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petersburg
PETERSBURG, ALASKA



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Coast Guard helicopter crashes during rescue Petersburg emergency services respond, all 4 crew survive

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

Late Monday night, a Coast Guard MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Air Station Sitka crashed on Read Island in Farragut Bay during a search and rescue mission for a nearby fishing vessel — leaving four helicopter crew members in need of urgent rescuing, as well.

The prompt response from Petersburg's emergency services played a crucial role in the successful rescue operation that resulted in the survival of all four helicopter crew members.

Two members were discharged from the hospital Wednesday morning according to the latest public update from the Coast Guard. The other two members who arrived with serious injuries have since improved and are now listed in fair condition at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

The Coast Guard crew was en route to deliver dewatering pumps to the Lydia Marie fishing vessel — which initially called for assistance with flooding at approximately 8:06 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 13.

Sector Southeast watchstanders in

Juneau received a distress call about the helicopter crash from the Lydia Marie at around 11:05 p.m. and contacted the Petersburg Police Department dispatchers.

The initial report described the crew's condition as one walking wounded, one seemingly okay, one with a suspected broken femur and one with condition unknown. Advanced Life Support (ALS) was requested on scene.

Petersburg's emergency services, including two troopers, one police officer, and five Search and Rescue members quickly mobilized.

At 11:28, a text was sent out for Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteers to report to the fire hall.

Petersburg Police Officer Drew Ayriss, Alaska Wildlife Troopers Captain Derek DeGraaf and Sergeant Cody Litster departed Petersburg for the scene first in the troopers high speed patrol vessel.

PVFD EMT-IIs Dan Bird and Aaron Hankins gathered resources from a PVFD ambulance for providing preliminary medical care at the site.

They set out on the harbor depart-

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Photo courtesy of Aaron Hankins

A U.S. Coast Guard M-60 Jayhawk helicopter crashed in the tree line on Read Island during a search and rescue mission. All four crew members survived the crash.

IBEW and Borough ratify new contract

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

The Petersburg Borough and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) agreed to increase wages for union workers in the most recent ratified contract approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly on Nov. 6.

The Petersburg Municipal Power & Light department (PMPL) has struggled for over a

Continued on page 16



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

Viking Swim Club hosts November Rain

Tori Miller, age 11, takes first in the 200 yard butterfly event on Friday evening. See the swim meet story on page 9.



4 09642 46356 1

Yesterday's News

News from 25-50-75-100 years ago

November 16, 1923 – What for a time looked like a serious accident occurred to the steamer Northwestern as she was pulling away from the Petersburg dock last Saturday. In rounding the red spar buoy into the channel opposite the town, the vessel refused to answer her helm and plowed into the sand bar in front of the Hanseth homestead. When she finally stopped, her bow was within a few feet of dry land and she was apparently tightly stuck. Scows were immediately towed to the scene and considerable concentrates from the forward hold were lightered. After a wait of about two hours the ship was backed off the bar uninjured and proceeded on her way. One fortunate circumstance was the fact that the tide had two hours to raise following the accident, otherwise the boat would have been stuck on the bar for a month as she went aground on the last high tide of the month. Captain Glasscock reported

from Wrangell that the boat was not taking any water and that she would get away from Seattle on her regular schedule.

November 12, 1948 – Progress – like it did with the pony express – has caught up with the dog team express. The railway mail service announced it was lifting winter restrictions on parcel post traffic between the states and the Seward peninsula and Nome areas. The regulations, which prevented persons in those areas from sending and receiving parcels between November 1 and March 31, were of long-standing. Originally, they were intended to cut down the loads carried by dog teams. Loads carried by dog teams were handled at extremely high cost. In the past, parcels from the states were held up at Seattle until spring. The air age, the railway service said, has changed all that. Air service has increased to the point where it is possible to serve outlying communities on a year-round basis.

November 15, 1973 – There is no immediate danger of Petersburg running out of water according to City Manager Scougal. “There is an adequate supply for the present but there is none to waste,” he said. The cold weather Petersburg has experienced during the past two weeks has reduced the

level of the city’s reservoir but not to that of four years ago when Petersburg residents were hauling water from Falls Creek. The level of the reservoir, when it is full, is about 14 feet. At the present time the water is about 18 inches below the spillway and it is covered with about 7 inches of ice. “If we had just had about two feet of snow cover before the freeze, there would not be any problem,” commented Ken Welde. “I requested that the cannery and cold storage plant reduce their consumption last Friday and I estimate that, as a result of their cooperation, we are consuming about 500,000 gallons less per day.” A warming trend, not unheard of during this time of year, would probably bring the reservoir back to its full capacity. Scougal said that a number of persons have called his office expressing concern and that someone called from Juneau to say he had two water trailers of 2,800 gallon capacity each that he would bring from Bellingham ‘for the crisis.’

November 19, 1998 – In what was described as a “spellbinding” show, the Yeil Sé Raven’s Voice Theater performed this week for the students of Petersburg Schools as well as providing drama workshops and will cap off their performances with a show Thursday night in the

Middle School Auditorium. The show, entitled “40 Daydreams,” encompasses several different layers of meaning, according to Brenda Sallenbach of the Petersburg Indian Association. Sallenbach explained that following a person’s death there is a forty day party that celebrates a new beginning. The theater group, made up of Gene Tagaban, Alan Haden, and Lana Stevens, used to perform under Sea Alaska’s Nakahidi Group, but lost their funding and have since formed Raven’s Voice as their “new beginning.” Sallenbach explained that the group

dramatizes Native Alaskan stories, not just Tlingit tales, using masks and regalia in their shows. Part of the funding to bring the group to Petersburg was provided by the Johnson O’Malley Native Education Studies Program. In addition to the culture that the dramatizations provide, Sallenbach also pointed out that the performance is special because it is Gene Tagaban’s debut performance for his family. She explained that while he has been performing for some time, this is the first performance in Petersburg in front of his grandmother Marie James.

Northern Nights Theater

This Weekend:
Five Nights at Freddy's

1h 50m • Rated PG-13
Horror/Adaptation

Showings:
Friday & Saturday @ 7 pm
Sunday @ 4 pm

Next weekend:
Free of charge to the community
11/25 & 11/26 (Sat & Sun)
1pm: Polar Express
4pm: Arthur's Christmas
7pm: Christmas Vacation

Concessions available.
Credit cards accepted.

650-7626

WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Precip
Nov 8	M	M	M
Nov 9	45	40	0.18
Nov 10	44	40	0.51
Nov 11	42	34	0.46
Nov 12	42	29	0.00
Nov 13	37	25	0.21
Nov 14	40	32	0.33

This Week's Precipitation: 1.69"

This weather service is provided by the FAA weather observation station at the James A. Johnson Airport.

DAYLIGHT HOURS

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Nov 16	7:32a	3:37p	8:05hrs
Nov 17	7:34a	3:36p	8:02hrs
Nov 18	7:36a	3:34p	7:58hrs
Nov 19	7:38a	3:32p	7:54hrs
Nov 20	7:40a	3:30p	7:50hrs
Nov 21	7:43a	3:29p	7:46hrs
Nov 22	7:45a	3:27p	7:42hrs

PETERSBURG HAPPENINGS

Brought to you by:

THURSDAY, November 16

HS Region 5 -2A Volleyball Championships: 8:30am, HS Gym
Stories In Motion: 11:00am, Public Library
PIA Tribal Council Meeting: 5:00pm, Hallingstad-Paeratrovich Building
Free Dinner Get Together: 5:30pm, Lutheran Church basement
Ragnarok Rollers Practice: 7:30pm, Parks & Rec Community Center

FRIDAY, November 17

HS Region 5 -2A Volleyball Championships: 11:45am, HS Gym
Al-Anon Support Group: 12:00pm, Episcopal Church
Bingo Night: 6:00pm, Sons of Norway Hall
AA Candlelight Meeting: 7:00pm, Episcopal Church

SUNDAY, November 19

Knitting Group - all welcome: 2:00pm, Mountain View Manor Social Hall
Ragnarok Rollers Practice: 5:00pm Parks & Rec Community Center

MONDAY, November 20

Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall
Bingocize: 10:00am, Parks & Rec Community Center
Hospital Guild Meeting: 1:30pm, Dorothy Ingle Conference Room at PMC
Burger Night: 5:30pm, Moose Lodge
Borough Assembly Meeting: 6:00pm, Municipal Building
AA Women's Meeting: 7:00 pm, Presbyterian Church

TUESDAY, November 21

AA 12x12 Meeting: 7:00 pm, Holy Cross Classroom

WEDNESDAY, November 22

Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall
Bingocize Strength Building and Social Engagement: 10:00 am, Parks & Rec Community Center
Free Super For All: 6:00pm, First Baptist Church

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

High School and Middle School NHS and JNHS students along with Petersburg Girl Scouts
Petersburg Door-To-Door Canned Food Drive
Saturday, November 18th, 10am to Noon

Suggested donation items: Yams & marshmallows - Whole kernel or creamed corn
- Green beans - Cream of mushroom soup - French's fried crispy onions - Canned mandarins
- Fruit cocktail - Jell-O mix - Canned pumpkin - Evaporated milk
- Instant mashed potatoes - Stove top stuffing - Gravy mix packets - Olives
- Cranberries- jellied or whole - Canned Ham

For more information contact Linda at 097-518-0798.

P-W Insurance

772-3858 or 1-800-478-3858

We provide a full range of insurance services:
Life, hospitalization, homeowners, auto, renters, boat and more.

PETERSBURG TIDE TABLE

NOVEMBER 2023

	HIGH TIDES				LOW TIDES			
	A.M.		P.M.		A.M.		P.M.	
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
16 Thu	2:53	14.9	2:21	17.7	8:27	4.2	9:14	-1.1
17 Fri	3:41	14.3	3:07	16.9	9:12	4.8	10:04	-0.4
18 Sat	4:36	13.7	4:01	15.8	10:07	5.4	11:02	0.4
19 Sun	5:41	13.4	5:08	14.7	11:19	5.8
20 Mon	6:52	13.6	6:31	13.8	0:09	1.1	12:46	5.5
21 Tue	8:00	14.4	7:57	13.6	1:20	1.6	2:11	4.4
22 Wed	8:58	15.6	9:14	14.0	2:27	1.8	3:21	2.7

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Facebook: @PistonRudderServiceInc

FERRY SCHEDULE

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

NORTHBOUND DEPARTURES

FRI 11/17	COLUMBIA	05:30 P.M.
FRI 11/24	COLUMBIA	11:30 P.M.
FRI 12/15	KENNICOTT	05:30 P.M.
FRI 12/22	KENNICOTT	10:45 P.M.
FRI 12/29	KENNICOTT	05:30 P.M.

SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURES

MON 11/20	COLUMBIA	03:45 A.M.
MON 11/27	COLUMBIA	02:45 A.M.
MON 12/18	KENNICOTT	02:15 A.M.
MON 12/25	KENNICOTT	01:30 A.M.
MON 01/01	KENNICOTT	01:45 A.M.

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To the Editor

Thank you

To the Editor:

Thank you to Hammer & Wikan for re-establishing the footpath from the grocery store to the post office. Right now, the path is better than it ever was.

Good job!,
Sam Bunge

Change the ferry LeConte’s name

To the Editor:

Do you believe in equality? Do you believe in human rights?

Please sign the petition in the link below asking the Alaska Marine Highway System to change the name of the ferry LeConte.

Joseph Leconte was a slave owning Georgian who believed in racial superiority and never once stepped foot in the state of Alaska. His name does not need to be recognized here. We do not need to ferry around our state under his banner. We are explorers. We are pioneers. We are innovators. We are shakers and movers yet slow to demand the AMHS take action on this. In 2015 the Sierra Club requested the National Park Service to strike his name from a Yosemite lodge and the motion was honored. In 2017 the LeConte Elementary school in Berkeley California was renamed in similar fashion.

Please take two minutes and visit <https://change.org/Lecontenamechange>. I want to approach the AMHS board with pages of Alaska names requesting it is done.

Thanks,
Terrence Daignault

Are homes getting more valuable or are dollars losing value?

To the Editor:

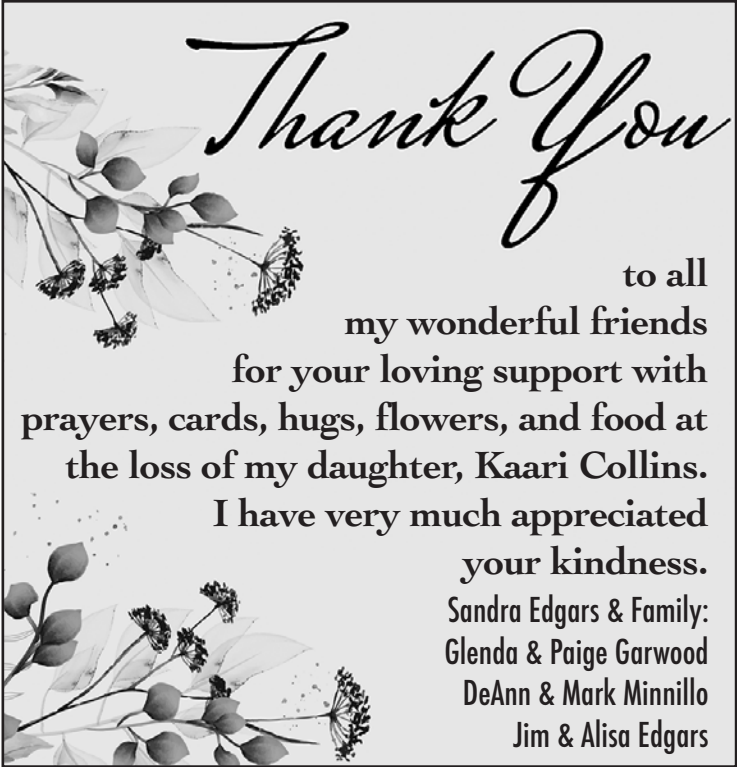
Two years ago my wife, our daughter and I moved here from San Juan Island, another beautiful place with a housing crisis. We’re starting a farm at Point Agassiz, but for now we make our home in Petersburg. Here too, I have noticed that there are many houses which are empty much or all of the time. Within the logic of the real estate market, perhaps the hassle and risk of renting doesn’t make sense. Why bother with renters when the value of a property will increase year over year just sitting there? It’s a crazy world out there and real estate is one of the last reliable investments. And a house on Mitkof island

probably looks like the perfect apocalypse getaway to someone in Texas or California. Better just polish that gem until Petersburg is the next San Juan and you can cash out for a million at least. We sold a yurt on 5 acres there for almost 400k in ‘21, I can’t complain about that.

But are homes actually getting more valuable, or are dollars just getting less valuable? When a house is worth a million dollars, will it cost \$300 an hour to have someone fix the chimney after we get another three feet of wet snow? Dollars are always changing nowadays, but houses still suffer without people to get way up on ladders and fix things. Ten feet of annual precipitation will quickly turn assets into liabilities when skilled hands can’t be found.

We all have the power to create something. When people work together they can create a good place to live. If

we stay in survival mode and only follow the narrow dictates of the market we will never create a home where the heart can dwell. Do we want to live in a vacation home colony where skilled workers are temporarily shipped in from elsewhere at great expense and everything is locked up and



Thank You

to all my wonderful friends for your loving support with prayers, cards, hugs, flowers, and food at the loss of my daughter, Kaari Collins. I have very much appreciated your kindness.

Sandra Edgars & Family:
Glenda & Paige Garwood
DeAnn & Mark Minnillo
Jim & Alisa Edgars



NRA

The Petersburg Friends of NRA Committee would like to thank everyone who attended this year’s banquet.

A lot of fun was had!

We would also like to thank Hammer and Wikan for being our amazing FFL and putting so much effort into making sure everything went smooth.

Thank you to the Elks for providing us with a space and to the emblem club for the use of the kitchen.

To The Little Shed, Ariel, your food is amazing.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Thank you, to all the volunteers who helped make the banquet a success!

We would also like to thank our donors for the great items that they donated:


Hammer and Wikan, NAPA/High Tide Parts, the Dauntless, Petersburg Flying Services, Scandia House, Indigenous Adventures, Cedar Box, Small Town Boutique, Papa Bears Pizza, Mattingly Electric, Tiana Duke, Clay Creatives, Petersburg Pet Center, Diamanté, Poppin Chario, Lee’s Clothing, Grace Wolf, and to anyone we accidentally forgot, thank you.

Mark your calendar for November 2, 2024 for next year’s banquet.

Sincerely, Petersburg FNRA Committee,
Kelli Slaven, Larry O’Rear, Jeremy Collison & Chris Cotta .


Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



Ritter’s River

by Marc Lutz



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Phil Hofstetter recognized as Alaska’s “Community Star”



PMC CEO and Alaska’s 2023 “Community Star” Phil Hofstetter (left) with his wife, Sarah (right), at the 2022 Pedal/Paddle Battle.

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) named Petersburg Medical Center CEO Phil Hofstetter as Alaska’s 2023 “Community Star.”

Hofstetter is being recognized by the national organization for his dedication to enhancing rural healthcare and addressing the health needs of the Petersburg community through wellness and prevention activities, education, collaborative partnerships, and accessible at-home care.

“Phil and PMC have advanced local healthcare through numerous programs, including the

‘Kinderskog’ local childcare outdoor activities program, which has grown and created more sustainable programming for the area,” according to a State of Alaska press release regarding the announcement.

The Community Star Recognition Program, established in 2015, is part of an annual celebration called National Rural Health Day (NRHD) that highlights healthcare difference-makers in rural communities across the United States.

Alongside fellow Community Stars from around the nation, Hofstetter will be featured prominently on the official NRHD website, PowerOfRural.org, on Nov. 16.

TO THE EDITOR

Continued from page 4

winterized for six months of the year? That might be where the market would lead, but I think there is far more to Petersburg than that. This is a community where skilled workers have lived and raised little baby skilled workers under the same roof for generations, where there are lights on in the windows and people say hello to each other. All kinds of people here have shared their homes with us, given us their trust in unconventional arrangements, showed true generosity, and for that I am truly grateful. In a strange way it makes me feel like there is actually an abundance of housing here. The HUD may dictate that one room is required for every person, but I think what’s more important is whether we have room in our hearts.

Thank you Petersburg,
Daniel Tucker

Alabama, NOT Georgia

To the Editor:

As I opened last week’s edition of the Petersburg Pilot, I was overjoyed to see an article on Page 16 covering the recognition ceremony for Derek Gibb and the rest of the 2003 NCAA championship-winning Auburn University swimming and diving team. I never thought that one day I would find photos of Samford Hall and Jordan-Hare Stadium, where I spent so many fall nights cheering on the Tigers, proudly displayed in Pilot. Unfortunately, my excitement of the story was stunted before the end of the first sentence, which claimed that Auburn University, my alma mater, was located “in Georgia.” Since I spent the last two years educating myself on Alaska and subjecting myself to

countless jokes about the size of Alaska compared to the Lower 48, I hope you will permit me two minutes to educate y’all on Auburn, Alabama. Auburn University was established in 1856, first as the East Alabama Male College and was later renamed to the Alabama Polytechnic Institute. Though it was not officially named Auburn University until 1960, the institution has long been referred to as simply “Auburn.” In all that time, Auburn has never been located in Georgia and considering the university’s long-standing rivalry with the University of Georgia, aptly named the “Deep South’s Oldest Rivalry,” you can see how anyone who bleeds orange and blue can see this error as a personal affront. As a former Pilot reporter, I understand that mistakes happen, but I felt that I could not let this opportunity to call

one out (mostly in jest) go by.

War Eagle,
Chris Basinger

P.S. I continue to read the paper every week and miss you all dearly.

Editor’s Note: We have fact checked Chris’s letter and can now indeed confirm that Auburn is in Alabama, not Georgia. Thank you, Chris. The Pilot acknowledges and regrets that error.

THANK YOU PETERSBURG

Filming in Little Duncan Bay will
be completed as of
Sunday, November 12th.

The production team thanks
the wonderful community of
Petersburg for their hospitality and
kindness, as well as the many local
businesses who contributed their
services to the production.

PSA Thanksgiving Day SANITATION DEPARTMENT

In observance of **Thanksgiving Day**,
there will be **NO garbage pickup on
Thursday, Nov. 23rd.**

**Thursday’s residential garbage routes
will be picked up on Wednesday, Nov. 22nd.**

**Thursday’s commercial pickups and recycling
will be emptied on Wednesday the 22nd.**

**The Baler Facility will be CLOSED
on Thanksgiving Day, November 23rd.**
*The Facility will re-open on
Friday, November 24th.*

Please call Public Works at 907-772-4430,
with any questions. Thank You!
Published: November 16, 2023

EARLIER DEADLINE

Thanksgiving Week

The Pilot will be distributed
on Wednesday, November 23.

Please submit ads & letters
to the Pilot by **MONDAY @ 5 PM**

Police investigating four recent burglaries in downtown Petersburg

By **ORIN PIERSON**
Pilot Editor

In the past three weeks, four downtown Petersburg businesses have reported burglaries. The Petersburg Police Department confirmed all four incidents are the subject of active investigations.

The Blomster Hus flower shop was the most recent incident, with staff arriving Monday morning this week to find the cash register had been pried open by a burglar over the weekend.

A week earlier, security cameras captured footage of a burglar searching for cash after breaking into the Petersburg Moose Lodge.

"Security camera footage from the Moose Lodge has been turned over to the Police Department," confirmed Moose administrator Duane Bell, adding that "we have taken

steps to secure the building a bit more."

A week before that, on Oct. 30, downtown marijuana dispensary The 420 reported being burglarized; the recordings from their security cameras were provided to law enforcement as well.

The burglaries show signs of forced entry, according to Petersburg Police Chief Jim Kerr. "It's not a lot of damage," Chief Kerr told the Pilot. "It's minimal damage, but it's still damage and living here it makes it more difficult to get things taken care of."

First in the string of incidents, on Oct. 24, was El Zarape Restaurant.

"I was in shock when I got that call, 'you need to come to the restaurant because the police are here, we got robbed,'" recalled Yulett Ferreira.

"It just feels super invasive ... we're a small business ... it

makes you feel like what's the small town charm? It's gone right now ... please find these people and bring them to justice."

"My mom," Ferreira continued, "It took her like a week to even talk about it. At first, she was just like 'fix it, get the cameras going' and then finally she was just really upset ... 'How can I run a small business when I run the risk of being hit?' ... you don't feel safe."

Since the incident, El Zarape has significantly ramped up their security system. "We got new cameras, with better quality, running 24 hours, and we also have our outside lights on all the time now for security purposes."

All four burglaries took place at night, after business hours.

"If anyone sees something that looks suspicious, someone hanging around at night," Chief Kerr said, "Give us a call. We'll

go check it out."

Chief Kerr wants business owners to "make sure their businesses are locked up ... and if they have any questions about the security of their place, give us a call and we'll take a look ... locks and door jambs type stuff ... Simple stuff to make it harder, my guys don't have a problem going there and sharing their knowledge on how to make it more secure."

"Lock your doors," stated Chief Kerr. "Make sure you don't leave any cash in the tills. That's the big thing, they're taking that sort of stuff ... Just lock up your money and take it with you at night."

The police are actively investigating these burglaries. "We're looking at each one as a separate thing," says Kerr, "but also putting it all together."

Police report

November 8 - An officer conducted foot patrols downtown.

An officer conducted a security check at a business on North 1st Street.

Petersburg Police Department (PPD) received a report of lost property from Valkyrie Street.

An officer assisted Emergency Medical Services (EMS) with an overdose on Fram Street.

A driver at Baltic Street and North Nordic Drive received a warning for failure to stop at a stop sign.

Officers conducted a security sweep at a business on South Nordic Drive.

November 8 - An officer responded to a report of a monitored fire alarm system having activated on North 1st Street, but the alarm had not activated.

Officers responded to a report of a dangerous driver on Haugen Drive but were unable to locate the described vehicle.

November 9 - An individual checked into the PPD to serve time.

PPD received a report that certain vehicles routinely exceed the speed limit on Sing Lee Alley. Additional patrols are to be conducted in the area.

Officers conducted a welfare

check on Valkyrie Street and provided transport to Petersburg Medical Center (PMC).

November 10 - An officer conducted a welfare check on Harbor Way.

An officer assisted EMS with an intoxicated person on North Nordic Drive.

An officer responded to a report of suspicious behavior on Noseeum Way and determined it was non-criminal.

An officer responded to an alarm at a business on Mitkof Highway and found all okay.

November 11 - An officer conducted foot patrols downtown.

An officer provided lockout assistance on South 2nd Street.

A disabled vehicle on Mitkof Highway was removed by a responsible party.

An officer provided lockout assistance on Howkan Drive.

A vehicle abandoned at the drive down dock was impounded.

An officer conducted foot patrols downtown.

Property found on Sing Lee Alley was returned to its owner.

November 12 - A vehicle slid into a ditch along Gauffin Street due to icy conditions.

An officer provided a courtesy ride.

An officer conducted foot

patrols downtown.

An officer responded to a report of suspicious activity on Haugen Drive and determined it was unfounded.

An officer responded to a parking complaint on Birch Street and the vehicle was moved.

PPD received a report of jewelry found on Odin Street.

A report of suspicious activity was filed at the PPD.

PPD received a report of a lost dog.

November 13 - An officer conducted foot patrols on 2nd Street.

An officer responded to a report of suspicious activity on North 1st Street.

An officer conducted foot patrols on Excel Street.

An officer conducted a security sweep at a business on North 1st Street.

An officer conducted foot patrols downtown.

PPD received a report of slippery conditions on Scow Bay Loop Road, notified the Department of Transportation (DOT) and were advised the roads had been sprayed.

An officer responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle on South 2nd Street but was unable to locate the described vehicle.

A report of theft was filed with the PPD.

An officer responded to assist EMS and Search and Rescue with a helicopter mishap in Farragut Bay.

November 14 - A dog reported lost from South 4.5 Street was later found by its owner.

An officer spoke with an individual on Sing Lee Alley concerning a civil issue.

An officer spoke with an individual on Sing Lee Alley concerning a civil issue.

An officer conducted foot patrols downtown.

Gloria Lucille Ohmer Celebration of Life



**Friday, Nov. 24, 2023
11:00 am Catholic Mass
at the Lutheran Church**

Streamed Live or later
on FaceBook:
View on
"Petersburg
Lutheran Church 2018+"

*Reception following at
Sons of Norway Hall*



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/EA.

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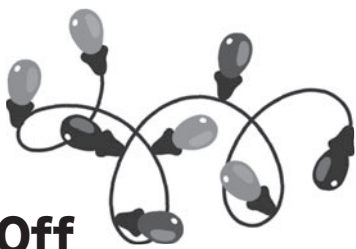
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EXPRESS**

Viking Swim Club reigns at November Rain

By LIAM DEMKO
Pilot writer

The Viking Swim Club made sure to give the home crowd a show at their annual November Rain meet in Petersburg last weekend.

The local swimmers had impressive performances at the event with loads of high placements, strong rates of personal improvement, and successes in new categories.

“[The team] was beyond excited and happy. Since this was a home meet, we had a great turnout... we had 48 of our swimmers compete this past weekend, and they did great,” said VSC coach Scott Burt.

November Rain is the second meet of the team’s fall season, with practices starting in August and leading up to October Splash in Sitka.

The team started their season out strong this year with a great performance in their first meet.

“They swam outstandingly. We had positive improvement, pretty much every swimmer that went improved upon their personal best, so we had a very strong swim meet in Sitka, and we continued that for the most part into November Rain,” said Burt.

During November Rain this last weekend in Petersburg the Vikings competed against teams from Wrangell, Craig, Ketchikan, and Juneau.

The VSC swimmers absolutely dominated the field, bringing home 60 first place finishes, 46 second place finishes, and 37 third place finishes by the end of the three day meet.

Additionally, 65% of the team's swims were personal improvements, and almost a quarter of the events

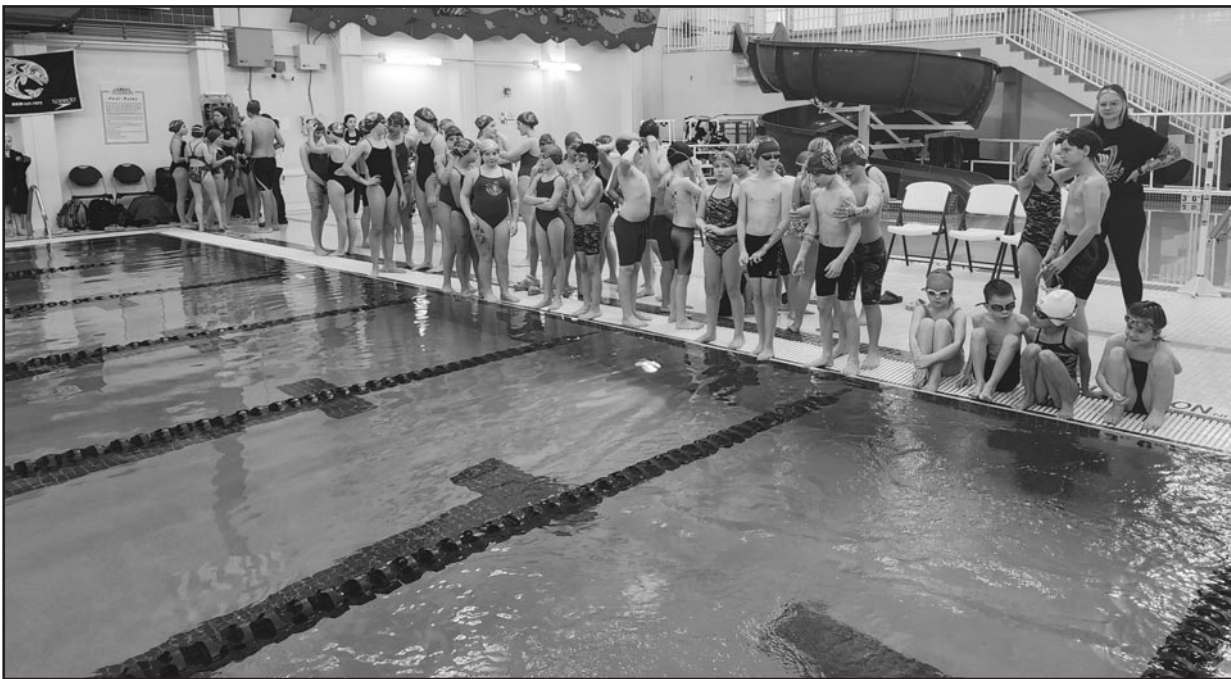


Photo courtesy of Scott Burt

The Viking Swim Club hosted teams from Wrangell, Craig, Ketchikan, and Juneau over the weekend.

swam by Vikings were brand new.

“That’s remarkable. These kids are trying new things, they’re meeting new challenges, and they’re doing great,” said Burt.

Quite a few of the VSC girls were consistently in the top 3 for their age groups, including Rosie Lohr and

Helmi Versteeg for girls eight and under, Charlotte Nilsen and Tori Miller for Girls 11-12, and Bella Miller and Lexie Tow for Girls 13 and up.

Additionally, Lexie Tow and Tori Miller each placed first in all of their events, with both competing in over 10 races.

Not to be outdone, several of the boys were also consistently in the top, including Carter Griss, Soren Eddy, and Dirk Severson for the boys eight and under, Ryder Diehl, Jackson Zweifel, and Grady Walker for the boys 10 and under, and Cyrus Hulebak for the boys 11-12.

Burt also made sure to highlight Petersburg’s volunteers, stressing that none of this could happen without the community support the program receives.

“In order for a swim meet or even a time trial to happen, there has to be an army of volunteers to serve as timers, to serve as stroke and turn officials, the starter, the head referee, running the concession stand, running the swim shop, being safety marshals,” said Burt.

“There’s dozens of people that volunteer their time so that these swim meets can happen... So a huge thank you to all of the volunteers that stepped up as they always do to support these kids.

Additionally – given that this marks the program’s 50th year – the VSC recognized a few of the volunteers and officials who have helped the program in various capacities throughout the years, including Kate Kowalski, Sue Erickson, Ginger Evens, and Cherise Lister.

Looking ahead, the team is focused on working hard to prepare for their next meet in Ketchikan on December 8.

“[There’s] a very high level of excitement and confidence,” said Burt.

“These kids are amazing, we're having a great season.”



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

Assistant Coach Caitlyn Ware cheers on a swimmer from poolside. Most of the swim club swimmers achieved personal best times during the weekend’s big meet.

Petersburg wrestlers podium in Ketchikan tournament

By LIAM DEMKO
Pilot writer

Petersburg High School’s wrestling team traveled south last weekend for the annual

Bill Weiss tournament in Ketchikan.

Across the course of the two day meet—one of the largest events in Southeast Alaska—several PHS wrestlers earned

their place on the podium against tough competition.

Petersburg freshman Eli Anderson earned the team’s highest placement, taking second in the 150 pound bracket.

“Being able to go that far at such a young age is pretty impressive, so it was a good

showing and I’m happy that he got to where he was,” said head coach James Valentine.

Lakell Deinhardt—the team’s only female wrestler—also took second in a reduced round robin format.

In the 160 lb bracket, both Kaden Duke and Markus An-

derson faced off against some tough matchups, with Kaden Duke coming out of the bracket in fourth place.

Senior Jonas Anderson had an excellent showing according to Valentine, placing third in the 170 lb bracket against some of the best wrestlers in the state.

Oliver Peterson and Angus Olsen also competed in the event, picking up some great experience before the season comes to a close.

With a two week break coming up before their next tournament at the beginning of December, the team hopes to loosen up and enjoy their well-deserved respite.

“They’re high quality kids. They’re out there and they’re ready to work,” said Valentine.

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Updates on progress toward APEI recommendations

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

The borough’s human resources department provided a progress report about the municipality’s newly implemented safety measures during the Borough Assembly Meeting Nov. 6.

In September, Alaska Public Entity Insurance (APEI) representatives presented a safety review of the Petersburg Borough during a regular assembly meeting.

Assembly members and human resources staff left that meeting with actionable recommendations to address safety concerns within the borough.

Part of that was the establishment of a formal Borough Safety Committee.

Becky Regula, Human Resources Officer and Deputy Clerk for the borough, described the progress being made toward meeting those recommendations.

“I’d like to update the assembly on the tasks that we’ve completed that were recommended by APEI,” said Regula.

The first all-department Borough Safety Committee meeting was held Oct. 24. Each department posted the phone numbers and emails of its committee members. A memo containing that contact

information is also posted on the borough website.

“All employees are encouraged to contact any member on that list with any concerns or ideas they have for the safety committee,” said Regula.

Starting in December, a Safety Committee member will give a monthly report to the assembly. The Safety Committee will meet on the third Tuesday of every month.

The borough hiring process for new employees now includes a formal orientation program with human resources.

All department heads are undergoing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) training.

An orientation program for new supervisors and department heads is in effect.

APEI has established the Crisis Response contact.

And the library now requires background checks for its volunteers.

In other borough business:

• Member Donna Marsh was selected as Vice Mayor for 2024.

• Assembly Appointments for 2023-24 are as follows:

The liaison to Harbor and Ports Advisory Board is assembly member Scott Newman.

The liaison to Hospital Board is Vice Mayor Bob Lynn.

The liaison to Public Safety Advisory Board is assembly

member Rob Schwartz.

Assembly member Donna Marsh is the elected official to the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Assembly member Jeigh Stanton Gregor was appointed to the Early Childhood Education Task Force.

Mayor Mark Jensen and assembly member Thomas Fine-Walsh are the Southeast Conference Representatives.

Mayor Jensen and Vice Mayor Lynn are the Alaska Municipal League Representatives.

• The assembly approved a motion to send Borough Manager Steve Giesbrecht and assembly member Fine-Walsh to attend the Alaska Municipal League’s 73rd Annual Local Government Conference in Anchorage this year, in place of Mayor Jensen and Vice Mayor Lynn, who are unable to attend.

• Assembly member Schwartz attended a recent webinar with OBI and Trident Seafoods to discuss the current seafood market. Schwartz provided a brief report of the information — from export markets to domestic markers, to high interest rates and unsustainable financing. He described the overall situation as “not good.”

• Both items on the consent agenda — the Trees liquor license ownership transfer and the acceptance of a \$50,199

grant from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management — passed unanimously. The accepted grant will provide funding for buying and installing an antenna with

repeater, two base stations, 20 portable radios, and FCC licensing fees for the School District’s own frequency.

• The assembly moved to dissolve the Housing Task Force.

Harbormasters seek increase to state matching grant

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

“The Municipal Harbor Facility Grant is the single most significant funding tool available to Alaskan Harbormasters to plan, maintain, and recapitalize port and harbor infrastructure,” states the resolution passed at the Petersburg Borough Assembly meeting on Nov. 6.

The assembly voted in support of the resolution to urge the Governor and Alaska Legislature to increase the amount of money made available to municipalities in the state’s harbor match grant program in order to adjust for inflation.

According to the Alaska Department of Transportation, the Alaska Legislature passed “landmark legislation” in 2006 that established the Municipal Harbor Facility Grants Program — a 50/50 grant matching program that is annually funded and awarded to a municipality or regional housing authority harbor facility with projects that qualify.

According to the language of the statute (AS 29.60.800), the total amount of grant money made available to a recipient harbor facility during a given fiscal year may not exceed \$5 million.

Now, nearly two decades since the program was created, the borough says that grant amount is insufficient and is calling on the governor to amend the statute from a \$5 million grant award limit to \$7.5 million per eligible project.

Increasing the funding cap would account for cost inflation and provide the potential for harbors to pursue sizable projects with more adequate financial backing.

The state transferred ownership for most of its harbors since 2006, many of which “were at the end of their service life at the time of transfer to local municipalities,” the Nov. 6 resolution explains.

“And with that came a huge responsibility, when it came to replacing and maintenance in these facilities,” Harbormaster Glo Wollen said during the Nov. 6 borough assembly meeting.

“The state said don't worry, we're going to provide an avenue through the municipal harbor match grant...” where a municipality could approach the state with a project that meets legislation standards and funding in the amount to match.

“Well, it’s 2023...” Harbormaster Wollen continued “...and things have changed.”

She mentioned a conversation about the harbor grant program arose at the harbormasters conference this fall. “As a group of harbormasters, we got together and said we should look at what that same \$5 million would buy you with today’s prices...”

According to the Nov. 6 resolution, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer price index calculator indicated that \$5 million in July 2006 “would be inflated to \$7,511,000 as of July 2023.”

“We’re trying to get this grant to recognize the costs of the day and age we’re in,” said Harbormaster Wollen. “That being said ... I think it’s one of the best grants out there, and it gives skin in the game so that the communities that are going out for this money have to put up essentially as much money as they’re asking for.”

The program is funded from fish tax and fuel tax. According to the language of the statute, the legislature may appropriate money to the fund from the watercraft fuel tax account and from the fisheries business tax.

Since both of these appropriation sources are rooted in the marine industry, the resolution notes that harbor users generate the program’s funding.

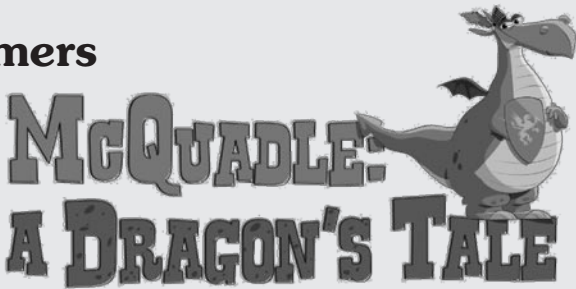
“[I] appreciate the support on this... it’s going to be probably a struggle in the legislative arena, but ... we need them to realize that they do, at the state level ..., receive a lot of income versus ... fish tax and fuel tax ... they have the money,” Harbormaster Wollen said.

As for future projects in Petersburg’s harbors, Harbormaster Wollen mentioned finger floats in South Harbor, a number of which are repurposed fingers from the original 1970 middle harbor, will need to be replaced.

Finger float replacement according to the Harbormaster’s stated “back of the napkin” figures is estimated to cost about \$60 million.

“We desperately need this municipal harbor match grant,” she said.

The Mitkof Mummers Theatre Co. Presents



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

Rowan Olsen, pictured left, plays the title character, McQuadle, a young dragon on a quest to discover his purpose in life. Jessica Franklin played Mother Dragon. Dozens more cast and crew, all volunteers, on stage and behind the scenes, worked together to make the community theater troupe’s fall play a hit with audiences last weekend.

Lecture shares bombardment history, calls for formal reconciliation

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Wrangell Sentinel reporter

WRANGELL — In a livestreamed lecture sponsored by Sealaska Heritage Institute, ethnohistorian Zachary Jones presented on the U.S. military’s 19th century attacks on the Tlingit villages of Kaachxhaan.áak’w, Kéex’ Kwáan and Xutsnoowú Kwáan — present-day Wrangell, Kake and Angoon.

Though the attacks occurred over 150 years ago, their effects are still felt by Tlingit communities today, Jones said, and community leaders are still seeking restitution.

In 1867, the U.S. government paid Russia \$7.2 million — less than two cents per acre — for the territory of Alaska and dispatched the Army to govern the land.

Since the Tlingit people controlled the land and water along the Northwest coast, this move amounted to an invasion of a foreign nation, unauthorized by Congress, Jones said, for which “Alaska’s Indigenous communities were not consulted or compensated.”

The soldiers implementing military rule in the new territory were “not America’s best and brightest,” he added. Jefferson C. Davis, first commander of the Military District of Alaska, is a prime example — instead of any military accomplishments, he is best known for killing a superior officer and having a name similar to Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

In Alaska, Davis pursued a policy of violent “gunboat diplomacy,” Jones said, that would escalate tensions between individual soldiers and Tlingit people into the full-blown destruction of Tlingit villages.

In Kake, soldiers razed three village sites and two forts, then destroyed canoes and food supplies in February of 1869.

Later that year in Wrangell, when a white woman was injured in an altercation at a Christmas party, soldiers shot two Tlingit brothers. After their father — a religious leader — killed a white man in response, soldiers opened fire on the entire Wrangell village, destroying homes.

In 1882, after a false report of a potential uprising in Angoon, Naval Commander Edgar Merriman directed his forces to destroy the village in the middle of winter. Some historians have questioned whether the attack was a premeditated attempt to gain access to rich coal beds near Angoon, said Jones, an archivist with the National Park Service in Anchorage.

The U.S. military has still not issued a formal apology for the attacks, and for the past 150 years tribal citizens in Angoon, Kake and Wrangell have continued to seek redress.

In October 2018, then-Gov. Bill Walker apologized for the harm inflicted on Alaska Native communities by colonization, but the military has not issued a similar statement about its destruction of Native communities in Southeast.

A formal reconciliation to address the bombardments has been discussed, but no definite plans have been made. In 2020, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bussiere met with representatives from Angoon, Kake and Wrangell to learn more about the steps the military could take to reconcile with communities.

“The last group of people from Angoon who traveled to D.C. to meet with



COURTESY OF THE AK STATE LIBRARY, U.S. ARMY INFANTRY BRIGADE COLLECTION

The U.S. military’s attack on the village of Kaachxhaan.áak’w (Wrangell) in 1869 was one of three similar attacks on Tlingit communities throughout the late 19th century. This photo shows the Wrangell shoreline, with about two dozen buildings visible, including a Russian Orthodox church.

the Navy were met with silence and no responses of any sort,” said an Angoon tribal member, according to a 2020 Sealaska Heritage report on the meetings. “It might sound like it happened a long time ago, but the echoes of that day still can be heard and felt today. Getting some sort of resolution is something that would be very good for all of our people.”

Tribal members suggested monetary compensation, a monument to commemorate the lost communities or funding for culture camps that would tell the stories of the bombardments.

These actions would address the past violence within the framework of the Tlingit legal system, which values equity, compensation and the restoration of balance, Jones explained.

“A Tlingit individual’s life really matters,” he said in the Nov. 7 lecture, and clans have “the legal right to request reparations as payment for a death. Without this compensation to restore

peace, it sort of hangs in the air.”

“The issue is not yet resolved for the people of Angoon” and the descendants of the other communities that were attacked, Jones continued. “I would urge any leaders or authorities ... to acknowledge and take steps to address what happened.”

SHI’s historical lecture series is being offered in honor of Native American Heritage month, which lasts throughout November. Another lecture is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 14, at noon, and will be available via livestream on SHI’s YouTube channel or in person at the Walter Soboleff Building in Juneau.

At the event, Ed Thomas, president emeritus of the Tlingit & Haida Central Council, will deliver a talk titled “Hall of Famers in History: Decades of Leadership.” While the Nov. 7 lecture focused on the region’s traumatic history, the Nov. 14 lecture will highlight the Tlingit community’s successes in securing civil rights.

Advisory committee supports proposal to protect commercial king harvest share

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Wrangell Sentinel reporter

WRANGELL — Members of the Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee are concerned about the future of commercial salmon fishing as Alaska’s tourism industry continues to expand, bringing in more non-resident fishers on charter trips.

The advisory committee supports amending state regulation to prevent the Southeast sport fishery from exceeding its 20% share of the Pacific Salmon Commission’s annual harvest ceiling for king salmon.

The committee voted Nov. 7 to support a proposal calling for tighter state regulation of the charter catch and questioned whether the state’s current average-based management of the sport fishery harvest would adequately maintain the 80% to 20% split between commercial and sport fishers in the coming years.

The Pacific Salmon Commission — a joint entity with representatives from the U.S. and Canada — sets annual king salmon harvest limits, which the state then allocates between commercial gear types and sport catch.

The Southeast sport fishery has been managed on an average basis for the past two years. Under this system, the sport fishery catches more than its share some years, and the commercial fishery catches more than its share other years. The

goal is to maintain an average of 20% of the harvest limit for the sport fishery and 80% for the commercial fishery over time.

This way, charter operators don’t have to back out of trips if the fishery closes early. “What we heard from the industry was that they really valued stability in the fishery,” said Patrick Fowler, regional fisheries management coordinator at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Petersburg.

Shutting down mid-season to stay under the 20% ceiling does not create a “stable business environment,” he said.

“The department’s best guess is that if this management plan had been in place for the past 10 years, it would have achieved that 80/20 split,” Fowler said.

This year, however, the Southeast sport harvest is projected to exceed its allocation by about 17,000 kings, for a 29% share of the king harvest, according to the regulatory proposal that will go before the Alaska Board of Fish at a meeting in Homer on Nov. 30.

The proposal, which went out for comment to local advisory councils, individuals and organizations across Southeast, would change state regulation to mandate that the sport catch may not exceed the 20% limit.

On average, over the past two years, the sport fishery’s share of kings has been 20.5%.

Chris Guggenbickler, president of the Wrangell advisory

committee, is not convinced that the current management plan will provide local commercial fishers with their full 80% share over time, especially since the tourism charter industry is slated to expand in the coming decades.

“I think that what we notice is that we expect there to be more non-resident effort in the next 20 years than there was in the last 20 years,” he said. “Although their tier system might have worked fine in the past, it may not be the best tool moving forward or they may need to adjust their numbers.”

The region has seen a slight decline in resident days fished and increase in non-resident days fished, though “the greater trends that happen in the visitor industry really drive that effort,” said Fowler.

The number of non-resident fishers peaked just before the financial crash of 2008 and “we’ve been slowly rebuilding since then,” he continued. The pandemic cut non-resident effort by 50%, but it is at an all-time high this year as people seek post-pandemic vacation opportunities.

“The pressure from non-residents is going to go up,” said charter operator John Yeager. “Effort is going to continue to get lopsided year after year” between visiting sport fishers and local commercial fishers.

“I think that the state has got to wake up and stop giving away its resource,” added Alan

Reeves. “We (commercial fishers) are managed. We’re putting the fish back in the water. (Non-residents) come up for a measly amount of money and they’re gone.”

The current management

plan has a built-in sunset clause for March 2025. At that time, the Alaska Board of Fish could “tweak the plan” to allow for lower sport opportunity, Fowler said.

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Debate over Pebble mine in Alaska’s Bristol Bay region moves to dueling Supreme Court briefs

By YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

The company trying to build a huge copper and gold mine in the salmon-rich Bristol Bay will keep fighting for the project, despite a decision by the federal government to keep the proposed development site off-limits to large-scale metals mining.

John Shively, chief executive officer of the Pebble Limited Partnership, made that vow in a presentation at the Alaska Miners Association annual convention in Anchorage.

He said the Pebble mine had the potential to transform the economy and improve lives in the rural Bristol Bay region, just as he said the Red Dog Mine, one of the world’s biggest zinc producers, has done in North-west Alaska.

“That’s why we’re still fighting this. The resources are there. We’re still here. We’re not going anywhere,” he told the convention audience in his presentation on Thursday.

The company’s fight is backed by the administration of Gov. Mike Dunleavy. At his direction, the state in July filed a lawsuit directly to the U.S. Supreme Court to try to overturn a decision by the Environmental Protection Agency that bars permitting for any Pebble-type mine in key areas of the Bristol Bay watershed.

Dunleavy, in brief remarks earlier this week at the miners’ convention, expressed pride in his support of the controversial project.

“I was told if I supported Pebble, I would never win another election. Well, I don’t know. I’m here. I’m still here,” he said on Tuesday, drawing applause from the audience. The Republican governor was handily reelected last November.

The EPA decision invoked a rarely used provision in the Clean Water Act to preclude any wetlands permit for the project. The agency determined that the Pebble mine posed an unacceptable risk to the Bristol Bay watershed, essential to a region with the world’s largest sockeye salmon runs and with major fisheries and wildlife populations that depend on that salmon.

To help reverse that decision, the Pebble Limited Partnership and its owner, Vancouver-based Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd., in September filed an amicus brief in support of the state’s Supreme Court effort. Filing supportive briefs, too, were the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority and numerous Alaska and national resource-development groups.

The possibility that the project will be resurrected has also drawn Pebble mine opponents into the new Supreme Court faceoff.

The Bristol Bay Native Corp. and United Tribes of Bristol Bay jointly filed a motion with the Supreme Court on Thursday in support of the EPA and against the state effort, and Trout Unlimited filed a similar motion.

Representatives of the Bristol Bay Native Corp. and United Tribes of Bristol Bay, in a news conference Thursday, noted that their organizations had been among those that first petitioned the EPA for Clean Water Act protections against the proposed mine.

“Defending this place, defending our way of life, that’s why we’re here today,” Daniel Cheyette, vice president for lands and resources for Bristol Bay Native Corp., said in the news conference. “The state of Alaska has taken the extraordinary measure of directly seeking the jurisdiction of the

Supreme Court to undo the accomplishments our organizations have worked for 15 years to achieve. That’s unacceptable. The point of our amicus brief is to defend what we have worked so hard to accomplish.”

Alannah Hurley, executive director of United Tribes of Bristol Bay, said her organization and others in the region have had to fight the state government over the issue. “Unfortunately, after 20 years, we’re still here fighting a hostile governor trying to transform our home into a toxic mining district,” she said. “Our people and our fishery deserve to be free from the threat of the Pebble mine. And as we have proven in the last two decades we will stand together and stand strong until our home and future generations are protected.”

David Frederick, an attorney representing the corporation and the Tribal group, said the state’s legal move is unprecedented and “has no logic” in the way that Congress has determined such disputes to be addressed. “Alaska is improperly invoking or attempting to invoke the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court,” he said in the news conference. If the state wants to challenge the EPA action, it should do so at the U.S. District Court level, he said.

The Justice Department, in a brief filed Thursday that responds to the state action, made similar arguments.

Shively acknowledged that the state’s legal move is unorthodox. “It’s unusual but if it works then we basically skip the lower court,” he said in his presentation at the Alaska Miners Association event.

The Supreme Court has not weighed in. Frederick said a decision about whether to take the case might come by January.

Regardless of what happens in court, the Pebble project faces another obstacle, Shively conceded: the loss of access to land that the company planned to use for a road to the mine site.

Land owned by the Pedro Bay Native Corp. that the Pebble Limited Partnership had planned to use for a road link to the mine is now protected from

development through a \$20 million conservation project. The Conservation Fund, a national nonprofit, and the Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust raised the money for a conservation easement on 44,000 acres owned by the village Native corporation.

Polling has consistently shown that the proposed mine is unpopular statewide and deeply unpopular in the Bristol Bay region.

Pebble mine supporters and opponents agree on one thing. Both sides say the current legal fight goes beyond that particular mine.

Dunleavy, in his comments at the mining convention, said Pebble’s fate will affect other Alaska resource development projects.

“Saying no to the other guy’s project doesn’t keep your project safe. Throwing Pebble under the bus doesn’t save Donlin or doesn’t save Ambler Road, as we can see,” he said, referring to separate projects that have also attracted fierce opposition, one a gold mining project in the Kuskokwim River region and the other a 211-mile access road to enable commercialization of copper deposits in Arctic north-western Alaska.

“It doesn’t matter what project we’re looking at, the NGOs in the Lower 48 and Washington will try and shut it down. But I would ask that all of us here fight for each and every one of these projects so that the state has a future, and our kids and grandchildren have a future as well,” Dunleavy continued.

Hurley, on the opposite side of the debate, said the Bristol Bay region needs additional protection beyond the EPA action on Pebble.

With about 20 other active mining claims and potential projects in the region, there should be action from Congress, “any type of legislation that’s going to help us ensure that our grandchildren are not fighting these projects piecemeal from now into eternity. That’s not fair to the people of Bristol Bay. That’s not fair to the state,” she said. Hurley said. “We are really in need of broader watershed-wide protections so that Bristol Bay can continue being the salmon powerhouse that it has been for thousands of years.”



at Petersburg School District

Monday, Nov 20

WG Pizza

Tuesday, Nov 21

Asian Chicken

WG Rice

Wednesday, Nov 22

No School

Thursday, Nov 23

No School

Friday, Nov 24

No School



BREAKFAST MENU -

Served With Milk & Choice of:

Fresh Fruit, Applesauce or
Dried Cranberries

Homemade Granola with Yogurt,

Smoothie and Granola, Fruit

Parfait and Granola, French

Toast, Oatmeal, Homemade

Muffin, and Cereals

Don't like Lunch Menu?

Try the Salad Bar

All Breakfast and Lunch Meals

Served with Milk

*WG = Whole Grain



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• 800-950-4265

Rules of the Road

US Coast Guard



QUESTION
& ANSWER

QUESTION:

Which vessel shall NOT show her sidelights?

- A. A fishing vessel that is not making way
- B. A sailing vessel which is becalmed
- C. A vessel engaged in underwater operations
- D. A vessel that is not under command making way

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

ANSWER A.
A fishing vessel that is not making way



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Artifact Archive

These Folded Birch Bark Baskets, created by Belle Deacon, were a gift to Polly Lee from the Alaska State Council on the Arts when she was awarded the Governor’s Award for the Arts in 1983.



Belle Deacon was a renowned Athabascan basket maker and a storyteller of Athabascan culture, folklore and traditions. She was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship for her basketry.

To create these baskets, birch bark is gathered in early summer when it is soft. In the fall, willow roots are dug from sandy river banks then dyed using natural materials as well as commercially produced colors. The bark is steamed, bent into shape and secured in place by weaving willow or spruce roots through it.

Donated by Polly Lee

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



Senior Meals

MONDAY, November 20

Shepherd’s Pie,
Tomato Slices, Yogurt
with Fruit, Cake

TUESDAY, November 21

Baked Chicken, Scalloped Potatoes, Biscuit, Half of a
Banana, Milk, Orange Fluff

WEDNESDAY, November 15

Mushroom Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich,
Green Salad, Apple, Cookie

THURSDAY, November 16 and FRIDAY, November 17

The Community Dining Room will be Closed –
We hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving!

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 between 4 and 4:30 p.m. All meals are suggested donation only. Please call Mountain View Food Service at 772-4331 before noon for reservations.

Salmon returns to Alaska’s Bristol Bay expected to drop to more normal levels next year

By YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

After recent years of record or near-record runs and harvests, Bristol Bay sockeye salmon numbers are expected to return to more average levels next year, according to state biologists.

The 2024 Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run is expected to total 39 million fish, with a predicted range between about 25 million and 53 million fish, according to a preliminary forecast released Friday by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

That is 35% lower than the average over the past 10 years but

6% higher than the long-term average for Bristol Bay, the department said in its forecast.

Bristol Bay is site of the world’s largest sockeye salmon runs, and recent years’ returns have been especially large. Last year’s sockeye salmon return hit a record of 79 million fish, and the 2022 harvest of 60.1 million sockeye salmon was also a record, according to the department. This year’s run totaled 54.5 million, the eighth largest on record, according to the department.

If the run comes in as forecasted, it would be about the same size as runs in the early

2000s, according to state records.

“Record runs cannot happen every year, so to me, it is not a big surprise that we are seeing runs come down a bit,” Stacy Vega, an Alaska Department of Fish and Game area research biologist, said in an email. She added that “forecasting is inherently inaccurate. It is very difficult to get it right every time.”

A major factor used to make next year’s forecast was the mix of ages in the fish that returned this year, as is the usual practice.

A smaller-than-expected return this year of fish that had spent one year in freshwater and two years in the ocean suggest that there will likewise be a somewhat small return of fish from the same brood stock but with three years’ time in the ocean, Vega said.

Sockeye salmon spend one to four years in freshwater and one to three years in the ocean, according to the Department of Fish and Game.

Recent years’ extra-large runs of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon had some mixed effects.

For fishers, a downside was a

glut on the market that depressed prices. Even though this year’s harvest of 40.6 million sockeye was 27% above the 20-year harvest average, the total ex-vessel value of \$117.4 million – the amount paid directly to fishers for their catches – was 37% below the 20-year average, according to the Department of Fish and Game.

A flood of Russian salmon added to the market problem for all Alaska salmon, including that from Bristol Bay; one major processor, Trident Seafoods, stopped buying Alaska salmon earlier than normal this year and cited the Russian fish as one reason for the action.

The large amount of Bristol Bay sockeye may have helped

some low-income Americans, however. Some of the leftover supply from last year’s record harvest was purchased by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for its food-assistance program.

And one particular population that benefited from the extraordinarily large runs of recent years were the brown bears of Katmai National Park and Preserve. The subject of the annual Fat Bear Week online promotion, the bears feast in the summer and fall on salmon that swim into the park’s rivers, and an international audience watches them fish on the Brooks River, thanks to a system that sends livestream images from a camera installed there.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

Those with birthdays this week are: **November 17:** Andrew Kittams, Sue Hardin, Tessa Bergmann. **November 19:** Ambre Burell, Curtis Birchell, Sean Larson, Suzanne Peterson. **November 20:** Fax Christensen. **November 22:** Asia Prus, Haley Kelley. **November 23:** Bill Olson.

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

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Public Notices

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Notice to Write-In Candidates

There shall be an election of the Petersburg Indian Association Tribal Council on January 8, 2024. The polling location will be PIA’s Conference Room. The voting polls will open at 8 AM and will close at 7 PM on Election Day.

The following seats will be up for election:

Council Chair (President):	1 seat - One-Year Term
Council Member:	3 seats - Two-Year Term
Council Member:	1 seat - One-Year Term

Eligible members wishing to run but having missed the deadline to be on the official ballot may still submit a “Letter of Intent to Run as a Write-In.” You can obtain this form from the PIA front desk or website. All Letters of Intent to Run as a Write-In must be received by November 30, 2023, by 4 PM to be added to the list of eligible candidates.



A full list of eligible write-ins will be posted online and at the polls on Election Day.

For more information on how to run, where to get forms, eligibility requirements, absentee voting, or registering as a member of PIA, please contact Rebecca Lee at 907-772-3636 or email piaelection@piatribal.org.

Published: November 02, 09, 16, 23, and 30, 2023

ATTENTION INTERESTED PARTIES

SSRAA – Nominations for Appointed Seats

Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc. Board of Directors is soliciting nominations for the following appointed positions:

- Chamber of Commerce
- Native Corporation
- Municipal
- Processor
- Public at Large (2 Seats)
- Sport Fish
- Subsistence



These are two year terms beginning in January 2024. Nominations must be in writing and submitted to SSRAA, 14 Borch Street, Ketchikan, AK 99901 by December 1, 2023.

Nomination forms are available on our website www.ssraa.org
For further information call (907) 225-9605 or email summerp@ssraa.org

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.....tfn5-4b22

JOBS

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.....tfn11-16b74
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.....2x11-16p19
Mountain View Manor is hiring permanent Resident Assistants starting at \$19.67/hour. Recruitment bonus of \$900 upon completion of probation at six months and \$900 at one year of employment! No experience needed; we will train you! Available Shifts; Part time 16 hours a week, Weekend Cook and a 20 hours/week shift, two 40 hour Grave shifts and a 40 hour Swing shift. Benefits include paid time off, holiday pay, retirement plan, health and life insurance. If you are interested in joining our team, please submit a completed Borough employment application and return to the front desk of the Borough office at 12 South Nordic Drive, mail to P.O. Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833, or email to bregula@petersburgak.gov. Go to www.petersburgak.gov for an application and complete job description or stop by the front desk of the Borough offices to pick up a copy.
.....tfn11-02b144
The Petersburg Borough,



We have the materials needed to provide bottled gas to customers in Petersburg. Customers will be expected to purchase cylinders from PRSI and will own them outright. From that point on, they will be swapped out for full ones. If you presently have possession of a rented cylinder, bring it in to purchase a new cylinder with gas. We will carry Acetylene, Argon, Oxygen, C25, A1025(trimix), Helium, Nitrogen, Co2, and miscellaneous medical. Popular sizes available and refill small Co2 bottles onsite.
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Alaska Electric Department has an opening for the position of Electrician/Operator. This is a full-time position, with a starting wage of \$60.42 for PERS Tier 1-3 employees or \$58.00

Read the

Public Notices

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Petersburg Borough 2022 Foreclosure List

All Properties Located within the Petersburg Recording District

Property Owner	Parcel ID	Legal Description	Subdivision/Plat/Survey	2022 Tax Levy	Penalty	Interest thru 9/30/23	Foreclosure Fee	Payment	Total
ARMIN, NORMAN & MERRY	01010934	34 SKYLARK PARK	TRAILER ONLY	\$146.06	\$14.61	24.19	\$150	\$334.86	
BERKLEY, BENJAMIN	01006596	LOT 1, BLOCK 62	SOUTHEAST ADDITION, PLAT 69-202, USS 1252	\$956.8	\$95.68	\$158.59	\$150		\$1,361.07
BRADFORD, AARON & JANET	01010941	41 SKYLARK PARK	TRAILER ONLY	\$141.45	\$14.15	\$23.43	\$150		\$329.03
COLE, THOMAS E JR	02283130	PTN LOT 16, BLOCK 2	WRANGELL NARROWS SUBD, PLAT 2003-3	\$440.58	\$44.06	\$73.01	\$150		\$707.65
HALL, KIMBERLY R	01010922	22 SKYLARK PARK	TRAILER ONLY	\$131.1	\$13.11	\$21.75	\$150	\$315.96	
HOMER, STEPHEN DUANE	01007652	LOT 2, BLOCK 28	RESUBDIVISION BLOCK 28, PLAT 69-140, USS 1252	\$525.56	\$52.56	\$87.11	\$150		\$815.23
KANGAS, DANIEL	01006921	21 TOWNE COURT	TRAILER ONLY	\$154.1	\$15.41	\$25.56	\$150	\$345.07	
NISSELL, MICHAEL	01011916	9W ISLAND COURT	TRAILER ONLY	\$115.00	\$11.50	\$18.80	\$150	\$295.30	
RUSK, DANNY M & GARWOOD, RAMONA	01006934	34 TOWNE COURT	TRAILER ONLY	\$103.50	\$10.35	\$17.17	\$150		\$281.02
SCADUTO, KELLY	01006919	19 TOWNE COURT	TRAILER ONLY	\$93.15	\$9.32	\$15.44	\$150		\$267.91
TRADING UNION INC	01007103	LOT 1A	TIDELANDS ADDITION, PLAT 90-6	\$15,562.95	\$1,556.3	\$2,579.25	\$150		\$19,848.50
TRADING UNION INC	01007127	LOT 24A, BLOCK 2	PLAT 89-2; USS 282	\$4,740.3	\$474.03	\$785.58	\$150		\$6,149.91

Notice is hereby given that on or about October 19, 2023, a Petition for Judgment of Foreclosure was filed by the Petersburg Borough with the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, First Judicial District at Petersburg, asking for a Judgment of Foreclosure against the real property listed on this foreclosure list for failure to pay real property taxes levied for 2022. A person having an interest in a parcel listed on the foreclosure list may file an answer on or before 30 days from the date of last publication of this Notice, specifying the person's objection. If no answer is filed and the amount due for the year 2022 is not paid, it is expected that the Superior Court will grant a Judgment of Foreclosure against the properties listed on the foreclosure list.

A copy of the Petition and this foreclosure list are available for public inspection at the Borough Clerk's Office or the Finance Department for the Petersburg Borough during regular business hours.

THIS CERTIFIES that this foreclosure list is a true and correct record of the documents in my official custody.

DATED this 20th day of October 2023



Jody Tow
Finance Director
Petersburg Borough



PETERSBURG
ALASKA

Published: October 26, November 2, 9 and 16, 2023

Petersburg Properties LLC



Sarah Holmgrain
907-518-0718



George Doyle
907-518-0639



Jalyn Pomrenke
907-723-3157



Karna Cristina
206-554-1522

202 GJOA STREET

LOT 18 SOUTH MITKOF





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for PERS Tier 4, and full benefits. The Borough will consider applications from State of Alaska certified Journeyman or Master level electricians, or Electricians that can obtain a State of Alaska Journeyman Electrician Certificate of Fitness within six months of employment. The Petersburg Borough

will assist in obtaining this certificate. Signing bonus of \$5,000 after completion of six-month probationary period. Up to \$15,000 reimbursable relocation expenses with a minimum two (2) year employment agreement. A complete job description and employment application can be obtained from the Borough's website at www.petersburgak.gov. Applications for the position will be accepted until the position is filled. Send completed applications to the Borough HR office, PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833, fax to 907-772-3759, or email to bregula@petersburgak.gov.tfn11-16b155

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- Medical Assistant • Materials Assistant (PT)
- Bingocize Facilitator (PT as Needed)
- Clinic Reception/Admissions (FT)
- Medical Technologist • Registration Coordinator
- Occupational Therapist • Ward Clerk
- Radiologic Technologist
- Nurse (LPN or RN) - Primarily Night Shift



SCAN CODE to view position descriptions & to apply online or look for your new career at pmcak.org

For complete job descriptions or any questions, contact Human Resources Director Cindy Newman at cnewman@pmc-health.org or call 907-772-5719

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FOR SALE

Power Troll Permit - \$27,500

509-491-1236 or 425-677-3450

Petersburg Borough has an opening for the position of Journeyman Lineman. This is a regular full-time position in which the Lineman will also be trained as a generation operator. Wage



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Petersburg Borough has an opening for a permanent full-time Motor Pool Equipment Mechanic. Starting wage for this position is \$29.42/hour. Three years of vehicle repair and maintenance employment experience is required. Possession of a Class A or B Commercial Driver's License with air brake and tanker endorsements is preferred; however, applicants with the ability to obtain the required

CDL within the first six months of employment will be considered. A full job description and employment application can be obtained from the Borough's website at www.petersburgak.gov. Applications will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough office, 12 S. Nordic Drive, or mailed to P.O. Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833, attn: Human Resources, until position is filled.tfn7-13b117

Job opening for a full-time bakery-deli front house manager as well as full and part time prep cook and baker. Inquire with Mindy at the Salty Pantry or call 907-772-2665.tfn4-13b30

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NOTICES

Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255



OLIVIA ROSE / Petersburg Pilot

Stedman Elementary students sing the Star-Spangled Banner to kick off the Veteran’s Day Parade.

Honoring Veterans



Victor Trautman wrapped in the Quilt of Valor quilt he received during the parade in recognition of his service in the United States Army.

IBEW

Continued from page 1

year to hire an Electrician/Operator and a Journeyman Lineman, which burdens the few workers that are there.

Sam Caulum spoke at the Nov. 6 borough assembly meeting, representing himself and a majority of IBEW members at PMPL. He said the prolonged worker shortage in the department has “been pretty taxing on the employees that are there.”

“Right now, we have two linemen and a lineman apprentice. And they’re trying to keep everything going. It’s hard.” Borough Manager Steve Giesbrecht told the Pilot.

“They’re really short handed, and so we’ve got to fix that. And we owe it to them to fix it,” he added.

Labor contracts between unions and the borough last three years until renegotiated, typically including gradual salary raises. However, the market rate for wages increased faster than the raises did.

The borough received no applicants when advertising the lineman position for \$49 an hour with a \$15 thousand hiring bonus and relocation assistance.

Salary surveys for other locations revealed that the wages offered for the vacant roles in Petersburg were not competitive salaries and stood far below the market standard.

“We were doing raises like two and a half percent; market was doing raises like 30 percent,” said Manager Giesbrecht.

Although the IBEW collective bargaining agreement was not due for renegotiation until this summer, the borough recognized the recruiting issue in the PMPL department and approached IBEW about opening contract negotiations early to primarily redress pay rates.

The union agreed.

Negotiations between the borough and IBEW happened remarkably quickly. The Petersburg Borough Assembly approved the new contract in an executive session with members of the borough negotiation team on Nov. 6.

“Your staff did a great job. I believe it’s one of the quickest times I’ve done negotiating,” IBEW system business manager Sven Westergard told the assembly before the executive session. “I believe both sides will be

happy with this. It will get you guys back in the hunt to get some qualified people in here.”

Each position in the contract was negotiated individually. The tentative agreement reached for this contract raised wages “appropriately” to come closer to market rates.

The \$49 an hour starting wage for a Journeyman Lineman increased to \$58 per hour in the ratified contract.

The collective bargaining agreement includes “an additional Operator premium of \$1.75 per hour for anyone who trains to be an Operator but does not have Operator in their position title” according to Borough Clerk and Human Resources Director Debbie Thompson.

A Journeyman Lineman/Operator position lists at \$59.75 per hour — \$58 for the lineman portion and \$1.75 per hour for the premium.

The Electrician/Operator position is now advertised at \$58 per hour, which includes the \$1.75 premium for the operator position.

“We feel it’s a fair contract,” Caulum continued. “It gets us close to the industry standards.”

The parties agreed to implement the pay increases of

the ratified contract with the start of the next payroll period, rather than wait until July, to begin the recruitment process with this improved incentive.

The ratified contract is effective from Nov. 11, 2023 through June 30, 2027.

Wages are set through June 30, 2025. In early 2025, the borough and IBEW will reopen negotiations, for wages only, to assess raises for IBEW positions on July 1, 2025 and again the following year, according to Clerk Thompson.

“The salary is a big help, at least it opens the door so people might consider us. But the truth of it is, we still have to find people who want to live here ... not everybody wants to live in our slush,” Manager Giesbrecht said. “We still have a lot of work to do to get good people here ... this is the first step that allows us to be competitive about our recruiting.”

“We need to attract the talent for some of these highly skilled jobs and so far we’ve been struggling with that,” Caulum said. “We’re hopeful that this will get us one step closer to filling these positions and keeping the lights on for Petersburg.”



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