

**Residential heat pump grants start going out**

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**PHS wrestlers finish regular season strong**

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**Pickled Herring Contest winners**

see page 10

# petersburg pilot

PETERSBURG, ALASKA



December 11, 2025  
Vol. 51, No. 50

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16 Pages  
\$2

## Petersburg sets daily snowfall record as Arctic air dumps 15 inches

By **ORIN PIERSON**  
*Pilot writer*

Petersburg set a daily snowfall record Monday with 7.8 inches, but the early snowfall ap-

pears to be an outlier from expectations of a drier and colder winter to come, according to the National Weather Service in Juneau.

The snowstorm continued

through Tuesday, accumulating 15 inches of snow across the two days.

No flights landed at the airport on Tuesday, and roads in town were somewhat treacher-

ous until snow abated and plowing caught up by Wednesday morning.

Tuesday would have been a snowfall record too, if not for the 9.9 inches that fell on Dec. 9 back in 1946, explained Jeff Garmon, Meteorologist in Charge at the Juneau Weather Service. That famous 1946 storm started in early December and kept snowing until 3 or 4 feet accumulated, and Petersburg hasn't seen the likes of that early-winter snowfall since. It remains "the one that I think most folks would talk about ... stories passed on through family ... of bigger storms back in the 20th century," Garmon said.

This week's storm - powered by what Garmon called an "arctic air mass" - set daily snowfall records all across the region. Juneau broke records, and Wrangell reported approximately 18 inches across Monday

and Tuesday.

The heaviest precipitation in Petersburg fell Monday night into Tuesday. Initially, forecasters expected the heaviest band to set up south of Petersburg, but it shifted northward during the day Tuesday and dumped more snow than expected.

Mercifully, the Alaska Marine Highway System adjusted its schedule last week to bring the F/V Columbia into Petersburg on Dec. 10. The ferry came in the early hours of Wednesday, loaded with passengers affected by canceled flights who arrived home to a ferry terminal thick with walk-on passengers and vehicles navigating the accumulated snow.

Garmon warned that residents should watch for another band of snow this weekend. The next system is expected to move through Saturday night into

Continued on page 16

## Burger Bank to distribute moose meat to community this weekend

By **ORIN PIERSON**  
*Pilot writer*

The Petersburg Rotary Club will distribute over 200 pounds of moose burger to the community on Saturday morning, through a unique local program that turns hunting violations into a food security resource.

Petersburg's Moose Burger Bank, now in its eighth year, processes meat from illegally harvested moose and distributes it to local nonprofits and community organizations and, when supplies allow, directly to community members.

A public distribution will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday outside the former location of Coastal Cold Storage at 306 North Nordic Drive.

"It's first come, first served, and you must be there to pick up," said Desi Burrell, who helps coordinate the program through the Rotary Club. "You can't pick up for other households."

Those who show up can receive two 2-pound packages of ground moose meat - with enough available for approximately 40 to 50 families.

The burger bank program takes moose that are illegally harvested during Petersburg's fall hunting season and processes them entirely into burger meat at a commercial facility. Hunters who mistakenly take an illegal moose pay the processing costs and that value is applied to reduce their court fines.

"It's not necessarily waived, but in lieu of," Burrell explained. "They can bring their receipt to the court and have that taken off whatever fine was imposed."

The Rotary Club sponsors the program and covers processing costs in rare cases where hunters don't pay. In the program's eight-year history, that's happened only once.

The local businesses who contribute services to the program are Tonka Seafoods, Petersburg Community Cold Storage, Hammer & Wikan, and Petersburg IGA.

This year saw notably fewer

Continued on page 3



Photo courtesy of Lauren Barbour

Columbia passengers walking up to the Petersburg ferry terminal in the early hours of Wednesday, Dec. 10, a crucial ferry stop for those who ended up stranded by flight cancellations this week which would not have been possible without the Coast Guard approving an extension for the Columbia.

## Columbia back at work until Dec. 17 to cover for Kennicott

By **LARRY PERSILY**  
*Wrangell Sentinel*

The Alaska Marine Highway System has put the Columbia back to work through Dec. 17 to cover for the Kennicott, which is delayed leaving a Puget Sound shipyard.

The Kennicott was scheduled to start running the first week of December between Bellingham, Washington, and Southeast Alaska, but the state reported last month that the ship would be delayed two weeks coming out of the shipyard where it has been for a new generator and other repairs.

The Kennicott is now scheduled to leave Ketchikan on Wednesday, Dec. 17, for Bellingham, to start its regular weekly run to Southeast on Friday, Dec. 19.

The Alaska Marine Highway System was able last week to obtain U.S. Coast Guard approval to run the Columbia a little longer before its winter overhaul, so as to avoid the loss of mainline ferry service through Southeast.



Photo courtesy of Lauren Barbour

A glimpse inside the iconic lounge of the F/V Columbia.

"The U.S. Coast Guard completed the Columbia's certificate of inspection on Monday and Tuesday (Dec. 1-2) and approved our extension ... so the vessel can cover the Kennicott runs," Danielle Tessen, communications manager for the Alaska Department of

Continued on page 4



# Yesterday's News: News from 25-50-75-100 years ago

**December 11, 1925** - Petersburg's Miss Laddie Kyle, who is in Seward gathering data for a novel she is publishing, received a substantial check and a good contract from an Eastern magazine for pen drawings illustrating scenes around Seward. As a magazine illustrator Miss Kyle has few superiors, her work being of a high order, and eagerly sought by some of the Eastern magazines. Shortly, Miss Kyle will leave for Anchorage where she will spend a month looking over local color, and making pen and ink sketches of scenery in the vicinity. Her new book will be entitled "The Gibber Girl" and will deal with the adventures of a young girl in the herring plants of Alaska. Many of the sketches have been completed and the book is well underway.

**December 1, 1950** - If there is in Petersburg any man - or woman - who feels agile enough to catch a mountain goat, here's his chance to do it and make a little money in the process. The United States government is inviting bids for some live, wild goats. Up to 14 females are needed and half a dozen males. Bids should be in Juneau by December 26. Goats may be taken and delivered any time from January 1 to May 1, 1951. Queried as to whether anyone could actually capture a wild goat alive, Hosea Sarber, Wildlife agent, says that sometimes in the winter they come down into the valleys and on the beaches where it would be possible to trap them. But he admits it is a job for a superman, or at least a super-woodsman.

**November 28, 1975** - A new seismograph system to measure local ground movements and possible coming earthquakes has been installed at Petersburg High School. Members of instructor Paul Bowen's geology class will be monitoring and servicing the system. The seismograph is presently stored in Bowen's classroom, with its sensor in the high school basement. The seismograph, with its read-out

display, will eventually be relocated in a high school hallway with a glass panel, for public observation. The single component system from Teledyne Geotech was purchased with a \$6700 federal grant. Wayne Jorgensen, a technician from Palmer Seismological Observatory, helped install the system and said it would be able to show location and strength of ground movement in the immediate area, as well as record major quakes elsewhere. The seismograph will also detect loud sounds and stormy seas in the immediate area. Petersburg's system joins one in Sitka as the only seismographs in the area and is the only system in a high school in Alaska. Bowen said that if this system proves stable, it may hook up with the Palmer

observatory for data exchange and with the U.S. Geological Survey for fault survey. "If the Chatham Fault, west of Petersburg, becomes more active," Jorgensen said, "this system could be invaluable." Petersburg, for quake reporting, is ideally located between the inactive Chatham Fault to the west and the main fault on the mainland. "We're tied in more with the continent than Sitka," said Bowen, "so our station may be more valuable." To accurately record the time of ground movements, the system also sports the best time piece in town - a self-correcting mechanism synched to Greenwich meantime and accurate to a thousandth of a second.

**December 7, 2000** - To the

Editor: While I was in Petersburg last month getting some boat work done, I couldn't help but notice that the entire Petersburg harbor seemed to be almost ideal Endangered Sea Lion Habitat, heretofore and therebyeverafter called ESLH. Now that I am safely back home in Juneau, protected by legions of liberal politicians and bureaucrats, I am proposing that the entire Petersburg waterfront be declared an Endangered Sealion Sanctuary (ESS). Our plan (PLAN) will consist of pulling all pilings, docks, floats, boats, canaries, etc, out and moving everything back at least two blocks, back up on the muskeg toward the swamp between town and the airport. The PLAN would leave several floats in the South harbor for Sea Lion haulouts, rookeries and transient moorage (SLHR&TM). Any interested parties (IPs) wishing to contribute to this noble cause (NC) send your donation with a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to Wayne Alex, The Friends of the Endangered

Jellyfish Society, Juneau, AK. Let us know your views, they will be carefully considered, duly noted, filed and shredded. Appropriate action may be taken if you disagree with us - such as character assassination in the press, turning you into the IRS, calling mental health or your probation officer... Wayne Alex, Friends of the Jellyfish Society (FOJIFS)

**Northern Nights Theater**  
**Mitkof Dance Troupe Present:**  
**Inside the Snowglobe**  
 Saturday at 6:30 pm  
 Sunday at 2:30 pm  
*Doors Open 30 Minutes Prior To Showtimes*  
**Coming Soon:**  
**Wicked: For Good**  
 Concessions available. Credit cards accepted.  
  
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**Petersburg Elks Lodge #1615**  
 Join us for the  
**Free Hoop Shoot**  
  
**Saturday, Dec. 13th**  
**9:30am until finished**  
**High School Gym**  
**Ages 8 through 13**  
  
 Volunteers appreciated -  
 Contact Jill Dormer 503-730-4882

**Good Beginnings Annual Cookie Walk**  
 a fundraiser for kids education  
**Saturday, Dec. 13**  
**11am-2pm**  
 Petersburg Lutheran Church  
 Holy Cross House  


**PETERSBURG HAPPENINGS**  
 Brought to you by:  

**THURSDAY, December 11**  
**Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention:** 10:00am, Mitkof Dance Studio  
**Wiggle & Giggle: Stories and Playtime:** 11:00am, Public Library  
**Free Dinner Get Together:** 5:30pm, Lutheran Church Holy Cross House

**FRIDAY, December 12**  
**Al-Anon Support Group:** 12:00pm, Episcopal Church  
**Bingo:** 6:00pm, Sons of Norway Hall  
**AA Candlelight Meeting:** 7:00pm, Episcopal Church

**SATURDAY December 13**  
**Elks Hoop Shoot (Ages 8-13):** 9:30am, High School Gym  
**Good Beginnings Cookie Sale Fundraiser:** 11:00am, Holy Cross House  
**Free Crafting Day (supplies included):** 12:00pm, 2nd and Fram  
**Mitkof Dance Recital:** 6:30pm, Wright Auditorium

**SUNDAY, December 14**  
**Knitting Group - All Welcome:** 2:00pm, Mt. View Manor Social Hall  
**Mitkof Dance Recital:** 2:30pm, Wright Auditorium

**MONDAY, December 15**  
**Tai Chi:** 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall  
**Community Meal:** 5:00pm, Narrows Apartments  
**Burger Night:** 5:30pm, Moose Lodge  
**Borough Assembly Meeting:** 6:00pm, Municipal Building

**TUESDAY, December 16**  
**Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention:** 10:00am, Mitkof Dance Studio  
**Library Board Advisory Meeting:** 12:00pm, Public Library  
**PIA Community Meal:** 5:00pm, John Hansen Sr. Hall  
**Taco Tuesday:** 5:30pm, Moose Lodge  
**Tidal Network Community Listening Session:** 6:00pm, John Hanson Senior Hall on First Street  
**AA 12x12 Meeting:** 7:00pm, Holy Cross Classroom

**WEDNESDAY, December 17**  
**Tai Chi:** 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall  
**Rotary Meeting:** 12:00pm, Salvation Army Hall  
**PIA Tribal Council Meeting:** 5:00pm, Hallinstad Peratrovich Building  
**HIP Project Connect Clothing and Gear Drop Off:** 5:30-6:30pm, EC Phillips Cookhouse, next door to Rexall  
**Free Dinner For All:** 6:00pm, First Baptist Church  
**ANB/ANS Monthly Business Meeting:** 7:00pm, John Hanson Sr. Hall

**FERRY SCHEDULE**  
 Terminal Office • 772-3855 or call 800-642-0066

NORTHBOUND DEPARTURES				SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURES			
SUN 12/14	COLUMBIA	09:00	P.M.	WED 12/17	COLUMBIA	12:45	A.M.
SUN 12/28	KENNICOTT	09:45	P.M.	WED 12/31	KENNICOTT	05:00	A.M.
MON 1/5	KENNICOTT	02:30	A.M.	WED 1/7	KENNICOTT	05:30	A.M.
SUN 1/11	KENNICOTT	08:45	P.M.	WED 1/14	KENNICOTT	05:00	A.M.

PRESENTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY:  


**WEATHER**  
  

	High	Low	Precip	Snow
12/3	43	40	0.23	0.0
12/4	43	38	T	0.0
12/5	40	36	T	0.0
12/6	42	37	1.22	0.0
12/7	42	35	0.79	0.0
12/8	35	23	0.61	7.8
12/9	23	21	0.65	7.5

This Week's Precipitation: 15.30"  
 This weather service is provided by the FAA weather observation station at the James A. Johnson Airport.

**DAYLIGHT HOURS**  
  

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Dec 11	8:18a	3:13p	6:54hrs
Dec 12	8:19a	3:13p	6:53hrs
Dec 13	8:20a	3:12p	6:52hrs
Dec 14	8:21a	3:12p	6:50hrs
Dec 15	8:22a	3:12p	6:49hrs
Dec 16	8:23a	3:12p	6:48hrs
Dec 17	8:24a	3:12p	6:47hrs

**PETERSBURG TIDE TABLE**  
 DECEMBER 2025  


	HIGH TIDES				LOW TIDES			
	A.M.		P.M.		A.M.		P.M.	
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
11 Thu	6:13	14.7	6:12	13.2	....	...	12:26	4.8
12 Fri	7:10	14.6	7:29	12.2	0:40	2.4	1:42	4.4
13 Sat	8:06	14.7	8:46	11.9	1:39	3.5	2:52	3.7
14 Sun	8:56	15.0	9:54	12.1	2:38	4.3	3:51	2.8
15 Mon	9:42	15.4	10:51	12.6	3:33	4.9	4:39	1.8
16 Tue	10:23	15.8	11:38	13.2	4:22	5.2	5:21	1.0
10 Wed	11:02	16.3	....	...	5:07	5.3	5:58	0.4

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

# Moose Burger Bank



Photo courtesy of Desi Burrell

Burger Bank originator Steve Burrell, State Wildlife Trooper Sgt. Cody Litster, and Petersburg Police Chief James Kerr smile while delivering moose burger in 2024.



Photo courtesy of Desi Burrell

Burger Bank moose meat being delivered to the elementary school cafeteria in 2023.



**Mardi GRAS**

**Masquerade**

**2026**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Hosted by American Legion Post 14**

Escape the winter chill and step into an evening of sparkle at  
**the 3rd Annual Petersburg Ball**  
**Saturday, Feb. 7th • 7:30pm**  
**The Moose Lodge**

Enjoy music by Bigmex, dancing, door prizes,  
 and food by Fire Bistro.

21+ • \$75 • Cash-only bar  
 A perfect mid-winter night to dress up,  
 unwind, and celebrate!



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**Silent Auction**  
 through December

Proceeds will go to Humanity in Progress to fight food and housing insecurities.

Tongass Federal Credit Union is offering a matching donation up to \$500.

Accepting bids through Christmas Eve at Tongass Branch or by phone (907) 228-8676.

We are auctioning a dog sled crafted in Wasilla Alaska and can be viewed in the window at Rexall Drug Store.



**Continued from page 1**  
 illegal harvests across the entire game management area, which includes Petersburg, Wrangell and Kake. Only seven moose were taken illegally, with four of those coming through Petersburg's processing system.

"I think [hunters] are being more mindful and careful," Burrell said, noting this was particularly encouraging given record-high legal harvest numbers this season.

From those four illegal moose, 1,000 pounds of moose burger was processed this year. For comparison, in 2023, the Burger Bank handled 2,200 pounds of meat from illegal harvests and opted to send around 700 pounds of moose burger to Wrangell in the wake of the tragic landslide.

The bulk of processed moose burger goes to Petersburg organizations that provide community meals and food assistance. Regular recipients include Petersburg Indian Association, the Petersburg School District, First Baptist Church's Wednesday night meal, the Monday night meals at Narrows Inn, Humanity in Progress, Petersburg Children's Center, Mountain View Manor, and the Salvation Army food bank.

The decision to process all meat into burger serves multiple practical purposes.

"Most people can eat burger," Burrell said. "Easy to prepare, easy to store. It's not too tough..."

"We've tried different sizes over the years to see what worked," Burrell said. "Two-pound packs seem to work the best."

The Moose Burger Bank began in 2017; the idea originated with Burrell's husband Steve then Desi secured the necessary permissions from the Alaska Department of Public

Safety to implement the program.

The program appears to be unique in Southeast Alaska.

"The old days here, the troopers would bring a quarter to [Petersburg Indian Association] and say, 'Give it to an elder,' or they knew different organizations, and then they had to process it and take care of it themselves," Burrell remembered.

For this Saturday's distribu-

tion, Burrell expects the process to move quickly once it begins at 10 a.m. sharp.

"It usually is fast and furious," she said. "We're just handing out bags."

For families not able to attend Saturday's distribution in person, Burrell noted that many of the regular recipient organizations may have moose burger available through their meal programs and food assistance services.



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Dozens of Petersburg travelers stranded by the blizzard's cancelled flights disembark the F/V Columbia Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Photo courtesy of Lauren Barbour

## Ferry

Continued from page 1

Transportation, said Dec. 4.

"The Coast Guard was such a huge assist to getting that done," said Shannon McCarthy, a spokesperson for the Alaska Department of Transportation. "All passengers have been contacted."

According to the ferry system's online schedule, the Columbia, after being held out of service for 10 days, went back to sea on Sunday, Dec. 7, when it left Ketchikan for Petersburg on its northbound run through Southeast.

The schedule shows the Columbia leaving service on Dec. 17, after completing its southbound run from Wrangell to Ketchikan, where it will head to the shipyard for winter work.

The ferry system pulls all of its ships out of service each year, generally one at a time, for maintenance and any needed repairs, requiring tight scheduling with the privately operated shipyard in Ketchikan that handles most of the work.

The Kennicott, which was

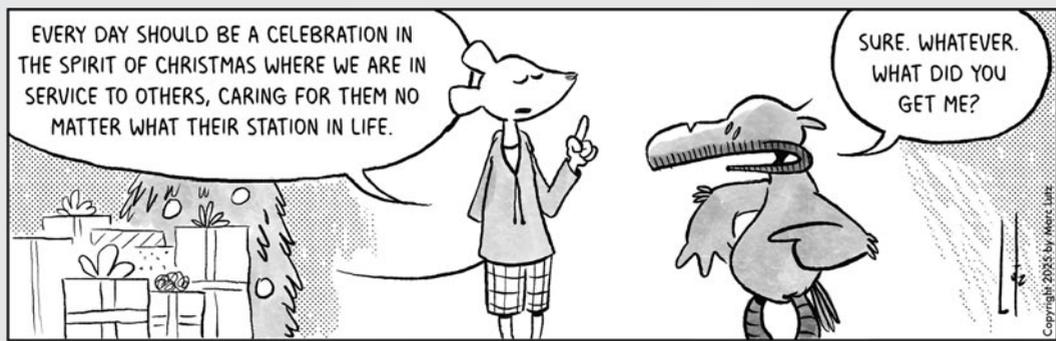
built in 1998, has been out of service all year for installation of new generators to meet emissions standards and other overhaul and maintenance work.

When workers ran some tests on Nov. 20, they discovered an electrical problem between the power system and switchboard, according to the state. "During testing, the control panel kept incorrectly opening the circuit breakers."

Finding and fixing the problem extended the ferry's stay at the shipyard.

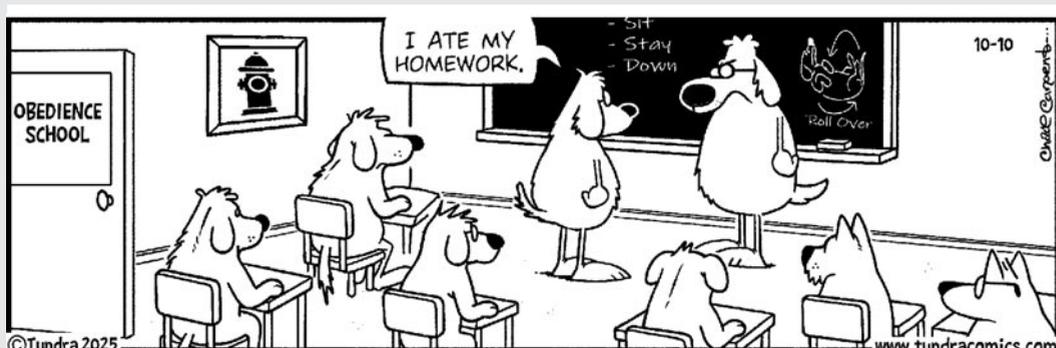
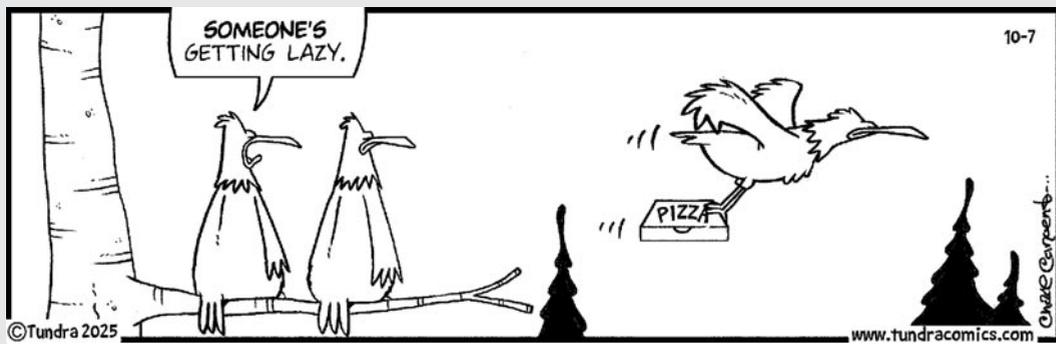
## Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



## Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



## KFSK Year-End Match From



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Visit [kfsk.org](http://kfsk.org) or call 907-772-3808.

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## Changes to the Petersburg Borough budget include \$11K for ball field repairs

By OLIVIA ROSE  
KFSK Radio

The Petersburg Borough Assembly approved a handful of changes to the borough's budget earlier this month, including spending \$11,000 to repair damage at the town's ball field.

An intense wind storm in September caused one dugout to completely collapse and the adjacent structure covering the bleachers to lean significantly.

At the Dec. 1 Borough Assembly meeting, Little League President Becky Turland said the ball field is important to many in the community.

"Little League uses the ball fields. The school uses the ball fields for playing ball. They also go up there and do a lot of different activities up there. Youth serving organizations do it. We have our community softball league that goes up there. So it is used really heavily by our community throughout the year," said Turland.

Little League maintains the facility. However, Turland said its insurance won't cover repairs because the damage was caused by a storm, not by Little League.

The borough owns the facil-

ity but doesn't insure it. When Assembly Member James Valentine asked why, Borough Manager Steve Giesbrecht said the borough doesn't insure facilities without much "intrinsic value."

"Long time ago, we made a decision to not insure those because we end up paying more in insurance than we would actually get back," Giesbrecht said. "This is the first time in 15 years I've been here that we've had actually, you know, something like this happen at the ball field."

But Giesbrecht noted the borough will get a quote to see if the repair expense is actually less than what insuring the facility would've cost.

"This may be one of those things [where] we just got unlucky, and \$11,000 is likely a lot less of a cost than if we would have been paying insurance on it for the last 15 years," he continued. "We don't know that yet. We'll get a quote."

Other adjustments to the borough's overall budget shift funds, account for additional revenue, and increase the budget for capital projects and wastewater system repairs.

The largest change to the budget adds \$195,000 in ex-



Photo courtesy of Olivia Rose/KFSK

A dugout lies collapsed at Petersburg's Mort Fryer Sports Complex on Sept. 27, 2025, after a wind storm blew it down the previous afternoon. The Petersburg Borough is increasing the parks and recreation department's budget to pay for repairs at the ball field.

penses to replace street lights downtown; cash for the project is already reserved, according to the borough.

In October, the Assembly accepted \$78,000 from Petersburg Indian Association to help fund the borough's project to replace deteriorated breakwaters at Banana Point, on the southern tip of Mitkof Island. One of the budget adjustments accounts for that revenue increase.

A wastewater outfall pipe in

Frederick Sound needs to be repaired. The diffuser fell off sometime in the past two decades, according to department officials. The borough is budgeting \$66,000 for engineering expenses. During the Assembly's initial reading of the budget ordinance last month, Giesbrecht said that would give the borough an estimate for how much the repairs will cost.

The wastewater budget also increased by \$25,000 to replace

part of a pump station and fix the failed part to have as a backup.

Finally, \$16,000 left over from the Electric Auto Meter Reading Capital Project will be transferred to a different electric project, the Electric Grid Resiliency Project.

The Borough Assembly approved the overall budget changes unanimously.

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

## Police report

**December 3** - An officer conducted a welfare check on Mitkof Hwy.

It was reported that a vehicle had knocked over a movable sign on Dolphin Street.

Officers executed a search warrant on Excel Street.

Officers responded to an accident involving two vehicles on Mitkof Hwy.

An officer conducted a welfare check on Skylark Way.

**December 4** - A citizen spoke with Dispatch concerning a civil issue that was later resolved.

Officers responded and conducted a civil standby on Excel Street.

An officer responded to a report of possible fireworks or firearm discharge on Balder Street. The source could not be located.

A bar check was conducted on Chief John Lott Street.

An officer responded to a report of possible gunshot on Queen Street. The source could not be located.

**December 5** - An officer conducted additional patrols on N 7th Street.

Officers responded to a trespassing issue on Excel Street.

Officers responded to a parking complaint on S 3rd Street. The issue was resolved.

A bar check was conducted on Chief John Lott Street.

Officers assisted a citizen on Lumber Street.

A purse was found and brought to the Police Department (PD). It was returned to the owner.

**December 6** - Lost property was reported. Trespassing was reported on Birch Street.

Officers responded to a report of an unusual noise on Gjoa Street. The source could not be located.

Officers responded to a report on Cabin Creek Road. There was no criminal activity, but officers advised citizens regarding the harvest area of dead timber.

Warnings were issued on S Nordic Drive concerning headlight and license requirements.

**December 7** - An officer responded to an alarm

activation on N Nordic Drive. It was determined to be an inadvertent activation during maintenance.

Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity on Harbor Way. It was determined to be unfounded.

A welfare check was conducted on Skylark Way.

Papers were served on Mitkof Hwy.

Officers assisted with an inoperable vehicle on Butterfly Lane.

**December 8** - An officer conducted additional patrols Downtown.

Dispatch assisted an individual with an issue that was determined to be unfounded.

A lost dog was returned to its owner on Fram Street.

Suspicious activity was reported on Excel Street. It was determined to be non-criminal.

A warning was issued on Queen Street for improper driving.

Suspicious activity was reported on Birch Street. It was determined to be non-criminal.

**December 9** - An officer conducted a welfare check at South Harbor.

An officer provided lockout assistance on Nordic Drive.

Officers responded to a report of trespassing on N 1st Street and escorted the individual off the property.

It has been reported that a vehicle was stuck in a ditch due to snow on Woodrow Wilson Drive. It will be removed once the road is plowed.

Dispatch spoke with a complainant. The issue was determined to be unfounded.

It was reported that a vehicle was stuck in the snow. Passersby assisted in moving the vehicle while speaking with Dispatch.

An officer assisted Emergency Medical Services (EMS) on Kisenon Street.

A third party reported that a vehicle was disabled on Libby Strait. The owner called to explain that the vehicle would be moved shortly.

An officer assisted with a vehicle stuck in the snow on N Nordic Drive.

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# Heat pump grants start going out in coastal communities

By **LARRY PERSILY**  
*Wrangell Sentinel*

A program run by a pair of Alaska nonprofits has started paying out grants for new electric heat pump installations in homes from Metlakatla to Kodiak.

The grants range from \$4,000 to \$8,500 per household, depending on income, and are intended to reduce home heating costs while also reducing pollution from burning fossil fuels.

The coastal Alaska program is just starting up, with funds paid out or pending for about 15 installations as of Dec. 2, said Jessie Huff, energy program manager for the Southeast Conference.

"We have at least 300 applications in the works right now," she told the regional economic development nonprofit's energy committee on Dec. 2.

The Southeast Conference and Alaska Heat Smart, a nonprofit dedicated to reducing the cost of living and increasing the use of clean energy, last year were awarded a \$38.6 million federal grant to help lower the cost of energy-efficient heat pumps for 6,000 households in 43 coastal communities.

Applicants need to provide proof of income to determine which level of assistance they would be eligible to receive. Applicants also need to provide a record of their heating costs as part of the home assessment process.

The maximum grant amount of \$8,500 is available for households earning less than 80% of the area median annual income.

Applicants with annual household incomes above the low-income threshold would be eligible for a \$6,000 or \$4,000 grant, depending on their income.

Any costs in excess of the grant amount are the responsibility of the homeowner, Huff said, adding that the Southeast Conference is working with credit unions and banks that are interested in creating loan programs for heat pump conversions.

In addition to receiving a larger grant, low-income households would not have to front the money to pay a heat pump contractor — the program would pay the contractor directly. All other grant recipients would need to pay their contractor and submit receipts for reimbursement.

Commercial properties are not eligible for the program, which is called Accelerating Clean Energy Savings.

The effort is funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The nationwide Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program is funded under the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, which allocated nearly \$5 billion to states, local governments, tribes and territories to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help reduce energy costs.

The individual grants are available for homes that install a heat pump to replace diesel, propane or wood heat, as the program is intended to reduce consumption of fossil fuels, Huff said.

"You must apply, complete the income verification and home assessment processes, and receive final approval prior to purchasing materials or starting your installation," the program website cautions. "Installations started prior to receiving approval will not be eligible for an incentive payment."

More information is available at the website [Akheatsmart.org/aces/](http://Akheatsmart.org/aces/). People can log in at the site to start their application, including the income verification process.

The Heat Smart team will conduct a preliminary assessment of what would be needed to heat the home, Huff explained. The team will ask for utility bills and the size of the

home.

Low-income households that qualify for the larger grant will need to wait for an approved contractor to do the work; other participants in the program can choose a contractor from Heat Smart's list or pick their own contractor.

That is a limiting factor for people who qualify for the low-income grants and need to wait for a contractor to take the job.

"We don't have active low-income heat pump installers everywhere," Huff said, noting that only Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka have approved contractors on the list, though the program is close to adding Kodiak to that list.

The program is "actively trying to line up a contractor in every town," she said.

Though the grant was awarded more than a year ago, there was some uncertainty earlier this year whether or not the program would continue under the President Donald Trump administration.

Robert Venables, Southeast Conference executive director, reported in March that the federal funding had been frozen twice in the past few weeks amid the new administration's orders to halt federal contracts, loans and grants.

"Even though we lost it twice, we got it back a third time," Venables said in early March.



Photo courtesy of Steve Harbour

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# Strong finish propels PHS Wrestling into Region V Championships

By AIDEN LUHR  
Pilot writer

In their final tournament before regionals, the Petersburg High School Wrestling team had an opportunity to finish the regular season at Wrangell's Tom Sims Invitational on a high with momentum heading into regionals — and they did just that. The team put out their best performance of the season, said head coach James Valentine.

Coach Valentine praised the growth they showed in the meet and to get to this point despite having a younger team.

"Overall, I thought this was a great weekend for wrestling and growth and hopefully an indication of what region seeding will be for this coming weekend," Valentine said.

All the stuff that coach Valentine and Tyler Thain have been telling this young squad all season, is now becoming habitual and that's what excites them the most.

"You want the moves to be a reaction and we felt that the reaction was there and we weren't afraid to take our shots, pick our moments, and, [even] through loss, it was really good how we mentally handled it," Valentine said. "Me and coach Thain, we focus on effort and outcome and right now, we're seeing a lot of effort."

There were multiple Viking's that had breakthrough moments at the Tom Sims Invitational, with one of them being junior Fyscher Humphrey. Humphrey put out her best meet of the season. It was her second match against a girl from Craig and

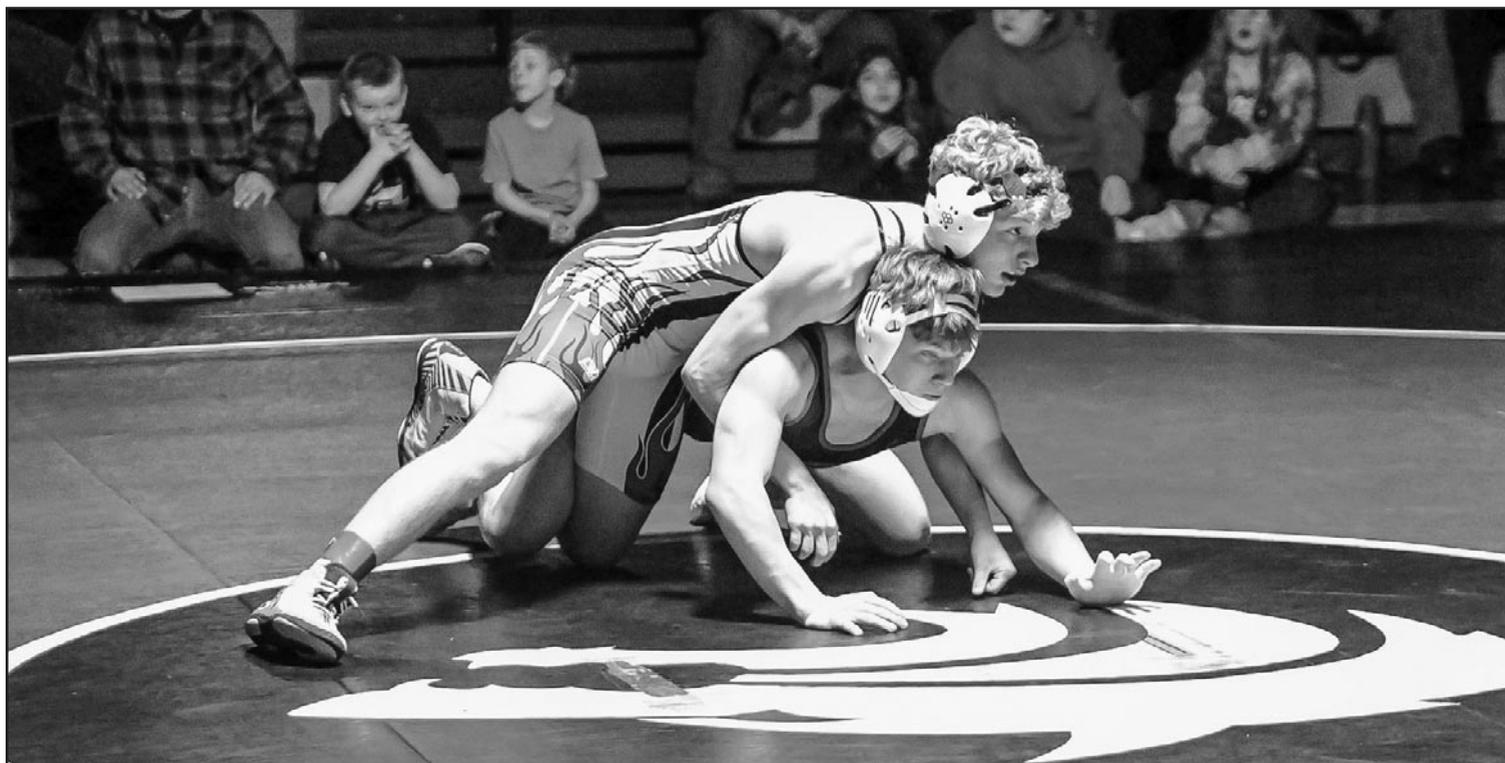


Photo courtesy of Jonathon Dawe / Wrangell Sentinel

Viking wrestler Tanner Caulum and Wrangell's Jackson Carney battled it out in their finals match on Saturday, Dec. 6. The match was hard fought. Caulum was the first person to put Carney on his back in two years. In the end Carney won, marking his 100th high school wrestling win.

everything just clicked.

"I got on the mat and I realized I can beat this girl, I have her and from then on I just got aggressive and remembered what I needed to do," Humphreys said. "Staying aggressive and keeping the mindset that I know I can win that match."

Humphreys went 2-2 in the 132G weight class (up from 126G in the beginning of the season) at the Tom Sims Invitational, making it to the finals for her first time. Humphreys faced Ketchikan's Meg Thompson.

"Going into finals was definitely scary because I had never been to finals and the match itself was not a great match so

that was embarrassing but other than that, I was proud that I did what I could," Humphreys said.

Humphrey finished second in her weight class.

Four Vikings made it to finals at the Tom Sims Invitational such as Edgar Olsen, Eli Anderson (first place in weight class), Humphrey and junior Tanner Caulum.

Caulum went 3-1 during the tournament.

"Keeping the pressure on — move after move after move until you get what you want, which is a win," Caulum said, reflecting on his three victories.

Last season, Caulum didn't wrestle due to a broken toe. This

year, he went from missing a season to competing in the 145 weight bracket, against arguably the number one wrestler in the state, Wrangell's Jackson Carney.

Caulum met Carney in the finals.

"He was out of position and I did a reversal and then caught him in the head and arm and by the end of the match, it was nine to 15, but to my knowledge, I was the first person to put Jackson Carney on his back and hold him there for as long as I did," Caulum added.

It was two years since Carney

had been put on his back.

"It gave Tanner a lot of confidence. Jackson caught up and he started clapping and was like 'Yep. That was good,'" Valentine said.

Regions will be this weekend, in Mt. Edgecumbe, from Dec. 12-13, in Sitka.

"The ultimate goal is to take first but Jackson Carney, he's a good wrestler and I'm gonna do my best not to give him anything, wrestle my hardest and support the team," said Caulum.



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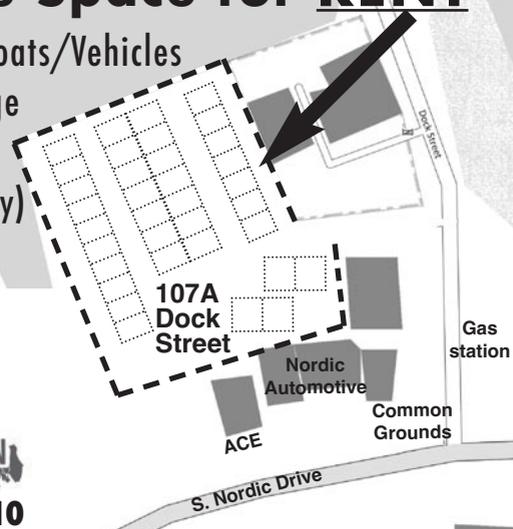
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## PSG Boys Varsity Basketball seeks state berth in 2025-26 season

By **AIDEN LUHR**  
Pilot writer

Last season, the Petersburg High School Vikings fell just short of a state berth, losing to the Metlakatla Chiefs. Despite the loss, throughout the season, the team was able to improve deploying their motion offense, despite the struggles for the majority of the season. This year, the team hopes to be able to limit mistakes from the get go when running their offense.

“For a lot of those guys last year, it was their first varsity experience of having extended minutes - I’m hoping that experience carries over into this season,” head coach Rick Brock said. “The guys have put a lot of work in before the season started, so the hope is we’re more comfortable just playing basketball.”

Senior post Aiden Knudsen made strides last season in his development, becoming a key cog and a reliable outlet for the team. This season, Knudsen is poised to hit the ground running.

“I think I’ve really grown as a player over the offseason. The whole team took big strides. I also think that my [offensive] load won’t get much bigger because everyone around me getting better will not just help me score more but also help me dish out the ball, which I think is another one of my strengths,” Knudsen said.

The Vikings have only had a handful of practices so far but the optimism is high for the team heading into the new season.

“We’re just on the basics right now but I think with a really good team, which I think we have this year, the basics will take us very far,” Knudsen said.

This iteration of the Vikings has some differences compared to previous years with the coaching staff hoping the roster will be a little bit deeper this season.

“I like our overall team speed

so we have the potential to play a little quicker but that boils down to how well we play offensively and if we can control the boards,” Brock said.

Opposing teams last season would constantly full court press the Viking’s offense, resulting in turnovers and easy fast break opportunities for the opposition. This year, the Vikings are looking to make better decisions with the ball.

Taking care of the ball starts with the team’s point guard, senior Noah Pawuk, who last season, was a first time starter. Now, with experience under his belt, he’s hoping to improve his playmaking.

“Handling the ball and playing against pressure, especially when you have the ball in your hands for most of the game - it takes a lot of time getting comfortable to play at a pace and making the right decision at times and at this point, I feel pretty comfortable in that role,” Pawuk said.

Staying composed under pressure will be key for the team’s success this year.

“That composure aspect is very important for not only myself for being one of the main ball handlers but the team as a whole - slowing down and playing within ourselves,” Pawuk said.

The team’s chemistry is in a good spot to start the season.

“As a team, we’ve been really coordinated. At camp, at the beginning of the summer, we

played really well and continued to get comfortable with each other,” senior forward Logan Tow said.

This is a team that feels like they’re ready to take the next step in their journey.

“That [Metlakatla] team last year, they weren’t the same team the year before. They took a big step and they were a much better, more coordinated team. I think if we can do the same thing,” we’ll be really good,” Tow said.

The Vikings begin their regular season on the road against the Craig Panthers, from Dec. 19-20, in Craig

“We have to be ready to play and we have some good experience from last year, they know what it’s about. Every weekend counts from now,” said Brock.

### Weekend Community Events for Vikings Basketball:

**12/13 (Sat):**

#### Pulled Pork Dinner:

Pork dinner pick up begins at 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Presale tickets only, see a player Tickets are still available

#### Clinic and Alumni Game:

**12/13 (Sat):**

Middle School Clinic (12-1 p.m.)

Middle School Scrimmage (1-2 p.m.)

Boys C team Scrimmage (2-3 p.m.)

JV Scrimmage (3-4 p.m.)

Alumni Game (4-5:30 p.m.)

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## PHS Girls Varsity Basketball prioritizing physicality and consistency for upcoming season

By **AIDEN LUHR**  
Pilot writer

Heading into the 2025-26 season, the Petersburg High School Girls Varsity Basketball team will be looking to dictate the pace of their opponents and not the other way around. Too many times last season, the Vikings would get off to slow starts, in part because teams just took the fight to them.

“Sometimes we would take the floor and it took us a little while to get in the flow of things because other teams would come out and be physical right of the get go and we weren’t ready to respond to it,” head coach Matt Pawuk said. “I think by us going harder at each other, being more physical in practice this year - we’ll be able to respond more quickly to the pace of the game.”

“I feel like sometimes we go out nervous or scared, so going out and playing hard and just knowing your role is what I think we can do to improve,” senior post and guard Natalee Bertagnoli said.

An advantage for this year’s squad is the offensive system is ahead of where it was at this time last season - a nice mixture of old and new offensive plays.

“We’ve been running a lot of our plays from last year and adding new things to that,” senior guard Rikka Miller said.

The team this year, compared to previous years, has good speed and size.

“Aurora Wolf has come a long way. She played really well at team camp last year and I think having that post presence will be really important for us this year,” Pawuk said.

“We would be playing at least three games a day and it was very draining but it is very rewarding in the end. [Team camp] teaches you how to kind of persevere when you’re exhausted,” senior post Aurora Wolf said

regarding her experience at team camp.

The Vikings ran multiple defensive coverages last season and the plan is to do that again.

“If we’ve got a team that maybe isn’t as good shooting from the outside but has a really strong post presence, then I could see us go to a zone and pack the paint,” Pawuk said.

Coach Pawuk sees added benefits in tailoring defensive coverages to opponents.

“It forces the other team to gameplan - I don’t want to be predictable defensively or offensively,” Pawuk said. “To be able to start at a higher level this year with our knowledge of the offense, plays and reads of the defense.”

A full 16 game conference slate this season begins with the Craig Panthers, a team the Vikings have tons of familiarity with and a team the Vikings know likes to push the tempo any chance they get - making conditioning a vital component for this matchup.

“We’ve been doing a lot of conditioning which is hard at the beginning but it gets easier. Craig is a well-conditioned team, so it should be a fun matchup,” Wolf said.

The Panthers will be an early season test to see if the Vikings have gotten better at handling pressure and physicality of opponents.

“We know they’re going to be very physical and pressure the basketball. We’ve been able to keep that in mind last week and so far this week,” Pawuk said.

If the Vikings want to accomplish their goals this season, they know they have to find consistency in playing home and away games, something they’re striving for.

“Work as a team and work hard and just see where it takes us. Playing good at home but also away,” said Bertagnoli.

The Vikings will host the Panthers, from Dec. 19-20, in Petersburg in the first of the 16 conference game slate this season.

# About Town

## Sons of Norway's Pickled Herring Contest Winners

### People's Choice appetizer award

- 1st Place: Carolyn Kvernvik

### Smoked/Cured Seafood

- 2nd Place: Sig Mathisen
- 1st Place: Helmer Olson

### Pickled Seafood

- 2nd Place: Kurt Kvernvik
- 1st Place: Glo Wollen with Sigrid and Arne

### Smoked Salmon

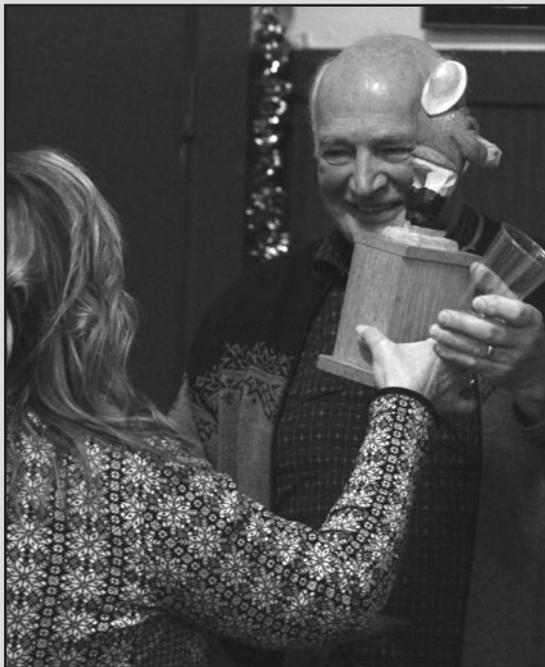
- 2nd Place: Sig Mathisen
- 1st Place: Steve Burrell

### Pickled Herring (main event)

- 2nd Place: Sig Mathisen's Erik the Red
- 1st Place: Sig Mathisen's Traditional Pickled Herring



Winners: (pictured left to right) Andy Kittams accepted the smoked seafood trophy for Helmer Olson, Steve Burrell won first in the smoked salmon category, Glo Wollen along with Sigrid and Arne claimed the top prize for pickled seafood, and in the pickled herring main event Sig Mathisen kept his winning streak going for another year. Carolyn Kvernvik (pictured below) also continued her streak of winning the People's Choice appetizer award.



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot



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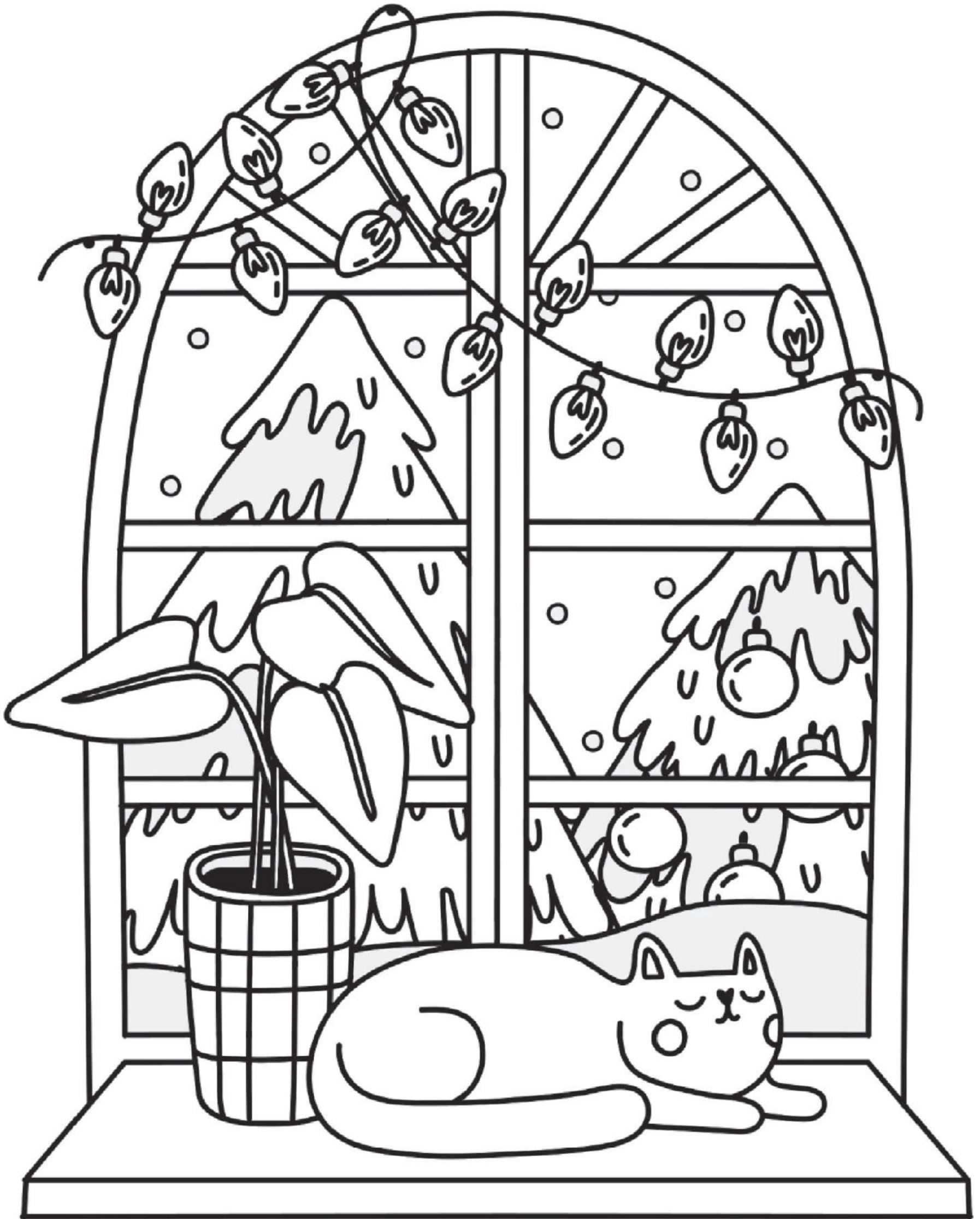
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- 8) Winners will be announced in the December 25th edition of the Pilot and displayed in the store for one week.

— Sponsored by Petersburg Pilot —

# State doubles next year's Zarembo elk hunt to 2 permits

By **JAKE DYE**  
For the *Wrangell Sentinel*

The number of elk hunt permits issued for Zarembo Island will be doubled next year, from one elk bull available for harvest to two.

It's a slow climb after the state shut down elk hunting on the island from 2006 to 2023, then allowing just one permit per year in 2024 and 2025.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been able to develop a better understanding of Zarembo's elk population, and believes the herd can handle the additional harvest, said Frank Robbins, the Petersburg-based game biologist for the Wrangell-Petersburg area.

The Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee has advocated for several years that the state allow taking elk on Zarembo to preserve the habitat for deer to browse on. Zarembo is a popular and easily accessible destination for Wrangell hunters.

The committee has filed a proposal with the Alaska Board of Game to allow even more hunting for elk on the island, including "a limited cow hunt may be necessary in the future to further keep the herd in check."

The board will meet in Wrangell Jan. 23-27 to consider almost 70 proposed rule changes for Southeast hunts.

The deadline to apply for 2026 elk hunt permits on Zarembo and also Etolin Island is Monday, Dec. 15. The hunts on the two islands are both drawing hunts,

open to residents and non-residents and awarded by lottery.

On Etolin, 25 permits will be available for a bow-only hunt from Sept. 1-30, before 50 each are available for two further hunts without the bow restriction between Oct. 1-15 and Oct. 16-31.

Those permit numbers are far higher than the actual harvest in recent years. The department hasn't published this year's results yet, but in 2024 a total of 42 hunters on Etolin harvested two elk across the three hunting periods.

Robbins said Etolin hunting is "tough going" because there is little infrastructure to help hunters move around the southern portion of the island where the elk are generally found.

Hunting on Zarembo is comparatively easier because of existing logging roads.

Cameras were deployed on Zarembo in 2023, Robbins said, with positioning determined by previous elk reporting, telemetry from collared elk and other available information. Using antlers for positive identification, 20 bull elk were counted on Zarembo in both 2023 and 2024. Cameras will continue to be used to track and monitor the population.

In 2024 a single hunter — Curtis Kautz, of Wrangell — harvested the one allowable elk, and Robbins said a hunter was successful on Zarembo this year as well.

Based on the new data of the elk population, the department

was able to increase the number of permits available next year. "We'll continue to do that," Robbins said. "Adjust the number of permits to provide for a sustainable hunt."

The elk on both islands are not native to Southeast Alaska. They were transplanted from Oregon to Etolin Island by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1997. The elk spread to Zarembo, swimming across from Etolin.

The department closed elk hunting on Zarembo in 2006, citing population concerns, and later opposed the successful proposal by the Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee to the State Board of Game in 2023 that reopened the hunt.

The department told the board in 2023: "There is no available data to suggest that the Zarembo Island elk population has increased since elk hunting ended in 2006."

Information available from the department says elk hunting on Etolin Island is best south of Anita Bay and recommends that hunters "concentrate their efforts" along the western and southern portions of the island. They recommend caution and preparedness for hunting in wet weather and avoiding unpleasant encounters with bears, and encourage hunters to plan for storing and processing the meat without letting it go to waste.

For more information about elk hunting regulations and opportunity, or to apply for the permit drawing, visit [adfg.alaska.gov](http://adfg.alaska.gov).



## Stork report

Adeline Ruth Miriam Odegaard was born to her proud mom, Lillith Odegaard, at 1:10 p.m. on November 24, 2025, at the Madigan Army Medical Center, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. She weighed 8lb 10oz, and was 21.5 inches. Her grandparents are Martin and Lena Odegaard.

## FBC Petersburg

**Sunday: 9:15a** - Bible Classes

• **10:30a** - Family Worship

**Wednesday:**

• **6p** - Outreach Fellowship Meal

• **7p** - LIFE Group in Fellowship Hall

907-518-1444 • Corner of 5th & Gjoa Streets

First Baptist Church Petersburg [www.fbcpetersburg.com](http://www.fbcpetersburg.com)



# Letters To Santa

Make sure Santa gets your wish list!



Hey Kids! It's time to write those special letters to Santa! Old Saint Nick is anxious to find out what Petersburg boys and girls are hoping to find under their trees on Christmas morning. He's also interested in knowing your name, grade in school and your age.

Drop off your letters in Santa's Mailbox located on the sidewalk in front of the Petersburg Pilot office on Nordic Dr. by Thursday, Dec. 18th. Letters can also be mailed through the post office or emailed to the addresses below.



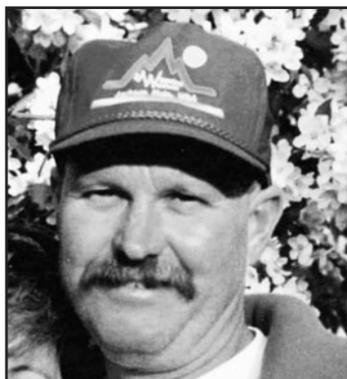
## Santa Claus

P.O.Box 930, Petersburg, AK 99833  
or email us  
at [pilotpub@gmail.com](mailto:pilotpub@gmail.com)

# Obituary

## Donald Dean Anderson, 81

Donald Dean Anderson was born on March 7, 1944, in Miami, a classic western boomtown in the heart of Arizona's Copper Corridor, to Earnest and Nellie Anderson. The family soon moved to California where Don and his older brothers, Bob and Vernon, grew up in the Central Valley and Sierra Foothills.



Donald Dean Anderson

After graduating from Morro Bay High School in 1962, Don enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served in engine room #2, aboard the USS Alamo, LSD 33. He met and fell in love with D. Charlene Bass and they were married on August 7, 1965, in San Luis Obispo, California.

After his discharge in August 1966, Don and Charlene settled in San Jose, California, where their two sons, Christopher and David, were born. Seeking a new challenge, the family moved to Pocatello, Idaho, in the spring of 1977, where Don enjoyed working as the sole machinery mechanic at the Rowland's Dairy processing plant.

Life in Idaho suited Don well. Winter weekends found the

family on the ski slopes at Pebble Creek, Targhee, Sun Valley, Jackson Hole or Big Sky. The summers beckoned them to the mountains for camping and fishing. They discovered the thrill of white water rafting and made eight trips on the middle Fork of the Salmon River. In 1994, Don scored a coveted Colorado River permit and, accompanied by friends, he and Charlene embarked on their ultimate river trip and, although Don was pitched out of the boat once, he never flipped the boat.

In 1992, they began making annual fishing trips to Petersburg, Alaska, which led to a job offer in 2001. Always up for an adventure, Don and Charlene sold their house, packed as much as possible in the back of their Dodge truck and headed north for a part-time job managing Petersburg's Scandia House Hotel. It soon became a year-round job that lasted until Don's retirement in 2010 when they bought an off-grid cabin in Keene Channel.

The cabin was weather tight and sound, but unfinished inside. Don's first project was to build 54 stairs up to the cabin before tackling the interior. Once the interior was settled, he enclosed a side porch, built a storage shed at the bottom of the stairs and was always planning further improvements. Don loved sharing the cabin with family and friends, driving the boat and getting everyone's fishing lines rigged up. Many fresh seafood meals were shared at their table.

Each fall Don and Charlene would head south on the ferry for a good visit with family and friends in Pocatello, but as soon as the snow started, they'd load up their camper to head for their favorite spots in California and Arizona where they enjoyed meeting other Snow Birds from around the country.

In 2023, Don's dementia forced the painful decision to leave the off-grid life and say goodbye to their wonderful friends in Petersburg for a much easier lifestyle in Pocatello.

Don passed away on December 1, 2025. He was preceded in death by his son David; parents, Earnest and Nellie; and brothers, Bob and Vernon.

He is survived by his wife, Charlene; son, Chris (Cherro); sister-in-law, Nancy Anderson; nieces, Patti Graff and Wendy Anderson; nephews, Anthony Anderson, Brian Anderson,

## Obituary: Paula Jeanne McCormick, 1934 - 2025

Paula Jeanne McCormick was born on October 10, 1934, in San Francisco, California, and passed away on November 23, 2025, in Anchorage, Alaska, at the age of 91.



Paula Jeanne McCormick

She was the beloved daughter of Paul Raymond Siberts and Lucella Belle Siberts (née Weaver). Paula is survived by her daughters, Debi (George) Cole and Shelly (James) Mabry, and sons, John (Mary Lou) McCormick and Timothy (Renee) McCormick, grandchildren, Tami Lewis, Steve Lewis, Derek Strickland, Hannah McCormick, Krystal Strand and Kearra McCormick. She also leaves numerous nieces, nephews, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Richard McCormick of Juneau, and sons Robert Strasser of Seattle, Washington, Michael Strasser of Surprise, Arizona and great grandson Kady Lewis.

Paula met the love of her life, Richard McCormick while working as a hostess at Mike's Place in Douglas. Dick was an educator and became the Superintendent of the Wrangell

schools. They were married in Wrangell in December 1972. The family remained there for many years where the younger children were raised and attended school. She made many friends and participated in many community activities. She was a member of the Wrangell Elks.

After Dick's retirement, they moved several times, to Whidbey Island for a few years,

to Tucson for two years and eventually back to Juneau where they remained for nearly 20 years. After Dick's death in 2018, Paula lived with daughters Debi in Petersburg and Shelly in Anchorage. Her final years were spent in Petersburg.

Paula loved to fish and could catch three kings to Dick's one. She particularly enjoyed playing pinochle and Yahtzee. She was known far and wide for her deep-fried tacos and her love of the American Southwest. Her grumpy exterior hid a deep and abiding love for her family.

A remembrance will be held sometime in the Spring with internment at the Shrine of St. Therese in Juneau following.

## Artifact Archive



This elegant fur coat, made of mink pelts from local Petersburg fur farms, belonged to Petersburg resident Caroline Westerburg (1904 - 1999), the cashier at the Coliseum Theater during the 1930s and 40s.

The pelts were shipped to Frederick & Nelson, Seattle's premier department store at the time. Their fur salon was known for exquisite craftsmanship, reflecting the era's glamour.

A hundred years ago fur farming was a big business in Alaska. Southeast saw its first fur farm in 1901 and by 1929 there were more than 200 fur farms throughout Southeast. Demand for such luxuries began dropping during the Great Depression of the 1930s and during World War II fur farming was seen as a non-essential business, leading to its further decline.

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at Petersburg School District

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

**Monday, Dec 15**  
Breakfast

WG Breakfast Burrito

Lunch

Tangerine Chicken  
WG Rice

**Tuesday, Dec 16**  
Breakfast

Yogurt and WG Granola

Lunch

Chicken Alfredo  
WG Noodles

**Wednesday, Dec 17**  
Breakfast

WG Banana Bread

Lunch

WG Moose Chili

**Thursday, Dec 18**  
Breakfast

WG Tony's Breakfast Pizza

Lunch

Farragut Farm Baked Potato  
Bar w/ WG Roll

**Friday, Dec 19**  
Breakfast

WG Cereal

Lunch

WG Chicken Fried Rice

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\*WG = Whole Grain



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.....tfn12-11b52  
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**Rules of the Road US Coast Guard QUESTION & ANSWER**



**QUESTION:**  
 A tug is towing three barges astern in restricted visibility. The second vessel of the tow should sound \_\_\_\_\_.

- one prolonged and two short blasts
- one prolonged and three short blasts
- one short blast
- no fog signal

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

**ANSWER D.**  
 no fog signal

are dependable, 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](http://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.

**Public Notices**

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**Public Notice**

**Tidal Network: Community Meeting**

Tidal Network will be hosting a community meeting on December 16th, at 6:30 pm at the John Hanson Sr. Community Hall to discuss communication towers in Petersburg.

More than three assembly members may be present, but no official business will be conducted.

**Published: December 11, 2025**



**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

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

Those celebrating birthdays this week are: **December 12:** Sebastian Carroll. **December 14:** Erin Willis, Marissa Collison, Melissa Moede, Veronica King. **December 15:** Desi Burrell, Shannon Peeler, Shelly Beltran. **December 16:** Ardell Wells. **December 17:** Sebra Johnson. **December 18:** Annie Christensen, Holli Otness, Maya Lee Miller, Mike Symons, Nikkole Etcher, Stewart Ness, Tanelle Olson.

Those celebrating anniversaries this week are: **December 16:** Nels and Holli Otness. **December 17:** Luke and Mandi Whitethorn.

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

**Public Notices**

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**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Trust Land Office**

**Notice under 11 AAC 99.050 of Decision to Issue a Negotiated Sale – Petersburg MHT 9101419**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the provisions of AS 38.05.801 and 11 AAC 99, the Executive Director of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office (TLO) has determined that it is in the best interest of the Alaska Mental Health Trust and its beneficiaries to complete Negotiated Sale of certain Trust land to PEAK Engineering, a limited liability company. The basis for this determination is explained in a written best interest decision prepared by the Executive Director pursuant to 11 AAC 99.040.

The Trust land affected by the decision is Petersburg, Alaska, and is more particularly described as: Lot 2 of Trust Land Survey No. 2018-12, P-1A and P-1B Subdivision, containing 71.61 acres, more or less, according to the survey plat recorded in the Petersburg Recording District on January 17, 2019, as Plat No. 2019-1, located in Section 11, Township 60 South, Range 79 East, Copper River Meridian, Alaska (MH Parcels CRM-2284-02 and CRM-2311, portions of).

Persons who wish to submit a qualified competing offer as described in Section XIII of the best interest decision, believe that the written decision should be altered because it is not in the best interest of the Trust or its beneficiaries, or because the decision is inconsistent with Trust management principles set out in 11 AAC 99.020, or any other provision of 11 AAC 99, must provide written comments on or before **4:30 PM, January 12, 2026. Qualified competing offers and/or comments should be submitted to the TLO at 2600 Cordova Street, Suite 201, Anchorage, AK 99503, or by fax (907) 269-8905 or email [mhtlo@alaska.gov](mailto:mhtlo@alaska.gov).** Following the comment deadline, the Executive Director will consider timely comments that question the decision on the basis of the best interest of the Alaska Mental Health Trust and its beneficiaries or inconsistency with 11 AAC 99, and the best interest decision may be changed in response to such written comments or other information. Commenting parties will be provided a copy of the final best interest decision after the end of the notice period.

To be eligible to file for reconsideration of the best interest decision, or to file a subsequent appeal to the Superior Court, a person must have submitted written comments during the notice period. Eligible persons will have twenty (20) calendar days after published notice of or receipt of the final written decision to request that the Executive Director reconsider the decision under 11 AAC 99.060(b). Copies of the written decision are available at the Trust Land Office, or at <https://alaskamentalhealthtrust.org/trust-land-office/>. If you have any questions concerning this action, please contact the Trust Land Office at (907) 269-8658. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Alaska Mental Health Trust is prepared to accommodate individuals with disabilities. Please contact the Trust Land Office at (907) 269-8658 for assistance. Requests for assistance must be received at least 96 hours prior to the comment deadline in order to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided. The Executive Director of the TLO reserves the right to waive technical defects in this notice or to amend, postpone, or vacate the best interest decision.

**Senior Meals**

**Monday, December 15**

Rockfish Burger, Coleslaw, Cheese Stick, Fruit Salad

**Tuesday, December 16**

Pot Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Peas and Carrots, Pudding Cup

**Wednesday, December 17**

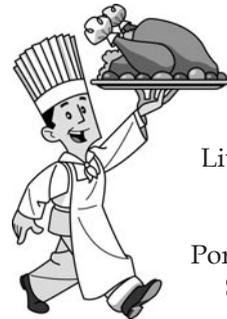
Chicken Wings, Fries, Celery Sticks, Apple, Brownie

**Thursday, December 18**

Liver and Onions, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Fruit Cup, Cupcake

**Friday, December 19**

Pork Cubed and Gravy, Rice, Brussels Sprouts, Trail Mix, Orange Fluff



**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.**

**Please order Christmas Dinner by noon on Wednesday, December 10.**

**Public Notices**

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 • EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

**Public Notice**

**PIA Election Day and Early Voting**

There shall be an election of the Petersburg Indian Association Tribal Council on **January 5th, 2026 from 8am to 7pm** at the PIA Conference Room.

Early Voting will be held at the PIA Conference Room during the following dates and times:

**December 19th 8a-11a**

**December 27th 8a-7p**

**January 2nd 5p-7p**

A list of official candidates can be found displayed at the PIA building, online at [piatribal.org](http://piatribal.org), or on air on KFSK. Write-in candidates will be posted at the polling stations. For more information on absentee/early voting, election day, or general election questions, please contact PIA at 907-772-3636 or email [piaelection@piatribal.org](mailto:piaelection@piatribal.org)

**Published: December 11, 18, and 25, 2025**



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**Petersburg Indian Association** has a job opening for an ICWA Case Worker. This is a permanent, part-time position that will pay \$30-\$35/hr. This position will be open until filled. The full job description is available at [piatribal.org](http://piatribal.org) or at the PIA front desk.

.....tfn9-11b43

**Join the PW Insurance Team!**

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**Job  
Openings**

The Petersburg Borough is accepting applications for the following positions:

- **Police Officer:**  
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- **Resident Assistants at Mountain View Manor:**  
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- **Police Dispatcher/Corrections Officer:**  
**\$26.81/hour - 12-hour shifts:**  
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**BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

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Full job descriptions and employment applications can be obtained from the Borough's website at <https://www.petersburgak.gov>.

Applications will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough office, 12 S. Nordic Street; or via email at [tiffany.glass@petersburgak.gov](mailto:tiffany.glass@petersburgak.gov) Call Tiffany at 907-772-5404 for more information.



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



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

Fifteen-plus inches of snow arrived this week, creating a stark contrast to the “green winters” of the last few years.

## Snow record

Continued from page 1

Sunday, targeting the central Panhandle from south of Juneau to north of Wrangell.

“Right around Petersburg/Sitka is where we would watch for that next band to set up,” Garmon said. “Likely not as heavy as what we just saw, but it still could be impactful from the standpoint of, you know, there’s going to be snow to shovel, roads to deal with, things like that.”

Temperatures are expected to run 15 to 20 degrees below typical for this time of year through early next week. “It’s going to be significantly cold,” Garmon said. “We’re not going above freezing.”

Garmon says the current snowstorm should be considered an outlier from what is expected for this winter.

Compared to last winter’s La Niña pattern which brought warmer and wetter conditions to the Panhandle, this winter is expected to bring colder temperatures but below-normal precipitation through the remainder of the season.

Last year, “we got a pretty good dump across the northern part of Southeast Alaska just before Thanksgiving,” Garmon said. “And then after that, December, January, February, not a whole lot. It was a little warmer too.”

This year, the pattern has shifted from weak La Niña to what forecasters call neutral conditions. While that means less overall precipitation, individual storms can still pack a punch.

“We may get [an occasional] big storm with a lot of precip, but for seasonal averages over months, it’s looking like less precip than we would typically see for the remainder of the winter,” Garmon said. “But it is going to be colder than what we would typically see for a typical winter here.”



Photo courtesy of Gina Esposito

There were some winter wonderland moments in the snowy quiet on the empty roads around Petersburg on Monday and Tuesday night.

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