

Blind Slough Hydro selected for \$2.9 million grant
see page 3

IPHC releases halibut catch limits for 2024
see page 6

Monitoring seismic activity at Mount Edgecumbe
see page 8



Photo courtesy of Fe England

Spouses Gail and Lee Ribich, married in 1965, celebrate love at the Valentine's Day Luncheon prepared by the PMC dietary staff on Wednesday for residents of Long Term Care and their guests.



OLA RICHARDS / Petersburg Pilot

Sending love on Valentine's Day

Stacy Kittams, owner of the Blomster Hus, adds roses to one of the many flower arrangements created and delivered by the shop on Valentine's Day.

Seafood industry expects 'another bad year' of weak markets

By LARRY PERSILY
Wrangell Sentinel writer

"I've never seen market conditions as bad as they are now," Doug Vincent-Lang, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, told a conference of Southeast business, community and municipal government leaders last week.

"Last year we said we reached rock bottom," Jeremy Woodrow, executive director of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, said of low prices, weak markets and reluctant consumers.

But then he added, "we've scraped off more levels," reaching deeper to the bottom.

All of the participants in the fisheries

panel discussion at the Southeast Conference Feb. 6 in Juneau talked about the problem facing commercial fishers, processors and communities that depend on fish taxes and jobs.

"It's going to be another bad year," said Julie Decker, president of the Pacific Seafood Processors Association. Though she added there is one good thing to come from the mess: It's brought everyone together to find solutions.

"We've weathered storms before," said Tracey Welch, executive director of United Fishermen of Alaska. But this past year was the worst, she said, hitting most all commercial seafood species.

Continued on page 12

State ferry system in 3rd year of crew shortages

By LARRY PERSILY
Wrangell Sentinel writer

Crew shortages continue to plague the Alaska Marine Highway, the ferry system's director told a gathering of Southeast officials last week.

"Our biggest shortage is in the engineering department," where the 54 ship engineers on the payroll as of Jan. 26 were far short of the 81 needed for full staffing, Craig Tornnga told a gathering of community, business and government leaders at the Southeast Conference on Feb. 7 in Juneau.

"We're short in the wheelhouse," he added, down eight from a full contingent of 79 in the master, chief mate, second- and third-mate positions.

Tornnga, who was hired last March,

Continued on page 12

Assembly considers raising the value of borough property that can be sold without a vote of the public

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

An ordinance amending Petersburg municipal code was passed in its first reading by the Petersburg Borough Assembly last week. At its second reading during the next assembly meeting a public hearing on the ordinance will take place.

The ordinance would amend borough code to increase the assessed property value requirement for disposal

of borough property from \$500 thousand to \$2 million.

Currently, voters must approve of any sale or trade of borough property with an assessed value \$500 thousand or higher.

The ordinance seeks to change that requirement from \$500 thousand to \$2 million.

The last time the amount was changed was in 1990, when it increased from \$100 thousand to \$500 thousand.

When the assembly discussed the ordinance on Feb. 5,

Vice Mayor Donna Marsh motioned to amend the ordinance and decrease the \$2 million change to \$1 million instead.

"\$500 thousand to \$2 million is significant ... I think it would be in the best interest of the citizens of Petersburg to have more say on such large amounts, valued parcels," she said.

The assembly discussed Vice Mayor Marsh's amendment.

Assembly member Thomas Fine-Walsh noted the assessed

value of land could potentially include improvements. He said a situation "where the borough were considering selling some land with improvements on it, that could easily get over a million dollars ... And maybe that's not the kind of thing that ... we want to have to wait a year and go through the voting cycle to address."

Assembly member Rob Schwartz said he can see "both points of view."

"So three readings — time to percolate a little bit ... get

some public input on this, maybe. It's a pretty big decision," he said.

Acting mayor Jeigh Stanton Gregor said the second reading will be a public hearing, and

Continued on page 12



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

February 15, 1924 - Petersburg is a real home town. Home conditions are ideal. Lots for building can be bought from \$50 up. There is just the right drainage to the land for sanitation; the water is pure; no better school facilities can be found anywhere; there are many beautiful places for summer picnics and outings; there are churches, social halls, a library and, last but not least, there is the most beautiful and safe harbor in Alaska. Wind storms that rage elsewhere never cause more than a ripple in Petersburg Harbor. Once a boat is tied up at any of the numerous floats, the owner need not worry about it. There are also ample marine ways for the accommodation of boat owners.

February 11, 1949 - We believe if "East" Petersburg will go 50/50 we may be able to get a bridge across to connect the cities for our trolly and car, so people can see the fine farms, parks, and fine shows we have. It seems we are not sure of our landing field now, as Mrs. Langley is talking of having a large pumpkin field right where the planes would land. Ole Knutsen says he will have his cannery ready by the time catfish season opens. We are glad that Petersburg expects its chief of police to resign his present job to take over the same duties here, but he does not know that all the city employees have to shovel snow off the street. Mayor Johnson announces that half a dozen trolly cars are now in transit.

February 15, 1974 - Show and tell goes on in most primary classrooms like it did fifty years ago. This week in Mrs. Roundtree's third grade classroom Tani Thorstensen was in charge and had the administrative power of indicating who would come up to the front of the class and tell all. The sophistication of third graders is something to behold. Anything that smacks of mayhem has their complete interest. The teller of a tale notes

the interest of the audience and expands their story as far as time and the teacher will permit. When it was her turn, Veronique Bosworth presented the highlight of the day, showing each member of the class something in a liquid container. When noone could discern what the floating object was, Veronique was astounded by their ignorance. "It's a fish eye!,"she said. "It's the eye of a red snapper."

February 11, 1999 - When Ann Eide Thompson stepped off the steamship and onto Petersburg soil for the first time in 1935 the main streets of the tiny town were unpaved with wooden sidewalks, the harbor's edge was at what is today main street and the Coliseum Theater was the entertainment center of the town. Thompson, who turns 100 on Sunday, looked out the window of her home on First Street this week over the town where she has lived for more than sixty-four years and said, "It really hasn't changed that much. Oh, sure, it used to be more Scandinavian, but I expected it to be a small town and it still is." Born Ann Eide in Stanwood, Washington, she was the fourth in a family of nine children living on a farm. She and her siblings quickly learned about hard work and she says it was just natural that she would become a teacher. After graduating from Western Washington State College she taught school in Plummer, Idaho. In 1930 she moved to Wrangell where she taught school for five years. Then, in 1935, Thompson moved to Petersburg where she met and

married the late Knut Thompson who was a fish buyer in town. She continued teaching in Petersburg for a short time and made quite an impression on her students. Gerald Lind, who was one of her students, recalled how much everyone liked her. He said that when Thompson left and Ms. Conrad was hired to fill her spot all the students held a silent protest. They sat at their desks with their hands folded and refused to speak or do any of the activities asked of them. After the strike failed, his classmates started pulling pranks on Thompson's replacement. From putting carpets tacks on her chair, to the entire class chewing garlic cloves in an aromatic protest, their efforts culminated in the end all be all of pranks. The school district was installing a new floor in an adjacent storage shed and a pile of gravel, about eight to ten feet high, was pushed up against the side of the school. Mrs. Thompson's former classroom, where the students spent their days of chalk-dust torture, was on the second food of the building. Lind says at one point some of the girls opened the windows in the classroom and then the boys said something about leaving school and getting out. With that, they ran towards a window and leapt from it. Ms. Conrad, not knowing that the boys had just safely landed on a gravel pile, fainted and fell to the floor in shock. The entire class of 27 children was expelled. "We were smart ass kids," Lind said. "It turned out that Ms. Conrad was really nice, she just wasn't Ms. Eide. We all liked Ms. Eide really well She was just fantastic." Once Thompson married and

stopped teaching she became deeply involved in a number of community organizations. One person this week commented that she was the Glorianne DeBoer of her day. She was involved with the Sons and Daughters of Norway, an active member of the Lutheran Church, Pioneers of Alaska and Eastern Star. She spent her free moments oil painting or knitting and taught English to Norwegian immigrants. In addition, she spent thirty years as secretary of the Hospital Guild. When Thompson turned ninety Petersburg's Mayor proclaimed February 22, Ann Thompson Day, as did the State Senate in a legislative citation. On Thursday night, Mayor Jeff Meucci made another proclamation to honor and recognize Thompson again for all that she has generously contributed to the community of Petersburg. "Fiddly dee," Thompson exclaimed when told of the citation. It's not that she is ungrateful for the recognition, it's more that her basic philosophy in life is that people should do for one another continually whether they're recognized for their efforts or not. "If people need help, you naturally help them," she said. "If you're living in a little town, it's up to you to do your part, whatever you can to help out." Bobbie Enge Anderson spent four years helping Thompson. She said that when she was hired she was told to, "love and nurture her, keep her in good health and do everything possible to make her happy." During those four years Anderson says, "She taught me

things that my own parents didn't even teach me!" Anderson says Thompson used to reminisce about the past a lot more than she does these days. She used to tell stories about Haley's Comet in the early 1900s, prohibition and women earning the right to vote. "I lived with her and those times were great. I never had so much fun. I wish I was still up there. She is the most fantastic person I've ever met in my life." Anderson recalls when Thompson was 97 they went on a two hour walk. "The strength in that woman! She does not feel pain. She's a mind over matter person who believes you can heal yourself with your mind." She believes that Thompson's magic formula for achieving the 100-year mark was "good living, good food and being an outstanding Christian." Friends and family will be celebrating Ann's 100th birthday on Sunday at the Mountain View Manor from 12:30 to 4 p.m.

Northern Nights Theater

This Weekend:
Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom
1h 55m • Rated **PG-13**
Action/Fantasy

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

Next weekend:
Mean Girls

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W

WEATHER

	High	Low	Precip	Snow
02/07	37	25	T	T
02/08	35	21	0.00	0.0
02/09	37	21	0.43	T
02/10	40	32	0.08	T
02/11	39	28	0.09	T
02/12	40	29	0.13	0.0
02/13	36	27	0.00	0.0

This Week's Precipitation: 0.73"

This Week's Snow: 0.00"

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

DAYLIGHT HOURS

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Feb 15	7:21a	4:49p	9:28hrs
Feb 16	7:19a	4:52p	9:33hrs
Feb 17	7:17a	4:54p	9:37hrs
Feb 18	7:14a	4:56p	9:42hrs
Feb 19	7:12a	4:58p	9:46hrs
Feb 20	7:09a	5:01p	9:52hrs
Feb 21	7:07a	5:03p	9:56hrs

PETERSBURG HAPPENINGS

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Alaska AIRLINES

THURSDAY, February 15

Stories In Motion, ages 0-3 with caregiver: 11:00am, Public Library

PIA Tribal Council Meeting: 5:00pm, Hallingstad-Peratrovich Bldg.

Free Dinner Get Together: 5:30pm, Lutheran Church- Holy Cross Hall

Ragnarok Rollers Practice: 7:30pm, Parks & Rec Gym

FRIDAY, February 16

ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY

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

AA Candlelight Meeting: 7:00pm, Episcopal Church

SUNDAY, February 18

Knitting Group- all welcome: 2:00pm, MVM Social Hall

Ragnarok Rollers Practice: 5:00pm Parks & Rec Community Center

MONDAY, February 19

PRESIDENT'S DAY

most federal and state offices closed for holiday

Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall

Hospital Guild Meeting: 1:30pm, Dorothy Ingle Conf. Rm. 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, February 20

School Board Meeting: 6:00pm, PHS Library

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

WEDNESDAY, February 21

Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall

Rotary Club Lunch and Fellowship: 12:00pm, Salvation Army Hall

Free Super For All: 6:00pm, First Baptist Church

ANB/ANS Monthly Business Meeting: 7:00pm, John Hansen Sr. Comm.

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

FERRY SCHEDULE

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

NORTHBOUND DEPARTURES

FRI 2/16 KENNICOTT 08:00 P.M.

SAT 2/24 KENNICOTT 12:30 A.M.

FRI 3/1 KENNICOTT 08:30 P.M.

MON 3/4 KENNICOTT 09:00 P.M.

FRI 3/8 KENNICOTT 11:30 P.M.

SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURES

MON 2/19 KENNICOTT 02:15 A.M.

MON 2/26 KENNICOTT 03:15 A.M.


SUN 3/3 KENNICOTT 09:00 P.M.

THUR 3/7 KENNICOTT 11:45 P.M.

MON 3/11 KENNICOTT 12:00 A.M.


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PETERSBURG, ALASKA




PETERSBURG

TIDE TABLE

FEBRUARY 2024

	HIGH TIDES				LOW TIDES			
	A.M.		P.M.		A.M.		P.M.	
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
15 Thu	4:47	17.3	5:24	13.5	11:25	0.7	11:16	3.1
16 Fri	5:36	16.2	6:36	11.9	12:31	1.6
17 Sat	6:37	15.1	8:12	11.1	0:13	5.0	1:50	2.1
18 Sun	7:56	14.3	9:51	11.4	1:33	6.3	3:16	2.1
19 Mon	9:20	14.3	11:01	12.3	3:12	6.6	4:28	1.5
20 Tue	10:28	14.8	11:48	13.3	4:32	6.0	5:22	0.7
21 Wed	11:21	15.5	5:27	5.1	6:04	-0.1

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Facebook: @PistonRudderServiceInc

Blind Slough Hydro Project selected for \$2.9 million federal energy grant

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) selected the Blind Slough Hydroelectric Project to receive up to \$2.9 million in Hydroelectric Efficiency Improvement Incentives which will complete funding for the hydro project, support the facility improvements, and enable the borough to shift money to the Scow Bay Generation Project.

“The whole energy efficiency grant is set up to help projects that will increase energy efficiency and small hydro,” Utility Director Karl Hagerman told the Pilot.

Hagerman said he is “thrilled” that the DOE selected the Blind Slough Hydroelectric Project as one of 46 projects nationwide – and the only one in Alaska – to receive funding. “I just feel very fortunate.”

Project planning for the refurbishment of Petersburg’s Blind Slough hydroelectric facility began in 2018. The installation of a new turbine and generator wrapped up in December.

However, a warranty-covered control module was failing during outages. The manufacturer sent an engineer to Petersburg to resolve the issue and the work completed last week. “We did a lot of testing ... and we believe we have the right answer ... to make sure that we don’t have failed control modules when we have an outage.”

Otherwise, Hagerman said the project is “virtually complete.”

“We’re almost done with all the work. So this grant showing up at this moment in time is somewhat fortuitous,” Hagerman said. “We will be able to offset some of the funds that we’ve used from other sources in the project wrap up, and that means that money will go towards the construction.”

tion.” The overall Blind Slough project, with all the engineering equipment and construction, amounted to just under \$10 million, Hagerman told the Pilot.

“What this grant does is it completes the funding on the Hydro project,” he stated.

Initial funding came from electric department reserves and a \$7.5 million bond issuance that Petersburg voters approved in 2021 to fund the completion of two projects: the Blind Slough Hydroelectric Plant Refurbishment project and the Scow Bay Standby Generation project – the latter being another major project the electric department is “working to see come to fruition.”

Finance Director Jody Tow told the Pilot in an email that, from the bonds issued by the electric department, “\$6,375,000 was transferred to the Blind Slough Hydro project and \$1,125,000 was transferred to the Standby Diesel project.”

Hagerman said the \$2.9 million incentive grant “picks up a significant portion of the construction of the Hydro project” and will allow funds earmarked for construction of Hydro to be shifted over to the Scow Bay project, “which is fantastic ... the borough doesn’t have to go seeking more debt at this present time to complete the Scow Bay Generation Project.”

He said this will help keep electric rates stable and low.

“We had a rate increase when the bond issue was passed to pay the debt service on that bond. And with this grant coming in ... we won’t have to seek a rate increase for these projects any longer and we’ll see them completed,” he explained.

Hagerman notes that project costs have “increased dramatically over the last few years” – including large increases to the Generation project

The Scow Bay Standby Generation project is estimated to cost about \$4.5 million, Hager-

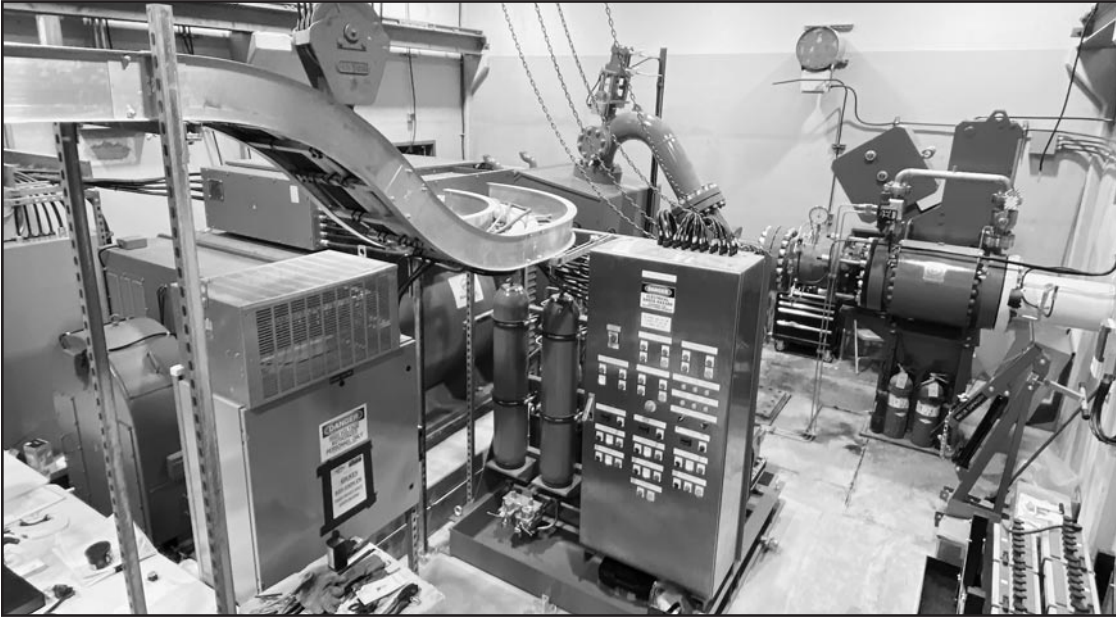


Photo courtesy of Karl Hagerman

Inside the newly refurbished Blind Slough Hydro facility.

man told the Pilot – much more than the originally estimated total cost of \$1.4 million when the bond was issued.

“So this grant coming in right now is very exciting to me, because ... it allows the borough to shift some of the money that was in that [hydro] capital project over to the Scow Bay Generation project, which helps us out dramatically there.”

The Petersburg Borough purchases power from a wholesale electric provider called the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA).

However, Petersburg needs to have a backup source of power for when the primary source fails.

“If we lose SEAPA for any reason,” like when an underwater cable failed a few years ago, “we have to restore the community’s power with our own sources,” Hagerman said. “We have a diesel plant, and we have the [Blind Slough] hydro project. That’s how we restore

power.”

However, electricity usage has continued to “get larger and larger” in Petersburg – nearly reaching the capacity that the current infrastructure can support with backup power from diesel and Blind Slough.

“When temperatures are coldest and power is being used the most, we see loads right now that are very, very close to surpassing our diesel capacity, and ... Blind Slough as well,” Hagerman explained. “That’s not a good situation for us at all.”

To “complete our mission” of being able to restore lost power in Petersburg, Hagerman said the Scow Bay Generation project will add 3.5 megawatts of diesel generation to the diesel fleet.


“The diesel plant is very important. We need it every year at least once for a 10 day period,” 24-7 while SEAPA does an annual maintenance shutdown in June when the climate is warmer, loads are lower and the

borough is able to provide “adequate amounts of power from the diesel plant and Blind Slough at that time.”

But as loads continue to grow, the diesel capacity could reach its limit in the coming years, even in the summertime “when economic stability is really important ... getting the power to the community and the businesses and the seafood processors, etcetera, when they need it.”

“So both of these projects are extremely important to the community,” Hagerman emphasized.

Next, the department will come to terms with DOE on “metrics and milestones for receiving that grant.” Hagerman said now that the Blind Slough Hydro project is essentially done, providing the necessary information “should be very easy and quick,” and hopefully Petersburg will “see some funding flow ... from that program very soon.”



Paul W. Bowen
February 29, 1932 — August 1, 2023

Celebration of Life & Adventure

Saturday, February 24, 2024
1:00pm-4:00pm
Petersburg Moose Lodge

We hope you will join us to share stories about Paul. If you are unable to attend and you have memories to share, please send to nevettebowen@gmail.com



February Sale



HALLS RELIEF
Cough & Throat Relief
Cough Suppressant
Cherry or Menth-Lyptus Flavor
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OMRON BLOOD PRESSURE MONITOR
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Your Choice



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Saturday:
9:30 to 5:00p
Closed Sundays
**subject to change in the summer/special events*

Capitol Updates

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Last week was a bucket-filler: I was able to connect with constituents from across the district through the school administrators’ fly-in and Southeast Conference. On Friday I was thrilled to be able to attend a workshop on how to fund schools to provide the opportunities we all want for our students.

While I’m sure there’s a lot going on behind the scenes on the bill to raise the BSA, it has not yet been scheduled for a floor vote. The part of the bill that funds improved internet speeds for rural and remote schools has a deadline at the end of the month, so if this bill is the mechanism to fund those grants (and it may be one of many ways to do this), the time pressure is building.

Update on HB 230

Last Wednesday, during the House Education Committee meeting, I presented HB 230, “An Act repealing the limit on the number of years of out-of-state school experience that may be substituted for in-state experience in teacher salary scales.” This single line bill repeals the existing limit on the number of years of teaching experience gained outside the state that can be used to determine a teacher’s salary. Teachers are currently only allowed to count eight years of out-of-state teaching experience, if they have a masters’ degree, and six years of out-of-state teaching experience, if they have bachelors’ degree, for the purpose of determining the cor-

rect placement on a district’s salary scale. Repealing this limit is one of the recommendations from the “2021 Teacher Recruitment and Retention Action Plan,” is a product of the Alaska Governor’s working group on teacher retention and recruitment that was established in 2020. This bill will help address our teacher shortage and bring in more experienced teachers from out-of-state.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous People

Last week I was able to attend a Tribal Affairs Committee meeting to learn more about the amazing and essential work being done to address Alaska’s epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous people. I was also able to meet with representatives from Native Movement, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Data for Indigenous Justice, and the Alaska Native Justice Center in my office to learn more.

An important moment in the tribal affairs hearing came just after Joel Jackson, Organized Village of Kake Tribal Council President, spoke about the incredible absence of law enforcement in his community until very recently. The next speaker was Commissioner Cockrell from the Department of Public Safety, a sincere and committed public servant. Commissioner Cockrell promised to improve both 911 service in rural Alaska and to continue building a trooper or VPSO presence across the state in even the smallest communities. Based on the incremental yet steady in-

crease in the troopers and VPSOs over the past couple of years I am confident we can take the Commissioner at his word.

School Funding Workshop

For the first time since coming to Juneau last year I missed a floor session on Friday to attend a school funding workshop put on by the Association of Alaska School Boards. In the workshop we looked at a history of school funding in Alaska, some possible solutions to our current funding struggles, and I was able to enjoy watching some of my fellow legislators on a panel discussing our education funding priorities. I know certain commitments from the state are needed just to keep some of the schools in House District 2 open, and much more is needed to restore opportunities for students that have been cut over the past decade. Alaska was able to fund schools before we had oil, and we need to find a way to fund them now.

Share how you would Balance the State of Alaska Budget

Commonwealth North invites you to go to www.akbudget.com and suggest how the state should balance the budget. Your individual suggestions will be confidential, but the full results will be shared with the legislature. Commonwealth North was founded in 1979 by Governors Bill Egan and Walter Hickel. Commonwealth North’s mission is to educate Alaskans on significant public policy issues and assist in iden-

tifying effective solutions.

Participate in the Alaska Long Range Focus Group Meetings

The Alaska Marine Highway System is holding another round of Ferry Focus Group meetings to help inform the 2045 Long-Range Plan. The department will share the results from a public survey and invite feedback on our progress and approach to service-level development.

If you will be in Juneau, please call (907.465.3732) or email rep.himschoot@akleg.gov to set up an appointment and/or be introduced on the floor. To learn more about what



Rep. Rebecca Himschoot

is going on in Juneau, you, your friends, and neighbors can subscribe to my weekly newsletter, which contains the contents of this column and much more, by emailing rep.himschoot@akleg.gov

Sincerely,
Representative
Rebecca Himschoot

POLICY FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS WELCOMED

The Petersburg Pilot welcomes your letters to the editor, particularly letters pertaining to local issues.



- Letters should be typed or clearly written and no longer than 400 words.
- All letters must be signed and include an address, phone number and any affiliation with a group which pertains to the letter.
- Longer letters can be published as paid advertising with consent of publisher.
- The Pilot reserves the right to edit any submissions.



The Deadline for submission is Tuesday at 5 pm for Thursday publication. Letters are run on a space available basis.

772-9393

pilotpub@gmail.com

Ritter’s River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



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



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Police report

February 7 – An officer conducted foot patrols downtown. An officer conducted a welfare check. An illegally parked vehicle was moved at the direction of an officer and a warning was issued. An officer responded to a reported disturbance on Kiseno Street and determined it was non-criminal. A post-incident report was filed concerning a disturbance on South 2nd Street. A trespass notice was served.

February 8 – A driver on Dolphin Street was issued a warning for an inoperable headlight. Found property was brought to the Petersburg Police Department (PPD). Jacob Marshall was remanded for violating conditions of release. A summons was served. Officers responded to a report of domestic violence. The parties were separated and an investigation is open.

February 9 – An officer provided a courtesy transport for an individual in need of medical assistance. A driver on South Nordic Drive was issued a warning for an expired registration. An individual met with an officer. PPD received a report of a dead deer at South Nordic Drive and Skylark Way. Its meat was salvaged. A trespass notice was served. An officer conducted a welfare check on Birch Street. Dana Miyaki was arrested

on Birch Street for allegedly violating conditions of release. A driver on Mitkof Highway was issued a warning for inoperable tail lights.

February 10 – Drug paraphernalia and illegal narcotics found on 2nd Street were turned in to the PPD. An officer responded to a report of an individual lighting off illegal fireworks on Ira II Street and issued a warning. PPD received a report of suspicious activity on Gjoa Street. Officers conducted a welfare check on Dolphin Street. An officer responded to a parking complaint on Haugen Drive but the described vehicle had gone. An individual cutting wood illegally on Borough property in the Cabin Creek area was issued a warning. PPD received a report of property lost at the Post Office. Robert Brooks was issued a citation on Sing Lee Alley for failure to carry proof of vehicle liability insurance. An officer assisted a citizen. PPD received a report of suspicious activity on Hungerford Hill Road.

February 11 – An officer conducted foot patrols downtown. PPD received a report of a dead eagle on Reservoir Road. The Alaska Wildlife Trooper (AWT) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) were notified and responded. PPD received a report of a dangerous driver on Queen Street, contacted the driver and determined it was unfounded. A driver on South Nordic

Drive was issued a warning for inoperable headlights and tail lights and told the vehicle is not to be operated on a roadway until repairs are completed. PPD responded to a report of a bike stolen from the Crane Dock. There is an on-going investigation.

February 12 – A driver on Lumber Street was issued a warning for an inoperable headlight. An officer provided lockout assistance in the South Harbor parking lot. An officer responded to a 911 hang-up call from Vesta Street to verify the individual was not in need of assistance. An officer responded to a report of suspicious behavior on Ira II Street and determined it was unfounded.

A report of theft was filed with the PPD. An officer responded to a report of suspicious activity on Surf Street but was unable to locate the described individual. Matthew Davis was charged with violating conditions of release. Items reported as stolen were recovered by an officer on Charles W Street. Kylene Hedlund was remanded for violating conditions of release.

February 13 – An officer conducted welfare check on South Nordic Drive. An officer responded to a disturbance on South Nordic Drive and determined it was non-criminal. An officer provided lockout

assistance on Tango Street. PPD received a post-incident report of a minor vehicle accident. Marc Martinsen was arrested on a warrant for allegedly violating conditions of release. An officer provided lockout assistance on Skylark Way. PPD received a report of extremely slick road conditions on Cabin Creek Road causing a bus to become immobile. Petersburg Public Works (PPW) was notified and responded with a sand truck. A protective order was served. Jacob Marshall was arrested on a warrant for allegedly violating conditions of release. Helen Olson was remanded for violating conditions of release.

Alaska’s courts are mired in cases, with gradual progress on pandemic backlog

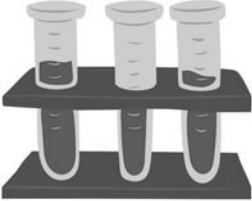
By **CLAIRE STREMPLE**
Alaska Beacon

Alaska’s courts have had a backlog of cases since courts shut down for months during the COVID-19 pandemic. The backlog has persisted, in part because of attorney shortages. The court typically carries many pending cases, but the number of pending cases is currently 27% higher for felonies and about 13% higher for misdemeanors than it was in 2019. “The overall numbers are going down, which is what we want to see,” said Stacey Marz, the Alaska State Court System’s administrative director. “We want to see fewer cases that are

pending.” In the year prior to the pandemic, the courts usually carried 4,000-5,000 pending felony cases. At the height of the backlog, in January 2022, the courts had 7,348 pending felony cases. In January 2024, the courts had reduced that number to 6,440 pending felony cases. There were just over 8,000 pending misdemeanors in January of 2019, more than 13,000 in January of 2022 and 9,312 in January of 2024. The courts processed roughly 92,000 cases in the 12 months that ended in June 2023, so the current number of pending cases are roughly equivalent to 15% of a year’s cases. Court records show that the typical amount of time it takes to process a case roughly doubled during the pandemic and has stayed high for both felonies and misdemeanors. In his State of the Judiciary address, Chief Justice Peter Maassen called it one of the court system’s most daunting challenges. He said the courts will bring back retired judges to preside over cases whenever necessary. “We recognize the impact this has on not just the criminal defendants but also the victims, family members, potential witnesses, and the public at large, and we want to make sure that the court system is never the cause of delay,” he said on Wednesday. He said the court has made some structural changes to move more efficiently and Supreme Court Justice Jennifer Henderson leads a working group to bring the courts up to speed. *The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. Alaskabeacon.com.*

HEALTH FAIR BLOOD DRAWS

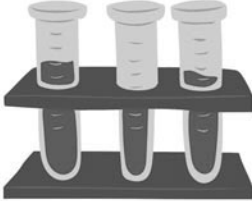
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IPHC releases halibut numbers and regulations for 2024

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

The International Pacific Halibut Commission released the halibut numbers for 2024 on Feb. 5 following their annual meeting.

The IPHC oversees management of halibut along the Pacific coast — from California, through British Columbia, and across coastal Alaska.

During their annual meeting in January each year, the commission adopts the total mortality limits for halibut distributed across the areas they regulate. The adopted total mortality limits for 2024 amount to a net weight of 35.28 million pounds (Mlb), a decrease from the 36.97 Mlb distributed mortality limit for 2023.

The total mortality limit is distributed across regulatory areas and divided among sectors.

IPHC estimates the discarded mortality, or bycatch, of halibut caught by fisheries targeting other species; the majority of this bycatch is generated by bottom-trawl groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea.

Notably, as of Jan. 1, 2024 a new rule

implemented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries is in effect and expected to reduce Bering Sea halibut bycatch. A new abundance-based bycatch limit system, means that bycatch limits can be reduced by up to 35% when the halibut abundance is low.

IPHC projects the bycatch in 2024 will be 270 thousand pounds less than 2023.

Halibut taken by non-guided or residential recreational fishing and subsistence sectors is projected to decrease slightly in 2024.

The commission also expects the mortality from halibut discarded by the commercial halibut fisheries to be lower than last year. These discards are attributed to lost gear, sublegal size limitations, or quota attainment, and in recent years have amounted to around 3% of the commercial mortality.

What remains of the total allowable mortality is then divided for catch-sharing between the directed commercial halibut fisheries and the guided recreational charter fisheries. The amount of halibut for these two sectors is getting a modest increase in Southeast Alaska, despite the total mortality limit being re-

duced this year.

Overall, the total mortality limits went down 4.57% from 2023. The biggest cut, at 6.94%, is to area 3A in central Gulf of Alaska, which has the largest share of the biomass, but has also seen steep declines in stock abundance, according to IPHC stock assessment data that shows a 37% drop in weight per unit effort (WPUE) in 2022 and a 12% drop in 2023.

The mortality limit for area 2C, representing Southeast Alaska, decreased by only 1.03%, though Southeast has the second most biomass among American areas; Southeast stock abundance has fallen less in recent years, with a 1% WPUE decrease in 2022 and 9% drop in 2023.

For area 2C, the overall distributed mortality limits decreased from 5.85 Mlb in 2023 to 5.79 Mlb in 2024.

However, the fishery limit for area 2C, combining commercial and guided recreational mortality limits, increased this year from 4.36 Mlb in 2023 to 4.42 Mlb in 2024.

The commercial fishery share of the overall limit for area 2C is 3.61 Mlb — which includes 3.50 Mlb landings and

0.11 Mlb discard mortality.

The guided recreational fishery, including landings and discard mortality, share of the overall limit for area 2C is 0.81 Mlb of halibut.

Commercial fishing for Pacific halibut in all IPHC regulatory areas begins March 15 and ends Dec. 7.

The guided recreational season begins on Feb. 1 and ends Dec. 31.

Charter, or guided recreational sport fishing, management measures in 2024 for area 2C are similar to those in 2023, but slightly different.

There is still a one fish bag limit per calendar day. This year, however, excludes any Friday from July 19 to Sept. 13 when no person on board a charter vessel may catch and retain Pacific halibut. Last year, this rule was set for Mondays from July through December.

There is still a charter fishing size limit where no Pacific halibut that measures greater than 40 inches and less than 80 inches may be caught and kept. However, this size limit applies only from Feb. 1 to July 14.

From July 15 to Dec. 31, charter halibut can be up to 36 inches or 80 inches or more.

State issues preliminary report of Nov. 20 landslides

By LARRY PERSILY
Wrangell Sentinel writer

WRANGELL — State geologists were able to more accurately measure the movement and damage from massive landslides that poured across roads in the middle of the island in November because just a few months earlier the state and U.S. Forest Service had collected detailed images and data — literally laser-focused — of the terrain.

The Forest Service and the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys partnered in July to conduct an aerial survey of the entire island, using airborne lasers to map out ground cover, geology and slopes for future reference, said Mort Larsen, who leads the division's landslide hazards program based in Fairbanks.

That timing was fortuitous as the state flew laser-equipped aircraft over the landslide areas in the days after a deadly flow of mud and trees overran three homes and killed six people near 11.2-Mile Zimovia Highway. A second slide that evening took out the nearby Middle Ridge Road but caused no injuries or private property damage.

The state division issued its preliminary report on the Wrangell slides on Feb. 6. The report does not provide a definitive cause of the slides, but rather explains the size and volume of the slides, the differences between the July images and the post-landslide terrain, and the weather on the day of the slide.

The area was soaked by heavy rains which saturated the thin soils on steep slopes in the days before the slides, with strong winds that evening.

The next step for the division is seeking Federal Emergency Management Agency funding for additional mapping work, Larsen said in an interview on Feb. 9. The goal is to develop detailed maps identifying possible slide areas, based on slopes, terrain and geology, he said.

It's not possible to predict when a landslide will occur, just as geologists cannot predict earthquakes. But more information could help local officials and residents make their own decisions about where they build and live, such as zoning decisions, Larsen explained.

The July aerial mapping work in Wrangell cost more than \$200,000, Larsen said.

"It is a game changer for scientists and geologists," he said of advances in lidar technology, which is coming with lower costs as its use increases.

Lidar, which stands for light detection and ranging, uses laser pulses, generally sent out by aircraft, to measure distances and characteristics of the earth's surface as the pulses bounce back to the aircraft. The measurements, "of which there are hundreds of thousands made per second," the division's report explains, are collected and assembled to provide information about the ground surface, including trees and structures.

The data can be used to produce two models: A digital surface model represents the tops of trees and structures; and a digital terrain model represents the bare earth, where trees, structures, and other objects have been electronically removed from the image.

The combined use of the two models "reveals changes in vegetation and soils, which provides a complete picture of landslide activity," the report said.

The borough is working with the state to obtain federal funding for additional mapping, Mason Villarma, interim borough manager, said in a letter to the community on the day the state issued its report.

The borough is applying for a FEMA-Cooperative Technical Partners grant in partnership with the state Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, "which will enable us to conduct additional research and analysis to better understand

and mitigate landslide risks," Villarma said in his letter.

The same FEMA program provided funding for mapping work after fatal landslides in Haines (2020) and Sitka (2015).

Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski said she is trying to "move more federal money to Alaska for landslide monitoring." She addressed the issue during video remarks to the Southeast Conference in Juneau, where community, business and government leaders met on Feb. 6.

The state report is available on the borough website, wrangell.com. Just click on the "News" button on the left-hand side of the page.

According to the report, 2.23 inches of rain fell at the Wrangell airport in the 24 hours preceding the Nov. 20 landslides, but it noted that rainfall varies greatly around the island. For example, after the slide, the Alaska Department of Transportation installed a rain gauge in the area of the 11.2-Mile landslide, often measuring up to twice the rainfall as the airport gauge.

And while wind gusts up to 40 mph were reported at sea level at the Wrangell harbor several hours before the landslides, gusts at the 900-foot elevation on Zarembo Island, west of Wrangell, hit 70 mph a couple of hours before the slides, the report said.

The main slide started at almost the 1,500-foot elevation, spilling across approximately 3,750 feet to tidewater, then extending an additional 500 feet into Zimovia Strait.

That slide, which measured about 150 feet wide at the top, picked up and moved an estimated 63,000 cubic yards of material as it flowed downhill, according to the report. That would equal the loads of more than 6,000 standard-size 10-yard dump trucks.

The Middle Ridge Road slide, which started an hour or two after the main slide, ran about 3,600 feet and more than 100 feet wide, crossing the road in three places and following a stream channel as it moved downhill.

The lidar data indicates the

slide moved about 14,000 cubic yards of material.

The state geologists also reported the lidar images showed there were much smaller slides that same day that never reached the highway in the area of 11.5-Mile and 11.8-Mile.

Southeast Alaska, a region packed with steep mountains amid a rainforest, is susceptible to landslides, and scientists say vulnerability has increased as climate change brings more extreme precipitation.

Landslides threaten people and infrastructure elsewhere in the state, too. Among the vulnerable spots are coastal areas of Prince William Sound, where retreating glaciers and the thaw of high-altitude permafrost has destabilized mountain slopes.

Through its landslide hazards program, the Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys has been working to identify and map high-risk areas.

Yereth Rosen, of the Alaska Beacon, a statewide online news service, contributed reporting for this story.

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Vikings sweep home tournament

By LIAM DEMKO
Pilot writer

Petersburg’s boys varsity basketball team played against teams from Klawock, Su Valley, and Thunder Mountain on their home court last weekend.

Over the course of the round robin tournament, the Vikings put on a dominant performance taking strong wins against each of their opponents with several individual and team-wide highlights.

They kicked off their tournament run on Thursday with a great start against Klawock.

“We started out ahead 20-10 at the end of the first quarter, stretched that lead out to 39-20 at halftime, and then had a really good third quarter, we scored 25 points,” reported head coach Rick Brock.

They finished the game with a winning score of 76-45 with several strong performers across the team.

“Just a good all-around balanced scoring game for us... We had a lot of contributions from a lot of different guys,” said Brock.

In Thursday’s match against Thunder Mountain’s JV squad the competition stepped up a notch, but the Vikings kept up the pace.

“Our pressure at the beginning of the game bothered them. We had a good, high scoring first quarter, we were ahead 21-13,” said Brock.

“We played really well on the defensive end for the next two quarters and held them to seven points over the second and third quarter. Going into the fourth quarter we had a 52-20 lead.”

When the dust settled at the end of the fourth quarter, the Vikings were ahead 66-40.

And in their final game of the tournament, the competition

stepped once again.

Both Petersburg and Su Valley entered Saturday’s game undefeated and their opponent’s strength showed itself off the bat.

“Our pressure didn’t bother them as much as the other two teams so we had to settle into our half court defense,” said Brock.

“They actually pressed us more than we pressed them. They run a real tough one-three-one half court trap. I was happy with the way we handled the basketball against it, we didn’t have too many turnovers.”

The Vikings met the challenge head on, leading 12-6 at the end of the first quarter and further extending their lead by halftime with a score of 21-9.

“We played really balanced basketball from there. We were ahead 32-18 at the end of the third quarter and ended up win-

ning 43-27,” said Brock.

And with that, the Vikings stuck the landing on their perfect tournament run.

“It was a good win for us... It was a good, nice hard fought game. Anytime you can beat someone from another conference that’s important for us heading down the stretch.”

The Vikings hope to carry that momentum into their next challenge, as they head south to face Metlakatla.

“It’ll be a tough test. Metlakatla is a hard place to go... The community loves basketball, they always fill the gym and they’re loud,” said Brock.

“But this time of year we’ve got to be getting better. This will be a good test for us... We’re excited to go down and play. We know the task in front of us. We’ll just go down and try to play our best and see what happens.”



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot
Hunter Conn battles for an offensive rebound during the Vikings’ Thursday match against Klawock.

Lady Vikings take on challenging home games

By LIAM DEMKO
Pilot writer

Petersburg’s Lady Vikings took on a four-game tournament against teams from Klawock and Su Valley this weekend on their home court.

Up against tough competition, the team couldn’t reach the same heights as their previous homecoming games against Wrangell, but there was still a lot to learn from the experience.

According to head coach Matt Pawuk, the team had a rougher start to their first game of the tournament against Klawock on Thursday.

“Klawock got out to a little bit of a lead in the first game. It’s something that has kind of



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot
Anya Pawuk—one of Petersburg’s star players during last weekend’s home tournament—gets a steal then drives it coast to coast for a layup.

snake bitten us a few times this year, letting teams get off to a strong start. It takes so much energy to try to claw your way back into the game,” he said.

The team was able to keep things close throughout the match but couldn’t pull out the win, with the match ending 28-25 in favor of Klawock.

Later in the evening, their game against Su Valley ended up being a similar story.

The Lady Vikings had a strong start but ended up closely behind their opponents in the final moments, losing their second game 41-35.

“We just couldn’t find a bucket there in the fourth quarter to finish closing the gap,” said Pawuk.

“But it was nice to see that even with having to play two games in one day. We were competitive with both teams.”

Saturday started off with another difficult match against Klawock.

They were able to work up to a three-point lead at halftime and entered the fourth quarter ahead by one but couldn’t hold on at the end.

After a back-and-forth match, Klawock won the game 37-29.

But in their final game of the tournament, the Lady Vikings were able to highlight some of the strengths of their team, as well as their tenacity.

They started things off with a bang, with Anya Pawuk making nine points in the first quarter.

The girls were able to work up to an 11-point lead, but Su Valley pressured them hard to work themselves back into the game, leading to a climactic fourth quarter.

“We had the ball up one point with about 25 seconds left in the game and Su Valley got a steal and went down and scored to go up by one,” said Pawuk.

“It was a little bit of a heart-breaking loss, but it’s one of

those things where it’s just nice to be in a competitive game.”

Despite the losses, both Pawuk and the team kept their heads high, taking some strong positives away from the event.

“There really is no quit in this team. They play hard all the way to the final whistle, and it was nice to get some experience,” said Pawuk.

And looking towards their next weekend of games, they’ve got another challenge ahead of them.

They’ll be playing against Metlakatla—one of the top teams in the league—but the challenge doesn’t seem to shake the Lady Vikings one bit.

“We’re going to go down there and we’re going to play really hard, and we’ll see what happens. But regardless, I think we’ll be able to walk out of there with our heads held high because we’re going to play our game and play as hard as we can,” said Pawuk.



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Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Wickett / U.S. Forest Service

The sunrise lights the sky over Thomsen Harbor and Mt. Edgecumbe in Sitka in this 2011 photo.

Alaska Volcano Observatory fully activates monitoring network over Sitka’s rumbling mountain

Seismic activity at Mount Edgecumbe has declined since a 2022 swarm of earthquakes, but a risk remains

By **JAMES BROOKS**
Alaska Beacon

Sitka’s Mount Edgecumbe volcano is wired.

On Jan. 26, the Alaska Volcano Observatory announced the completion of a new instrument network intended to measure the activity of a volcano that could be awakening after a period of dormancy.

The network includes four seismic stations and four sites that measure the way the ground is deforming as magma moves deep below the volcano. Since April 2022, the movement of that liquefied rock has caused hundreds of small earthquakes and raised concerns that Sitka, 15 miles away, could soon be near an eruption.

That’s still an unlikely scenario, and the new instruments — many installed last summer and evaluated over the winter — will keep track of the risk.

“It does have some signs of unrest — there’s signs that there is magma that’s come into the system very deep. We’re talking 6 miles below the volcano. And so we want to be sure to be monitoring it as best we can,” said Hannah Dietterich, a research geophysicist for the U.S. Geological Survey at the Alaska Volcano Observatory.

Mount Edgecumbe, a scenic, Mount Fuji-like volcano visible from Alaska’s first capital city,

hasn’t erupted within written history, but Tlingit oral tradition notes some eruptions about 800 years ago, and the original name of the peak is L’ux Shaa, or “blinking mountain.”

A 2010 research paper noted evidence of an ash eruption about 1,150 years ago, including deposits in Sitka Sound. A similar eruption “may pose significant risk to local population centers,” the authors noted.

After a series of small earthquakes in 2022 drew attention to the volcano, experts reviewed satellite radar measurements from as far back as 2014 and concluded that ground near the mountain was bulging outward at a rate faster than seen at any other volcano in Alaska.

That growth has since slowed.

“The deformation rate has slowed in the last year, especially in the second half of 2023,” Dietterich said.

The new instruments will help track any future changes in the volcano. Precise ground sensors mean that scientists can get hourly changes in the shape of the ground near the volcano instead of waiting days or weeks for less-accurate satellite measurements.

Seismic instruments installed near the volcano will give precise recordings of earthquakes smaller than magnitude

1. Before the new installation, the nearest instruments were in Sitka, and precise calculations were difficult.

“Often, the earthquakes you get at a volcano aren’t usually the ones that anyone feels,” Dietterich said. “When we have more seismometers on a volcano, we’re able to see any movement of fluid or magma, or even faulting — structural things that can produce very, very small earthquakes.”

That sensitivity means “we’re much more able to essentially detect eruption precursors,” she said.

Last summer, scientists also investigated reports of gas bubbling from the ground near the volcano. They took samples and submitted them for review, looking for signs that the gas was associated with magma deep underground.

“They just got the helium results this week,” she said on Friday, “so hot off the presses. And it looks like there’s no strong evidence for a volcanic signature to any of the gasses.”

If there had been a signature, that could have been a sign of a path between the surface and magma deep underground, increasing the likelihood of an eruption.

In addition to providing early warning for Sitka, the new instruments will offer some research opportunities as well.

Alaska’s active volcanoes are generally located west of Anchorage, where the Pacific tectonic plate is sliding beneath the North American plate in what’s known as a subduction zone. Edgecumbe, now the easternmost monitored volcano in Alaska, is near a transform fault, where the plates are sliding past one another. Less is known about volcanoes along transform faults, Dietterich

said.

Some field maintenance is scheduled in May 2024 to improve the sensors and radio communications as needed, Dietterich said, and there is the possibility of later season geology work, but that hasn’t yet been scheduled.

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Obituaries

Darryl Palmer Olson, 81

Darryl Olson was born on January 18, 1942, in Petersburg, Alaska, to Dagny Marie (Loseth) Olson and Paul “Bud” Ivar Olson. He was the oldest of five, having two brothers and two sisters.

Darryl grew up fishing with his father, Paul. He attended Petersburg High School and after graduation he married his dream girl, Mary Ann Hasbrouck, on March 10, 1962. They were happily married for fifty-nine years, when she preceded him in death in 2021.

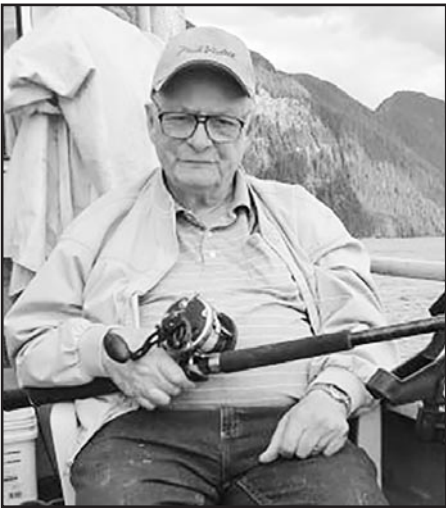
He worked for J&H Logging as a choker setter until he started his career as a commercial fisherman. After leasing two boats, Darryl bought the F/V Miss Helen. In 1972, Darryl and Mary Ann began building their Petersburg home. That same year, Darryl purchased his dreamboat, the F/V Mary Ann, with the help of Robert Thorstenson and Tommy Thompson, of Petersburg Fisheries, Inc.

The years spent on the F/V Mary Ann were rich with the friendships of Neil MacDonald, Steve Thomassen, Jim Miller, Gary Slaven, Charlie Christensen and many more. They made so many memories - the stories they could tell...

Darryl and Mary Ann loved to dance. Jitterbugging was their thing. He was also a great entertainer to his family, friends and crew members.

In the off-season, Darryl and Mary Ann loved to travel. They would pack their bags and go off on another adventure. When home, Darryl loved hunting with his friends - in Alaska, Washington and Montana.

Taught by his good friend Tom Bazer, Darryl earned his pilot’s license. He loved to fly! Soon after getting his license, he was a co-owner of a Cessna-185 with Theodore (Ted) Smith. Later he purchased his second plane, The Super Cub. Darryl and his wife enjoyed flying back and forth to their Stanwood Lake



Darryl Palmer Olson

Home. He really enjoyed fish spotting, flying into Kah Sheets and Harvey’s Lake for some well-needed family time of camping and trout fishing. On a beautiful day, Darryl and Mary Ann might fly to Sitka just for a bite to eat.

Darryl passed away at the Olson family lake house in Stanwood, Washington on November 11, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dagny Marie (Loseth) Olson and his father, Paul “Bud” Ivar Olson; his wife, Mary Ann Olson; and his sister, Corrine Tracy.

He is survived by his daughters Wanda Olson, Diana (Colleen) Olson, and Helen (Carlos Sandoval Roque) Olson; his brothers, Alan (Linda) Olson and Kenny (Debbie) Olson; his sister, Carolyn Vogan; grandchildren, Michael Olson and Amber Manly; a great-granddaughter, Freya Fenner; and many more relatives and friends.

A Celebration of Life for both Darryl and Mary Ann will be held at the Sons of Norway on March 10, 2024, from 1 – 3:30 p.m. Their family hopes to see lots of friends and family and to share stories and memories of these two wonderful people.

Jean Elizabeth MacDonald Morton, 94

Jean Elizabeth MacDonald was born July 15, 1929 in Petersburg, Alaska, to Georgiana and Gordon MacDonald. She loved her childhood in Petersburg and maintained a strong emotional attachment to her hometown, attending Petersburg picnics in Seattle whenever possible. Always a freespirt, Jean created a bit of a scandal the summer between her junior and senior year when she

donned a dress she’d made from parachute silk and married Airforce Captain Marvin Rice while they flew over Petersburg.

Though Jean earned the highest grades in Petersburg High School’s class of 1947, and though she was granted the title of valedictorian, she was denied the scholarship money for college that went with the title. The salutatorian’s mother complained that giving it to a married and pregnant girl would be a waste and the school board agreed. This loss inspired the way Jean raised her daughters, her successful fight with the PTA in 1962 for sex education for sixth-grade girls, and her lifelong commitment to the Girl Scouts and Emblem Club.

Captain Rice and Jean had one son together, Kenneth Gordon Rice. When Jean married B. H. “Bob” Morton in 1950 Kenneth also became an official Morton and from then on Bob was his dad. When Bob’s parents referred to Kenneth as “Jean’s son” one too many times, Bob made it clear that they were one family



Jean Elizabeth MacDonald Morton

and would not be making the long trip to Arkansas again if it didn’t stop. It stopped.

For the first twenty years of their marriage they moved a lot – from as far north as Homer, Alaska, and south to Coos Bay, Oregon, while Bob was dredging boat harbors and building docks. They had

three more children along the way and by the time Kenneth graduated high school, he’d attended schools in twenty-three different fishing villages and towns along the west coast. The kids nearly raised, Bob switched to building aluminum boats and commercial fish processing and they settled in West Seattle. Jean took over the office and helped make their businesses very successful.

Jean was vivacious, adventuresome, and brave. In 1965, when women rarely did this sort of thing, Jean took her four kids, ages 16, 13, 6, and 5, on the car trip of their lives. They drove from Homer, Alaska, to Pottsville, Arkansas, visiting family, friends, and everything from Yellowstone to Disneyland. Jean bragged that, by herself, she took her kids through all but two of the states on “this side” of the Mississippi.

Jean kept in touch with her many friends and was an active member of the Seattle Genealogical Society. In the last ten years of her life she developed Alzheimer’s, but kept her spunk. In her memory care residence she was considered an adorable crackerjack!

On December 15, 2023, Jean passed away in Bonney Lake, Washington, just seven months shy of her 95th birthday. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bob; her eldest son, Kenneth; and her four brothers, Lewis, Gordon, Donald, and Neil.

She is survived by her son, B. Leighton Morton; daughters, Kelley J. (Steve) Hutchison and Laurell A. (Maricia Cutler) Morton; her nephew, Clifford MacDonald and his daughters, Hillary and Lauren; three granddaughters, a grandson, their spouses; and eight great-grandchildren.



at Petersburg School District

Monday, Feb 12
Chicken Tika over Brown Rice

Tuesday, Feb 13
WG Ham and Cheese Sandwich

Wednesday, Feb 14
Nacho Bar

Thursday, Feb 15
WG French Toast Casserole

Friday, Feb 16
Moose Chili with WG Corn Bread




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



petersburg pilot
PETERSBURG, ALASKA
772-9393

Rules of the Road
US Coast Guard



QUESTION & ANSWER

QUESTION:

A vessel being towed, if manned, shall sound a fog signal of _____.


A. two short blasts
B. three short blasts
C. one prolonged and two short blasts
D. one prolonged and three short blasts

ANSWER D.

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

blasts
one prolonged and three short

Library News



The Library will be closed on Monday, February 19, in observance of Presidents Day.

Build A Better World Challenge! / January 31 through March 1 / Register at psglib.beanstack.org / Read to WIN \$500 for your favorite local non-profit, plus a cozy library sweatshirt!

Stories In Motion! / Thursdays, 11 a.m. – noon / Ages 0 – 3

Yogi’s Playground with Ms. Barb (ages 5 – 8) / Saturday, February 17 / 2 – 2:45 p.m. / Cost: FREE / Register at psglib.org

Yoga with Karen Malcom / Saturdays, February 17 & 24 / 11 a.m. – noon / \$5, Pay at the front desk / Bring your own mat

Curiosity Creates with Andrea Weathers / Wednesdays, February 21 & 28 / 3:15 – 4:15 p.m. / For kids in grades 1 – 5 / Cost: FREE / Space is limited: request a ticket at the front desk beginning at 3 p.m.

Enamel Earring Making with Ashley Lohr / Three class dates available: February 21, 24, & 28 / for ages 14+ / \$65 / Registration required at psglib.org

Watercolor Workshop with Pia Reilly! / Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 1, 2, and 3 / for Adults / \$125 / Registration required at psglib.org

Homegrown Conversations on KFSK Community Radio / Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. / Listen to community member’s share their stories. / All podcasts can be found at psglib.org

GOAT Radio Show LIVE! On KFSK / Fridays, 2:30 – 4 p.m. / Tune in and listen to teen volunteers as they learn the ropes!

Library hours / Monday – Thursday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. / Friday & Saturday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

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

Need help? Let us know by calling 907-772-3349 or emailing library@petersburgak.gov

Public Notices

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Emilie Mae Sperl, deceased

Notice is hereby given that on February 1st, 2024, notice was made public in respect of the estate of Emilie Sperl, who died January 6th, 2024. Case #1PE-24-2PR was issued in the Petersburg court, Petersburg, Alaska. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to notify the family representative, Kristine M Erickson, by June 1st, 2024 or they will be forever barred.

Mail to: Kristine Erickson, candlegirlak@yahoo.com,
or PO Box 682, Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Published: February 1, 8 and 15, 2024



Federal Subsistence
Regional Advisory Council

Help advise the Federal Subsistence Board on regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within your region.

Application Deadline
March 15, 2024

For an application call
(800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3888
or visit www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

Those with birthdays this week are: **February 16:** Mary Gudgel. **February 17:** Harold Thompson, Jeanette Ness. **February 18:** Joel Ellis, Lynsey Barela, Lynsey Richards. **February 19:** Kirk McCollum, Levy Boitor. **February 20:** Brittany Christensen, Hunter Conn. **February 21:** Greg Birchell, Jena Knight, Jim Edgars. **February 22:** Lindsey Rogers, Skye Walters, Thomas Olsen Jr., Tracy Welch.

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

Senior Meals

MONDAY, February 19

Hearty Ham Dinner, Biscuit, Green Salad,
Cottage Cheese with Fruit, Cookie

TUESDAY, February 20

Pepper Steak with Noodles, Green Beans, Banana,
Lemon Bar, Milk

WEDNESDAY, February 21

Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed
Potatoes and Gravy, Green Salad,
Mixed Vegetables, Cake, Milk

THURSDAY, February 22

Pasta Bake, Garlic Bread,
Pea and Cheese Salad, Cookie

FRIDAY, February 23

Honey Garlic Salmon, Rice,
Mixed Vegetables, Green Salad,
Banana, Cake, Milk



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.

JOBS

OBI Petersburg is hiring a receptionist to work full time at our facility. The timeline of this position is from the beginning of February through November. The primary job responsibility of the receptionist is to provide assistance to the main office. The receptionist will route incoming calls, greet and assist customers and fishermen visiting the office, handle incoming and outgoing mail, copy and file paperwork, assist the accounting and fleet department, and other duties as assigned. This is a hourly position that is eligible for overtime pay. Wage is dependent on experience. Excellent benefits available including medical, dental, vision, and 401(k) retirement plan. Apply online at www.obiseafoods.com. Questions, call the main office at (907) 772-4294 and ask to speak with the Human Resources department.

.....tfn2-8b124
Petersburg's Public Works Department has an opening for a full-time Administrative Assistant I. This position pays \$21.95 per hour and has full benefits. 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 offices, 12 S. Nordic Drive, or mailed to P.O. Box 329, Petersburg, AK, 99833, or emailed to bregula@petersburgak.gov.

.....tfn2-8b70
Scandia House is looking for part time employees for Housekeeping and Front Desk positions. Desk applicants must have valid driver's license. Apply at hotel front desk.

Petersburg Properties LLC



Sarah Holmgrain
907-518-0718



Jalyn Pomrenke
907-723-3157



Karna Cristina
206-554-1522

NARROWS INN APARTMENTS,
1105 SOUTH NORDIC DRIVE



Fantastic opportunity to own one of the few multi-family investment properties in Petersburg. The rental market is tight here so ample opportunity to increase NOI. 23 efficiency units, two 1 bedroom units, one 3 bedroom unit, and one 5 bedroom unit with several units remodeled/updated. Located only 1 mile from downtown. Great views of the mountains and Narrows from several units.

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Large well built home on oversize lot just 2 miles from town. 4 beds/2bath 2,400 square feet. Two story home with heated garage. Electric boiler/baseboard heat along with a heat pump. 2 covered wrap around porches give you great views facing south with sun all day long! Vinyl siding makes it easy to maintain. Quiet dead end street.

.....\$450,000

www.PetersburgProperties.com

.....tfn2-1b26

Petersburg Borough has an opening for the position of Lineman. This is a regular full-time position in which the Lineman will also be trained as a generation operator. Wage for a Journeyman Lineman is \$59.75/hr with operator premium (Tier 4) \$62.17/hr with operator premium (Tier 1-3). 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 will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough office at 12 S. Nordic Street in Petersburg; by mail to Human Resources, P.O. Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833; or via email to bregula@petersburgak.gov. Open until position is filled.

.....tfn2-1b128

The Petersburg Borough is seeking qualified candidates to fill the position of Assistant Utility Director. The position will work under the direction of the Utility Director, to assist in the operation and management of the Borough's Power and Light, Water and Wastewater departments and eventually assume the role of the Utility Director following his re-

PMC ANNOUNCES NEW VISITING SPECIALIST

Erik Woelber, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon

February 29 - March 1

Call 907-364-2663 to schedule
Referral Recommended

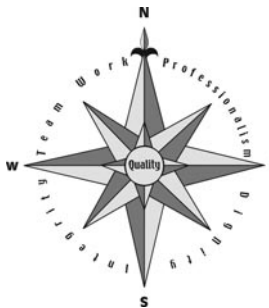
Dr. Woelber is a graduate of Yale University and the University of Washington School of Medicine. He completed his residency training at Oregon Health Sciences University and his fellowship in adult reconstructive surgery at the Rothman Institute in Philadelphia. He performed over 500 joint replacements during his residency.

Dr. Woelber lives in Juneau and works at Juneau Bone and Joint Center. He specializes in treating arthritis, ankle and hip fractures, upper extremity injuries, carpal tunnel syndrome, meniscus injuries, and other pathology of the knee and hip.



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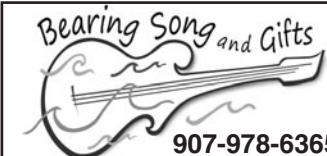


tirement. The position will also develop and manage capital projects of the departments, from initial funding requests to procurement of design professionals, advertising, bidding and construction. Applicants should possess a minimum of 7 years of responsible experience in planning, organizing and directing a public utility, including 4 years in an administrative and supervisory role. The Petersburg Borough owns and op-

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**Power Troll
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509-491-1236 or 425-677-3450



907-978-6365
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erates its major utilities, including Petersburg Municipal Power and Light's local 14.4/24.9KV distribution system, backup diesel powerplant and Blind Slough Hydroelectric facility, Petersburg Water department's 4.0MGD treatment plant and water distribution system and Petersburg Wastewater department's 2.1 MGD treatment plant, 20 lift stations and collection system. The utilities collectively employ 14.5 FTE's in support of essential services to the community. A bachelor's degree in public administration, construction management or related field is desired. Other combinations of education and experience that demonstrate competency in the desired knowledge, skills and abilities may be accepted. Please visit the Petersburg Borough's website to view the full job description and to complete an employment application. Salary \$125,000 DOE. Open until filled. Go to www.petersburgak.gov for a complete job description and employment application.

.....tfn2-15b240
Petersburg Indian Association

**ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY
NOW HIRING!**

- Passenger Service Workers; Stewards & Purser
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- Licensed Deck Officers
- Able Bodied Seaman
- Marine Engineers

Several full time, year round professional and entry level positions are now available throughout Alaska in our offices, terminals and onboard our vessels.

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FerryAlaska.com/employment

is accepting applications for a FT Tribal Administrator. Position will be responsible for general oversight of operations and staff at PIA. Job description and application available at the PIA office or at piatribal.org. Open until filled. Salary \$75K - \$90K DOE. Native preference applies.

.....tfn1-25b47
Petersburg Borough has an opening for a permanent full-time Motor Pool Equipment Mechanic. Starting wage for this position is \$32.42/hour. \$2500 hiring bonus after six-month probation period and \$2500 bonus after one year. 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

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 inquiry@p-wins.com www.p-wins.com
907-772-3858

the first six months of employment will be considered. A full job description and employment application can be obtained below. 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 the position is filled.tfn11-30b129

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FIBRE INC.**

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.....3x2-15p26

MISCELLANEOUS

Petersburg Indian Association Council opening. Let your voice

KEN'S PAINTING:
Interior/Exterior Painting &
Power Washing
at an affordable price
772-2010 or 772-2028

be heard! Are you a PIA tribal citizen looking to volunteer and be a part of the governing body? If interested in joining the PIA Tribal Council submit a Letter of Interest to president@piatribal.org. It is empowering to work amongst Tribal citizens and to build the future of Alaskan Natives. The deadline for the interest period is March 13th. This seat is up for re-election in January of 2025.
.....4x3-7b77
Business Forms to make your office run smoother. Check it out at Petersburg Pilot, 207 N. Nordic Drive.
.....1x2-15dh
Classified Deadline is 5 p.m. each Tuesday for ads appearing in Thursday's paper. Call 772-9393 or drop by 207 N. Nordic Drive.
.....1x2-15dh

NOTICES

Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255



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- Tobacco Prevention Project Coordinator
- Cook (PT & FT) • Tai Ji Quan Facilitator (PT as Needed)
- Adult Day Care Program Aide (PT)
- Physical Therapist • Activities Assistant
- Medical Assistant • Materials Assistant (PT)
- Bingocize Facilitator (PT as Needed)
- Clinic Reception/Admissions (FT)
- Medical Technologist • Registration Coordinator
- Occupational Therapist • Ward Clerk
- Radiologic Technologist • Speech Language Pathologist
- 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**

Seafood markets

Continued from page 1

“We saw a lot of processors quit buying early,” alongside falling prices, Welch said of last year’s harvest.

Prices were painfully low last year, as the market was still oversupplied with fish caught in 2022.

A Department of Fish and Game preliminary analysis issued in October of salmon prices showed a statewide average in 2023 of 64 cents a pound for sockeye, 49 cents a pound for chum and 24 cents for pinks, though prices were significantly lower later in the season, dropping to around 20 cents a pound for Southeast chum salmon.

Average prices paid for commercial salmon catches in 2023 were less than half the 2022 numbers.

It’s going to take a lot of marketing to find more buyers for what’s already in warehouses and cold storage, plus what will come this year and in future years, all geared toward pushing prices higher, Welch said.

That’s where ASMI, the state’s seafood marketing agency, takes the lead.

“People are buying less seafood,” Woodrow said. Rising food costs, tight household

budgets and overall inflation have made it harder for processors to sell to wholesalers and retailers.

“We have fish to sell. We have a massive supply and demand problem,” he said.

About 30% of the value of Alaska’s seafood harvest is sold in the United States and the rest is exported, with Japan and Europe the largest direct foreign markets, according to ASMI.

China was the biggest market until 2017, when a trade war between China and the U.S. led to higher tariffs and knocked down Alaska seafood sales to the Asia nation. Alaska’s annual exports to China dropped by \$450 million from 2017 to 2020.

China fell from almost 30% of Alaska’s seafood exports by value in 2017 to 20% in 2022.

“There isn’t a single replacement for China,” Woodrow said.

ASMI is working parallel efforts, he explained. It is trying to boost sales to U.S. consumers, while also developing new overseas markets, looking to countries in Southeast Asia, South America, North Africa, India and the Middle East.

“Unfortunately, Americans just don’t eat enough seafood,”

he said.

ASMI markets Alaska seafood as wild-caught, not farm-raised, sustainable and healthy, all of which consumers say they value.

Marketing, however, takes money, and Alaska is outspent. The Norwegian Seafood Council global marketing budget is \$46 million, according to ASMI. Whereas federal funding to ASMI this year totals about \$6 million, Woodrow said.

The Alaska seafood industry, through a self-assessment, contributed about \$11 million to ASMI this year, he said, with the state adding \$5 million for the agency’s total spending plan of \$22 million.

“We have a lot of work ahead,” Woodrow said in an interview after the conference panel. “There is a lot of uncertainty.”

Besides for losing consumers to inflation and China to tariff politics, the Alaska seafood industry also suffered under years of unfair competition from Russia, the panelists said.

Russia blocked the import of Alaska seafood starting in 2014, immediately hitting pink salmon, Decker said. Roe is a big part of the value of pinks, she explained, and Russia was

a prime market for the eggs.

Meanwhile, much of Russia’s prolific seafood harvest went to China for low-cost processing, entering the global market and undercutting Alaska on price.

The Biden administration in December changed the rules to put an end to Russian fish coming into the U.S. through

China, with the change scheduled to take effect later this month, Decker said.

“This will open an opportunity for Alaska seafood to fill a demand,” she said, though she worries that all that Russian seafood may just go to other markets around the world, adding to supply and holding down prices.

Ferry crew shortage

Continued from page 1

inherited the challenge of bringing crew levels back to full staffing. A lack of crew has forced the ferry system into paying overtime and canceling sailings to manage operations.

“We still have the same crewing challenges,” he said.

As of Jan. 26, the system was short about three dozen workers — not counting stewards, cooks and other similar lower-level positions.

“This entry-level-pay position has a very high turnover rate,” Tornga said of stewards. “Presently, we are experiencing a shortage of cooks, which is ... affecting operations.”

Despite recent improvements, the system lost more mates, pilots and engineers than it hired in 2023. The licensed engineers are responsible for a ship’s propulsion system, most machinery and the safe operation of mechanical systems aboard the vessel.

The state-operated ferries have been short of crew since losing trained workers to retirement, resignation and furloughs during deep cuts in the operating schedule amid the worst of the COVID-induced collapse in travel, which coincided with steep cuts in state funding.

When the ferries tried to resume pre-COVID schedules in 2022 and 2023, the system was unable to hire enough new crew members to staff all the vessels.

From 2019 through early 2022, the ferry system lost 155 more employees than it hired, management told legislators in 2022. In May 2022, 60% of the Alaska Marine Highway’s jobs were vacant, the highest vacancy rate among any state agency.

The state has improved its hiring numbers of late, Tornga said, and recruiters continue to go after new hires from marine academies nationwide and at career days at Alaska high schools.

“The hardest sell is to get them to come to Alaska,” he said of recruiting from maritime academies. “We find we retain Alaskans at a better percentage than out-of-state hires.”

Unless more crew members are hired soon, the Kennicott will spend its second summer tied to the dock in Ketchikan, unable to put enough workers on board to meet U.S. Coast Guard minimum staffing levels.

The ferry system is not the only state agency dealing with a worker shortage.

As of December, state job positions with the highest vacancy rates included unemployment benefit workers (37.7%), public health nurses (33.3%), emergency services dispatchers (27.3%), and child support specialists (24.3%).

Tornga also updated Southeast Conference attendees last week on the upcoming summer schedule and work plans to upgrade or repair several vessels.

The LeConte will be delayed coming back to service in May from winter maintenance after workers found “rotten steel” on the ship and had to schedule more time in the shipyard for additional repairs, he said.

The Alaska Marine Highway expects to go to bid in March to add sleeping quarters for crew to the Tazlina, which has seen limited service since its launch six years ago because it cannot run more than 12 hours without a second crew on board.

A major upgrade to the controllable-pitch propellers system will take the Columbia, the mainstay of service between Southeast Alaska and Bellingham, Washington, out of service for a period in 2025.

Also in 2025, the state plans to upgrade the generators aboard the Kennicott to reduce air emissions to meet federal standards, Tornga said.

The 61-year-old Matanuska, the oldest vessel in the fleet, remains out of service for the second year until “we can get it in the air and take a look at the double bottom” to check for rusted steel plates, he said.

After management has more information on necessary repairs and costs, the state can make a decision whether it is worth it to do the work to put the ship back into operation, Tornga said.

Ordinance

Continued from page 1

considering that, he was not in favor of making any amendments to the ordinance until the community gives input.

Assembly member Scott Newman explained this ordinance to amend municipal code “is the result of a recent dealing” with Petersburg Indian Association. PIA sought to purchase borough property and the assembly approved their request, directing the borough manager to negotiate the sale. Assembly member Newman said the assessed value of the two properties PIA seeks to buy came in at \$1.3 million, which “far exceeded the \$500 thousand requirement ... therefore, it was out of the borough manager’s ability to still deal with it ... hence, that’s why we’re looking at this.”

Directly responding to Vice Mayor Marsh’s motion, assembly member Newman said property values are increasing and situations where borough land exceeds Marsh’s proposed \$1 million cap could happen again.

“It does seem like a lot of money. And at some point, yes, maybe there should be a limit ... But my perspective on it is, if people want to express their opinion, they come to the meeting; see us on the street, give us your input; we [as assembly members] represent the public ... we’ve been voted in to be able to make decisions like this ... for the best interest of the community. So I feel like \$1 million is maybe too low.”

Vice Mayor Marsh’s amendment to decrease that \$2 million change to \$1 million did not pass in a 4-1 vote with

Marsh in favor.

Assembly member Fine-Walsh said it is important to have limits on the value of land the assembly can dispose of by itself, and emphasized “it’s really important that the public weigh-in in every way possible.”

“That said ... \$500 thousand, a million dollars, doesn’t buy as much land as it used to. So it’s important to update our code to reflect that so that,” he continued.

Borough Manager Steve Geisbrecht added that the assembly should note the ordinance’s language — considering “assessed” value versus “appraised” value— and ensure the ordinance reads accurately and appropriately. “It’s a big difference in values.”

Vice Mayor Marsh stated she “still would like the \$1 million cap” and “would wonder the possibility” of dealing with the parcels for PIA separately so “each part is less than a million dollars.”

“I know that the amendment failed. But that would be

my reasoning ... If we look at these assessed values versus fair market value, I think we could still come in under that amount, whether it’s one or two million. So I appreciate the emphasis on noting the difference between assessed and fair market because there is a significant difference there.”

Acting mayor Stanton Gregor said he and the fellow members “look forward to hearing from the public, both in terms of the principle of this thing itself, and whether we go off assessed or appraised value will be very relevant things.”

“We’ll have the opportunity to hear public comment on it during the next meeting ... giving people the opportunity to come here. I hope we hear from the public,” said assembly member Fine-Walsh. “I look forward to hearing public input on this so we can make the best decision possible.”

The ordinance passed 4-1 in its first reading of three, with Marsh not in favor.

The next Petersburg Borough Assembly meeting will be on March 4 at noon.

FBC Petersburg

Sunday: 9:45a - Bible Classes • 10:45a - Fellowship/Meet & Greet • 11a - Worship in person & Facebook • 6p - Youth Group

Wednesday: 6p - Outreach Fellowship Meal • 7p - LIFE Group in Fellowship Hall

Thursday: 6p - Celebrate Recovery

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Please continue to check our Facebook page and website for updates at First Baptist Church Petersburg www.fbcpetersburg.com