define us ALL! (Note: unalienable - impossible to take away or give up!). This important historical document is worth re-reading in full as we celebrate, reflect on, appreciate, and preserve our country's 250 years of independence.

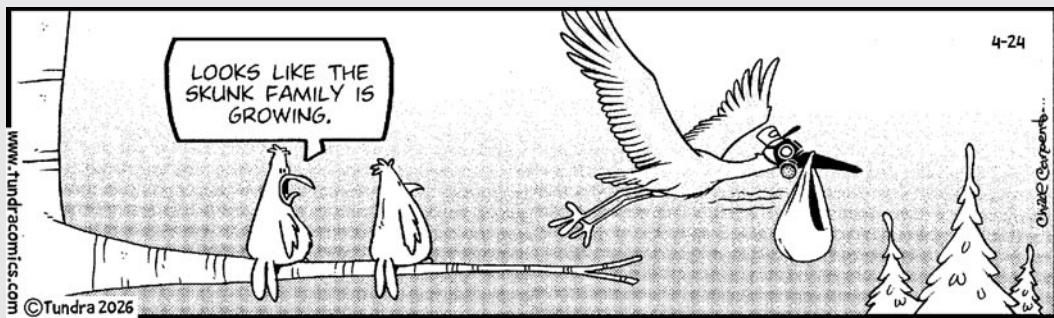
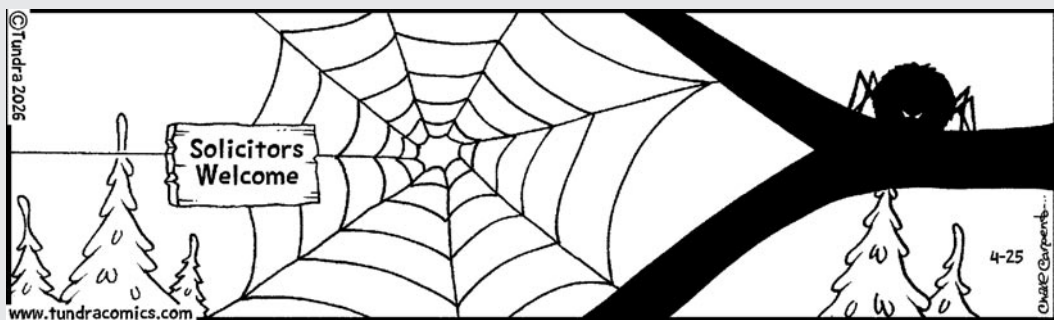
## Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



## Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



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## Police report

**April 22** - An officer responded to a reported disturbance on Lumber St.

An officer responded to a report of illegal parking on Howkan Street, had the responsible party move the vehicle and issued a verbal warning.

An officer responded to a report of suspicious activity on Skylark Way but was unable to locate the described individual.

A wallet found in South Harbor was turned in to the Police Department (PD) and returned to its owner.

An officer responded to a report of youths with BB guns on the Cabin Creek Trail but was unable to locate them.

An officer responded to a

parking complaint on Mitkof Highway, contacted the owners and the vehicle was moved.

An individual on Hungerford Hill Road was issued a warning for failure to complete a burn permit as per ordinance.

Property found on S 2nd St. was turned in to the PD.

**April 23** - An officer responded to a report of unsafe driving on S 2nd St. but was unable to locate the described vehicle.

There was a parking complaint on N 12th St.

A cellphone found on Sing Lee Alley was returned to its owner.

The owner of a business on Haugen Dr. was notified of a

non-emergent alarm activation.

**April 24** - A driver on Dolphin St. was issued a warning for failure to stop at a stop sign.

Property found on N Nordic Dr was turned in to the PD and returned to its owner.

An officer responded to a report of suspicious behavior on Ira II St. but could not locate the described individual.

A deer killed by a vehicle on Mitkof Hwy was not salvaged due to lack of interest from individuals on the salvage list.

There was a report of fireworks in the distance, seen from 8th St. and Excel St., but the source could not be located.

**April 25** - Nothing to report: Good job Petersburg!

**April 26** - An officer responded to a reported disturbance on S 3rd St. and determined it was unfounded.

An officer spoke with a complainant on Birch St.

An officer responded to a report of an unauthorized individual on board a vessel, but they had disembarked and could not be located.

**April 27** - Nathaniel Eacmen was charged with criminal mischief in the 4th degree on Chief John Lott St.

The owners of abandoned vehicles were issued impound notices and advised of the legal ramifications of not removing the vehicles.

Officers responded to a disturbance on N Nordic Dr.

A citizen updated their sex offender registration.

Papers were served.

There was a report of a drifting skiff.

**April 28** - An officer spoke with a complainant about a non-criminal issue.

An officer spoke with a

complainant on Chief John Lott St.

An officer responded to a barking dog complaint on Gjoa St. but the dog quieted prior to arrival.

An officer conducted a welfare check on Scow Bay Loop Road.

There was a report of a lost cellphone.

An officer spoke with a complainant about suspicious activity on Sing Lee Alley and there is an on-going investigation.

Alenna Nilsen was arrested for alleged driving under the influence, domestic violence reckless endangerment, two counts of assault in the 4th degree on a police officer and resisting arrest.

An injured black female cat was recovered by the PD on Gjoa St. and the Humane Society was contacted.

An officer responded to a disturbance on Skylark Way and determined it was non-criminal.

## Retirement Announcement Sgt. Derek Thorsen

Congratulations and thank you for 25 years of service to Petersburg

The Petersburg Police Department would like to recognize and congratulate Sergeant Derek Thorsen on his retirement after 25 years of dedicated service to the Petersburg community.

Throughout his career, Sgt. Thorsen has served Petersburg with professionalism, commitment, and a steady dedication to public safety. His years of service reflect a deep commitment to the people of this community, his fellow officers, and the mission of the Petersburg Police Department.

Over the past 25 years, Sgt. Thorsen has been part of countless calls, investigations, community events, and moments where Petersburg residents needed help. His experience, leadership, and service have made a lasting impact on the department and the community he served.

In recognition of Sgt. Thorsen's last day of work, the Petersburg Police Department will be serving hot dogs, drinks, and cake on **Friday, May 1st, from noon to 2:00 p.m. at Sandy Beach Shelter #2.**



Everyone is invited to attend, visit with Sgt. Thorsen, and wish him well during his final hours of work before retirement.

On behalf of the Petersburg Police Department, we thank Sgt. Thorsen for his many years of service, sacrifice, and dedication. We wish him the very best in retirement and in this next chapter of life.

## Petersburg, Wrangell adopt joint resolution on shared hydropower

By **ORIN PIERSON**  
Pilot writer

The Petersburg Borough Assembly unanimously approved a joint resolution last Monday with the City and Borough of Wrangell establishing a framework for sharing hydroelectric power from the Tyee Lake project and coordinating future energy-intensive economic development.

Wrangell Borough Manager Mason Villarma, in a March 24 report to the Wrangell Assembly, described the resolution as formalizing "a proactive framework for collaboration as both communities pursue energy-intensive economic opportunities." Villarma framed the agreement as setting ground rules for growth rather than restricting it — establishing expectations for communication when either community is planning projects likely to draw large new electrical loads, and making clear that whichever community brings on a major power user is responsible for supplying any generation that exceeds its share of Tyee's output. He wrote that the goal is ensuring "growth is pursued deliberately and collaboratively — protecting grid stability while enabling long-term economic expansion across Southeast Alaska."

Utility Director Karl Hagerman, who presented the resolution to the Petersburg assembly, said the core purpose is to ensure that neither community finds itself responsible for the other's development-driven power needs.

"If one of the communities brings on a project that will exceed the maximum capacity entitlement at some point, then that community should commit to providing that power that is needed for that project, and not rely on the other community to provide that power," Hagerman explained.

Under the resolution, the two communities agree to an equal split of Tyee Lake's available output and commit to notifying each other when planning projects likely to generate large new electrical loads. Incoming Utility Director Steve Harbour was clear the resolution creates no veto power.

"We're not asking them permission, and neither are they going to ask us permission," Harbour said. "It's just a mutual sharing of information."

Assembly Member Jeff Meucci asked Hagerman to walk through a hypothetical: if Petersburg were to develop a large power user, would it have to clear that with Wrangell first? Hagerman said no — the obligation is notification and self-sufficiency, not approval.

"Petersburg would let the Wrangell assembly know that there was a large project in the works that is likely to exceed the capacity of Tyee Lake, and that Petersburg is making a conscious decision whether or not to support that project with our own diesel generation or some other generation," Hagerman said.

Tyee Lake's available output varies with reservoir levels, rang-

Continued on page 6



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# Petersburg School District anticipates \$343,000 deficit in first draft budget

By TAYLOR HECKART  
KFSK Radio

The first draft of the Petersburg School District's budget anticipates a \$343,000 deficit, which is more than last month's estimate.

In a presentation to the school board on Thursday, April 24, school officials said that's because the district's en-

rollment projections went down, and they had hired more paraprofessionals. But other expenses, like health insurance and curriculum costs, turned out lower than expected.

The district is planning to spend \$11.6 million next school year. Last year, the district budgeted \$11.2 million.

The district is closely

watching a proposed one-time funding increase from the state. Superintendent Robyn Taylor said she thinks there will be some extra funding beyond the state's annual funding formula, the Base Student Allocation, even though she's not sure how much.

"We'll see where it lands, but I do feel confident that we will see some one-time funds coming to help us for next year," she said.

One proposal currently in the Alaska Legislature could give the district \$490,000. That proposal has passed the House but still needs to be approved by the Senate and governor.

The district has also requested \$3.45 million from the Petersburg Borough, which is \$200,000 more than what the borough currently has budgeted for the schools.

District Finance Director Shannon Baird said the lower figure would work if the state funding increase comes through. That would leave the district with a smaller deficit that Baird said she is "extremely comfortable with."

If the borough increased their contribution to the district, they would need to pull additional money from either the borough's general fund, or use additional Secure Rural Schools money. That's a federal program that gives money to communities near national forests, and the borough recently received over \$720,000 through that program to pay for roads and schools. But, those federal funds aren't guaranteed every year.

This year, the district launched a budget simulation tool to collect community feedback. The district is still taking submissions through the end of the month. Community members can also reach out to the district directly.

The final draft of the budget will be presented in June, which is also when the governor signs the operating budget for education spending.

*This story was first published at <http://www.kfsk.org> and is reprinted here with permission.*

## Tyee power

Continued from page 5

ing from roughly 19 to 24 megawatts, Harbour said. Under the resolution's framework, each community is entitled to half of whatever SEAPA determines is available at a given time. If a community's power demand exceeds its share and Tyee is at maximum output, the resolution makes clear that community bears responsibility for supplying the difference through its own generation.

The resolution's timing is closely tied to economic development activity in both communities. Petersburg is exploring a small-scale edge data center at the former Ocean Beauty cannery, a private project being developed between property owner Andrew Mazzella and Greensparc CEO Sam Anoka that would draw up to two megawatts of power from an existing but unused transformer on the property. Mayor Robert Lynn noted that Wrangell is also considering significant new power users, including a possible shipyard expansion and hosting a new Coast Guard vessel, which could substantially increase that community's electrical demand.

Hagerman noted the resolution does not alter the existing SEAPA power sales agreement. He also told the assembly again that a third turbine currently under construction at Tyee Lake is expected to come online in 2027, which would give the regional system enough capacity to meet winter peak demand without either community needing to run diesel generators.

# Grand Opening



Wednesday, May 6th  
10a - 4:30p

Room 103 of the PIA Building (15 N 12th St).

Open: Wednesday - Friday 10am - 4:30pm  
Sunday 12pm - 3pm

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For more information, visit [akrainforestfest.org](http://akrainforestfest.org)

## NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

**MAY 1-7, 2026**

JOIN US IN ENCOURAGING THE YOUTH OF OUR COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE TO MAKE HEALTHY, POSITIVE CHOICES.

**Whereas**, The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has designated May 1-7, as Youth Week to honor America's Junior Citizens for their accomplishments, and to give fitting recognition of their services to Community, State and Nation; and,

**Whereas**, Petersburg Elks Lodge #1615 will sponsor an observance during that week in tribute to the Junior Citizens of this Community; and,

**Whereas**, no event could be more deserving of our support and participation than one dedicated to these young people who represent the nation's greatest resource, and who in the years ahead will assume the responsibility for the advancement of our free society; and,

**Whereas**, our Youth need the guidance, inspiration and encouragement which we alone can give in order to help develop those qualities of character essential for future leadership; and go forth to serve America; and,

**Whereas**, to achieve this worthy objective we should demonstrate our partnership with Youth, our understanding of their hopes and aspirations and a sincere willingness to help prepare them in every way for the responsibilities and opportunities of citizenship.

**Elks Care - Elks Share**

## Subdivision road construction

Continued from page 1

View Manor area toward the Hungry Point Loop trail will remain closed to the public for the duration of construction. Steve Burrell, working on-site for R&M Engineering, said walkers should probably expect that closure to last until early next spring, as active equipment work makes public access unsafe.

"[The trail connection won't be restored] until the finished grade is on [the road]," Burrell said.

The Airport Addition Subdivision agreement was formalized between the Petersburg Borough Assembly and Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority last April. THRHA will develop a total of 22 lots in Blocks 302, 304, and 305. When complete, THRHA will own 13 of those lots and the borough will retain nine.

The muskeg in the area runs 10 to 12 feet deep, so building a road through this terrain requires excavating all of that organic material before the road can be built up from stable ground. Burrell explained. "We dig this all out," he said. "All organics come out."

Reid Brothers Construction and Rock-N-Road Construction will haul the excavated material away and bring in rock fill. Burrell estimated the road will be roughed in around the full loop of the subdivision by mid-June, though it will remain several feet below finished grade at that point while water, sewer, and utility work is completed. Final road surfacing will follow.

The new road will extend Fram Street westward, looping down and back in a layout that mirrors the existing subdivision. A new trailhead for the boardwalk trail will be established where the boardwalk meets the soon-to-exist road, roughly 300 feet from the former trailhead.

In addition to the road and utilities, rock pads will be installed



This map shows the location of the approximately 1,500 ft. gravel road being built for the Airport Addition Subdivision. Also visible on the map are the 22 residential lots that will be served by the utilities being developed in the project: including water, sewer, lighting, and drainage. Map courtesy of R&M Engineering-Ketchikan, Inc.

on the 13 lots designated for THRHA during this phase of work. Public Works Director Aaron Marohl confirmed that borough-owned lots will not receive pads and will be sold as raw, utility-served parcels for buyers to develop.

The road itself will be gravel, built to borough specifications. Marohl said asphalt paving is not part of the current project scope. "Like the original subdivision ... couple years later put asphalt in," he said.

### Caught off guard

The abruptness with which work started this week caught many in Petersburg off guard — including some of the project's own partners.

Jalyn Pomrenke, Tribal Administrator for the Petersburg Indian Association, said PIA received word of the construction start at roughly the same time as the general public. PIA built the boardwalk and has historically helped with maintenance of the trail, but the borough actually owns it, Pomrenke explained.

"It was like, 'Oh, we're tearing up the trail today' ... what?" Pomrenke said.

Giesbrecht said he has requested more timely updates from THRHA so the borough could share public notices.

Gary Aulbach, who built his home adjacent to the new project site, said many of his neighbors were similarly blindsided.

"There was no forewarning that, hey, in a week or whatever, we're going to shut this trail down," Aulbach said. "I've had a lot of people, a lot of the walkers, come around — not happy with it, but they understand it's progress."

Aulbach himself walks the trail three times a day with his dog.

"It's a pristine muskeg," he said. "It's when you try to tell somebody what a muskeg is, this is what you would tell them." He described the snipes flying all around, and how just days before construction began, a large flock of migrating sandhill cranes landed near the lower end of the site, in the area where the road and new rock pad parcels will soon replace the muskeg.

Still, Aulbach expressed measured optimism about the construction itself. The road, once built, should hold up well, he

said — the existing subdivision road, constructed in the first phase of this project about 25 years ago, has required virtually no maintenance since.

"They are going to hold [this development] to the borough standard, the road building code," Aulbach said. "It's going to be a really nice road when it's done."

### A long time coming

The Airport Addition expansion is part of a longstanding partnership between the borough and THRHA, the tribally designated housing authority that represents 12 tribes across Southeast Alaska from Yakutat to Prince of Wales Island.

Giesbrecht said the project has been in the works for more than a decade. "I started talking to Jackie 13, 14 years ago," he said, referring to Jacqueline Pata, President & CEO of the Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority.

Under the agreement approved last April, THRHA is financing and constructing all infrastructure improvements across all 22 lots. In exchange, it will receive ownership of 13 lots, assessed collectively at \$364,000. The borough retains the remain-

ing nine developed parcels for future sale.

Giesbrecht said he hopes the borough will move quickly to offer its nine lots to the public, and that he intends to recommend the assembly consider placing conditions on the sales — including limits of one lot per buyer and a requirement to pull building permits within a set number of years — to prevent lots from sitting idle rather than adding housing. He acknowledged the assembly would have final say on any such conditions.

THRHA Director of Design and Construction Management Lorraine DeAsis, who couldn't be reached for comment on this story, previously told the Pilot that the authority plans to build single-family homes and possibly some zero-lot-line duplexes on its lots, sold outright and privately, with financing available through THRHA's lending program, which offers lower interest rates and considers non-traditional credit factors. Homes on the THRHA-owned lots will be on the borough's property tax rolls.

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**Buschmann Park**  
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# Keeping the light on for you:

*Volunteers install new generator, continue restoration at Five Finger Lighthouse*

By **JAKE CLEMENS**  
Pilot writer

There are two types of people in the world, those who salivate at the idea of being a lighthouse keeper, and those whose mouths go dry at the idea. What is it about lighthouses? They're a symbol of isolation, but their purpose is to connect with and protect others. They're used as a metaphor for everything from hope to knowledge to love, but name a book, movie, or TV show with a lighthouse that doesn't have someone die in it. Lighthouse keepers are stereotyped as anti-social hermits, but who isn't a bit envious of their cozy sweaters and book collections?

After increased vessel traffic in Alaska due to the gold rush of the late 1800s, many lighthouses were commissioned, but the Five Finger Lighthouse was the first to be completed in 1902. In 1933, during a foggy ice storm, keepers attempting to thaw pipes with a blowtorch burned the lighthouse to the ground. When the fog cleared, fur farmers on Akusha Island saw the lighthouse was gone and rescued the keepers. In 1935, the new lighthouse was completed with funds from Roosevelt's New Deal during the Great Depression. The Art

Deco was popular at the time, but apparently only Alaskan lighthouses were designed in this style. In 1939, the Coast Guard took over manning of the light, up until 1984 when the light was automated, making it the last lighthouse in Alaska to be manned. So the Five Finger Lighthouse was first and last—first to be built, and last to be manned. In 1997, the Juneau Lighthouse Association signed a lease to assist the Coast Guard at Five Finger, and in 2019 they transferred the lease to the Five Finger Lighthouse Association (FFLA), based in Petersburg.

In the half-century since most lighthouses became automated, the profession of lighthouse keeper has become at once redundant, romanticized, and revered, like the lonesome cowboy.

Whatever it is that makes lighthouses special, though, whatever draws people to them both literally and metaphorically, is still shining bright. The lights still have to stay on (not to mention the NOAA weather station and AIS vessel tracking relay). Yes, that's redundant with radar and GPS, but so is knowing how to swim with boats and life jackets.

"We used to spend every Memorial Day at Steamboat



JAKE CLEMENS / Petersburg Pilot

Rocio Tejera and Jeff Erickson work together to install the exhaust pipe for the lighthouse's recently replaced boiler.

Bay, water skiing, having beach fires," remembered FFLS volunteer Sue Erickson on a recent trip to Five Finger. "We'd look out here and say: 'We should go check out the lighthouse.' So one time, we did, and it was so cool. It was all locked up, but we looked through the windows, and we figured there must be a key around here somewhere. They wouldn't take it with them, no one wants

to make the trip out here, and realize, 'Oh, I forgot the key at home.' So we looked around, and of course Skipper [Erickson's son] found it." "I'll never forget the first time we went to the top," said Rocio Tejera, looking up at the cupola while eating lunch on the patio on the west lawn of the lighthouse. Visiting the lighthouse became a part of Memorial Day weekend for a few

Petersburg families. "Then one time we went, and there were people there," said Sue. "We were like, uh oh." But Jeff Erickson — now president of the Five Finger Lighthouse Association — told the kids, "If they offer to give us a tour, just say yes and pretend like you've never been here before."

And they did get offered a

**Continued on page 9**



JAKE CLEMENS / Petersburg Pilot

The new generator is now installed and was made possible by a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation.



## NURSING PINNING CEREMONY CLASS OF 2026

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## Five Finger Lighthouse

Continued from page 8

during which Rocio Tejera's 8-year-old daughter, Ines, played the part of lighthouse newbie almost too well, saying, "Wow! I've never seen anything like this before!" In every one of the four bedrooms. Jeff had to tell her to tone down the excitement a tad to not blow their cover.

But by the end of that visit, the keepers gratefully accepted Jeff's offer to come back with his herring skiff to remove a rusting pile of 55-gallon drums. That trip turned into many trips, hauling skiff loads and seiner loads of trash off Five Finger. "People had the mentality to not throw anything away," Jeff said. The positive side of that being, "This place has every tool, all kinds of oil, paint. You just have to look for it." In 2017, the basement was filled with junk, including broken washers and dryers.

"We should have taken a before picture," said Tejera. "You wouldn't believe how much stuff was in here."

Now, they've turned the basement into a tidy den. Asked about the big TV in the corner, Jeff said, "Oh yeah, we've watched the football game here... We were supposed to stay two days, and stayed ten, because of weather. But it was fine... After the boiler's been running for a month or so it gets nice and warm down here... And we had plenty of food."

A far cry from the early 1900s, when lighthouse keepers ran out of food and one attempted to row to Petersburg for help, and disappeared.

The *Connie K*, a landing craft with twin 250-horse outboards makes the run from Petersburg in an hour and twenty minutes now, weather-dependent. It was named for Connie Klein, mother of Jennifer Klein, one of

the founders of the Juneau Lighthouse Association (JLA). Just as the JLA members began to get too old to make trips to the lighthouse, the Petersburg people came along, and Jeff was pressed to join the board. "We have a boat," they said.

"They sent me a picture of the *Connie K*, sitting on the beach, and I said, 'I'm in.'"

Jeff Erickson's three stipulations for taking over Five Finger Lighthouse from the Juneau Lighthouse Association in 2019 were that they change the name to Five Finger Lighthouse Association, that they be based out of Petersburg, and that they bring the *Connie K* to Petersburg. All that accomplished, the *Connie K* has been put to good use.

Last summer, a keeper suffered a health crisis. Jeff was about to go out and get him with the *Connie K*, but he wondered if a nurse should ride along to assist during the return trip to Petersburg. Then, the keeper's condition worsened, and his wife called 911. He got helicoptered to Juneau, but there wasn't room for his wife. She asked Jeff if he could still come and get her and get her back to Petersburg in time to get on the morning Jet. "I checked the weather and the tide, and said, 'I can do you one better. I'll take you to Juneau, and you'll be there before the jet's even left Wrangell.'" Jeff left Petersburg at 4 am, picked up the keeper from Five Finger, and sure enough, she was at her husband's hospital bed in Juneau shortly after 9 am.

Having that kind of local support brings lighthouse keepers back year after year, and the convenience of an easy day trip pulls in new volunteers as well.

Elise Kubo, first time volunteer at Five Finger, squealed with joy at the pod of porpoises playing off the bow on the way

there, and at the lighthouse she got right to work cleaning windows. "It's not just a lighthouse, it's a whole house," she said, over the drone of Sue Erickson mowing the lawn in the background.

To maintain the lighthouse, the all-volunteer lighthouse society does need to keep fundraising, which involves getting new people to sign up as members, and getting people who are excited to help out at the lighthouse and know how to bring in more funds.

FFLA volunteers applied for and received a grant this winter from the Rasmuson Foundation for \$17,100, which was used to purchase, deliver and install a new generator. FFLA Treasurer Paul Johnson explained, "It's an automatic start, so the generator will turn itself on in overcast weather when the solar panels can't do enough. That means the keepers don't have to worry about it as much, and they don't have to be engine mechanics." Johnson happens to be a retired Alaska ferry engineer. The generator will seamlessly back up the solar panels and battery bank for more reliable power to the living quarters, the navigational light itself, and other communications equipment, including remotely controllable cameras coming soon.

In a handful of trips to the lighthouse so far in 2026, FFLA volunteers have removed the old generator, cleaned and painted the generator room, and put the new generator in place, and installed it. The Rasmuson grant of \$17,100 for the generator has nearly been spent, with \$13,900 for the generator, plus shipping costs to get the generator to Petersburg, and fuel costs to get it to the lighthouse. In the years since their formation, the FFLA installed a new winch and davit, which was put to the test to hoist the 1,100-lb generator from the skiff. From there, the volunteers used a pallet jack and an incrementally raised platform of pallets to get the generator to the height of the door. It wasn't clear how to get the generator the final few feet into position inside the generator building, but volunteer Jeff Erickson laid out some nylon planks in front of it and said, "Just try pushing it and see if it'll move."

"Really?" said volunteer Pia Reilly. But then she put her shoulder into it and sure enough slid the 10kw Aurora generator through the door.

The Rasmuson Foundation also awarded the FFLA a grant of \$5,000 for other upgrades. \$3,500 of that went towards the

purchase of new exhaust pipe for the boiler, which volunteers replaced on a recent trip, scaling ladders with ropes tied around their waists and belayed by Jeff from the rain deck (the deck that collects rain for drinking and greywater).

Taking her customary parting photo of the lighthouse while motoring away on the *Connie K*, Rocio Tejera reflected, "You have to do something a little out of your comfort zone when you come out here, and that's a good thing."

Other necessary repairs discovered in early 2026 included repairing a solar panel mount, which Erickson said was likely strained by this past winter's strong winds from the southeast. One area of the lighthouse structure will need to be re-grouted and painted as well. Erickson was quick to clarify, "It's not a crack, just a seam." Also, the volunteer team pressure-washed the notoriously slippery trail leading up the rocks from the waterline, and added some concrete steps, all to support the FFLA's mission to keep the lighthouse accessible and safe to the public, high tide or low. Along with volunteers, the lighthouse has regularly housed whale scientists in the summer, and is a popular stop

for smaller cruise ships, with one 7-day stretch slated for 8 visiting vessels in 2026.

And for those who might not be able to get to the lighthouse in person, pressure-washed trail or no, four new webcams have been purchased to be installed with views in every direction. These will be higher resolution than the two older cameras, and will be controllable by users at home, allowing them to zoom and aim the cameras. This will help boaters more accurately assess the weather near Five Finger Islands, and will even allow for some high-resolution whale-watching.

A full roster of lighthouse keepers has already signed up for summer 2026, but there's often room for new volunteers on the upcoming maintenance trips. You're just asked to become a member first, the cost of which is \$35 for an individual membership, \$25 for a student membership, or \$50 for a family. Other higher levels of membership include added perks such as being able to stay the night at the light.

If you're one of those people who is beckoned to the lighthouse's beacon, find out more at [fivefingerlighthouse.com](http://fivefingerlighthouse.com).



JAKE CLEMENS / Petersburg Pilot

Five Finger Lighthouse Society volunteers Rocio Tejera, Elise Kubo, Jeff Erickson, and Susan Erickson take a break from their maintenance work last weekend for a picnic lunch on the lighthouse lawn.

**KFSK's**

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**The winner will be announced on  
Friday, May 8th during the GOAT  
After School Notes show  
between 2:30pm & 4pm**

# Rosemaling workshop returns to Petersburg with paint, laughter and tradition



Photo courtesy of Dorene Lorenz

Teresa Stolpe smiles as she applies details to her painting during last week's rosemailing workshop upstairs at the Sons of Norway Hall.

By **DORENE LORENZ**  
For the Petersburg Pilot

For nearly a week, the upstairs hall at the Sons of Norway filled with the soft rhythm of brushstrokes, bursts of laughter, and the quiet concentration of artists practicing a centuries-old Norwegian folk tradition.

Seventeen participants gathered for daily rosemailing workshops hosted by the Muskeg Maleriers earlier this month, focusing this year on the Os style, a regional form known for blending whimsical Telemark elements with geometric design, old Hordaland motifs, and bright color.

Students painted a variety of projects - candy dishes, bean pots, gem pots, and small trunk boxes - under the guidance of master artist Patti Jo Meshnik of Oregon, who

apprenticed with noted rosemailing artist Gail Orem outside Eugene.

For many, the appeal went beyond the painting itself.

"It's not just the painting, which is fun. I'm really enjoying getting to know new people," Teresa Stolpe said during a break, where homemade treats and shared meals were as much a part of the gathering as paint and brushes. "And of course, there is the food."

The workshops cost \$50 per day, plus the cost of wood pieces, and drew participants from Petersburg, Juneau, and Homer.

Skill levels ranged widely. Some barely knew what they were doing, while others had artwork on display for sale in galleries around town, like noted local artist Polly Koeneman. That mix of beginners and seasoned painters seemed part of the charm.

The room was silent at times, especially when concentration deepened over a particularly intricate floral detail. More often, it was filled with laughter and shared stories of life in



Photo courtesy of Dorene Lorenz

A total of seventeen participants took part in the rosemailing workshops guided by master artist Patti Jo Mechnik and hosted by the Muskeg Maleriers. Pictured above are (back row left to right) Vicky Nelson, Lynda Fredricksen, Polly Koeneman, Teresa Stolpe, Judy Forgey, Patti Jo Meshnik, Kathleen Wilson, (front row) Sally Dwyer, Patti Reid, Arlana Corl, and Dorene Lorenz.

But as much as the class was about preserving technique, it also seemed about renewing something else: community. New friendships formed over paint palettes. Returning artists swapped stories with newcomers. Advice traveled easily from one table to the next.

And by week's end, the painted boxes and vessels drying on the tables seemed to hold more than ornament; they carried the memory of a room alive with heritage, humor, and shared making. For Petersburg's rosemailers, that may be the real art being passed on.

The rosemailing classes were made possible by a grant from the Petersburg Community Foundation, an Affiliate of the Alaska Community Founda-

The next rosemailing master class will be offered in August, featuring Sue Regandanz from Sacramento. Regandanz is known for teaching the patterns of master artist Karen Nelson.

The classes will feature a 7 x 8 wooden box, in the Rogal-

and style, a Christmas tree for beginners, a plate with a plaid background, and a clock. Con-

tact Sally at 907.518.0601 or Polly 907.518.0866 to be placed on the wait list.

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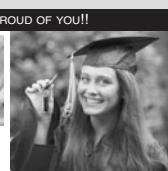
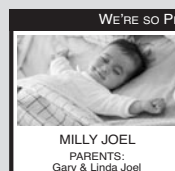
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Advertising Deadline: May 22, 2026

Publishes: May 28, 2026

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## PHS Track and Field blaze to a fast start in Ketchikan

By AIDEN LUHR  
Pilot writer

Petersburg High School track team blazed their way through their first meet of the season this past weekend in Ketchikan. The meet saw the Vikings set several personal bests and have near record-breaking performances.

In the boys shot put, Petersburg's Cedar Helms threw a personal best, with a throw of 29 feet and 8 inches and Payton Dreisbach, threw with a best of 27 feet and 6 inches. Helms also threw a personal best in discus, throwing 76 feet, as well as Dreisbach, who threw 70 feet. David Owens threw 7 feet in his first track meet in shot put. In the girls shot put, Gabriele Whitacre threw 27 feet for a new best. Whitacre added another personal best in discus, throwing 74 feet.

High jumpers saw multiple strong performances as Lexie Tow jumped a new personal best for herself, clearing 4 feet and 6 inches. In the boys triple jump, Nolan Lutomski set a personal best with a jump of 34 feet.

For some athletes, there was some confusion regarding their times and placements. During the boys 110m hurdle finals, senior Noah Pawuk ran an unofficial time of 16.43, which would've put him just shy of his dad (Matt Pawuk) school record of 16.43. His official time clocked him in at 17.46.

"Some other people were unsure about their times so I'm kinda using that weekend as like mental reps of knowing what it's

like to run 10 hurdles since I haven't done it in a long time," Pawuk said.

Pawuk hopes to finally break his dad's school record that has stood since 1995.

"It would be pretty cool. I think that would be a great way for me to cap off my high school athletic career. I've had success in different sports and he did too, so it would kind of be a full circle moment for me to break it," Pawuk said.

Another school record was also almost broken as the boys 4x100 relay, consisting of Brayden Tucker, Alex Homgrain, Pawuk and Jakob Preisler, ran a time of 47.57.

"It was honestly pretty surprising what we did. We kind of threw the squad together because before, none of us had a fourth event so might as well run the 4x100," Pawuk said. "We went out there and performed really well and kind of surprised ourselves."

Now that the boys know they have what it takes to set a new school record, they are confident in their abilities to get the job done.

"Now that we know that we're pretty competent at it and we have the potential to break a school record, our mindset will be the biggest thing - focusing on that," Pawuk said. "Working on handoffs and making sure we're locked in on that will be a big thing."

"If they keep going at it, they can definitely get that [school record] and break it. It would be really awesome to see," assistant coach Keely Ware said.

Plenty of other athletes claimed personal bests such as Cadence Flint in the 100m



Photo courtesy of Dave Owens

Petersburg senior Gabriele Whitacre prepares to launch the shot put during the first meet of the season in Ketchikan, on Friday, April 24, 2026. Whitacre set a new personal best for herself, throwing 27 feet.

dash, with a time of 14.24, Ben Kandoll in the 400 meters, with a time of 54.88. Arielle Tucker ran 2:49.33, in the girls 800, a new personal best for her.

"They've have been working really hard during practices. At our meet, they showed it," Ware said.

Before the Juneau meet, the team will have a modified home meet, on May 8-9th.

"Even though we're not competing against anyone else, I want to see them push hard and have it as an actual meet," said Ware.

# Local News & Information



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# Viking Swim Club ends season with a flourish at Alaska State Swimming Championships

By AIDEN LUHR  
Pilot writer

Viking Swim Club capped off a successful season with a strong finale this past weekend at the 2026 Alaska State Swimming Championships, in Anchorage. Out of 22 teams present, VSC finished seventh overall.

VSC brought 14 swimmers to the event and all 14 finished in the top eight of their respective events.

Cyrus Hulebak won third place high point for his age group and Trygve Marohl won second place high point in his age group. Because of these placements, amongst other accomplishments, the team won the most point per swimmer award.

"We averaged 81 points per swimmer, so that was pretty impressive," head coach Derek Gibb said.

Getting 100% of your athletes to podium is not an easy feat but VSC was able to do it.

"It goes to show that Petersburg has great athletes and they always have. I think we're very fortunate as coaches to be able to coach these kids with this kind of talent and help guide them along their way," Gibb said.

Bella Miller hasn't been to a lot of practices this season due to also participating in cheerleading but she was able to finish her season strong, especially in her 200 breaststroke, where she



Front row, from left to right: Head Coach Derek Gibb, Cyrus Hulebak, Hakon Eddy, Soren Eddy, Maisy Zweifel, Tori Miller, Kendyl Lachapelle, Assistant coach Ginger Evens. Back row, from left to right: Trygve Marohl, Ryder Diehl, Grady Walker, Nolan Gibb, Jackson Zweifel. Not pictured: Bella Miller, Audrey Boggs and Lucy Peterson. Viking Swim club placed seventh out of 22 teams, winning the most points per swimmer award, averaging 81 points.

finished with a time of 2:38.84.

"To go back out there and still be the fourth best in the state is pretty awesome," Gibb said.

Even with all the solid results the team produced, those weren't Gibb's favorite moments of the season. His favorite moments went beyond the scoresheet.

"When other coaches were coming up to me and telling me how great our kids were doing and how well they were behaved, the sportsmanship that they conduct. It was pretty cool," Gibb said.

With the season now concluded, the team knows what they need to improve on to reach another level next year.

"The main thing would be to work on the kids' details, their strokes, break them down a little further. That way in the beginning of the season, we can swim correctly and then ramp up the training," Gibb said.

Gibb concluded his rookie season as head coach of VSC, where he learned a lot about himself and the kids he teaches.

"What I liked about it was I was able to watch everybody

progress and try to figure out kids in general. It's a tough job. Swimming is not an easy sport, it's a pretty boring sport but these guys have done well," Gibb said. "They've been working hard all year and most got to their goals, so hopefully next year, we can have even more."

Having assistant coach Ginger Evens by his side helped Gibb as a first-time head coach.

"Learning from her how to deal with kids. She's been the leader in that department the whole time. She's the rock of our program," Gibb said.

Gibb said he plans to go to coaching to be able to give his swimmers better and faster feedback.

Gibb gave himself a C grade for his coaching efforts this season.

"I was a C student in school so a C sounds pretty good to

me. It's one thing to be a good athlete but to be a good coach - there's a lot more to learn," Gibb said.

Gibb sees several athletes ready to elevate their skills next season.

"I can see Cyrus, Hakon Eddy, Tori Miller [and] Audrey Boggs would definitely be the four. Jackson Zweifel and Ryder Diehl - those guys are going to be huge next year,"

Continued on page 13

**Rules of the Road**  
US Coast Guard  
**QUESTION & ANSWER**

**QUESTION:**  
Which of the following signals may be exhibited by a vessel trawling in close proximity to other fishing vessels?

a. Two white lights in a vertical line  
b. A red light over a white light in a vertical line  
c. Two fixed yellow lights in a vertical line  
d. All of the above

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

**ANSWER A.**  
Two white lights in a vertical line

## Petersburg Borough Siren Alert & Warning System (SAWS)

# Siren Testing

**First Wednesday of Every Month at 12pm - 30 seconds, using a steady signal**



The sirens — used to alert the public in the event of an emergency such as a Tsunami, Natural Disaster, Major Fire or Foreign Attack — located on the roof of the Syd Wright Auditorium located at Petersburg Middle School, the Mort Fryer Sports Complex (Base Ball Fields) and Bayview Estates (Hungerford Hill) may use different sounds and tones to alert the public of different emergencies. Here is what they could sound like:

**Emergency Warning - Wail Tone** This will be a 3-5 minute wavering (warbling in pitch) tone or siren. The "Emergency Warning" signal should mean to all people that a danger is imminent and protective action (Evacuate, go to high ground or take shelter, depending on the emergency) should be taken immediately. Turn on your radio and listen for essential emergency information, keep telephone use limited to emergency contact, do not call 911 to ask about the sirens. The "Emergency Warning" signal shall be repeated as often as deemed necessary by local government authorities to obtain the desired response by the population.

**Attention/Alert - Steady Tone** A 3 – 5 minute steady signal from sirens. This signal may be used as authorized by city officials to alert the public to potential emergencies, where the public may face danger in the near future, such as under a Tsunami or Earthquake Advisory, in addition to any other meaning or requirement for action as determined by Borough officials. The Attention/Alert Signal should mean to all people, "Turn on radio or TV, keep telephone use limited to emergency contact only. Listen for essential emergency information, Be prepared to act."

**Local Fire Alert - Wail Tone** This will be a 30 second wavering (warbling in pitch) tone or siren. The Local Fire Alert is only to be used in cases of major fire, where multiple structures are endangered, Initial responders are over-whelmed and additional help is needed from reserve units, or abnormal events such as a plane crash or other accidents that require many more responders. The "Local Fire Alert" signal should mean to all people that an active Fire response is ongoing, affected areas should be avoided and routes leading to the scene should remain clear. Turn on your radio and listen for additional information, do not call 911 to ask about the sirens. The "Local Fire Alert" signal shall be repeated as often as deemed necessary by local government authorities.

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STEPHANIE HAYES / Petersburg Pilot

## New co-ed adult volleyball league hosts first tournament

Two volleyball teams from Prince of Wales traveled to Petersburg last weekend to face the three teams in from Petersburg's new adult co-ed volleyball league. Team #1 from POW won the tournament against Petersburg's Team A. (Pictured left) Isaiah Bowen-Karlynn spikes a ball during the final championship game.

## Viking Swim Club

Continued from page 12 said Gibb.

### Notable Performances

#### Boys:

##### Cyrus Hulebak:

- 2nd in Boys 13-14 100 Breastroke (1:01.13)
- 2nd in Boys 13-14 50 Breastroke (28.37)
- 1st in Boys 13-14 200 Backstroke (2:02.04)
- 1st in Boys 13-14 50 Backstroke (24.92)
- 2nd in Boys 13-14 200 IM (2:06.52)
- 1st in Boys 13-14 100

- Backstroke (54.67)
- 2nd in Boys 13-14 200 Breastroke (2:17.49)
- Trygve Marohl:**
- 3rd in Boys 10 and Under 50 Freestyle (31.02)
- 2nd in Boys 10 and Under 100 Butterfly (1:22.88)
- 1st in Boys 10 and Under 100 Freestyle (1:09.71)
- 3rd in Boys 10 and Under 200 IM (2:58.98)
- 2nd in Boys 10 and Under 500 Freestyle (6:37.41)
- 1st in Boys 10 and Under 50 Butterfly (35.72)
- 2nd in Boys 10 and Under 200

Freestyle (2:26.98)

#### Girls:

##### Tori Miller:

- 5th in Girls 13-14 50 Freestyle (25.77)
- 2nd in Girls 13-14 100 Butterfly (1:01.99)
- 2nd in Girls 13-14 50 Backstroke (29.69)
- 2nd in Girls 13-14 200 IM (2:20.38)
- 3rd in Girls 13-14 100 Backstroke (1:04.46)
- 4th in Girls 13-14 50 Butterfly (27.82)
- 4th in Girls 13-14 100 IM (1:05.13)

##### Audrey Boggs:

- 5th in Girls 11-12 100 Breastroke (1:20.72)
- 3rd in Girls 11-12 400 IM (5:33.57)
- 5th in Girls 11-12 100 Freestyle (1:02.70)
- 3rd in Girls 11-12 200 IM (2:33.86)
- 4th in Girls 11-12 200 Breastroke (2:55.45)
- 4th in Girls 11-12 100 IM (1:11.04)
- 4th in Girls 11-12 200 Freestyle (2:16.68)

#### Club Records:

##### Boys:

- 50 Freestyle (Cyrus Hulebak)
- 50 Backstroke (Cyrus Hulebak)
- 100 Backstroke (Cyrus Hulebak)
- 200 Backstroke (Cyrus Hulebak)
- 50 Breastroke (Cyrus Hulebak)
- 100 Breastroke (Cyrus Hulebak)
- 200 Breastroke (Cyrus Hulebak)
- 100 IM (Cyrus Hulebak)
- 200 IM (Cyrus Hulebak)
- 1000 Freestyle (Trygve Marohl)

##### Girls:

- 50 Backstroke (Tori Miller)
- 50 Breastroke (Tori Miller)
- 50 Butterfly (Tori Miller)
- 100 IM (Tori Miller)

#### State Records:

- 50 Breastroke (Cyrus Hulebak)
- 50 Butterfly (Cyrus Hulebak)
- Mixed 200 Freestyle Relay (Cyrus Hulebak, Tori Miller, Kendyl Lachapelle, Hakon Eddy)

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

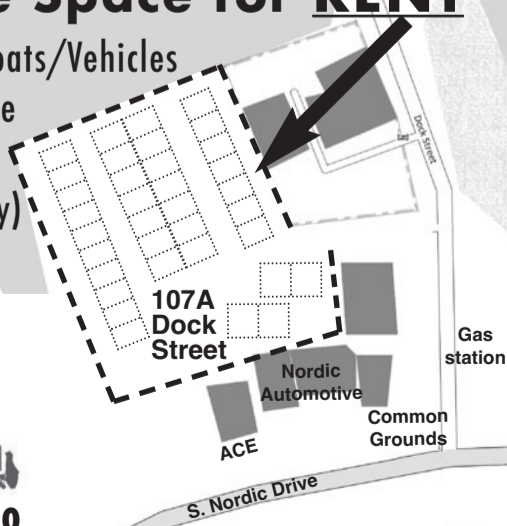
Those celebrating birthdays this week are: **May 1:** Bradee Axmaker. **May 2:** Beth Richards, David Ellis, Erik Olsen, Heather Dixson, Kelly Aho, Sydney Beck. **May 3:** Alexis Weeks, Vava Wikan. **May 4:** Danny Christensen, Vicki Bussell. **May 6:** Larry Goade, Rick Versteeg, Seth McCallum. **May 7:** Bjorn Stolpe, Dave Morris, Elsa Sebastian, Stephanie Mason.

If you'd like to be included on our list, please call 907-772-9393.

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## Senior Meals

Monday, May 4

Salmon Burger, Fries, Fresh Fruit, Cheese Stick, Brownie

Tuesday, May 5

Beef Enchiladas, Rice, Corn, Apple, Cottage Cheese with Fruit

Wednesday, May 6

Teriyaki Chicken, Rice, Broccoli, Orange, Cupcake

Thursday, May 7

Pork Fried Rice, Cucumber Salad, Trail Mix, Jello with Fruit

Friday, May 8

Tater Tot Casserole, Green Salad, Yogurt Cup, Brownie



The community dining room is open to eligible diners (60+ and their spouses, or disabled individuals living in an assisted living facility). Dinner is served at 5 p.m. All meals are suggested donation only. Please call Mountain View Food Service at 772-4331 before noon for reservations.



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**Tuesday, May 5**

Breakfast

Chef's Choice

Lunch

WG Chicken Alfredo

**Wednesday, May 6**

Breakfast

Chef's Choice

Lunch

Beef Chili

with WG Cornbread

**Thursday, May 7**

Breakfast

Chef's Choice

Lunch

Baked Potato Bar

with WG Roll

**Friday, May 8**

Breakfast

Chef's Choice

Lunch

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Hawaiian Macaroni Salad

Middle and High School:

Prepared by

The Culinary Class

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\*WG = Whole Grain



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# Biologists forecast a reduced Alaska commercial salmon harvest

By YERETH ROSEN  
Alaska Beacon

Alaska's statewide commercial salmon harvest this year is expected to total 125.5 million fish, less than two thirds of the total landed by commercial harvesters in 2025, according to the annual forecast released last week by state biologists.

The anticipated 2026 total, detailed in Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2026 forecast and 2025 review, is lower than annual statewide harvests in all but four years since 2000, according to department records.

The lowered expectations for the statewide salmon harvest are driven mostly by anticipated declines in runs of pink salmon, also known as humpback salmon, according to the forecast.

Pink salmon are the most plentiful, smallest and cheapest of Alaska's five salmon species. They have two-year life cycles, the shortest of all of Alaska's salmon species. Although there are regional variations, the general pattern for the recent past is alternating big-run and smaller-run years, with 2025 as one of

the big-run years.

The year-to-year difference has been significant, said Forrest Bowers, who heads the department's commercial fishing division.

"We have been seeing a pronounced even-odd year difference in pink salmon returns, with much larger returns in odd-numbered years," Bowers said by email.

In all, about 197.4 million salmon were harvested commercially last year, 120 million of which were pink salmon, the forecast said. This year, about 60 million pink salmon are expected to be harvested commercially, according to the forecast.

For Alaska's other four salmon species, the forecast is for a lower total catches as well, with a combined reduction of 11% below the 2025 non-pink salmon total harvest, Bowers said.

That is not considered a precise prediction. There are estimate ranges for different species and locations, which put the anticipated 2026 harvest in the general ballpark of last year's harvest, except for pink salmon.

"When we consider forecast uncer-

tainty and the distribution of harvests across the state, the forecast for non-pink salmon is fairly similar to the 2025 actual harvest," Bowers said.

Sockeye salmon, also known as red salmon, is the second-most plentiful of Alaska's five species, and the statewide harvest is dominated by Southwestern Alaska's Bristol Bay, site of the world's largest sockeye salmon runs.

That status will continue this year, according to the forecast. Bristol Bay's estimated 2026 harvest for this year is 33.5 million fish, a little over the average over the last 20 years — but smaller than in some recent years, when harvests in that region hit or approached records. Last year's Bristol Bay sockeye harvest was about 41.2 million fish, a little more than three quarters of the statewide sockeye harvest.

This year, the statewide sockeye salmon harvest is forecasted to total 49.7 million fish, of which about two thirds are expected to come from Bristol Bay.

The forecasted chum salmon commercial harvest this year is 17.2 million fish, compared to 21.7 million last year. This year's forecasted harvest of coho

salmon, also known as silver salmon, is 2.4 million fish, compared to 2.7 million harvested last year. This year's forecasted harvest of Chinook salmon, also known as king salmon, is 197,000 fish, compared to last year's total harvest of 201,000 fish.

The department's forecast details regional differences along with species differences.

In the Yukon and Kuskokwim river systems, salmon runs are expected to continue to be weak, as they have been for the past several years, according to the forecast. There is no commercial fishing anticipated on either of those river systems. The only commercial fishing in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region is expected to be in Norton Sound and in the Kotzebue area, as was the case last year and in other recent years.

The newly released forecast is for commercial harvesting alone. It does not include subsistence or sports harvests. Reports detailing last year's subsistence harvests are expected to be released in the future, the forecast said.

*The AlaskaBeacon.com is a donor-funded independent news organization in Alaska.*

## Pension reform

Continued from page 1

the state up to \$89 million annually, depending on the number of employees who choose the new pension plan. But proponents of the measure say it will ultimately save the state far more by eliminating the need to constantly train new workers, pay fines for poorly managed federal programs, contend with degraded public services, and lure new employees with an increasing outlay in recruitment bonuses and overtime pay to compensate for unfilled positions.

"The real question is not, 'Does this bill cost money?' The real question is, 'Why are we willing to keep paying more for a system that's not working?'" said Giessel.

Anchorage Democratic Sen. Bill Wielechowski said the bill marks "the choice to move from managed chaos to managed stability."

In months of hearings, the Senate amended the bill to add more choice for both employees and non-state public employers, like school districts and municipalities. Under the bill, employees will be able to choose between the new pension plan and staying in the existing defined contribution plan, which allows them to invest their own funds and reap the rewards — or losses — of the market. Employers will be able to opt out of offering the new pension if they view it as too expensive.

Throughout the legislative process, advocates for the bill have emphasized that the new plan will be vastly different from the pre-2006 pensions offered to Alaska employees. The new plan does not re-create the generous health insurance program that was previously offered. It also allows for the state to raise the contribution rate for individual employees if it becomes underfunded.

"These safeguards are not optional. They're built into the design specifically to prevent

what happened in the past," said Giessel.

Prior to the 2006 closure of the pension system, Alaska's retirement plan became underfunded by billions of dollars, in large part because of incorrect actuarial analyses provided to the state at the time. The state sued the actuarial firm, but recovered only a fraction of the unfunded liability that had developed. The state, school districts and municipalities have been paying it back ever since.

Despite the less-generous plan, Tuesday's vote was seen as a long-fought victory for unions and lawmakers alike. Proponents of the measure said that it will begin to solve the problems stemming from workforce shortages in Alaska's public sector.

"This is about the trooper who stays an extra 10 years because they know their family is taken care of. This is about the teacher who decides to buy a home in Fairbanks instead of looking at the job boards in Seattle," said Wielechowski. The bill is "a hand extended to our workforce, saying 'We value you. We want you to stay. We want you to grow old here,'" he added.

Opponents of the legislation, who include the two co-chairs of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, have consistently warned that the pension system risks a new unfunded liability, despite the protections added to the bill. They suggested that the state, school districts and

other employers should instead raise wages, which are in many sectors not competitive with the Lower 48.

Drygas said that Alaska's recruitment and retention problems are "multifaceted."

"Do I believe that a lackluster retirement system that the state has right now is part of the problem? Absolutely," she said, but added that uncompetitive pay is "part of the issue."

Sen. Bert Stedman, a Sitka Republican, and Sen. Lyman Hoffman, a Bethel Democrat, are the only two members of the bipartisan majority caucus who joined all minority members in voting against advancing the bill.

"Think of the liability protection for the future generation," said Stedman, speaking against the bill. "Let's not do what our grandparents did to us back in the '60s and give us a liability that we struggle with for 30 years."

In an effort to offset some of the new costs to the state, Stedman led an effort last week to raise the cap on costs of public pensions for non-state employers, including school districts and municipalities, from 22% of their payroll to 24% of their payroll. Some municipalities responded with warnings of increased local taxes and cuts to already diminished staffing. The Senate voted narrowly on Tuesday to largely reverse the change, setting the new cap at 22.5% instead of 24%.

Alongside their concerns

about costs, members of the all-Republican minority caucus claimed that younger workers aren't attracted to pensions in the way that older generations have been.

"Things have changed. You know, people change. Younger people are not saying, 'Hey, I'm just going to sit there and do something for 30 years,'" said Republican Sen. Mike Cronk of Tok.

Although Cronk collects a state pension from his 25 years as a public school teacher, his view is similar to the one expressed previously by Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy, who also earns a state pension from

his years as a public educator. Dunleavy, too, has cast doubt on whether younger Alaska workers are as drawn to pensions as he had been.

Dunleavy has not commented on the pension bill in its current form. Kopp said he has spoken about the bill both with Dunleavy and members of his staff.

"All I can say is that they are absolutely keeping an open mind on this bill. They recognize that it is completely different than the legacy tiers of the past, and I have been encouraged by several conversations I have had with the administration," he said.



## NEW Spring Hours

**Mondays - Saturdays**  
7am - 7pm

**Sundays 10am - 6pm**

**Evergreen Market**  
Tuesday - Saturday  
10am - 6pm

**Upstairs IGA**  
Tuesday - Saturday  
10am - 6pm

**Petersburg**

**IGA**

Petersburg's Quality Food Store

**HOMETOWN PROUD**

Located Downtown at the end of Nordic Drive  
Phone: 907-772-3881

**Save the date:**  

Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 10am to 1pm

Homeport is hosting Reps from Timezero and Furuno for an Information and Training Session during Mayfest

RSVP encouraged by texting

 **TIMEZERO** 907-772-3100 

907-772-3100  
Call or Text
 **Homeport Electronics, Inc**
114 Harbor Way  
Petersburg



## Artifact Archive

Characterized by their multi-part, interchangeable construction, these antique smoking pipes are often referred to as “Hunter’s Pipes” because the hinged metal cap on the bowl was designed to shield the wind for outdoor use. The rich orange-brown color of its large, curved bowl is a patina that develops naturally over time as the pipe is smoked and tobacco oils are absorbed into the meerschaum, the soft white mineral it was carved from. Typically pipes of this style and construction date from 1850 – 1940.

This is one of several unique pipes donated to the museum by Ragna Welde. Ragna Welde, née Ness, was born in Norway and immigrated to the United States as a young woman. She settled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she met Peder Welde, a carpenter. They married in 1907. By 1928 the Great Depression was in full-swing, but there was work for carpenters in Petersburg, so they drove the family car across the country along the Yellowstone Trail to Seattle, camping in a tent along the way. They built their home on the site of what is now Eagle’s Roost Park.

*Information and photos for this column are provided by the Clausen Memorial Museum.*

## Job Opportunity

at



**KFSK is now hiring for a Community Operations Liaison.**

High school diploma/GED or higher required.

No prior radio experience needed.

On the job training offered.

Starting at \$22.33 hourly or \$46,456 annual, DOE.

More info at [kfsk.org](http://kfsk.org) or

email [generalmanager@kfsk.org](mailto:generalmanager@kfsk.org).

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#### JOBS

**Piston & Rudder Service** has 2 part-time job opportunities available immediately. One is a sales associate in our retail store, days & hours TBD. The other is to perform typical boat hull maintenance work. This is job

entails hauling, washing, painting & replacing zincs on boat hulls and begins May 1st thru August. Email or stop by [office@pistonrudder.com](mailto:office@pistonrudder.com) for application. Call Mike @ 9075180573.

.....3x5-7b64  
**Now Hiring: Bartender/Cocktail Waitress** Petersburg Elks Lodge

### Notice of Filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Southeast Alaska Power Agency Tye Lake Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 3015

On August 5, 1981, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) issued a 50-year license to the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) for the Tye Lake Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 3015 (Tye Lake Project or Project). The operating license for this 22.5-megawatt (MW) Project will expire on July 31, 2031. SEAPA is applying for a new FERC license.

On or about April 28, 2026, SEAPA will begin the relicensing process by submitting to FERC a Notice of Intent (NOI), Pre-Application Document (PAD), and a request to use the Commission’s Traditional Licensing Process (TLP) for the Project. The Project is an existing hydroelectric facility, producing renewable energy, located on Tye Lake and Hidden Creek near the city of Wrangell in the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska.

Pursuant to the requirements of Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations (18 CFR) § 5.3(d)(2), SEAPA is publishing notice of these filings and making the following information available to the public. The NOI, PAD, and associated reference materials for the Tye Lake Project will be available for review and reproduction online at <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/elibrary> as well as SEAPA’s relicensing website at <https://www.tyeelakerelicensing.com/>. A copy of the materials will also be available at the applicant’s office, by appointment only.

#### Applicant's Contact Information:

Mark Hilson  
Southeast Alaska Power Agency  
55 Don Finney Lane, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
907-228-2017  
[mhilson@seapahydro.org](mailto:mhilson@seapahydro.org)



#### Summary of Documents:

1. The NOI notifies the Commission of SEAPA’s unequivocal intent to prepare and file an application for a new license for the Project.
2. The PAD provides existing and reasonably available information about the Project, including relevant engineering, environmental, operational, and economic information.
3. The request to use the TLP provides justification for use of the TLP, as compared to the default Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), as the most efficient, effective, and least burdensome process for all parties and agencies interested in this licensing proceeding. The flexible nature and timelines of the TLP will allow SEAPA to continue to work collaboratively with resource agencies and interested parties.

#### Comments on Request to use the TLP:

In accordance with 18 CFR § 5.3(d)(2), comments on the applicant’s request to use the TLP must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days of the filing date. Comments should refer to the Tye Lake Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 3015). Comments on SEAPA’s request to use the TLP should address the following, as appropriate to the circumstances of the request: (1) Likelihood of timely license issuance; (2) Complexity of the resource issues; (3) Level of anticipated controversy; (4) Relative cost of the traditional process compared to the integrated process; (5) The amount of available information and potential for significant disputes over studies; and (6) Other factors believed by the commenter to be pertinent.

Resource agencies, Alaska Native Tribes, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and members of the public with an interest in the Project may participate in the relicensing process and are welcome to comment on the PAD. **Comments submitted to FERC can be filed electronically via FERC’s website** (<https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview>) pursuant to 18 CFR § 385.2003(c), or an original and eight copies can be mailed to the Office of the Secretary, FERC, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

**Published: April 30, 2026**

### Read the **Public Notices** • BE AN INFORMED CITIZEN • PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY • EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA AT PETERSBURG

In the Matter of the Estate of )  
)  
Donald Ray Peeler )  
DOB: 08/21/1963 )  
)  
) CASE NO. 1PE-26-00018PR

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that the court appointed Dawn Rene Ingle as personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died 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.

Date: 4/28/2026

Dawn Rene Ingle  
PO Box 1691, Petersburg, AK 99833  
907-650-7169  
[tayla@gci.net](mailto:tayla@gci.net)

**Published: April 30, May 7, May 14, 2026**

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL PEOPLE OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – This is public notice and affirmation that a baby boy has been born on the land in a mortal body to his biological father Daniel Tucker and biological mother Jessica Ann Simone of the Tucker Simone family and was given the name Aengus. The family lovingly welcomed their baby to Earth on the land of the geographical location commonly known as Petersburg, Petersburg Borough, Alaska Republic, United States of America. He was born on the 9th day of August in the calendar year 2025 AD.

This is public notice and affirmation that a baby boy has been born on the land in a mortal body to his biological father Daniel Tucker and biological mother Jessica Ann Simone of the Tucker Simone family and was given the name Finbar. The family lovingly welcomed their baby to Earth on the land of the geographical location commonly known as Petersburg, Petersburg Borough, Alaska Republic, United States of America. He was born on the 9th day of March in the calendar year 2023 AD.

This is public notice and affirmation that a baby girl has been born on the land in a mortal body to her biological father Daniel Tucker and biological mother Jessica Ann Simone of the Tucker Simone family and was given the name Robinia. The family lovingly welcomed their baby to Earth on the land of the geographical location commonly known as Bellingham, Whatcom County, Washington Republic, United States of America. She was born on the 17th day of June in the calendar year 2017 AD.

**Published: April 16, 23, 30, May 7 and 14, 2026**