

**Desi Burrell named
Volunteer of the Year**

see page 3

**Scenes from the 2026
Little Norway Festival**

see pages 8 and 9

**Boys Relay Team
sets two school records**

see page 13

petersburg pilot

PETERSBURG, ALASKA



May 21, 2026
Vol. 52, No. 21

www.petersburgpilot.com

16 Pages
\$2



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

Don and Julie Spigelmyre riding at the bow of the Valhalla during the 2026 Little Norway Festival parade.

The Spigelmyres hang up their furs

By **CALEB MORROW**
Pilot writer

Viking and Valkyrie couple Don and Julie Spigelmyre have announced that, after 26 years, they are retiring from their iconic roles.

For decades, the Spigelmyres have been a large part of the Little Norway Festival tradition of fur clad, armor-wearing, weapon-wielding vikings and valkyries rampaging through Petersburg.

The couple decided that this year's "Little Norway" festival would be their last as Vikings and Valkyries.

The town's notorious party group is known for having fun and giving back to the community. The giving back portion is most cherished by the Spigelmyres.

"Everything we're doing is really for the kids. It's the community, it's the shrimp feed," Julie Spigelmyre said.

The shrimp feed is an big seafood boil where the community is fed for free, funded by donations from Silver Bay Seafoods and Tonka. The Vikings cook the food in front of everyone, then pour it into a carved wooden boat for anyone to eat.

"The shrimp feed is my favorite, I will miss that tremendously," Don Spigelmyre said. "We did 300 pounds of donated shrimp this year, and that for me is my favorite part: feeding the community for free."

Any money donations received from the event go back to the program.

The clubs also pay visits to the school. Creating core memories for the kids and club members alike.

"Some of the best moments have been in the schools,

Continued on page 10

Assembly advances wireless tower zoning ordinance; public hearing set for June 1

By **ORIN PIERSON**
Pilot writer

After more than a year of mounting community pressure over the locations of wireless broadband towers in Petersburg, the Borough Assembly voted unanimously Monday to advance a comprehensive wireless communications zoning ordinance on its first reading, encouraging the public to submit written comments during the two weeks before a sched-

uled public hearing June 1.

The ordinance — 17 pages of amended municipal code accompanied by a seven-page explanatory memo from Community Development Director Liz Cabrera — would establish Petersburg's first structured permitting framework for wireless communication facilities.

Under the proposed code, wireless communication facilities — currently permitted out-right in commercial and

industrial zones — would become conditional uses requiring public notice and Planning Commission review and approval. The change represents a significant expansion of local oversight authority, though the ordinance was drafted explicitly to comply with the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, which limits how municipalities can regulate wireless infrastructure.

"We are establishing a pref-

Continued on page 6

Assembly votes to send sales tax cap increase back to voters

By **ORIN PIERSON**
Pilot writer

Two years after Petersburg voters rejected a sales tax cap increase by an incredibly narrow margin, the Borough Assembly voted 6-1 Monday to send the question back to the ballot this October.

The ordinance, approved on its first reading, would ask borough voters at the October 6 municipal election whether to raise the maximum taxable amount on a single purchase from \$1,200 to \$5,000. If approved, the maximum sales tax collectible on any single transaction would rise

from \$72 to \$300. The borough's sales tax rate would remain at 6 percent.

The measure was introduced by Vice Mayor Leigh Stanton Gregor. Assembly Member Scott Newman cast the lone dissenting vote.

The last time this question went before borough voters, in October 2024, Proposition 2 failed by exactly five votes — 516 in favor, 521 against.

"We were hoping that increasing the sales tax cap to generate more revenue would offset the need to increase property taxes significantly next year," Finance Director Jody Tow said at the time.

It didn't pass, and the borough ended up

Continued on page 10

Pipeline-for-pension deal falls apart as the Alaska Legislature's regular session nears end

By **JAMES BROOKS**
Alaska Beacon

A high-stakes quid pro quo deal fell apart in the Alaska Capitol on Monday as legislators failed to approve a tax break for the proposed trans-Alaska natural gas pipeline and Gov. Mike Dunleavy vetoed a bill that would have restored public pensions in the state.

The failure leaves public employees with a 401(k)-like retirement system and legislators likely to head into a special session for further work on a gas pipeline bill.

Rep. Chuck Kopp, R-Anchorage and the Legislature's lead negotiator on the planned deal, said on Monday night that "the pension was a good vehicle to

help get people there and be more conciliatory towards this gasline legislation than they otherwise would have been. Now that the governor has vetoed the pension, I expect the conciliatory attitudes will suffer."

Monday was the deadline for Dunleavy to enact or veto House Bill 78, which would have created a new pension plan for Alaska's public employees. Alaska has not offered a pension since 2006, when lawmakers closed the pension plan to new employees after an actuarial error led to significant underfunding.

Days ahead of Monday's veto deadline, Dunleavy offered a deal to legislators — pass a tax break for the proposed gas pipeline, and he would allow

the pension bill to become law.

"We said we wanted the gasline bill passed in an acceptable form to the governor's desk before the deadline on the (defined benefit) bill," said Jeff Turner, the governor's communications director. "At that point, he could allow a (defined benefit) bill to go into law."

Dunleavy told reporters at a news conference earlier this

Continued on page 16



Yesterday's News:

News from 25-50-75-100 years ago

May 19, 1926 - The big dredge, long-awaited by the citizens of Petersburg, is expected to begin work next week. Engineers have been sounding the channel for some time now, in preparation for the "clam-shell" dredge which will do much to clear out the Narrows. The "clam-shell" dredge clears out the silt and digs the channel deeper. Where the bottom is rocky it will be necessary to blast. Almost a new industry will be added to Petersburg for a while as the dredge is said to be 270 feet long and employs a crew of 50 men. After almost a quarter of a century of striving to get the Narrows dredged, Petersburg is going to at last see actual work begin.

May 18, 1951 - Severt Larson, who was injured last Saturday when a gas tank he was working on exploded, is recovering from his injuries in Petersburg Hospital. The accident happened in his boat house as Larson was doing some welding on a tank which he believed he had thoroughly cleaned. He took the blow on his head and most of the injury was to the left side of his face where he suffered severe lacerations and several broken bones. He was slightly burned on his leg where part of his clothing was burned away. Several persons heard the explosion but no one knew where it was until Larson, covered with blood, stumbled into the nearby Matson boathouse where Melvin Roundtree was working on his boat. "I'm sick," he moaned and was near collapse as Roundtree quickly loaded him into a taxicab and hurried him to Dr. Herrell's office. There he received emergency treatment by Dr. Jesse before being taken to the hospital.

May 19, 1976 - A boyhood wish came true for young Scott Repp last Friday night when he became the first Petersburg person to board the first passenger jet Alaska Airlines has landed here. The airline test-landed a Boeing 727 late Friday in advance of scheduled jet service into Petersburg beginning June 1. The test flight checked out three airline pilots aboard for flights in and out of Little Norway. The beginning of young Scott Repp's wish-come-true was a letter to none other than the chairman of the board of Alaska Airlines. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Repp asked Ron Cosgrove if a representative of his 7th-grade class could set foot aboard the first jet to land here. The response was an invitation channeled through local terminal manager Gary Larson for young Scott to be the first person to board the plane here. Alaska Airlines begins jet service here June 1 with one scheduled flight north and one south daily. The new service will be jet flights exclusively, marking the end of scheduled airline prop service into Little

Norway. Plans call for jets to utilize Wrangell navigational aids partway to Petersburg and to proceed into Petersburg airport under visual flight rule.

May 17, 2001 - Have you noticed that the Hammer & Wikan grocery doorman is missing? It seems the protruding belly and bulbous nose of 'Ole' changed locations. A mainstay of the store on the hill since his arrival seven years ago, it was decided 'Ole' needed some more exposure. "He will attract more visitors down on main street this summer than he does up at his old stomping grounds," said general manager Larry Martin. "We want visitors to get a better look at him, we want the kids to pick up a bit of Norwegian folklore as well." Jim Hammer added, "When we were opening up the new store it was going to have a Scandinavian/Norwegian motif. We thought something like 'Ole' would set that off." Sharon Wikan said, "I was in Norway in 1994 with my dad [Bojer], just as the store was being built. We were in the

town of Alvdal when we saw the trolls we wanted." The original plan was for a troll 'taller than a black codder' and 'healthier than a lefse roller' but they didn't fall into the store's budget plan, so a smaller version was found. 'Ole' was ordered from a Norwegian specialty shop called Ber and made by the

same company that made the trolls for the Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

Northern Nights Theater

Special Screening with filmmaker post-screening Q&A:

The LADDER

Showings:
Saturday May 23rd
4pm and 7pm

Check our Facebook page and sign up for the latest updates for showings

Concessions available. Credit cards accepted.

650-7626

Correction:

In last week's story about the Mitkof Mummies play, a quote was misattributed to LeeAnna Lucas. It was in fact Tatum Hagerman who said, laughing and in character as the villain of the play, "I just do it because I love the attention and applause."



Velvet is approximately 3 years old, spayed and current on shots. She's observant, curious and loves being right in the middle of the action. She's also a professional window watcher and a loyal companion in the making.



For more information on available cats and dogs, give PHA a call at 907-518-1091 and leave a message. Follow Petersburg Humane Association on Facebook!

www.petersburghumane.org
P.O. Box 1417 Petersburg, AK 99833

Brought to you by Petro Marine Services
Celebrating over 65 years in Alaska



PETERSBURG HAPPENINGS

Brought to you by:  

THURSDAY, May 21
Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention: 10:00 am, Mitkof Dance Studio
Devil's Thumb Chamber Music Festival — Music Masterclass with Artyom Pak: 4:00 pm, Wright Auditorium

FRIDAY, May 22
Al-Anon Support Group: 12:00 pm, Episcopal Church
PIA Culture Club Program - All Students Welcome: 2:30 pm, Elementary School Cafeteria
Devil's Thumb Chamber Music Festival — Forest Orchestra: 3:00 pm, Sandy Beach
AA Candlelight Meeting: 7:00 pm, Episcopal Church

SATURDAY, May 23
Kupreanof Day Celebration: 10:00 am, City of Kupreanof dock
Devil's Thumb Chamber Music Festival — Into the Tongass Chamber Music Concert: 3:00 pm, Luthern Church
"The Ladder" Special Showing: 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm, Wright Auditorium
Celebration Canoe Journey Community Potluck: 5:00 pm, John Hanson Sr Hall

SUNDAY, May 24
Keet Yaakw (Killer Whale Canoe) Journey to Celebration Launch: 8:30 am, South Harbor Crane Dock
Knitting Group - All Welcome: 2:00 pm, Mt. View Manor Social Hall

MONDAY, May 25 — Memorial Day - Govt. offices closed
Tai Chi: 7:00 am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall
SHARE Coalition Meeting: 12:00 pm, Dorothy Ingle Conference Room
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 26
Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention: 10:00 am, Mitkof Dance Studio
American Legion Meeting: 6:30 pm, Elks Lodge
AA 12x12 Meeting: 7:00 pm, Holy Cross Classroom

WEDNESDAY, May 27
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
Harbors and Ports Advisory Meeting: 6:30 pm, Borough Assembly Chambers
Senior Graduation Noise Parade: 6:45 pm, Lineup Petersburg Airport Parking lot

WEATHER

	High	Low	Precip
May 13	55	47	0.22
May 14	56	44	0.36
May 15	53	42	0.05
May 16	53	44	T
May 17	53	41	0.18
May 18	51	45	0.44
May 19	52	42	T

This Week's Precipitation: 1.25"
This weather service is provided by the FAA weather observation station at the James A. Johnson Airport.

DAYLIGHT HOURS


Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
May 21	4:26a	9:12p	16:46hrs
May 22	4:24a	9:14p	16:49hrs
May 23	4:23a	9:16p	16:53hrs
May 24	4:21a	9:17p	16:56hrs
May 25	4:19a	9:19p	16:59hrs
May 26	4:18a	9:21p	17:03hrs
May 27	4:16a	9:23p	17:06hrs

PETERSBURG TIDE TABLE

MAY 2026

	HIGH TIDES				LOW TIDES			
	A.M.		P.M.		A.M.		P.M.	
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
21 Thu	4:56	16.4	6:13	14.0	11:47	-1.5
22 Fri	5:58	14.9	7:16	13.7	0:01	4.0	12:46	-0.3
23 Sat	7:09	13.5	8:20	13.7	1:17	4.1	1:49	0.7
24 Sun	8:28	12.5	9:20	14.1	2:38	3.7	2:52	1.6
25 Mon	9:45	12.2	10:12	14.6	3:51	2.9	3:52	2.2
26 Tue	10:52	12.3	10:58	15.1	4:52	1.8	4:45	2.7
27 Wed	11:49	12.6	11:38	15.5	5:42	0.8	5:33	3.1

PRESENTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY:




772-4234 • 800-950-4265

FERRY SCHEDULE

Terminal Office • 772-3855 or call 800-642-0066

NORTHBOUND DEPARTURES			SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURES		
SUN 5/24	KENNICOTT	08:15 P.M.	WED 5/27	KENNICOTT	12:00 A.M.
MON 6/1	KENNICOTT	12:30 A.M.	WED 6/3	KENNICOTT	04:00 A.M.
SUN 6/7	KENNICOTT	08:45 P.M.	TUE 6/9	KENNICOTT	10:15 A.M.
MON 6/15	KENNICOTT	01:30 A.M.	WED 6/17	KENNICOTT	02:45 A.M.
SUN 6/21	COLUMBIA	08:45 P.M.	TUE 6/23	COLUMBIA	10:45 A.M.

PRESENTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY:



To add an event to the Happenings calendar call us at 772-9393 or email pilotpub@gmail.com

Desi Burrell named 2026 Volunteer of the Year

By **ORIN PIERSON**
Pilot writer

At the Petersburg Community Foundation annual award reception Saturday, Desi Burrell was named 2026 Volunteer of the Year.

Representing PCF, Glorianne Wollen, said the board's decision was unanimous and easy, citing Burrell's lifetime of community service.

"She sees things that need doing, then she does them," Wollen said.

Wollen described how the previous Saturday, Burrell was spotted at Sandy Beach with a shovel and a five-gallon bucket, cleaning up after other people's dogs to prepare the area for Little Norway Festival visitors. Another time, noticing a muddy puddle near the sign-up area for a Beat the Odds race, she grabbed a shovel from Wollen's nearby shop and filled it in — without being asked, without announcing it.

"She's too busy doing to hear your excuse about why you can't help," Wollen said.

Burrell said her drive to serve was shaped by her grandmother, Bunny, and by community mentors including Caroll Nilsen, Beulah Luhr, and Dorothy Engle.

"There's so many mentors out there that just really guided me along," Burrell said. "And my goal is that I can do that for young people, that they can see ... that it just fills your soul to give and to help and not expect anything in return."

"My goal is that I can [mentor] young people, that they can see ... that it just fills your soul to give and to help and not expect anything in return."

— DESI BURRELL

Her resume of local involvement is staggering. Burrell served as Petersburg Magistrate, retiring around 2018. She has twice served as Rotary Club president, heading projects including the Kids Don't Float life jacket program and construction of the Sandy Beach playground. She has served on the Housing Insecurity Coalition, volunteers as an EMS ambulance driver, served on the Petersburg Lutheran Church Council and numerous committees there, participated in the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce as a longtime Salmon Derby Committee member, and is a Beat the Odds organizer. She has also



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

Desi Burrell (pictured left) embraces Glorianne Wollen in the moment Burrell was announced as the Petersburg Community Foundation's Volunteer of the Year.

been a Parks and Recreation advisor, and is a member of the Emblem Club, Women of the Moose, the Arts Council, and Friends of the Library.

For decades, Burrell has coached Little League and softball, served 15 years as a volleyball coach and referee, and judged diving for the swim team.

Recently, while visiting Anchorage to spend time with her grandson Odin, Burrell learned about disaster relief operations

serving Alaska Native community members displaced from villages in Western Alaska. The morning after learning about it, she dropped Odin at school, drove to the gathering point, and on the spot joined Team Rubicon

— a disaster relief organization — as a volunteer.

When she realized the U.S. Coast Guard needed an in-town dockside examiner, she took training courses to serve that need, became a Coast Guard Auxiliary member and was instrumental to standing the current Auxiliary Flotilla in Petersburg. She even takes hitches serving as a volunteer relief cook aboard Coast Guard cutters at posts across Alaska.

The Volunteer of the Year award, established by the Petersburg Community Foundation in 2022, carries a \$1,000 grant that the honoree directs to the organization of their choice.

Burrell chose to direct her \$1,000 to Beat the Odds, Petersburg's cancer support organization that provides assistance for treatment, travel, and training for patients and families across Southeast Alaska.

"There are so many great organizations and nonprofits here in Petersburg," Burrell said. "But ... I chose this one because it has affected my family in such a big way."

Previous recipients are Dave Berg (2022), Jeannette Ness (2023), Jim Stolpe (2024), and Sue Paulsen (2025).

The parents of the groom and bride are pleased to share the upcoming wedding celebration. The wedding ceremony and dinner reception will be held privately. Friends are invited to join us for festivities following the dinner featuring drinks, dessert, and dancing. This portion of the celebration will begin at 7:30pm at the Sons of Norway Monday, May 25th.





PETERSBURG, FIBER INTERNET IS HERE!

Switching service is disruption-free!

- Lightning fast download speeds - up to 2.5Gb/second!
- Unlimited data available
- Options for no required phone line
- Local customer service

Find out if your home is ready for fiber internet.

Call us at 800.478.7785



National EMS Appreciation Week May 17-23

Honoring the lifesavers in our community



The community of Petersburg recognizes the staff and volunteers of our local emergency medical teams who stay ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The EMS system consists of first responders, EMTs, paramedics, dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other medical care providers.

Members of these teams engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to keep their lifesaving skills sharp.

Let's remember this week and all the time to value their hard work and their contribution to Petersburg.

GUEST EDITORIAL

West Coast and Alaska will pay a price for Trump's war

By **LARRY PERSILY**
Wrangell Sentinel publisher

This is more about who will pay the cost of the president's war on Iran and how it's disrupting the global flow of oil than it is a history lesson about Alaska oil production. But stay with me as I run through the history to get to my point.

Think of it like setting the handle on the gas pump to fill up your tank and watching as the dollars spin by on the screen.

Decades ago, Alaska's North Slope produced so much oil that the supply overwhelmed U.S. West Coast refineries. It required a choreographed system of tankers, barges and pipelines to find homes for all that crude, delivering to refineries as far away as the U.S. Gulf Coast; Albany, New York, up the Hudson River; and the U.S. Virgin Islands in the Caribbean.

That was then but it's not now.

The West Coast consumes a lot more gasoline, diesel and jet fuel today than it did when Alaska oil production peaked at 2 million barrels a day in 1988. The growth in demand — California has added 10 million residents since 1988 — along with a decline in North Slope and California oil production required refineries to look elsewhere for enough crude.

The oil tide turned about a decade ago, when imports to West Coast refineries surpassed domestic crude from California, Alaska, and even some by rail from North Dakota.

Last year, tankers unloaded an average of 225,000 barrels a day from Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates at West Coast refineries, about the same as California produced. Those Persian Gulf deliveries were about half as much as Alaska supplied. Canada was the No. 1 foreign supplier, at an average of almost 370,000 barrels a day.

Brazil, Ecuador and Argentina also have been significant suppliers of crude to California refineries.

But even all that imported crude has not been enough to meet the needs of drivers and flyers, factories and other fuel consumers. So, the West Coast states started to rely more heavily on imports of refined fuels.

The closure of several California oil refineries in the past few years, or their conversion to making biofuels, added to the reliance on imports of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and other products ready to pump into the tank.

South Korea sent an average of 110,000 barrels a day of refined products to the West Coast last year — about 75% of that was jet fuel. Canada refineries delivered an average of 86,000 barrels a day; India, about 38,000 barrels a day. Add in a couple of smaller suppliers and it adds up to more than 250,000 barrels a day.

All this matters because Alaska gets a significant fill of refined fuels from U.S. West Coast refiners and foreign suppliers, particularly Korea.

Which brings me to my point. Alaska is far away from the Persian Gulf, but we are not immune to the financial strain the war is causing.

The president's decision to keep pressing the fight against Iran means that any oil and refined fuels available on the global marketplace are commanding higher prices as refiners need to replace the crude stuck in the Persian Gulf. Which means Alaska, California and Washington state consumers will need to pay higher prices or lose the supplies to someone else who will pay the price.

The moral of the story will hurt the morale of Alaskans when they fill up their car or truck, fishing boat or airplane or heating oil tank this fall: We may not care how they do it Outside but we are connected to the world.

To the Editor

Bear-proof bins at the ballfields are needed

To the Editor:

I'm writing as a frequent user of the Petersburg Ballfields, a volunteer softball coach, and a youth programs coordinator to encourage the Assembly to consider purchasing new bear- and critter-resistant garbage cans for the ballfield complex. Many community members spend time at these fields every week, and throughout the year I often find myself picking up litter around the complex, usually alongside dedicated kids who are helping out. Last week was especially discouraging because ravens had pulled multiple bags of trash out of the cans and scattered garbage across several fields. Beyond making an important community space look neglected, loose litter creates safety concerns for players and families and can become an environmental issue when trash blows into nearby waterways.

I would love to see the Assembly lead by example by installing wildlife-resistant garbage cans at borough-owned facilities. Our community asks residents to properly secure trash to help keep bears and other animals away, and I believe our public spaces should reflect that same commitment. The ballfields are an important gathering place for Petersburg's families, youth programs, and community events. Investing in better garbage cans would help keep the complex cleaner, safer, and more welcoming for everyone who uses it. Thank you for your time and consideration.

With Respect,
Katie Holmlund

You are invited to
KUPREANOF DAY
Saturday, May 23, 2026



FREE Transportation to
the Kupreanof State Dock
from 10am - 3pm @ North Harbor
in front of the Harbor Master's Office
Last departure from Kupreanof is 4pm



For more information:
Website: www.cityofkupreanof.org
Text or call Tonna: (907) 340-2400

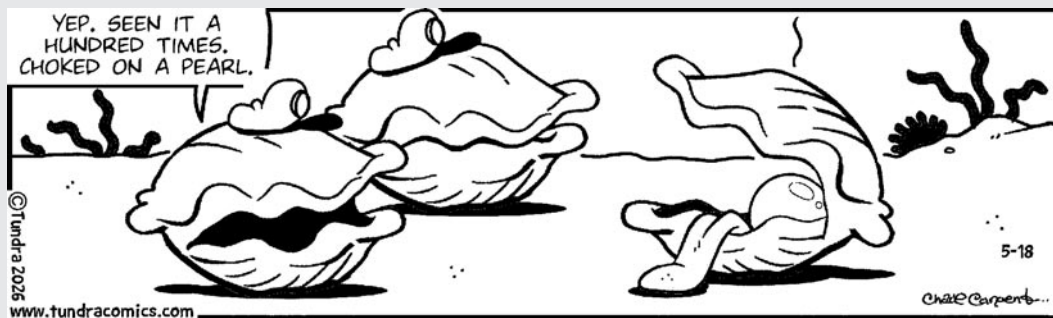
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



2017 GENERAL EXCELLENCE FIRST PLACE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION AND NAMED BEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER IN 2013, 2015 & 2025 BY THE ALASKA PRESS CLUB



Established in February, 1974 • Petersburg's Weekly Newspaper

USPS NO. 053-570-00

Published Weekly by:

PILOT PUBLISHING, INC.

207 N. Nordic Dr., P.O. Box 930 • Petersburg, Alaska 99833

PHONE 907-772-9393 • FAX 907-772-4871

E-MAIL pilotpub@gmail.com

WEB SITE www.petersburgpilot.com

PILOT STAFF:	SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
PUBLISHER AND EDITOR..... Orin Pierson	Single Copy \$2
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS	Local \$82
..... Aiden Luhr	Online Only \$82
..... Jake Clemens	Other Alaska \$94
..... Caleb Morrow	Lower 48 \$104
..... Lizzie Thompson	
PRESS OPERATOR & PREPRESS	Snowbird \$94
..... Ola Richards	First Class Mail \$140
OFFICE STAFF	
..... Lizzie Thompson	
..... Stephanie Hayes	
	SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE



PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT
PETERSBURG, ALASKA 99833
POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to
Petersburg Pilot, Box 930
Petersburg, AK 99833
© Copyright 2026



Petersburg Community Foundation awards grants to nine local nonprofits

By **ORIN PIERSON**
Pilot writer

The Petersburg Community Foundation distributed grants totaling nearly \$50,000 to nine local organizations at its annual award reception Saturday, highlighting during the event that the local foundation's invested endowment has officially crossed \$1 million for the first time.

Board chair Glorianne Wollen opened the ceremony by tracing the milestone back to the foundation's founding in 2008 as an affiliate of the Alaska Community Foundation, when its initial fundraising goal was \$50,000.

"It is a long way from 50,000 to a million," Wollen said, as everyone in the reception raised their glass in a toast to what Petersburg's charitable giving has accomplished.

Nine local nonprofit organizations received grants from the Petersburg Community Foundation this year.

Clausen Memorial Museum received its full ask of \$6,000 toward a roof replacement project, co-funded with the Petersburg Borough and the Rasmuson Foundation. Museum director Sarah Pederson said the grant meant more than its dollar amount.

"This is more than just the money towards the roof," Pedersen said. "It really speaks to the support of the community and their value in the museum and preserving the history of Petersburg moving forward."

Pedersen said she hopes to have a new red metal roof on the building by the end of summer.

Petersburg Public Library received \$4,000 toward a self-service checkout kiosk upgrade, co-funded with the Friends of the Petersburg Library, the Rasmuson Foundation, and the library's own endowment. Director Tara Alcock said the upgrade would free staff from the circulation desk.

"It frees up time for staff to help customers do fun programs," Alcock said.

Alcock also noted the million-dollar milestone, saying she remembered when that figure seemed unimaginable. "In 2008 when the idea of the Petersburg Community Foundation first

came up, and the dream of a million dollars like the Homer Foundation seemed unreal," she said. "How wonderful to hear that this year it has been met."

Petersburg Sons of Norway Hall received \$2,500 toward gutter cleaning, repairs, and installation on the historic 1912 building. Stephanie Thynes said the organization is committed to preserving the structure for future generations.

"We did inherit a very old building, but we love it, and we want to take care of it," Thynes said. "Without your help we wouldn't be able to do that."

Five Finger Lighthouse Society received \$2,400 toward a web camera installation at the historic lighthouse. Jeff Erickson said one camera is already operational, with three more planned — including one at the top of the lighthouse and cameras at corners of the helipad — giving pilots, fishermen, and the public real-time views of weather, passing vessels, and wildlife.

"This is a really good way for everybody to take advantage of seeing what's going on out there," the weather, the whales, Erickson said, also noting that oystercatchers had already built a nest below the first camera.

Muskeg Maleriers rosemaling club received \$2,250 to cover transportation costs for a visiting rosemaling instructor from Oregon. Jean Curry and Polly Koeneman accepted the award and said club members were overjoyed when the grant came through.

"When we received this grant, we were just thrilled, because we had the teacher come from Oregon, and it's expensive," Curry said.

Wollen noted that the club, which traces its roots to 1976, is responsible for the painted rosemaling decorations on storefronts and buildings throughout town. The club meets Mondays at 10:30 a.m. and is open to new members and guests, particularly when visiting instructors are in town.

Petersburg Indian Association received \$1,700 toward safety supplies for a planned canoe journey to Celebration, the biennial gathering of Southeast Alaska Native peoples in Juneau.



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

Lieutenant Joe Duran and Captain Ashley Duran accept the Salvation Army's \$5,000 grant from the PCF. That amount was matched by the Alaska Community Foundation Nourished Communities Fund.

PIA purchased the canoe in December 2024. Wollen described the journey as a symbol of cultural resilience and reconnection with ancestral traditions.

KFSK community radio received \$7,500 toward an antenna air dryer replacement. Julie Hursey described the equipment as essential preemptive maintenance: the air dryer keeps the transmitter line dry, and a failure would require a roughly \$100,000 replacement.

"It's preemptive maintenance, which everybody knows in the harbor is the way to go," said Hursey.

Petersburg Children's Center received \$5,500 from the Community Foundation, matched dollar for dollar by First Bank in a partnership brokered by a PCF board member Rocío Tejera. Children's Center Director Sharlay Mamoe said the news moved her to tears.

"We try not to apply for money unless we absolutely need it ...when I got told that we were fully funded by both organizations, I literally cried," she said. "It definitely takes a village to raise our youngest citizens...and I'm happy to be a part of your village."

Salvation Army received a \$5,000 grant from PCF that was matched dollar for dollar by the



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

Clausen Memorial Museum Director Sarah Pederson describes the long needed museum roof replacement project that will be possible thanks to the grants from the PCF and the Rasmuson Foundation.

Alaska Community Foundation Nourished Communities Initiative, doubling the total award to \$10,000. Ashley Duran said the funds will expand the Salvation Army's holiday food box program, which served roughly 85 households — approximately 300 people — last Christmas.

"There are going to be a lot of smiling, crying faces," she said. She recalled families who arrived in tears the previous year with no food for Christmas. "With the shutdowns that were happening they came to us, and We were able to provide [a] Christmas meal for them."

Alaska Community Foundation Program Officer Jen-

nifer Cross, who attended the reception, said the Nourished Communities Fund was created specifically to address food insecurity across Alaska.

"Hunger and food insecurity is a pervasive issue throughout the entire state, and very much so in Southeastern Alaska," Cross said. "The goal is to grow it so that it could be a very meaningful stream of funding over time for future generations."

Cross noted that the Alaska Community Foundation's model relies on local affiliates like the PCF precisely because local people best understand where philanthropic dollars will have the greatest impact.



TONGASS
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

WORKING THIS SUMMER?
Start with your own debit card!

- Ages 10 - 17*
- Direct deposit your paycheck
- Check your money any time in the app
- Move money fast with in-app transfers
- Get spending and balance alerts
- Keep it SE local, but take it anywhere!

Stop by in Petersburg or visit us online at TongassFCU.com to get started!

*The account must qualify for the debit card if the child is under 16 years old by having an adult joint account holder who is an established TFCU member in good standing. Federally Insured by NCUA.



FURUNO
GARMIN
TZ TIMEZERO

MARINE ELECTRONICS

SEIZE THE MOMENT



FIND THE FISH



114 Harbor Way - 907-772-3100

Tower zoning

Continued from page 1

erence for co-location, meaning that we would prefer that new companies coming in co-locate on an existing tower," Cabrera told the assembly. And for "new towers — part of the requirement would be providing alternate sites. Where did they look, and why were those sites not feasible for them? So it adds a whole level of scrutiny that we have not had before."

The tower site hierarchy has seven tiers, with collocation on an existing tower ranked highest priority, followed by rooftop installations, attachment to an existing building, and finally new standalone towers. Applicants seeking to place a new tower at a lower-priority location must demonstrate to the Planning Commission that higher-ranked options are technically infeasible, structurally impossible, or commercially impractical.

The ordinance would establish a requirement that tower bases must be set back a minimum of 110 percent of their total height from all property lines and road rights-of-way. An additional sensitive-area setback requires 1,500 feet from the property line of any parcel containing a school, assisted living facility, childcare facility, or hospital. No communication tower may be sited within a half-mile of another tower. Towers exceeding 120 feet must be engineered to accommodate at least three antenna arrays; towers exceeding 150 feet must accommodate four.

Cabrera's memo accompanying the ordinance acknowledges the tension between local

siting authority and federal telecommunications law directly. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 prohibits local governments from taking any action that effectively bans wireless service or unreasonably discriminates between providers of functionally equivalent services, and Cabrera's memo notes that setback and spacing requirements can trigger that prohibition if they eliminate all feasible sites within a coverage area. Cabrera writes that the ordinance was specifically designed to avoid that outcome — "the location hierarchy, the waiver process, and the multiple available zones collectively ensure viable sites exist," she argues, preserving the borough's local authority without exposing it to a federal preemption challenge.

Through the waiver process, applicants who cannot meet the ordinance's requirements — for instance because the setback or separation distances leave no workable site — can ask the Planning Commission for an exception, but only if they can demonstrate through certified engineering or RF analysis that strict compliance is genuinely unworkable. The borough can require independent verification of those claims at the applicant's expense.

Each permit application would also require a radio-frequency propagation study certified by a licensed RF engineer, a visual impact analysis with photo simulations at distances of 500 and 1,500 feet, and documentation showing how the proposed site fills a significant coverage gap using the least in-

Caleb Morrow joins Pilot as summer reporter

By **ORIN PIERSON**
Pilot writer

Caleb Morrow is a journalism and communications student at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. This week he arrived in Petersburg to join the newsroom as the Pilot's summer reporting intern.

Morrow's path to journalism started in fourth grade, when he picked "sports journalist" on career day. During high school, when COVID shut down in-person events, he joined his school's broadcasting club that put Morrow behind a microphone doing play-by-play for football games that fans couldn't attend in person.

His junior year, Morrow helped launch a newspaper at his school and took the job of sports reporter. "I went to all the sports games, I would announce them, and then I'd interview the players after ... I just loved covering sports."

Now he writes sports and lifestyle features for The Rocky Mountain Collegian, CSU's daily student newspaper founded in 1891 which publishes digitally four days a week and in print each Thursday.

Morrow says he remains passionate and focused on sports journalism, though he has come to prefer writing over broadcasting.

In Petersburg, he is excited to "focus on improving as a journalist ... interviewing, getting to know this community."

Back in Colorado, Morrow writes for the paper but also has a second job to help cover tuition and is taking 15 credits — pretty non-stop and pulled in many directions. This summer in Petersburg he gets to focus all his



Caleb Morrow

efforts on contributing to the Pilot each week.

A family friend of the Morrows is an avid Pilot reader and told Caleb about Petersburg and the comprehensive community coverage our weekly newspaper publishes.

Morrow reached out, and the Pilot was impressed with the reporting he has published so far.

Caleb will cover a wide swath of Petersburg stories as he broadens his journalism skillset.

"I'm so excited," said Morrow. "The quantity and the quality of stories."

And we're excited to welcome him to the newsroom and share the opportunity to tell Petersburg's story.

trusive means available.

Operators would be required to maintain liability insurance of at least \$1 million per occurrence and \$3 million in the aggregate, and operators would also have to provide a performance guarantee of at least

\$150,000 — either deposited as cash or secured through a surety bond — held by the borough as a guarantee that the tower will be properly removed and the site restored if the facility is ever abandoned or the permit revoked.

Personal-use antennas — including ham radio, CB, and broadcast-reception antennas — are exempted from the new requirements, as are existing legally permitted facilities, which may continue operating as they currently exist. Any modification to an existing facility, however, would trigger review under the new rules.

The ordinance currently applies only within Service Area 1 because the borough's zoning regulations, building code and permitting requirements are only applicable inside Service Area 1. Cabrera confirmed that a separate, future process would be needed to extend Title 19 zoning borough-wide. Until such time, areas outside Service Area 1 — including Papke's Landing or just about any place outside of the former Peters-

burg city limits — would not be subject to these new rules.

Community members who have attended previous assembly meetings to raise concerns about the Tidal Network cell tower installations and a proposed data center continued pressing those issues Monday, with several urging a moratorium on further approvals. Assembly members said the new ordinance, while not retroactive, is intended to prevent similar situations from arising again.

"This is the first line of defense that we've been talking about for a long time," Valentine said.

Mayor Bob Lynn and other assembly members urged anyone with specific concerns or proposed amendments to submit them in writing by May 25 at noon — the deadline for material to be included in the June 1 meeting packet.

"This is a very complicated ordinance — one of the most complicated I've seen," Lynn said. "If you have comments, put those in writing in detail."

Call for Art Proposals!

We're looking for completed art and/or proposals for custom artwork to complete our newly built Wellness, Education and Resource Center

- Proposals Due May 31, 2026
- Eligibility: Alaskan Artists
- Maximum 3 proposals

To view the full call for proposals visit
www.pmcaak.org/Call-For-Art

For Questions:
907-772-5552 or
jwalker@pmc-health.org

Seeking inviting, contemporary art representative of the people of Petersburg, the area's nature-based environment, and Petersburg's unique history.

Quality care,
close to home

PMC: 907-772-4291
Clinic: 907-772-4299



Petersburg
MEDICAL CENTER

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

Those celebrating birthdays this week are: **May 22:** Drew Ware, Judy Henderson, Mary Long. **May 23:** Ryne Martinsen, Sandy Dixon. **May 24:** Chad Lopez, Nicholas Sakamoto. **May 25:** Alex Guthrie, Colin Perry. **May 26:** Rich Weibe. **May 27:** Jared Bell, Jessica Fetters, Mary Kuwata, Rob Benitz, Wynn Lucas. **May 28:** Dustin Guy, Kory Versteeg, Laurel McCullough, Ralph Strickland, Sarah Bermann.

Those celebrating anniversaries this week are: **May 23:** Mel and Sherry Stockton.

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



Hammer & Wikan
HARDWARE

**Memorial Day
Appliance Sale!**
20% Off All
Major Appliances

Sale Ends May 31st

Coleman Kayaks

Sevylor K5
Reg. \$149.99

\$99⁹⁹ /EA.



Sevylor Colorado
Reg. \$279.99

\$189⁹⁹ /EA.



Coleman
Cabin Camping Tent
Instant Set Up
4 Man
Reg. \$199⁹⁹



\$99⁹⁹ /EA.

Alps Mountaineering

Camp Creek Tent
6 Person
Only 2 Available
Reg. \$255⁹⁹



\$179⁹⁹ /EA.

Select
Jet Boil Gear
Starting At
20% Off

Sleeping Bag

Ledge Outdoors
Frontier -20
or
Rocky Gap
0 Degree



\$119⁹⁹ /EA.

Enjoy Your Weekend!

Coleman
X-Cursion Blue
Butane Grill
Reg. \$159⁹⁹



\$79⁹⁹ /EA.

Caddis
Self inflate
Double
Camp Pad
2.5"
Reg. \$71⁹⁹



\$48⁹⁹ /EA.

Stansport
Butane Canister
8oz
Reg. \$6⁴⁹



\$4⁴⁹ /EA.

McKinley
Wood Burning
Fire Pit
40" Round
Reg. \$289⁹⁹



\$149⁹⁹ /EA.

Coghlan's
Heavy Duty
Camp Fork
41"
Reg. \$6⁹⁹



\$4⁹⁹ /EA.

WFS
Quad Chair
W/Arm Rest
Reg. \$19⁹⁹



\$12⁹⁹ /EA.

Family Games America
2 in 1
Sandbag
Game
Mermaid
or Pirate
Reg. \$82⁹⁹



\$61⁹⁹ /EA.

Ocoopa
Turbo Bear
Handheld Fan
Reg. \$12⁹⁹



\$7⁹⁹ /EA.

Fubbles
Bubble Tumbler
Reg. \$11⁹⁹



\$7⁹⁹ /EA.



Hours: Monday -Saturday 8am-6pm, Sunday 8am-5pm.
772-4811 • Fax 772-3642 • Prices Effective: May 21 - May 27
Sales are in retail quantities only. Limit rights reserved.



Scenes from the 68th Little Norway Festival



OLA RICHARDS / Petersburg Pilot

The Vikings and Valkyries swarmed the departure gate at the Petersburg airport on Friday morning to welcome visitors to town for the festival. They gathered around the two Alaska Airlines pilots of flight 64 (pictured back row, center) for a photo.



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

Anniken Huitfeldt, Norway's ambassador to the United States, (pictured center), walks in the Little Norway Festival parade alongside members of her delegation and representatives of Petersburg's Sons of Norway Fedrelandet Lodge #23. Ambassador Huitfeldt wore her bunad from Rogaland given to her by her grandmother. She described her experience of Petersburg's annual celebration of Norwegian Constitution Day as "very, very moving."



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

World class concert pianist Corbin Beisner and Petersburg soprano Stephanie Pfundt take a bow after together performing a piece by Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg during the festival's closing concert in Petersburg Lutheran Church on Sunday evening.



REMI TOLKACHOVA / Petersburg Pilot

Scott Peterson wins the heavyweight division of the Jörmungandr Strongman Sled Pull.



Photo courtesy of Katie Holmlund

Team Harbor Bar — (back row) Krista Griss, Brooks Johnson, Lane Orman, Curt Birchell, Jen Wellner, (front row) Mark Neidiffer, Courtney Thynes, Taylor Pullar, Dalton Small, Tiffany Davis, and Britni Woolley — smile in a team photo after winning the three day long Eric Corl Memorial Mayfest Softball Tournament



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

Holli and Devyn Flint, fresh from the Style Show, wearing their bunader in the festival parade.



OLA RICHARDS / Petersburg Pilot

State Senator Bert Stedman (pictured right) presents former Petersburg Mayor Mark Jensen (center) with an honor from the Alaska State Legislature in recognition of his decades of public service in elected office in Petersburg.



REMI TOLKACHOVA / Petersburg Pilot

Cora Corrao (pictured right) and the rest of the Leikarring Dancers, dressed in the Petersburg bunader, perform Scandinavian folk dances to kick off the festival during the Little Norway Festival Pageant in the high school gym on Thursday.



REMI TOLKACHOVA / Petersburg Pilot

Sue Paulsen presents Ambre and Sig Burrell with the 2026 Norwegian American Award. The honor is bestowed by the Sons of Norway Hall after receiving nominations from the community and the prize includes a beautiful rosemaled wooden trunk specially painted for the occasion by the Muskeg Maleriers.

Spigelmyres

Continued from page 1

when we get to see the little kids' reaction when we come through and disrupt their school day," Don Spigelmyre said. "I know they look forward to it almost as much as we look forward to going in there."

The Petersburg childhood experience of seeing the Vikings and Valkyries has long been a tradition. It now comes full circle for current members.

"Any of the kids that grew up here remember the Vikings and Valkyries coming," Don Spigelmyre said. "These guys get to go back and relive that experience by being a Viking or being a Valkyrie."

The Vikings and Valkyries are iconic to Petersburg. They see generations grow up around them.

"I have friends who hand me their four-month-old baby. I have a picture with them at four months old, and now I'm taking pictures with them when they're 25," Don Spigelmyre said.

The decision to leave that experience behind weighs on the couple. "Bittersweet," Don called it, as a wave of emotion washed over him.

The community involvement means a lot to the couple.

"We were adults when we started this, but I think Petersburg helped us grow up and this club helped us grow up and become who we are," Julie Spigelmyre said.

Don Spigelmyre arrived in Petersburg as a member of the Coast Guard. After around a year, he was approached and invited to join the club.

"I was very, very lucky," Don Spigelmyre said.

Up until that point, no couple had ever joined the club together.

"I wouldn't do it without her," Don Spigelmyre said. "They wanted to make sure that it was something



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

Preparing the trough for the Vikings and Valkyries shrimp feed, Don Spigelmyre pours a basketful of the 300 pounds of shrimp and seafood donated by Tonka Seafoods and Silver Bay Seafoods.

we thought we could handle, and very fortunate it was."

The Spigelmyres forged the way for couples to join the club together, as it has since become more common.

It was before Mayfest week that they decided this would be their last as a Viking and Valkyrie.

"There's that natural ebb and flow," Julie

Spigelmyre said. "It's time to make room, and let the people who've been looking to us for guidance carry on."

During their years, they have seen many members come and go. It is now their turn to go.

"We're kind of the last of the old guard. The guys I came in with are retired," Don Spigelmyre said. "It was time."

The couple is optimistic about the club's future. They said they believe the current members are going to do great things, and carry on their legacy.

"As far as the legacy aspect goes, it's about just making sure that they continue to do good things for the community," Don Spigelmyre said.

There are many things the Spigelmyres will miss. Some aspects more than others.

"I will not miss waking up Saturday mornings and my body hurting from head to toe," Don Spigelmyre said.

But Mayfest without the fur will be a new experience for them.

They don't plan to fully miss out despite their retirement.

"We'll probably end up with a sweater and horns on," Julie Spigelmyre said.

"Knowing my personality, I'll probably go 100% even with the sweater on," Don Spigelmyre said.

After all they have done as Viking and Valkyrie, the Spigelmyres are left with a feeling of gratitude.

"We wouldn't be able to do it without the community ... it's a special place," Julie Spigelmyre said.

"I can't think of anywhere else in the world that you get to do what we get to do," Don Spigelmyre said.

Being a Viking and Valkyrie forges a bond with the community. While the Spigelmyres are retiring from being official members, their legacy is here to stay.

Sales tax cap

Continued from page 1

drawing \$400,000 from reserves to balance that year's budget. Tow warned in 2024 that at that pace, reserves would be depleted in roughly six years if nothing changed.

"It is very unfortunate that this proposition did not pass," Tow said after the 2024 election. "It is going to be a very difficult budget year this spring for the Borough Assembly."

That spring arrived, and the borough did face hard choices — drawing on reserves and approving a 0.8-mill property tax increase for fiscal year 2026 to balance the budget.

Stanton Gregor said the Juneau budget crisis — which has the capital city deciding which schools and pools to close — sharpened his sense of why Petersburg needs to act.

"I would like to get it on the ballot so the community can vote on it," Stanton Gregor said during a Borough Business interview on KFSK earlier Monday. "I hope the community will vote to approve it, so that we don't end up in those really scary conversations of trying to decide whether we value library or parks more."

The single-purchase sales tax cap was established in Petersburg in 1959 at \$1,000 and has been raised only once in the intervening 67 years, going to \$1,200 in 2002. Had it kept pace with inflation since its inception, it would now be close to \$11,300, according to the borough.

Finance Director Tow told

the assembly that more than \$25 million in sales were exempted from taxation in calendar year 2025 because of the current cap, with more than \$6.3 million of that total coming from travel, charter, guides, lodges, hotels and bed-and-breakfast sales. If the borough had no cap at all, she said, it would collect approximately \$1.5 million more per year from those sales.

Raising the cap to \$5,000 would capture a portion of that exempted spending — borough officials estimate it would bring in meaningful additional revenue — while still leaving Petersburg with one of the lowest single-purchase caps in Southeast Alaska.

Assembly Member James Valentine read through the regional comparisons at the meeting: Haines at \$10,000, Juneau at \$15,000, Sitka at \$12,000, Wrangell and Craig at \$5,000, with Ketchikan at \$2,000 per single item and communities including Kake, Skagway, Pelican and Gustavus having no caps at all.

"I feel as though this is a reasonable ask," Valentine said. "It's comparable to what our sister town is doing in Wrangell."

After Petersburg's Proposition 2 failed in 2024, Wrangell's assembly promptly raised its own cap to \$5,000 by assembly action alone, without needing a public vote — an option Petersburg's charter does not allow. Wrangell also charges a 7 percent sales tax rate to Petersburg's 6 percent.

Stanton Gregor and other assembly members framed the increase primarily as a way to capture visitor spending rather than increase the burden on residents, noting that larger purchases during festivals, charter trips, and tourist season would generate much of the additional revenue.

Assembly Member Rob Schwartz pushed back on that framing, noting that local businesses and fishing operations making large purchases would also feel the change.

"It's nice to think about this falling just on visitors, but," Schwartz said, citing an example of a local commercial vessel needing to buy expensive engines. "Local businesses will generate probably quite a bit more money than the visitors from out of town." He said he would still vote yes on the ordinance.

Raleigh Cook, addressing the assembly during public comment, offered a business owner's perspective.

"When I started the business in this town, I was very curious why the cap was at \$1,200," Cook said. "It's about time it was going to change."

The ordinance advances to a second reading at the assembly's June 1 meeting, where a public hearing will be held. If the assembly approves the ordinance in all three readings, the measure will appear on the October 6 ballot.

Finance Director Tow noted that any revenues from a higher cap are not included in the fiscal

year 2027 budget which passed its second reading at the same meeting.

If approved by voters, the higher cap would take effect January 1, 2027.

FIGHT. CURE. WIN.

Let's Celebrate

CANCER SURVIVOR'S DAY

Friday, June 5th, 2026
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

PSG Public Library, Helmi Jensen Community Room
In conjunction with Cancer Support Group. Lunch provided.

For more information call Michele Parker at 907-518-1023

This Public Service Announcement is sponsored by

907-772-3949
www.rockysmarine.com

"Insurance can be confusing — let us make it simple. At our office, you'll find clear answers, honest guidance, and competitive prices. Stop in or give us a call for



the information and support you need to feel confident about your coverage."

Toll Free: (800) 478-3858, Fax: (907) 802-3225
www.p-wins.com
 PO Box 529 Petersburg, AK, 99833



Award-winning Southeast Alaska-based film screening in Petersburg this Saturday

By **CALEB MORROW**
Pilot writer

The camera watches an old man in wet raingear staring at dark clouds and gray sky from his fishing boat in the waters of Southeast Alaska – behind the camera is Ketchikan-filmmaker Emilio Miguel Torres who has toured his film, “The Ladder,” to film festivals across North America. This Saturday, May 23, it will be showing at the Northern Nights theater.

The sci-fi story set in Ketchikan, will be screened twice – at 4 p.m. and at 7 p.m.

The independent film has yet to be released to stream. Instead, it has been touring film festivals around the United States. Torres will be in attendance for a Q&A session after each Petersburg showing.

“I would welcome anyone in Petersburg to come out and see ‘The Ladder.’ It’s a really exciting film,” Torres said.

The film has won 13 awards during its tour and visited 18 different film festivals. The film is shot in the region, with recognizable features and lifestyle to Southeast Alaskans – perhaps more recognizable than other films claiming to take place in Alaska.

“If anyone who lives in Alaska has watched movies that supposedly take place in Alaska, they know that a ton of these movies ... say they take place in Alaska but they don’t really,” Torres said. “I think it’s really fun to take pride that it was made in Alaska.”

Torres said that all but two of the cast members were from Alaska. He was able to raise enough money to produce and shoot the film thanks to his community support.

The film showcases an aging Alaskan fisherman who considers undergoing a new scientific procedure that would transfer his memories into a younger clone of himself. It explores family dynamics that come with growing up in Southeast Alaska and how the small-town community and family influence his decision.

Torres hopes that seeing a locally produced film could yield inspiration within the Petersburg community for artists to do the same.

“One of the big things I hope this film does for Alaska, especially for Alaska artists, is to see that if you want to bring your community together and make a project that’s bigger than yourself, you can do that,” Torres said.

Heather Canik, vice president of Petersburg’s movie theater, has had the film on her radar for a while. She saw the opportunity and contacted Torres, who was screening his film earlier in the week in Ketchikan.

“Watching the trailer, it really feels like Alaska. You really feel that as somebody who grew up here,” Canik said.

The local production of the film Canik said was inspiring for her, as a filmmaker herself.

“I think it’s inspiring

whether you’re an artist or not, just to see representation from here,” Canik said. “Most people here are going to see places they

recognize in the movie, and maybe even people.”

The film, after its showing in Petersburg, is expected to be re-

leased and available to streaming services in July. It is also being released in select theaters on May 22.



Photo courtesy of Emilio Miguel Torres

A behind the scenes moment during production of “The Ladder” showing Emilio Miguel Torres (pictured right) discussing a shot with film crew.

2026

SENIOR GRADUATION NOISE PARADE

Come celebrate the Petersburg High School Class of 2026!

Petersburg Vikings

**Wednesday,
May 27, 2026**

**Lineup:
6:45 p.m.**

**Parade Start Time:
7:00 p.m.**

**Lineup Location:
Petersburg Airport
Parking Lot**

The noise parade will include vehicles and/or trailers decorated and driven by the families of our graduates. Community members are encouraged to come out along the route, make some noise, and help celebrate the Class of 2026!

★ PARADE ROUTE ★

- ➔ Beginning at Petersburg Airport Parking Lot
- ➔ Proceed to Sandy Beach
- ➔ Around Sandy Beach Loop
- ➔ Continue through downtown on Nordic Drive
- ➔ Cross the Hammer Slough Bridge on South Nordic Drive
- ➔ Turn around at the Alaska Marine Highway Parking Lot
- ➔ Continue back on South Nordic headed toward downtown
- ➔ Turn right on Haugen Drive
- ➔ Turn left on North Third Street
- ➔ End at Petersburg High School Parking Lot

Congratulations,

Petersburg Vikings

What's for Lunch?

at Petersburg School District

BREAKFAST IS AVAILABLE
K-5 AT 7:45AM / 6-12 AT 8:50AM

Monday, May 25
No School

Tuesday, May 26
Breakfast
Chef's Choice
Lunch
Pulled Pork and Brown Rice

Wednesday, May 27
Breakfast
Chef's Choice
Lunch
Rock Fish Taco

Thursday, May 28
Breakfast
Chef's Choice
Lunch
WG Turkey Sandwich

Friday, May 29
Breakfast
Chef's Choice
Lunch
Chicken Nuggets with WG Macaroni and Cheese

Don't like Lunch Menu?
Try the Salad Bar
All Meals Served with Milk
Breakfast Served with Fresh Fruit and Juice
*WG = Whole Grain

petersburg pilot
772-9393

King salmon fishing on Petersburg's Blind Slough opens to all recreational anglers, City Creek release site permanently discontinued

By **OLIVIA ROSE**
KFSK Radio

Sport fishing on a popular slough south of Petersburg is open to all anglers this summer.

Recreational anglers can harvest hatchery-produced king salmon in the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area from May 15 to Aug. 15.

The area includes a stretch of the Wrangell Narrows saltwater and the Blind Slough freshwater that the salmon travel through when instinctually returning to the Crystal Lake Hatchery upstream.

Resident anglers can harvest up to two king salmon a day of any size. Nonresidents can harvest up to one per day, and two a year in the terminal harvest area.

It's the first time in a few years that both residents and nonresidents can fish for king salmon in the slough's freshwater, which was closed to nonresidents last year and all anglers the year prior.

That opportunity depends on the number of king salmon expected to return to the hatchery. Managers with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game call those fish broodstock.

"The hatchery needs the returning kings in order to produce the next generation," said Jeff Rice, a state biologist for the Petersburg-Wrangell management area.

Managers forecast about 2,300 king salmon will return this year. That's up from the past two years, which forecasted 1,300 and 1,700 fish, respectively.

Rice said there's one thing that's different about sport fishing king salmon, also called Chinook, on the slough this



Photo courtesy of Olivia Rose/KFSK

Regulatory markers installed on both sides of the slough at Blind River Rapids south of Petersburg indicate the end of the area where recreational anglers are allowed to harvest hatchery-produced king salmon from May 15 to Aug. 15. Fishing is not allowed beyond this marker, where salmon travel upstream to Crystal Lake Hatchery. The markers remain year-round, pictured here on May 2, 2026.

summer: Anglers could be interviewed by Fish and Game staff doing research on the fishing effort and environment there.

"We got money for a micro creel survey to be performed out at Blind Slough over potentially the next three years, and this will be the first year of it," Rice said, noting the 2026 budget for the operation is estimated at \$20,000. "So we will have a technician out there, creeling people's catch and taking some biological samples from their king salmon, to give us a better idea of the user group that's out there and how much is being harvested."

Rice said the short-term survey program is specifically for the Blind Slough freshwater area — one technician seeing

what's happening on the slough, gathering as much information as possible from anglers about fishing effort and observing wildlife interactions. He said they plan to publish a preliminary report on the data each year, and that getting more information through the survey, "will help inform management decisions on the slough moving forward."

There's another difference that anglers fishing hatchery kings near Petersburg should know, Rice said: The City Creek release site north of town is permanently discontinued as of this year.

Anglers fished hatchery salmon released at City Creek for about a decade. However, the state stopped releasing salmon at the site in 2022, citing chal-

lenges with funding, limited broodstock, and proximity to the Stikine River between Petersburg and Wrangell. Sport fishing remained open at City Creek through last year to allow anglers to harvest the fish returning there. The remaining hatchery king salmon returns "are negligible" according to the state.

Now those waters are just part of the larger fishing district, which is closed to retention until mid-July.

Two other hatchery areas near Petersburg and Wrangell open next month: Anita Bay at Etolin Island near Wrangell, and Gunnuk Creek by Kake.

"The area they're in wouldn't be open until June 15, but we allow people to start on June 1 there because of the hatchery fish," said Rice.

The sport fishing harvest rules for both the Anita Bay and Gunnuk Creek hatchery areas are the same as the rest of the region. Residents can harvest two king salmon a day that are longer than 28 inches; nonresident anglers can take one, but the fish do count toward a nonresident angler's annual harvest limit. That's different from the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area, where those fish do not count toward the regional nonresident annual limit. The nonresident annual harvest limit is no more than three king salmon, and that window of opportunity drops to a single fish after June 30.

Sport fishing is managed in-season, announced by the state.

This story was first published at www.kfsk.org and is reprinted here with permission.

Petersburg's hospital prepares first MRI machine for patients after months of waiting

By **TAYLOR HECKART**
KFSK Radio

Inside a small booth with a large glass window, Petersburg Medical Center Radiology Manager Sonja Paul was running Petersburg's new MRI machine through a quality control test.

"These machines can get pretty loud," she explained, turning up the volume on a nearby speaker. "It sounds like a lot of knocking, hammers, ticks, things like that."

An MRI is a medical device that takes images of soft tissues in your body — like your tendons or your brain — using powerful magnetic fields. Those images can help diagnose joint and back injuries, tumors, and strokes. The loud knocking sounds were coming from a piece of equipment that keeps the MRI's magnets cool.

The fact that this device, loud knocking and all, is now in Petersburg is a big deal in the small community.

Residents regularly have to travel to larger cities by boat or plane to receive specialized healthcare. And Paul said an MRI can be a common requirement before other specialized procedures.

According to the hospital's 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment, nearly half of the 270 people surveyed said they had to travel outside Petersburg to get an MRI, while 7% said they or someone they knew had to delay or skip their appointments because of

travel.

"So we're hoping that with these services here, it will just reduce one more trip that a patient has to take," Paul said. "They'll be able to complete this exam here before meeting with a specialized provider."

It's been a long process to get the MRI ready and online. The equipment has been installed in the hospital's Wellness Education & Resource

Center, or WERC building, since late last year. But the hospital has been waiting on a state regulatory process called a certificate of need before radiology staff could start seeing patients.

Community members submitted more than 100 letters to the state supporting the MRI during the certificate of need process.

While it's been a long wait,

Petersburg Medical Center CEO Phil Hofstetter said it's given the hospital some time to work out some kinks.

"We had some brownouts that affected the equipment," he said. "We had to get other equipment in place, like a big UPS [Uninterrupted Power Supply] system, which keeps it steady and not affected by some of the electrical brownouts locally."

The hospital finally got its certificate of need from the state at the end of April, and Hofstetter said it will take the hospital roughly a month to get the MRI ready for patients.

He said many people in the community are ready to put their names down for an appointment.

This story was first published at www.kfsk.org and is reprinted here with permission.

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

FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

SATURDAY June 6th & SUNDAY June 7th, 2026.



WHO'S ELIGIBLE: All residential customers; **limited to a combined 220 pounds per customer.** Please contact the Baler Facility at 772-3228 or Public Works at 772-4430 for more information.

WHAT'S ELIGIBLE: Solvents, Oil, Paint, Antifreeze, Cleaners, Poisons, Acids, Caustics, Furniture Stripper, Herbicides, Pesticides, Printing and Photographic Chemicals, Batteries, Stain, all other household hazardous wastes EXCEPT for the items listed below.

WHAT'S NOT ELIGIBLE: Explosives, Blasting Caps and Gun Powder. Reactives such as Sodium Metal, Radioactive Waste and Asbestos Containing Material.

WHERE: Petersburg Borough Solid Waste Baling Facility, 1301 Reservoir Road.

WHEN: Saturday, June 6th & Sunday, June 7th, 2026 from 9am – 3pm.

SPONSORED BY: PETERSBURG BOROUGH in partnership with: Republic Services

Published: May 21, 28 and June 4, 2026



PHS Boys Relay Team sets two school records at Capital City Invitational

As a team, PHS collects 37 new personal bests in record-breaking meet

By AIDEN LUHR
Pilot writer

A few weeks ago and during their first meet of the season, the Petersburg boys 4x100 relay team came within a few mere seconds of setting a new school record. After the meet, the team consisting of Brayden Tucker, Alex Homgrain, Noah Pawuk and Jakob Preisler planned to set a new school record.

This past weekend, a new school record was born in the 4x100 and 4x200 relay.

The 4x100 team ran an official time of 46 seconds (46.41) and the 4x200 team, consisting of Brayden Tucker, Nolan Lutomski, Noah Pawuk and Ben Kandoll, ran an official time of 1:36.05.

"I felt like we went into [the meet] looking for the school record, so it's nice to get there," Kandoll said.

Even during the race and while watching their teammates run their leg of the relay, the team had a good feeling they were in the midst of entering the school record books.

"Getting off the first curve in the 200, I saw Brayden standing there [on the side] cheering me

on and that's when I knew I had to get out [and run]," Kandoll said.

Kandoll may have had confidence in breaking the school record for the 200 but Preisler was a little more cautious regarding the 100.

"I wasn't that sure during the race, I got the time after the race and the Sitka and Ketchikan team were right in front of me and I thought because they were in front of us, that we didn't have the best time," Preisler said. "I got surprised and was pretty happy and I think the team was also pretty happy."

The 4x100 relay team finished third and the 4x200 relay team finished first.

It wasn't just school history being made, the team also claimed 37 new personal bests and more first place finishes.

"Emilia Anderson finished first in shot put. Arielle Tucker really showed out and PR'd in every event she was in," head coach Casey Gates said. "She's got a unique style where she hangs back and then smokes everybody on the last lap.

The team is hitting their stride in time for regions and states while building camaraderie



Photo courtesy of Klas Stolpe / Juneau Independent

Petersburg High School sophomore Cadence Flint wins the girls high jump with a personal best height of 4'9" during the Capital City Invitational at Thunder Mountain Middle School's Falcons Stadium, Friday, May 15, 2026.

along the way.

"The kids are having a good time. It was good, positive vibes the whole time and really put us in a good spot for regionals this weekend," Gates said.

Gates noted how the team's chemistry has continued to grow as the season reaches its end point.

First year runners such as David Owens continued his strong season by claiming new PR's in his events.

"I see a kid that's thrilled to be a part of everything. Probably more excited to be a part of the team instead of his own individual events but he goes out there and gets it done," Gates said.

The 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams are gonna have stiff

competition at regions and potentially state but Gates has strong hopes, especially for the latter.

"4x200, great opportunity to win. 4x100 is going to be difficult, Sitka has a really strong team. Both squads have I think have a great chance of going to state," Gates said.

After the Capital City Invitational, the team is poised to have strong outings at regions.

"I think this meet made us as a team stronger and bring us closer together and it was [meet] good for team dynamics and our scores," Preisler said.

The boys team finished fourth with 89 points and the girls team finished third with 116.5 points.

The Region V Championships will be May 22-23, in Ketchikan.

"I'm looking to get a win in the 400 at regions and then at state, I think the 4x200 team is looking to medal," said Kandoll.

Two for the record books:

- 4x100 Relay (46.41)
Brayden Tucker, Alex Homgrain, Noah Pawuk, Jakob Preisler
- 4x200 Relay (1:36.05)
Brayden Tucker, Nolan Lutomski, Noah Pawuk, Ben Kandoll

Personal Bests:

- 100 Meters:
Jakob Preisler (11.63)
David Owens (27.69)
- 400 Meters:
Alex Homgrain (57.43)
- 1600 Meters:

- Andi Mihai (5:19.08)
- Kaleb Kerr (5:22.09)
- Arielle Tucker (5:48.54)
- Sophia Cotta (6:20.63)
- 3200 Meters:
Joseph Hofstetter (11:30.21)
- Andi Mihai (11:31.95)
- Kaleb Kerr (11:37.45)
- Sophia Cotta (12:44.80)
- Zia Hulebak (13:01.16)
- 110m Hurdles:
Nolan Lutomski (18.85)
- 100m Hurdles:
Madelyn Dreisbach (20.59)
- 300m Hurdles:
Noah Pawuk (43.94)
- Boys 4x100 Relay-A (46.41)
- Boys 4x100 Relay-B (51.83)
- Girls 4x100 Relay (56.86)
- Boys 4x200 Relay (1st place, 1:36.05)
- Boys 4x400 Relay (3:59.91)
- Boys 4x800 Relay (10:03.23)
- Shot Put:
Emilia Anderson (1st place, 29' 6.5")
- Jakob Preisler (31' 7")
- Cedar Helms (30' 0")
- Payton Dreisbach (27' 10.5")
- David Owens (8' 6.75")
- Discus:
Cedar Helms (77' 8.5")
- Emilia Anderson (82' 9.5")
- Gabriele Whitacre (76' 2")
- Zia Hulebak (44' 10")
- High Jump:
Cadence Flint (1st place, 4' 9")
- Tyson Reid (5' 0")
- Long Jump:
Alex Holmgrain (16' 11")
- Levi Reed (15' 2")
- Anna Lucas (11' 2.5")
- Triple Jump:
Nolan Lutomski (35' 6")
- Conor Oppenheim (31' 8")

PETERSBURG REXALL DRUG WILL BE

CLOSED

IN HONOR OF MEMORIAL DAY

WE WILL RE-OPEN
TUES. MAY 26
AT 9:30AM - 5:30P

Stock up for the weekend!

* Asst. Flags	* Sunglasses
* Asst. Silk Flowers	* Sun Screen
* Lip Gloss	SPF 10 - 70
* Bug Dope	

Congratulations
Class of 2026

Have an enjoyable, and fun weekend!

PETERSBURG
Rexall Drug

"We treat your family as we treat our own."

On Main Street • 772-3265 • www.petersburgrexalldrug.com

Closed Sunday and Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day



Remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice

We will be closed on Memorial Day
Monday, May 25th

petersburg pilot
PETERSBURG, ALASKA

207 N. Nordic Drive 772-9393



In Loving Memory of

SUSAN WANBERG

November 3, 1948–May 3, 2026

Susan Wanberg, 77, passed away peacefully on May 3, 2026 with her family by her side. Susan was born on November 3, 1948, in Petersburg, Alaska, to Thomas Wanberg and Genevieve (Murray) Wanberg.

She was the middle of three siblings, with an older brother, Daniel “Danny” Wanberg, and a younger sister, Laurie Dunham. Susan spent her childhood in Petersburg and graduated from Petersburg High School.

She received a scholarship to attend beauty school in Eugene, Oregon, before moving to Juneau, where she met and married Edwin Johnson. She eventually settled in Ketchikan, Alaska, where she lived nearly 50 years.

A hardworking and independent woman, Susan owned and operated several businesses throughout her life, including a traffic maintenance company and a bed and breakfast. Her son-in-law, Kevin Johnson, affectionately described her as a “tough broad who I get along with very well.” Susan was an avid gardener and an adventurous traveler who loved sharing her passions with her family and friends. Her devotion to her family and her friends was the cornerstone of her life, and she poured her whole heart into nurturing those she held dear.

Susan is lovingly remembered by her daughter Bernadette Jakeman and son-in-law John Jakeman, and daughter Johanna Johnson and son-in-law Kevin Johnson; by her cherished grandchildren Callum Jakeman, Aksel Jakeman, Sigmen Johnson, and Auddilie Johnson; and by her dear friends.

A Celebration of Life Open House will be held
Saturday, July 11, 2026 from 1-3 p.m. at
14951 N. Tongass Hwy, Ketchikan, Alaska.

Library News



Library Hours: Monday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Tuesday – Thursday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Friday – Saturday, 11a.m. – 6 p.m.; Closed Sunday.

The Library will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

Year of Reading Challenge! / For teens & adults / All new prompts with prizes awarded monthly! / Register at psglib.beanstack.org

Make Buoy Earrings with Ashley Lohr / Wednesday, May 27 / 5 – 7:30 p.m. / For Adults (\$70) and Teens age 14+ (free) / Registration Required at psglib.org

Yoga with Karen Malcom / Saturday, May 30 / 11 a.m. – noon / \$5, pay at the front desk / bring your own mat / For beginners and seasoned Yogis.

Wiggle & Giggle! / Wednesdays in June / 11a.m. – noon / For kids ages 0 – 5 with a caregiver, join us for a rollicking good time with story and playtime fun!

Raven Reads with Teacher

Bandi Heppel! / Every Saturday in June! / 11 a.m. – noon / For families with children ages 0 – 7 / Join us for a story paired with Alaska Native cultural activities for young children. Everyone is welcome! / Sponsored by Sealaska Heritage Institute.

Rainforest Writers with Orin Pierson / A 4-session workshop on Saturdays in June / 2:30 – 5 p.m. / For Adults (\$60) / Registration is required at psglib.org

The GREAT SUMMER CHALLENGE begins Friday, June 5! / For ages 0 – 13 / Collect a reward for each weekly goal achieved! / Register at psglib.beanstack.org / Sponsored by FHLB Des Moines and our

many other generous donors. **NewsBank** / Stay connected to Alaska and the world by using your library card to access online news sources for FREE! / Check it out today at psglib.org/newsbank

Need technology help? The Library’s Digital Navigator can help. Book an appointment by contacting the Library’s front desk.

Looking for an audio book, ebook, or online Magazine? Download the FREE Libby App today and have access to the Alaska Digital Library at your fingertips.

Need help? Call us at 907-772-3349, or email: library@petersburgak.gov

Public Notices

Read the
• BE AN INFORMED CITIZEN • PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY
• EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will hold a regular board meeting on **May 28, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the **Nolan Center in Wrangell, Alaska.** For additional information, please call 907.228.2281.



Published: May 21, 2026

Public Notices

Read the
• BE AN INFORMED CITIZEN • PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY
• EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Southern Southeast Area Office

Preliminary Written Finding under AS 38.05.035(e) and AS 38.05.945

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF), gives formal notice under AS 38.05.945 that the Division has made a preliminary Best Interest Finding decision under AS 38.05.035(e) and proposes to adopt a site-specific Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) under AS 38.05.112 and the administrative standards of AS 41.17.060 regarding the sale of the following commercial timber sale: Heceta Island Timber Sale (SSE-1357-K).

Before this sale may be held, the Commissioner will make a written final decision that the sale is in the best interest of the State. This decision will set out the facts and applicable policies upon which the Commissioner bases his determination that the proposed timber sale will or will not best serve the interest of the State. The final decision is expected to be available to the public after June 15, 2026.

The draft Forest Land Use Plan is intended to provide the best available information regarding the proposed timber harvest on 183 acres, and the management of other non-timber uses in compliance with AS 38.05.112 and AS 41.17.060 and must be adopted by the DOF before the proposed activity can occur. The Forest Land Use Plan is expected to be available to the public with or after the issuance of the final best interest decision.

The timber sale area is centered on the Camp Cove area of Heceta Island. The timber sale area is found within Sections 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 27 of Township (T) 70S South(S), Range (R) 78 East (E), and Sections 12, 13, 23 and 24 of T70S, R77E all referenced to the Copper River Meridian (CRM). The sale area is found within the Craig C-5 USGS quadrangle. General access to the sale area is by the United States Forest Service (USFS) 1445 Road which is connected to the log transfer facility at Port Alice and the Camp Cove public dock, both of which are owned and maintained by the USFS.

Two harvest units total approximately 183 acres and contain approximately 6,500 MBF of timber. This volume will be advertised and sold under provisions of AS 38.05.120, in the form of one or multiple sales.

The public is invited to comment on any aspect of the preliminary decision. Comments can be mailed to the Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection, 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 or emailed to dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov. Comments must be received by the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection office no later than June 15, 2026, in order to be considered in the final best interest finding decision of whether or not this sale will be held in whole or in part or to be considered in the adopted FLUP. To be eligible to appeal the final decision or the adopted FLUP, a person must have provided written comment by June 15, 2026.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS CONTACT:

Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection **Contact: Greg Staunton**
2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213 **Phone: (907) 225-3070**
Ketchikan, AK 99901 **Email: dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov**

Copies of the preliminary decision are available for review at the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection at the above address and at the Ketchikan, Craig, Petersburg and Wrangell and Edna Bay Public Libraries and the State Online Public Notice System at: <http://notice.alaska.gov/223819>.

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate in this review may contact the number above.

Published: May 21 and 28, 2026

Senior Meals

Monday, May 25

The kitchen is closed. Happy Memorial Day!

Tuesday, May 26

French Bread Pepperoni Pizza, Spinach Salad,
Orange Slices, Cookie

Wednesday, May 27

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce,
Garlic Bread, Green Salad,
Sliced Pears

Thursday, May 28

Pork Gravy over Mashed
Potatoes, Vegetables, Apple,
Chocolate Mousse

Friday, May 29

BLT, Chips, Pudding Cup,
Muffin, Banana



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.

**FACILITY MAINTENANCE
JOB OPENING**



Applicants to apply online at silverbayseafoods.com or call (907) 772-4294 for more information.

Silver Bay Seafoods, Petersburg
P.O. Box 1147 • Petersburg, Alaska 99833
Telephone: 907-772-4294

JOBS

Now hiring in Petersburg, Alaska Executive Director for Working Against Violence for Everyone - WAVE. We are seeking an energetic, passionate, trauma informed leader for our mission driven 501(c)(3) organization. At WAVE, we work on preventing root causes of violence and provide advocacy for survivors of power-based, personal violence. Responsibilities include fiscal and budget management including grant writing and reporting, program and staff development and management, community and support to the Board of Directors. Position open until filled.

petersburgwave.org/careers
.....tfn3-5b80
First Bank is looking for a Customer Service Representative/Teller for the Petersburg Branch. If you like to work with customers, enjoy problem solving, are dependable,

ISLAND LEGAL SERVICES

Southeast Alaska based law firm providing in person and remote services.

- Contracts
- Estate Planning
- Business Governance

Free Consultations
Phone: (901) 235 2320
Website: islandlegal.net

and you are interested in the position, stop by the branch and let's talk about it. Previous experience is not required. Application can be found online at www.FirstBankAK.com or at the branch. We offer competitive salaries, health insurance, paid holidays, vacation, 401 (k) retirement plans, employees stock ownership plans and educational opportunities.
.....tfn11-13b77



907-978-6365
Musical Equipment & Lessons
Accepting used instruments for consignment & purchase.
223 S. Nordic Dr.

The Salty Pantry is looking for enthusiastic full-time and part-time people to join our team. Contact Mindy at 907-518-0571 or stop in the Salty Pantry at 14 Harbor Way.
.....tfn10-30b29
Join the PW Insurance Team!

SPERL RESIDENTIAL LLC.
General Contractor

Roofs, Remodels & additions



Schedule NOW for Fall & Winter
Call or text: 907-518-1604
donaldsperl@gmail.com

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 or email generalmanager@kfsk.org.

Anchor PROPERTIES

See what properties are for SALE in Petersburg



www.apalaska.com

We are hiring a customer service representative with the opportunity to transition to an insurance producer if desired. The ideal candidate is enthusiastic, detail-oriented, and willing to learn. We are looking for someone with customer service experience and strong communication skills. If you thrive in fast-paced environments and enjoy building relationships, this is the job for you! Salary DOE, minimum starting wage \$24 per hour. Please call 907-772-3858 or text 907-802-5366 for more information or visit www.p-wins.com/job-posting to apply.
.....tfn5-15b84

Wanted: boat/crew to harvest outside southeast black cod.
907-738-1439
.....tfn5-1b9

WANTED



NOW HIRING: at Mountain View Manor

No experience? No problem!
Mountain View Manor is hiring caring, dependable **Resident Assistants** for 40-hour permanent positions on day and grave shifts and **Assisted Living Cook**.

Starting pay: \$20.67/hour
Grave shift differential: +\$1.25/hour
Benefits include: Health insurance, Life insurance, Retirement

Applications are available on the Borough website or at the Borough Office.

Visit www.petersburgak.gov and click "Employment" to learn more and apply. Call 907-772-5404 for more information.



Small dog plus grey white cat need a new home together - owner must relocate to Mountain View Manor. Message 907-772-4443
.....3x6-4p20

FOR SALE

Stressless power recliner. Dark gray. Very Little use. \$4000 new. \$3000. Call Anne 907-518-1912
.....2x5-28b14

Two mustang survival suits, orange. Small (36-38) and medium (38-42). Keep warm and dry on your boating and outdoor trips. \$75ea. Anne 907-518-1912.
.....2x5-28b23

MISCELLANEOUS

Classified deadline is 5 p.m. each Tuesday for ads appearing in Thursday's paper. Call 772-

ALASKA FIBRE INC.

2.74 Mile Mitkof Hwy.
772-2173

9393 or drop by at 207 N. Nordic Drive.
.....1x5-21dh

KEN'S PAINTING:

Interior/Exterior Painting & Power Washing at an affordable price
772-2010 or 772-2028

Office supplies available at Petersburg Pilot. Paper and pens to crayons. We've got it all. 207 N. Nordic Drive.
.....1x5-21dh

NOTICES

Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255



There are exciting career opportunities available at **PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER**

COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

Petersburg Medical Center is accepting applications for:

CLINIC RECEPTION AND ADMISSIONS

- Point of contact for patients/visitors
- Handles patient scheduling, flow and registration
- Starting wage \$21.75 per hour dependent upon experience
- Full time, 40 hours per week

BUSINESS OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

- Welcomes patients/visitors to PMC Business Office, explains insurances, patient balances, and policies
- Starting wage \$21.75 per hour, dependent upon experience
- Full time, 40 hours per week, M-F

Benefits:

- Health Insurance
- Enrollment in State of AK PERS
 - PTO (Vacation & Holidays) + Sick Leave
- Wellness Program, Community Gym Discount



PMC is Celebrating National Speech, Language, and Hearing Month

Hannah and Phil



SCAN CODE to view position descriptions & to apply online. Additional career opportunities are listed at pmcak.org

Choose from many FULL-TIME & PART-TIME, benefited positions

Additional information on PMC, our mission / values and job opportunities is available at www.pmcak.org. Questions contact Cindy at (907) 772-5719 or cnewman@pmc-health.org.

Pension veto

Continued from page 1

month that the gas pipeline bill should be the Legislature's top priority.

In March, he introduced two identical bills, one in the House and one in the Senate, with his ideas. Legislators have since held dozens of hearings on those ideas.

If enacted, the governor's proposal would largely exempt the gas pipeline and supporting infrastructure from state and local property taxes levied on petroleum property. In place of the property tax, the state would levy a tax on gas transported by the pipeline.

The pipeline's lead developer, multinational firm Glenfarne, has said the change is necessary for it to successfully obtain financing needed to build the pipeline project.

Alaska LNG, as it is known, would ship gas through an 800-mile pipeline, from the North Slope to Southcentral Alaska. As currently planned, the first phase of the project would deliver gas to Alaskans in 2029 and the second phase would allow foreign exports by 2031.

While state legislators generally support the idea of a pipeline, they have balked at the governor's planned tax breaks, particularly because Glenfarne has thus far declined to provide new estimates for the cost of construction or its expected cost of gas when the pipeline is complete.

That has made it impossible for them to determine whether the proposed tax break is too large, too small, or just right.

House and Senate each took the governor's ideas and amended them. Both increased the proposed gas tax — formally known as an "alternative volumetric tax" — mandated construction of a spur line to Fairbanks and required Glenfarne provide early payments to communities affected by pipeline construction.

Senators went further, proposing price controls on gas shipped through the pipeline to Alaskans, an end to a tax exemption that would benefit Glenfarne, and small increases to the state's oil taxes.

With both bills far from completion, Kopp began negotiating with the governor's office on a

possible compromise.

Kopp has been supporting a pension revival for a decade, and sought a deal that would accomplish two personal goals that also are among the legislative majorities' top priorities.

On Monday, after days of work, he introduced a compromise gas pipeline proposal as an amendment to Senate Bill 180. That bill was originally written as a one-sentence change to state law pertaining to liquefied natural gas import terminals.

Kopp's amendment, 22 pages long, was adopted, and House lawmakers began debating, one after another, hours of amendments to Kopp's amendment.

In the back of the House chambers, advisers to the governor — who have been working closely with Glenfarne — provided feedback on whether each amendment was acceptable.

One amendment from Rep. Robyn Niayuq Frier, D-Utqiagvik, derailed that process. Adopted on a 21-19 vote by the House, it would allow the North Slope Borough to negotiate directly with Glenfarne on taxes.

Frier represents the North Slope Borough, and because the project's large gas treatment plant would be located there, the borough would lose a disproportionate amount of tax revenue with a switch from property taxes to the alternative volumetric tax.

"The amendment was completely necessary," Frier said afterward, explaining that the borough had been asking for it.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough, planned site of the export terminal, accepted the alternative tax, and lawmakers from that region did not propose amendments similar to Frier's.

Frier said North Slope officials talked with all of the stakeholders, with the governor's office and Glenfarne.

"We always knew this was going to be an issue, and I don't understand why this is such a big deal. They could have been negotiating. They should have been negotiating," she said.

Frier said that rather than try to push through a major bill in a single day, she would like to see lawmakers focus on House Bill 381, the House's gasline bill,

in a 30-day special session.

"We need to do the proper vetting, we need the modeling, we need it to go through the Department of Revenue. ... We need people to weigh in, not trying to shove this in at the last minute. This is not good process," she said.

Lawmakers in favor of Kopp's compromise were unable to quickly reverse Frier's amendment, and the Senate adjourned shortly after 10 p.m., leaving no avenue for Kopp's amendment to pass through the Capitol on Monday.

Kopp said afterward that he had negotiated a deal to sidestep Frier's amendment, but with the Senate adjourned until after the window to veto the pension bill, he said the governor was uninterested.

"He feels like the outcome has to be 100% controlled. ... The House was in position to send over a good gasline bill. The governor simply did not care, because he had to have it in the bag. To me, that's disappointing, and to me that was very shortsighted," Kopp said.

With the deal dead, the House adjourned for the day just after 10:30 p.m. The governor's veto message arrived in the House clerk's office shortly afterward, at 10:39 p.m.

"I share the Legislature's goal of strengthening recruitment and retention for Alaska's public workforce," the governor said in his veto message. "However, House Bill 78 contains unresolved legal, tax, administrative, and fiscal issues that create uncertainty for the State, employers, employees, and the retirement systems themselves."

Kopp, visibly frustrated, sat in his office after the House's adjournment.

"He has no allies in the Senate that can help him on the gasline. I was his No. 1 ally in the entire Legislature," Kopp said, "and he killed the pension bill that I carried. That was his thank you to me. So, I'll remember that."

Devoted to your care.

Committed to your family's health and well-being.



peacehealth.org/ketchikan-childbirth



BOAT LOAN PROMOTION

ADVENTURE Starts at the Docks.

6.50% APR*
ON NEW BOAT LOANS
120 Month Term



APPLY TODAY!

6.95% APR**
ON NEW BOAT LOANS
180 Month Term



FIRST BANK
The one who's here.

103 North Nordic Dr • 772.4277

Member FDIC

*APR is effective as of April 10, 2026, is based on a \$100,000 loan with a 120 month term, zero down payment, and monthly payments of \$1,136.63. APR may increase based on credit score. Rate and Term are subject to change.

**APR is effective as of April 10, 2026, is based on a \$100,000 loan with a 180 month term, zero down payment, and monthly payments of \$896.94. APR may increase based on credit score. Rate and Term are subject to change.

Marine, Commercial and Industrial Refrigeration
• Petersburg • Wrangell • Southeast, AK

ISLAND REFRIGERATION LLC **Serving the Fleet of Petersburg**

RSW Systems, Blast Freezers, Plate Freezers.
Piping and Controls.

We install and repair any type of process chilling system, customized to your needs.

www.islandref.com

Call 907-772-3310 or visit the office in Petersburg located at 908 S. Nordic (Alaska Commercial Electronics building)