

Wilderness Society now supports Landless bill

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Kinder Skog's first year under the PMC umbrella

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New Special Ed teacher arriving from Philippines

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Assembly approves direct negotiations for property sale to PIA

By **OLIVIA ROSE**
Pilot writer

PIA is planning to create more housing in Petersburg by constructing residential

rental units for both tribal and non-tribal members.

The Petersburg Borough Assembly unanimously agreed to move forward with PIA's application to purchase 7.88

acres of borough-owned land located on N. 8th Street beside the Mort Fryer Ball Field Park during a meeting on Dec. 4, approving for the Borough Manager to negotiate directly with PIA.

The area in question is part of a larger piece of property (US Survey 1168) that still needs to be subdivided before the final steps of the sale can take place, Community and Economic Development Director Liz Cabrera explained to the Pilot.

PIA contracted a surveyor to complete a survey of the land before knowing if the assembly would be interested in selling the property. The survey was done legally and is viable for the subdividing process, which will be brought next to the

Planning Commission on Dec. 12.

The commission will host a public hearing and can approve or deny the subdivision plan in just one meeting; it will not have to go to the assembly.

The maps in the planning commission report that initially recommended the assembly approve the sale of these unofficial parcels to PIA are all accurate, said Cabrera — it shows the area that PIA has requested to buy, although not officially legally subdivided yet.

At this week's assembly meeting, potential right of ways and the boardwalk trail that cuts through the property were discussed.

The platting plan presented by PIA

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Photo courtesy of Caitlyn Ware

A heavy carved hat of the Sea Pigeon clan is placed on Will Ware's head as he is named hit s'aati, or house master, of the Freshwater Mark Sockeye house at the beginning of last month's Koo.éex' in Hoonah.

T'akdeintaan clan hosts Koo.éex'

By **OLIVIA ROSE**
Pilot writer

The community gymnasium in Hoonah was the venue chosen to host a Koo.éex' for four members of the Tlingit tribe Raven moiety T'akdeintaan (Sea Pigeon) clan who had died during the past few years. Around 400 Tlingit tribal members traveled to the T'akdeintaan home village in early November for what Will Ware describes as a "payoff party" and an opportunity to "acknowledge and recognize our opposites."

In the matrilineal Tlingit culture, individuals are born into one of two moieties, either Eagle or Raven, determined by their mother's lineage.

The Koo.éex' serves as a platform for acknowledging and balancing the reciprocity between the moieties, preserving the significance of supporting opposites.

"Quite literally, a Koo.éex' just means it's an invitation for us to acknowledge our opposites for the support they've given us during our mourning time," Ware told the Pilot.

Ware is the Chief Development Officer for Tlingit and Haida and is the newly confirmed hit s'aati, or house master, for the Freshwater Mark Sockeye house of the T'akdeintaan clan.

Ware described for the Pilot some of the protocols that guide his new role as hit s'aati.

"A house master really speaks on behalf of his house ... At Koo.éex' ... I can speak and bring out our at.óow to the Eagles... and I'm there to give comfort and to share and to acknowledge and bring that kind of support to my opposites. We also help resolve and settle differences that are within our clan. We communicate with other clans on how it is that we're going to coordinate events and ... we just really provide that leadership for our clan house."

November's Koo.éex' was the first one Ware had taken part in since the pandemic began, though he noted there had been a number of Koo.éex' this fall "because it was the first fall that we were wide open to hold these large gatherings."

"These Koo.éex', these invitations, are for our opposites — to pay them off for the support they've given us during this time of mourning," Ware said. "Generally, it was a one year process ... so if somebody died, the following year in the fall time, it'd be a payoff party."

While traditionally just for one person, this particular Koo.éex' was in honor of four individuals who had died since

Continued on page 8

Clearing work continues at slide; fundraising grows to help families

By **LARRY PERSILY**
Wrangell Sentinel reporter

WRANGELL — Response to the deadly landslide continues, with extensive clearing work to remove debris from along the highway to increase safety and with fundraising for families affected by the disaster, particularly the Heller and Florschutz families that lost loved ones.

More than \$43,000 from 342 donations had been raised in a GoFundMe campaign for the two families as of Monday, Dec. 4.

Almost \$20,000 had been raised in another account to help families who were displaced or whose lives were disrupted by the Nov. 20 landslide at 11-Mile Zimovia Highway.

"There is a group of us who came together" to organize the fundraising, said Tammi Meissner.

Jillian Privett is helping to coordinate the GoFundMe campaign, and the Harbor Light Assembly of God Church is managing the other account, which was set up at First Bank.

The plan for the GoFundMe account "is to keep raising money for a few more weeks," then use it to cover any travel and end-of-life expenses, according to the account's web page.

After those expenses are settled, the funds will be split between the Florschutz family and the Heller estate, according to the account's web posting.

Multiple businesses have donated goods and services to the search and ongoing relief efforts, including Alaska Airlines, which provided tickets for Heller family members to travel to Wrangell from out of state.

The slide, which covered almost four-fifths of a mile as it poured down the mountainside before ending in the water, destroyed the home of Timothy and Beth

Heller, ages 44 and 36, respectively, and their children, Mara, 16, Derek, 12, and Kara, 11.

As of Monday, Dec. 4, searchers had recovered the bodies of everyone except Derek. The other family members were found over several days, Nov. 20 through Nov. 25.

While debris clearing continues along both sides of the highway, scent-detection dogs and volunteers were on the scene to search for any indication of Derek's body.

State and borough officials reported that crews were timing their searches with the tides, with the canine teams looking at low tide and volunteers searching by boat at high tide.

"The debris in the intertidal zone has added to the complexity of the search process," the borough reported Monday morning. "There is also a clay layer that adds complexity as well."

The landslide also killed Otto Florschutz, 65. Searchers, with help from scent-detection dogs, found his body Thursday, Nov. 30. His wife, Christina, was upstairs in their house at the time of the slide and survived, pulling herself out of the debris and walking toward rescuers the next morning.

Ben Florschutz posted a form to the Wrangell Community Group Facebook page last week, asking people to share "a favorite story of yours about our dad, Otto Florschutz."

Continued on page 3



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

December 7, 1923 – It has been often said that the mineral bearing rock of Southeastern Alaska carries many industrial values other than gold, copper and silver, but that little attention has been given them because of the lack of knowledge concerning them by ordinary prospectors. E.C. Howard, the fur dealer, in his travels, came across a most interesting discovery not far from Ketchikan which again demonstrates that other marketable minerals, once they are searched out, will add great wealth to the mining industry in the north. The place is formed like a natural arena with basaltic columns rearing upwards on all sides, some of which are one hundred feet high. In the bottom of this natural cistern is a jelly-like substance, which closely resembles dirty lard, and which is said to be a natural soap or ‘scat’ manufactured by nature and ready to be used. It also has been tested and will, it is said, clean carpets or greasy stoves and iron works and has been declared by mechanics to be “better than anything” they have used.

December 10, 1948 – Little Danny (Corky) Dawson is recovering nicely this week in the Petersburg General hospital following his near suffocation in a fire on the barge Margie D last weekend. The barge, operated by his parents, was laying at the cold storage dock when the alarm of fire was sounded by John Varnes and Clayton Neoheim. Firemen answered the call immediately to find a small blaze and heavy smoke. A brother, Charles, tried to awaken Corky but with all the heavy smoke he was unable to arouse him. Corky’s father came to the rescue and removed him. Dr. Herrell attributed the life saving to his father who administered artificial respiration. Mrs. Dawson is remaining here while the boat hauls freight to Juneau and Sitka. In a second fire, on Wednesday night, Harold D.

Torget, a middle-aged man from Wrangell, suffered death by suffocation on his boat at the city float. Torget had on that day purchased the boat and it was learned that he intended to go to Wrangell on the boat for some clothes and planned to dig clams. He started the fire in his skippy stove to melt away the snow and ice from the boat, which proved disastrous. He had been warned against such a plan by another boat owner, Ingor Nore. When the snow began to melt it ran down the door and immediately froze again and built up solidly at the base, trapping Torget inside. When firemen reached the scene the man was already dead. When found inside, Torget was in a position near the door, evidence of some effort to escape. No cry for help was reported to have been heard by observers. Previous owners of the boat were Arland Breese and W. Trayner.

December 6, 1973 – Chuck Waldron, teacher at the elementary school and resident of West Petersburg, across the Narrows from Petersburg, is in the hospital recovering from a case of frostbite to his hands. Waldron’s hands were frozen last Friday night when he abandoned his disabled skiff in the Wrangell Narrows and swam ashore. Waldron was enroute to his home in West Petersburg when the outboard engine on his skiff failed and the tidal current in the Narrows threatened to cast him adrift in Frederick Sound in near zero weather. According to Waldron, he had boarded his skiff in Petersburg Harbor and, when he touched the ignition panel, his fingers stuck to it from the cold. “I started to go back to my truck for my gloves, but then thought, ‘it’s only a couple of minutes to home’ and decided not to. The

engine was balky, I had to choke it to keep it running... I knew I had plenty of gas so I really wasn’t worried. When I reached mid-channel in the Narrows, the engine failed completely. I tried to restart it but my hands were so cold I couldn’t move my fingers. I think the line had water in it and it froze, shutting off the fuel. The tide was going out at a fast clip and taking me with it,” Waldron continued. “I kept thinking that I’d surely die of exposure if I couldn’t get ashore in the Narrows. When I tried to row, I couldn’t wrap my fingers around the oars. All I could manage was one oar and then only with my palms. When I was about fifty feet from shore I just couldn’t keep paddling. I decided then to go over the side and swim, rather than just drift into the Sound... I knew I wouldn’t survive there.” Waldron came ashore in front of the Strand home on Front Street and started to awaken them for help. At that moment a taxi cab came along and Waldron was taken to the home of Byron Pollack. The Pollacks got him into dry clothes, and while treating his hands, fed him hot chili and coffee to warm him. It wasn’t until Monday that Waldron noticed a blackening of his fingertips and blisters appeared on his fingers. He was immediately hospitalized and his hands were treated with antibiotics to prevent infection. From his hospital bed, Waldron stated, “I think I’m recovering because there is a lot of pain in my fingers. There is only the

danger of infection now.”

December 10, 1998 – Petersburg writer Marilyn George has two pieces published in this month’s edition of Alaskan Southeaster magazine. George, who was recently selected as a speaker for the Alaska Humanities Forum, contributed the stories to the publication accompanied by photos of Petersburg. In her first story, George delves into an explanation of the Julebukking ceremonies that Petersburg has become known for. In another piece George traces the life and continuing prosperities of Petersburg fishing giant Gordon Jensen. George’s last piece, published in the Southeast magazine earlier this year, focused on the Centennial Year of Petersburg and the traditions that built the town.



GOOD BEGINNINGS

2023-2024 ENROLLMENT

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Scholarships available!

PETERSBURG HAPPENINGS

Brought to you by:  

THURSDAY, December 7
Stories In Motion: 11:00am, Public Library
PMC Medical Board Meeting: 5:30pm, Municipal Building
Free Dinner Get Together: 5:30pm, Lutheran Church- Holy Cross Hall
Ragnarok Rollers Practice: 7:30pm, Parks & Rec Gym

FRIDAY, December 8
Al-Anon Support Group: 12:00pm, Episcopal Church
PMC Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Facility: 12:00pm, Haugen Drive near 8th Street New Facility Site
Bingo Night: 6:00pm, Sons of Norway Hall
AA Candlelight Meeting: 7:00pm, Episcopal Church

SATURDAY, December 9
Puzzle Sale: 11:00am, Public Library
Free Crafting Day (supplies provided): 12:00pm, Salvation Army Church at 2nd and Fram
The Nutcracker presented by MDT: 6:30pm, Wright Auditorium

SUNDAY, December 10
Knitting Group - all welcome: 2:00pm, Mountain View Manor Social Hall
The Nutcracker presented by MDT: 2:30pm, Wright Auditorium
Ragnarok Rollers Practice: 5:00pm Parks & Rec Community Center

MONDAY, December 11
Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall
Burger Night: 5:30pm, Moose Lodge
AA Women’s Meeting: 7:00 pm, Presbyterian Church

TUESDAY, December 12
Early Voting for Tribal Council: 11:00am, PIA Conference Rm
Planning Commission Meeting: 12:00pm, Municipal Building
School Board Meeting: 6:00pm, PHS Library
PHS Winter Concert: 7:00pm, Wright Auditorium
AA 12x12 Meeting: 7:00pm, Holy Cross Classroom

WEDNESDAY, December 13
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
MMS Winter Concert: 7:00pm, Wright Auditorium
Pickled Herring Contest: 7:00pm, Sons of Norway Hall

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

Northern Nights Theater


This Weekend:
The Nutcracker
Presented by
The Mitkof Dance Troupe

Showings:
Saturday @ 6:30 pm
Sunday @ 2:30 pm

Next weekend:
Journey to Bethlehem

Concessions available.
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PETERSBURG

TIDE TABLE

DECEMBER 2023

	HIGH TIDES				LOW TIDES			
	A.M.		P.M.		A.M.		P.M.	
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
7 Thu	8:51	14.2	9:26	12.0	2:29	4.1	3:35	3.9
8 Fri	9:33	15.1	10:22	12.7	3:20	4.2	4:21	2.5
9 Sat	10:11	16.0	11:10	13.5	4:06	4.3	5:02	1.2
10 Sun	10:49	16.9	11:55	14.2	4:50	4.3	5:41	0.0
11 Mon	11:28	17.7	5:31	4.2	6:19	-1.0
12 Tue	0:38	14.9	12:07	18.3	6:12	4.1	6:59	-1.8
13 Wed	1:20	15.3	12:48	18.7	6:53	4.0	7:39	-2.2

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907-772-3893 908 S. Nordic Dr

WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Precip
Nov 29	41	30	0.19
Nov 30	40	36	0.57
Dec 1	39	36	0.15
Dec 2	38	31	0.04
Dec 3	43	37	0.45
Dec 4	46	39	0.83
Dec 5	46	39	1.52

This Week's Precipitation: 3.75"
This weather service is provided by the FAA weather observation station at the James A. Johnson Airport.

DAYLIGHT HOURS

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Dec 7	8:12a	3:11 p	6:59hrs
Dec 8	8:13a	3:10p	6:57hrs
Dec 9	8:15a	3:10p	6:55hrs
Dec 10	8:16a	3:09p	6:53hrs
Dec 11	8:17a	3:09p	6:52hrs
Dec 12	8:19a	3:09p	6:50hrs
Dec 13	8:20a	3:08p	6:48hrs

FERRY SCHEDULE

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


NORTHBOUND DEPARTURES

FRI 12/15	KENNICOTT	05:30 P.M.
FRI 12/22	KENNICOTT	10:45 P.M.
FRI 12/29	KENNICOTT	05:30 P.M.
FRI 1/05	KENNICOTT	08:30 P.M.
SAT 1/13	KENNICOTT	01:30 A.M.

SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURES

MON 12/18	KENNICOTT	02:15 A.M.
MON 12/25	KENNICOTT	01:30 A.M.
MON 1/01	KENNICOTT	01:45 A.M.
SUN 1/07	KENNICOTT	11:45 P.M.
MON 1/15	KENNICOTT	05:15 A.M.

PRESENTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY:



Landslide

Continued from page 1
SLIDE AREA MAPPED OUT

With more time on the ground and more images from the air, the Alaska Department of Transportation has provided new measurements of the slide’s length, width and coverage, now reporting the slide was more than twice as long as first estimated.

The distance from the top of the slide to the beach line is 3,733 feet. Counting the debris field that went into the water, the total is closer to 4,000 feet. That’s about equal to the distance from the end of City Dock, down Front Street to the Marine Bar, and then to the far end of Shakes Island.

The slide was 449-feet wide where it crossed Zimovia Highway. Teams working to clear debris reopened the road to restricted traffic on Nov. 27.

The debris field is 715 feet across at its widest point and 95 feet across at its smallest point, near the top of the mountain.

The slide covers a total area of about 38 acres, which is a slightly larger area than the Shustak Peninsula, which wraps around the Inner Harbor.

HIGHWAY WORK CONTINUES

Clearing continued over the weekend and Monday, with the borough reporting close to 90 truckloads hauled away on Saturday.

Interim Borough Manager Mason Villarma reported Sunday that contractors for the state Department of Transportation are hauling the trees and other debris to two pre-approved disposal sites in the area.

“Once the shoulder easements are fully cleared of the debris ... preparations for the concrete patch (on the highway) will begin,” the borough reported on Sunday.

The highway is open, but only for residents who live past the slide area and responders. Permits, which are required for the residents to drive through

the slide area, are available at City Hall and from the police.

As of Monday, Dec. 4, the highway will be open 7:30 to 8 a.m., noon to 12:30 p.m. and 4 to 4:30 p.m. Police will escort drivers through the work zone.

The borough reported the new times will give crews “more time each day to complete the necessary repairs. The goal is to install concrete patches and other safety features so that normal two-lane traffic can resume on the Zimovia Highway in the future.”

STATE WILL INSTALL HILLSIDE MONITORS

As it plans for long-term monitoring of the mountainside, the state Department of Transportation reported Friday, Dec. 1, that it would install two remote weather stations. The stations “will provide crucial data on soil moisture, temperature, wind and rainfall, allowing us to closely monitor the slide area.”

The state also will set up a drone-in-a-box system for additional monitoring capabilities. The drone will be housed in a container, ready for automated deployment and return. “It’s designed to take off, perform its task and then autonomously return and dock back into its box without human intervention,” the department said in an online statement.

“Both of these technologies will be assisting in the Wrangell response soon.”

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

State financial assistance is available for people directly affected by the slide, covering temporary housing expenses, fuel, damages and other costs.

Application packets are available at City Hall, or people can call the state at 844-445-7131 for more information 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays or apply online at ready.alaska.gov/Recovery/IA.

In addition to helping with property repairs and replacing personal items, renters may



Photo by Jordan Bunniss / Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department

U.S. Forest Service law enforcement officers provided critical support as searchers looked for Derek Keller, 12, still missing from the Nov. 20 landslide. The Alaska Department of Transportation estimates that almost 270 feet of slide debris spilled out into the intertidal zone.

qualify for up to three months of rental assistance and homeowners may be eligible for up to 18 months of housing aid.

The Wrangell Strong Community Relief Group Facebook page offers to help connect residents who are reluctant to return to their homes near the slide area with housing options. It’s to help people who don’t feel safe at their old homes, Privett said.

The donation drop-off and pickup site at the community center, managed by the borough’s Parks and Recreation Department, is closing down after it was open last weekend to clear out the large amount of food, clothing and personal care

items brought to the center.

The staff planned to make sure whatever was left went to people who need it, said Devyn Johnson, of the Parks and Recreation staff.

In addition to the community’s regular Facebook group and the Wrangell Strong Community Relief Group Facebook page, the borough has set up a Wrangell Landslide Recovery Facebook page for people to follow updates on the disaster.

JUNEAU PITCHES IN

Fundraising extended across Southeast Alaska. “We’ve had people donate from all over,” Meissner said.

That includes a drive under-

way in Juneau to collect several thousand pounds of food.

“As we approach the holiday season, let’s come together to make a meaningful impact through a dedicated food and toy drive,” said a Facebook post by Southeast Alaska Standing Together.

The group said Alaska Marine Lines and U-Haul of Alaska have offered to cover shipping from Juneau to Wrangell, with two collection sites for donations in Juneau.

“All donated items will be put on a pallet and shipped to The Salvation Army in Wrangell for distribution,” the Juneau-based group said.

National conservation group now supports landless Natives legislation

By JOAQLIN ESTUS
Indian Country Today

The Wilderness Society conservation group has changed its position and now supports a bill that would create five new Alaska Native corporations in Southeast Alaska. It historically has opposed the creation of the new corporations.

Federal legislation would create for-profit Native corporations for five communities left out of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The settlement act transferred almost a billion dollars and title to 44 million acres to Native corporations to make profits and issue dividends to Native shareholders.

Wrangell is one of the five landless Native communities included in the legislation, which has a long path to winning congressional approval in the next year. Multiple attempts over the years have failed to gain enough support.

“This is a long overdue shift in The Wilderness Society’s position and is a significant step toward correcting injustices against Alaska Native communities in Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee Springs and Wrangell,” said Karlin Itchoak, the Wilderness Society’s senior regional director for Alaska, in a prepared statement.

“The fight to amend this act and reunite these communities with their ancestral lands is not just about rectifying a historical wrong, but also about ensuring these communities’ cultural survival and prosperity,” said Meda DeWitt in the statement. She is Naanya.aayí Tlingit from Wrangell, and the society’s senior specialist for Alaska.

Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who sponsored the Senate bill, emailed, “I am pleased to see that The Wilderness Society has finally reversed their opposition to my legislation that would rectify the

omission of five Native communities being excluded from ANCSA, and seeks to make reparations for the financial and cultural harm of this injustice.”

Richard Tashee Rinehart Jr., Tlingit, is advocating for the bill on behalf of the five communities. He applauds the society’s new position. The group has more than a million members and supporters, according to its website.

“We’re very thrilled. ... It makes a difference when a group that large is supportive,” Rinehart said.

He said the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council last year came out in support of legislation, and the Sierra Club and EarthJustice, two large national environmental organizations, have changed their opposition to a neutral stance.

Rinehart said the landless bill has long been viewed as a timber issue.

“Environmental conservation groups have opposed us fearing that we would log and clearcut in the Tongass National Forest, but they’re now seeing it more properly as a social justice issue and righting an inequity that goes back to the very days of when Alaska became a territory of the United States,” Rinehart said.

The reasons for the communities being left out of the 1971 settlement act are unclear. A report by University of Alaska Anchorage’s Institute of Social and Economic Research in the mid-1990s found no clear reason why the communities were excluded.

The bill has been referred to the Senate and House committees for hearings.

This article was originally published by ICT, an independent, nonprofit, multimedia news enterprise. ICT covers Indigenous peoples.



has received a donation of matching funds from Petersburg Mental Health for our service to the community.

As part of their goal to improve the quality of life in Petersburg by supporting local non-profits with a mission of service, PMH will match all donations to KFSK through the calendar year-end.

Make a year-end gift by visiting
kfsk.org, or call 907-772-3808.

Happy holidays and thank you for supporting Community Radio KFSK.

To the Editor

Clear-cut logging

To the Editor:

I thank Mike Schwartz for his thoughtful letter to the Editor regarding the Landless Native bill in last week's Pilot.

The point regarding the traditional Native philosophy of Native stewardship of the land was both beautiful and sad at the same time. Beautiful to read how the timeless principle of reverential respect for Mother Earth guided the stewardship decisions of the Native peoples on the lands of S.E. Alaska since time immemorial. Sad to think how that beautiful philosophy from the past played out in the real world of today. The lands that were transferred to the Native corporations of S.E. Alaska under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act were systematically clear-cut logged until there was very little original habitat remaining. The riches of Mother Earth were cashed in for quick profit. The short YouTube video titled "Hoonah's Legacy" tells the story of what happened on the village corporation lands of Southeast Alaska.

This abandonment of the stewardship principles of the past and subsequent loss of most of the pristine forest lands to clear-cut logging on Native lands has been one of the biggest obstacles keeping the Landless Native bill from moving forward in the years since the first version was introduced. Despite the many Native people who have publicly testified their desire to return to traditional values of reverent respectful stewardship

of the land, many people remain unconvinced that sentiment would prevail in the stewardship decisions of today's world. The concern is increased by the fact that the Native decision makers do not want to put any language restricting logging in the Landless bill. So people are being asked to trust the word of strangers in the face of overwhelming contrary evidence. The fact that most of the lands selected for transfer were chosen on the basis of timber value adds to this concern. To increase public support, I encourage the drafters of this bill to include language in the bill that restrains the forces of greed that prevailed on Native lands after ANCSA.

Sincerely,
Eric Lee

“There are No Landless Natives in Southeast Alaska.”

To the Editor:

Those are the words of Department of Interior Secretary Jim Lyons and Undersecretary Sylvia Baca regarding so-called "landless" legislation in 1996. Bureau of Indian Affairs Director Michael Black responded similarly to the bill's 2015 version.

So-called landless bills to amend the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) have failed for decades. Similar to previous versions, the

currently proposed S.1889 would privatize over 115 thousand acres in 60 cherry-picked parcels of Tongass public land. That patchwork would be gifted to Natives from five Southeast communities for the purpose of forming urban corporations under ANCSA. The selections would displace existing public uses and transfer unquantified millions of dollars of taxpayer funded infrastructure including roads, bridges, trails, and marine access facilities to the new corporations.

Lyons and Baca wrote, "There is no inequity in ANCSA to redress. Each of the five communities were considered for village status during the formulation of ANCSA and none met the general statutory criteria for eligibility." That is, "having a majority Native population and not being modern or urban in character." The ineligibility determination was informed, considered, and intentional—not inadvertent or an oversight as proponents allege.

But make no mistake, "ANCSA explicitly resolved equity and compensation for the five communities in Southeast Alaska - and other similarly ineligible communities in the rest of Alaska." As the officials confirmed, "Natives in the five 'landless' communities are enrolled as 'at-large' shareholders in Sealaska Corporation, have received fair and substantial equitable benefits of the original ANCSA settlement, and the dividends received by these at-large shareholders substantially

exceed those paid by the regional corporations to village shareholders." Clearly, compensation for 52 years already tips in favor of these "Urban/At-Large" Sealaska shareholders who seek the bill.

The officials further explained that Southeast Alaska natives received earlier cash settlements [before 1971] from the United States; their ineligibility determination survived prior lawsuits; and eligible Native enrollment in these communities varies widely, yet each corporation would receive equal acreage, raising the bar for additional claims of inequity.

The proposed "Landless" legislation is another, in a long series of Senator Murkowski's singular-minded public land raids for resource extraction. Immediately following passage of the 2014, 70,000 acre Sealaska bill she proclaimed : "Some 43 years after passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the federal government will finally finish paying the debt we owe Natives for the settlement of their aboriginal land claims."

Her assurance was short-lived. She has reintroduced a Landless bill at least five times since then.

As requested by Congress, the University of Alaska's Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) conducted a 1994 study of the five communities' status. It reached no conclusion and left it to Congress to review the evidence. Congress took no further action.

In fact, in a 1993 letter to the Alaska Public Radio Network, ISER responded to ongoing misinterpretations of their above study: "We did not, as

you reported, make a finding that Congress had inadvertently omitted the study villages from land benefits, nor did we recommend that Congress should now award them land. We did not, as you implied, say the study villages were entitled to the same economic benefits as Southeast Communities with village or urban corporations have received."

Since ANCSA was enacted, no governmental or other authoritative entity has determined that the five communities should have been deemed eligible for corporate status in ANCSA. Yet, repeated often enough and absent any explanation about why landless legislation has consistently failed, some have been lulled into embracing the landless narrative. A healthy public examination about the validity of landless claims is taboo due to social sensitivity about the topic. Alaska media, our Delegation, and those who stand to profit have failed to disclose important facts that may undermine legislative success.

As the officials warned, "Establishing this de facto new process would contravene the purposes of ANCSA" and "recognition of these five communities will become a precedent for other unrecognized communities in all twelve regions all demanding recognition along with more land and financial resources and result in a perpetual land transfer cycle."

The legislation is unjustified and irresponsible. Federal public lands should remain in federal public hands.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Knight

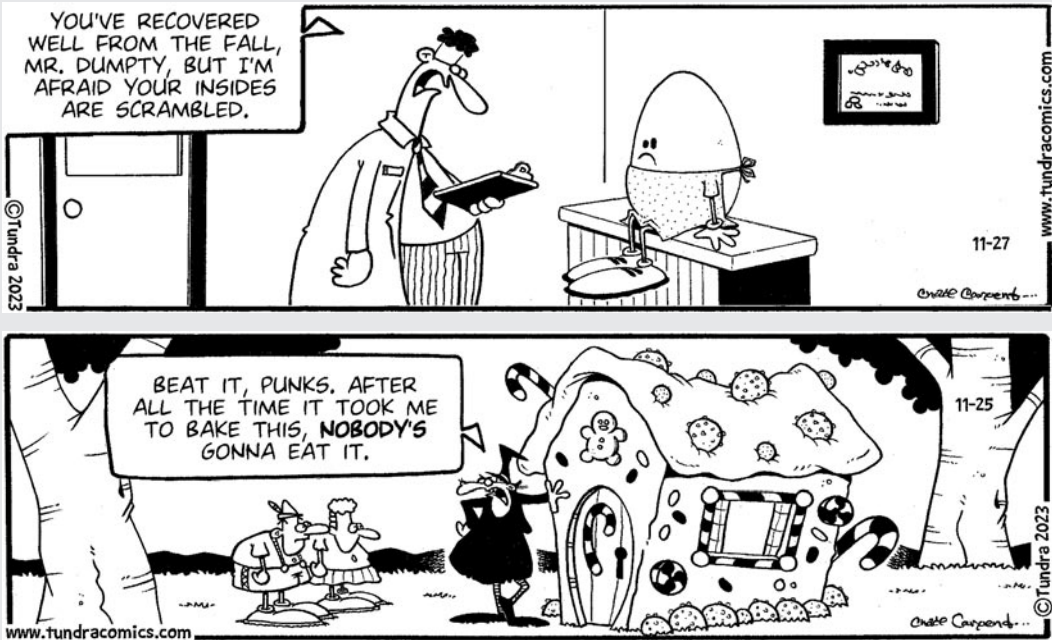
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



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Wednesday, December 13

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6:00p meeting and 6:30p judging

7:00p All are Welcome to taste the entries

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Petersburg Fish and Game
Advisory Committee

ELECTION MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday December 13th, 2023 at 6:30 pm

at the OBI Seafoods Cookhouse

(411 North Nordic Drive)

and by web/teleconference.

This meeting is open to the public.

Agenda items will include the following:

Elections for 5 expired seats

Officer Elections

Statewide Hatchery Proposal 59

Joint Board Proposals concerning
Advisory Committees

Other fisheries, wildlife, and committee
business as needed.

Please, visit the Online Public Notice for additional
information <http://notice.alaska.gov/213393>

The Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee is a
collection of community members from all user groups that
come together to discuss fish and wildlife issues and recommend
changes to current regulations. They also represent their
community before the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game.
Meeting information can be found at bit.ly/petersburgAC

For more information contact:

Kristy Tibbles – Executive Director

Alaska Department of Fish & Game,

Boards Support

(907) 465 - 6098 | kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov

www.boards.adfg.alaska.gov



Police report

November 29 – Petersburg Police Department (PPD) received a report of suspicious activity on Sing Lee Alley.

An officer conducted foot patrols downtown.

PPD received a complaint that a vehicle on Mitkof Highway was parked too close to the roadway. The Department of Transportation (DOT) was notified.

An officer conducted a welfare check and transported an individual to the hospital.

An officer conducted a welfare check on Fram Street.

November 30 – An officer conducted a security check on Charles W Street.

An officer assisted Emergency Medical Services (EMS) on North 12th Street.

An officer conducted a welfare check on North 2nd Street.

Dustyn Mullen was arrested on Excel Street for allegedly violating conditions of release.

Dana Michelle Miyaki was charged on Haugen Street with allegedly violating conditions of release.

PPD received a report of suspicious activity on Howkan Street.

An officer assisted a person in need on South Nordic Drive.

An officer responded to a noise complaint about a car alarm activated on Excel Street. The owner was contacted and reset the alarm.

Lindsey Castles was arrested on Excel Street for alleged criminal trespass in the first degree.

December 1 – An officer responding to a report of suspicious activity on Lumber

Street was unable to find a problem.

December 2 – An officer assisted EMS on Rambler Street.

PPD received a report of a runaway dog on Skylark Way.

A driver on North 1st Street was issued a warning for an inoperable headlight.

A driver on Haugen Drive was issued a warning for failure to come to a full stop at a stop sign.

Officers responding to a complaint of suspicious activity on Mitkof Highway determined it was unfounded.

A driver on North Nordic Drive was issued a warning for an inoperable headlight.

Aiden Gumz and Breiland Willis were cited for alleged minor in possession/consuming alcohol and Izabella Tarquino was cited for alleged driving in violation of provisional license requirements.

December 3 – Papers were served on Sing Lee Alley.

A driver on South Nordic Drive was issued a warning for an inoperable headlight.

A driver on South Nordic Drive was issued a warning for an inoperable headlight.

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

December 4 – PPD received a report of suspicious activity on South 2nd Street.

An officer provided lock-out assistance on Sandy Beach Road.

An individual at the South Harbor parking lot was provided a courtesy transport.

December 5 – An officer met with a complainant on Sing Lee Alley and determined

it was non-criminal.

PPD received a post-event report of a minor accident on North Nordic Drive.

PPD received a report of suspicious activity on Ira II Street and determined it was non-criminal.

Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity on Mitkof Highway.

PPD received a report of missing property.

An officer responded to a report of a collision between a bicyclist and a motor vehicle on North 2nd Street.

Papers were served on Birch Street.

Papers were served on Sandy Beach Road.

Papers were served on Bernice Lane.

PPD received a parking complaint on Mitkof Highway and the vehicle was moved.

Lindsey Castels was arrested for allegedly violating conditions of release.

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A review of Kinder Skog’s first year under the PMC umbrella

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

During October’s hospital board meeting, program facilitators presented a review of the PMC Youth Programs under the Petersburg Medical Center community wellness department — primarily highlighting Kinder Skog’s past year as a PMC pilot program.

The outdoor-based childcare program transitioned from operating under Petersburg Lutheran Church’s Good Beginnings Preschool to PMC in August 2022 after the hospital board agreed earlier that year to establish a pilot childcare program in the Community Wellness Department.

This action by the board was in response to surveys and community cafes facilitated by the SHARE Coalition which reflected a large local need for childcare, as well as PMC staff needing access to childcare in Petersburg.

“We have a lot of families and professionals that have kids, and they are very interested in having that as a benefit,” PMC CEO Phil Hofstetter told the Pilot. “And a benefit doesn’t necessarily mean that we do it for free — the benefit means that we have it available. In rural Alaska especially, it’s very challenging to have childcare ... it’s a huge need. It’s a need in many healthcare systems. And it’s also one of the number one questions ... that the employees on staff had asked me during [my] interview process in 2018.”

“I am grateful that our children have this program,” Petersburg health care worker and program participant parent Jordan Stafford told the hospital board in October. “Exercise, environmental safety, natural immunity, physical, emotional and social development, and a sense of being and belonging in the community, the list can go on ... While the kids are off in the

wild accomplishing all of this, it helps working parents stay at work with reliable childcare, which helps our economy. It also helps health care workers, like me, to stay at work so that I can continue helping care for patients and members of our community. In all of these ways Kinder Skog fits the bill in helping accomplish the mission of Petersburg Medical Center.”

The word “pilot” in the hospital board’s original motion established time to build out the program and to vet questions that arise along the way — but with no specific time constraint for the pilot period, Hofstetter said.

He told the Pilot that the eventual hospital board vote to fully adopt the program is a non-urgent legality that is not intended to put the program operations or staff at risk of termination.

“We want to make sure there’s a sufficient time for developing the program — that it meets the needs in adopting that, going forward.”

While Kinder Skog is technically a “pilot” program operating under PMC, it is being developed like any new program would usually be. Then, “At some point,” when the program operations are satisfactory, the board “will adopt that with a full vote...”

“We fully intend on building that out. We do need to vote ... but ... from an operational standpoint, there’s no difference between this program and another program.”

Kinder Skog is an outdoors-based afterschool and summer camp program for youth aged 5 through 12. The program “inspires free nature play, enriches learning through multi-sensory experiences and STEM projects and builds connections within the community through service projects...” according to its page on the PMC website.



Skoggies skogging through the ‘skeg.

Photo courtesy of Katie Holmlund

When Kinder Skog was founded in 2018, it operated under the umbrella of the Petersburg Lutheran Church, sharing a state child care license with the Good Beginnings Preschool.

Kinder Skog transitioned to PMC in 2022 and began operating under its own state child care license.

Being a licensed child care program had some benefits, including financial assistance from the state for qualifying low and moderate income families. However, the state licensure classroom size requirements limited the enrollment capacity for the program.

Kinder Skog functions as an almost exclusively outdoor-based program that rarely takes place in the classroom space it rents at PLC Holy Cross House. Following discussions with the State Childcare Program Office, Kinder Skog shifted away from the license and became a legally “exempt from licensure” recreational program in June 2023 in order to expand the number of kids it could enroll.

The exemption allowed the program to decide its own capacity and accept more names from their waitlist, but the state’s child care assistance for low income families was no longer available. A new scholarship program was developed to help prevent the exclusion of families who previously relied on state assistance to access Kinder Skog.

In the fall of 2022, Kinder Skog served about 34 students. In summer 2023, when 27 kids came off the waitlist, that increased to 123 kids enrolled throughout the various youth programs — about 60 percent of the elementary school population. Currently, 39 families are served as of fall enrollment for 2023, with 59 still on the waitlist.

PMC Youth Programs have a low ratio of kids to mentors with seven kids to one staff, which functions as a safety precaution for a program that takes place outdoors year-round.

The staff consists of one full-time and two part-time, with six

additional staff hired on for the summer programming enrollment spike, four of whom remain signed up as available substitutes.

The Kinder Skog Advisory Committee is made up of representatives from the hospital’s Human Resources, Financial and Wellness Departments, Policy Committee, PMC leadership, a Program Administrator, a guardian of an enrolled participant, and after becoming a legally exempt program the advisory committee appointed a safety officer. The advisory committee oversees program operations under the Wellness Department and reports to the clinic, up to the PMC CEO and the board of directors.

For the annual safety audit, the safety officer and administrator reviewed safety plans and procedures, including the emergency procedures plan, risk assessment and mitigation, required safety training, daily safety procedures and the physical space at the Holy Cross House, and debriefed all incident reports and plans of correction.

The designated safety officer

for Kinder Skog, Josh Rathmann, shared in a statement that the safety plan “is extremely ‘solid’ and very well documented.”

When the program began operations under PMC in fall 2022, the finance department expected a loss in the first term, which then improved in the spring with the benefit of sponsorships, donations and fundraising. The first-year outcomes met expectations and summertime programming generated more revenue than fall and spring combined.

The revenues for fall 2022 through summer 2023 totaled \$201,889; the expenses totaled \$174,570 — bringing the net income to \$27,319.

The fiscal trend of lower revenue during the wintertime and then summer operations making up the difference is expected to continue, and “the way the financials are rolled out is they factor that in going forward as well, so that if there’s additional funding ... we can use those funds to build out the department and develop that for long-term sustainability,” Hofstetter added.

Continued on page 7

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Wednesday, December 20
at 1:30 pm at the Fire Hall

*This meeting is open to the public.
For more information or to send in a comment - call 907-772-3355
or email ahankins@petersburgak.gov*

Skog

Continued from page 6

Grant support this year “was a huge asset” for PMC Youth Programs, Hofstetter told the Pilot. “We had a number of grants that really were supportive and helped build the program for the first year.”

Since coming under the PMC umbrella, significant grant funding was provided by the Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska Community Foundation child and family well-being fund, the Alaska Healthcare and Hospital Association; a large donation from the Petersburg Lutheran Church significantly benefited the program in addition to smaller grants from the Elks Gratitude Grant, mini-grants for specific projects from the Alaska Children’s Trust, and CCTHIA (Tlingit & Haida) support payments.

Additional funding sources included the Elks Dinner Fundraiser program, a portion of Anchor Properties Pumpkin Patch proceeds, and community donors supporting the sponsorship campaign for families needing scholarships.

Eight scholarships were awarded to eligible Kinder Skog participants this summer. The scholarship fund was to provide assistance for families that had qualified for state childcare assistance. Just under \$7 thousand in scholarship funding went out, which came from fundraisers and a sponsorship campaign.

About 33 percent of kids enrolled in Kinder Skog are dependents of PMC employees.

When asked if Kinder Skog costs PMC money or pays for itself, Hofstetter said it is hard to quantify the benefit of having this child care service, especially considering its impact on staff

retention at PMC.

“When you’re looking at a retention of employees, and providing a service that draws in employees, it is an indirect amount that is hard to quantify. But it’s very real when you have sustainability of employees and you have satisfaction of employees, especially in an environment where ... workforce is so challenging ... to me, as a CEO ... that’s a much, much bigger asset than just cash flow,” he said.

The advisory committee released a 20 question Kinder Skog impact survey to all families who had enrolled in Kinder Skog and Forest Kindy during this past year under PMC to gain the perspective of families regarding the programming and the impact it had on the mental, physical, social and emotional health of the enrolled kids.

Survey responses largely agreed that kids get more physical activity on days they attend Kinder Skog, that children sleep better through the night, and reported mental health benefits like personal growth and increased self-esteem.

Improved resiliency, creativity, patience, positive self-talk, confidence, problem-solving skills and a “sense of wonder and curiosity...” were favorably reported as well.

“...It helps develop resiliency and allows you some tools to help get you through



Photo courtesy of Katie Holmlund

Summertime Skoggies fishing with a mentor at low tide along the Wrangell Narrows.

really hard times and even trauma. It’s kind of exciting to see those things noticed by our families,” said Youth Program Coordinator Katie Holmlund.

In the last year, PMC has gained recognition at the state level for Kinder Skog and several hospitals in Alaska have reached out to the Petersburg program expressing interest in replicating the program.

Based on responses to the impact survey, future priorities for PMC Youth Programs include program expansion and growth, increased capacity, and diversity in offered enrichment programming. Holmlund stressed that PMC Youth Programs need a permanent space to call home.

“Kinder Skog has never had a building to call our own and we continue to grow despite that. We need a building.”

The obstacle to further expanding services remains the issue of space, Holmlund explained.

Another priority is to pursue American Camps Association Accreditation for Kinder Skog, which is a long process that could allow families to receive state child care financial assistance again, potentially avail more grant funding for the program, and help develop staff and quality programs.

Overall, “Program staff look forward to continuing the momentum to best serve youth and their families.”

Hofstetter said, “Continuing to grow the program,” is what’s next for Kinder Skog.

“Katie [Holmlund]’s program ... actually fits really well into our wellness model ... and so it kind of developed in a very unique way that ... feels like the future of healthcare” because of the mental health benefits from outdoor activity and connecting to the environment, Hofstetter said. “Many of those things ... we seek in programs and childcare programs in general, so I’m looking forward to developing that in the next year and

reporting out on it, too.”

“We’re operating it. There’s no timestamp on that. We’re

developing the program and we’re looking forward to more information as we go forward.”



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Koo.éex'

Continued from page 1
the pandemic: John Martin, George Mills, Charles Bennett, and Willie Grant. The decision was made by the clan to consolidate the events.

"We all came together, decided to have one big payoff party to pay back our opposites, the Eagles, for just giving us support, comfort, strength, encouragement during the time of mourning that we have. And so that's what this big party was about."

As the Koo.éex' unfolded, Ware was "brought out" to assume the role of the next hit s'aati, or house master, for the Freshwater Mark Sockeye house of the T'akdeintaan clan, succeeding his uncle, John Martin, who had appointed Ware before passing and was one of the individuals the Koo.éex' was held for.

The process involved an induction ceremony at the beginning of the event to officially install Ware.

Ware said that, generally, a house master will look for a successor "once they get later on in years." The hit s'aati will "start teaching our old stories ... teaching everything that's affiliated with our clan, but also specifically to our house..."

Successors spend years learning "as much as we can over the protocols and procedures, processes and things of our culture," he said. "Then we're brought out like I was brought out on a number of different oc-

casions — at large events, memorials, clan conferences, Koo.éex' — where, you know, John would say this is who I am bringing out as my successor."

Traditionally, and in Ware's case as well, the clan would "have a chance to get to know me, and to make sure that they gave me their approval. And once we had that, then we went into this Koo.éex' knowing I was going to be brought out."

"And so at the very beginning of this party, they brought me out and announced that I was the next house master for our house, and everybody was in agreement..." He said this was an important moment also because "it's a time where the Eagles can witness me being brought out — we call it brought out."

The Eagle women gave a simple response — "Aaa" — which "in Tlingit is a way of saying yes, or in agreement, and that's important because in our culture, we hold our women in very high esteem and respect. We're matrilineal, we follow our mothers lineage."

"This is how our elders taught us: All things that have breath in it, derived from women ... derived from our mothers," he said. "That was a way of just giving that acknowledgement and affirmation."

"... Then we were able to proceed with the rest of the Koo.éex'."

Traditionally, Koo.éex' lasted up to three or four days; this



Photo courtesy of Caitlyn Ware

During the Koo.éex' Ware wears the Chilkat blanket belonging to the Freshwater Mark Sockeye house of the T'akdeintaan clan for over 200 years.

Koo.éex' was 24 hours long, beginning with a four-hour mourning ceremony.

As the Ravens go through the mourning, Ware explained, each clan of the Eagles "say words of encouragement and comfort us."

Depending on the size of each clan, the Eagle clans would each spend up to 20 minutes giving the Ravens words of encouragement.

The Kaagwaantaan, the Eagle clan with the Wolf crest, "they would come to us and say things such as ... the wolf, you don't always see us, but we're always there. We're always there alongside you to give you strength and encouragement. And during your time of mourning, we're going to run it deep into the woods, up to the tops of the mountains — we're going to leave your sorrow there, so that you never have to carry or see it again..."

"The Killer Whale people would say, here we come, we're here, we're powerful, we're gonna take your sorrow and take your pain, we're gonna take your mourning — we're going to take it out into the middle of the ocean, we're going to deposit it way down in the bottom so that it can't come back to you..."

Ware's sons are Naanyaa.aayí clan, the Killer Whale people

from the Stikine, and Eagle moiety, following their mother since she was adopted by Ware's great uncle when they married, importantly so that their children would have a Tlingit clan.

Ware's daughter-in-laws were adopted as T'akdeintaan Ravens during the Koo.éex', so their children will be born "a

part of our culture, our way of life."

"My kids spoke as the Naanyaa.aayí to our T'akdeintaan because they are our opposites as well. They're Eagles. So they were giving us words of comfort. I was very proud of them. But they identify them-

Continued on page 9

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Published: November 23 and 30, December 7, 2023

Koo.éex’

Continued from page 8

selves ... Naanyaa.aayí naaᖃᖅat sitee — that’s saying I’m Naan-yaa.aayí that’s my clan. T’akdeintaan yádi. I’m a child of T’akdeintaan ... You are my father’s people. I’m your child ... I’m here to give you comfort and love ... we’re the Killer Whale people. We’re going to take your pain and drop it off the bottom of the ocean.”

The Eagles brought out “all their, what we call our at.óow, that’s our sacred objects,” including blankets and hats that are hundreds of years old, to show the Ravens to honor and give strength. “They’re wrapping their blankets around us to keep us warm ... the Eagles danced for us and then they all sat down...”

With all the Eagle women on one side of the gymnasium and the men on another side, about 100 T’akdeintaan Ravens reentered from the back of the room and made their way to the front, dancing and singing in response to the Eagles.

“Can’t leave it unresponded so if the Eagles dance for us, we got to dance back.”

After the T’akdeintaan had sung their mourning songs, four Raven men chant and pound

large staffs, facing each direction of the wind — north, east, south, and west— and switch directions.

“Then we release that off,” he said, “And you can literally feel that weight of mourning that you just let go. And when you let it go, you’re ready to let it go! That’s the amazing thing about our Tlingit people ... we’ve been taught for thousands of years how to process mourning ... By the time you get to these Koo.éex’s, you’re ready to let go.”

“We release our mourning,” Ware shared, “And then we end up into our joyful time. We wash our black paint off, we take the black headbands off ... and we go into the time of just joyful dancing and gift giving ... It was powerful.”

“It was a T’akdeintaan party so the T’akdeintaans are coming out and handing out gifts ... There’s families that would putting up food and gifts for years to do this.”

During the party, money is collected, the names of contributors are read off in honor, and all the cash is put into a “big giant bowl” called a fire bowl. There is a ceremony where the bowl is lifted up, and the “money is

killed.”

“So we’ve killed that money. It’s dead to us. We then pay our debts to the Eagles out of that money bowl, and because it’s dead to us, it belongs to the Eagles...”

“We pay our obligations to pallbearers ... we paid for the gymnasium that was there ... we paid our cooks that were cooking our meals ... anything that was done by the Eagles before or during the party, we paid them. And then whatever was left, and we had a significant amount left, that money is being ran out by our Nakaanis to the Eagles.”

Nakaanis translates to in-laws. They are the bridge between the moieties because “we can’t ever tell the Eagles what to do and Eagles can’t tell us what to do, but their Nakaani can be the go-between.”

“And so there’s a lot of money that are generated, there’s a lot of gifts — gymnasium was half full of gifts and food — salmon, moose meat, deer meat, gifts are handed off, blankets are very important, there’s a portion of the ceremony where we just hand out blankets. There’s a portion where we just hand out dry goods. There’s

“Our young people find a sense of identity of who they are once they learn their culture ... if you know who you are, and where you come from, you always got a place to go back to.”

— WILL WARE

a portion where we hand out just these fire bowls to specific people of importance ... and then produce that we hand out. There’s a berry ceremony, all these things go on during this.”

Ware said the Ravens hand out “things of value to us” to Eagles to pay them back for the support they had given in their time of mourning.

The joyful celebration lasts 20 hours.

He said they were throwing around bananas at three in the morning to keep everyone awake and “do some fun things that just make everybody laugh.”

And when all is said and done, “We’re square,” he said. “This is them being paid back, them being acknowledged and thanked ... Everything is good. Balance.”

T’akdeintaan clan members reside in many Southeast communities, with Xunaa [Hoonah] considered the home village.

Ware is a lifelong resident of Petersburg.

“I love Petersburg. It’s my hometown, always will be,” Ware shared. “My grandfather’s people were from ... Stikine ... and I taught my boys how to hunt ... from these very same woods that he did and fish the same waters they did for thousands of years. So I have no intention of going anywhere.”

Now, as hít s’aatí of the Freshwater Mark Sockeye house of the T’akdeintaan clan, Ware carries the responsibility until the time comes for him to choose his own successor.

“We still hold on to who we are and what we are. And we live in two worlds,” Ware said. “We know that we have our own Tlingit way of life. And yet we have a western society that we live in.”

“There’s a bringing back out of our way of life. We’re seeing that happen with my generation. It’s coming back ... we’re hearing from our elders that this is the way that was done. And we have such a hunger to go back to that ... balance within our culture ... Our young people find a sense of identity of who they are once they learn their culture. When they learn the culture, they know who they are, then they’ll know where they’re gonna go. And if they ever get lost, they go back to our way of life. And that’s just that compass that will point them right back to where they should be. And that’s something that we found true in almost every situation ... if you know who you are, and where you come from, you always got a place to go back to.”

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SAVE ENERGY
SAVE MONEY



HEAT PUMP REBATE PROGRAM
NOW INCLUDES
HEAT PUMP WATER HEATERS

PMPL offers a rebate program to help offset the costs of purchasing and installing energy efficient heat pumps and heat pump water heaters. This program incentivizes PMPL customers to conserve energy in hopes of controlling local electrical system loads and deferring the need to add high-cost generation equipment to our system.

Heat pumps are three times more efficient than resistance heating, which saves customers on heating bills and conserves energy for the community as a whole.

General rebate application information to keep in mind before purchasing and installing a heat pump includes the need for an electrical permit, BTU rating that is needed to heat your space and determines the rebate amount, energy efficiency requirements, and who is eligible to apply.

Please visit the Petersburg Borough website for Energy Assistance and Rebate Programs:
<https://www.petersburgak.gov/power-light/page/energy-assistance-rebate-programs>
for rebate information, requirements and applications.

*If you have questions please call
Petersburg Municipal Power & Light at 772-4203*



Published: December 7, 2023

Read the **Public Notices**
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Notice of JOM Parent Committee Election

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

The following seats will be up for election:
JOM Parent Committee Seat 2 seats - Two-Year Term

Parents and/or legal guardians of JOM-eligible children wishing to run can submit a letter of interest to be on the ballot until December 18, 2023, at 4 PM. If you miss this deadline, you may run as a write-in candidate by submitting a Letter of Intent to run as a write-in by December 29, 2023, by 4 PM. All letters can be delivered to PIA JOM Director Alex Helms @ jom@piatribal.org

The complete list of candidates will be posted by December 19, 2023, on piatribal.org, PIA’s Facebook, and as a PSA on KFSK radio. A complete list of eligible write-ins will be posted at the polls on Election Day.

NOTE: This is separate from the PIA Tribal Council Election and will be on a separate ballot. For more information on how to run, where to get forms, and eligibility requirements, please contact Alex Helms at 907-772-3636 or email jom@piatribal.org.



Published: December 7 and 14, 2023

State forecasts average pink salmon harvest in 2024

By ANNA LAFFREY
Ketchikan Daily News

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced it expects Southeast Alaska commercial fishermen next year will harvest around 19 million pink salmon — close to an average number based on 63 years of commercial harvest

data collected since Alaska became a state. The department’s forecast, released in November, predicts a pink salmon catch of between 12 million and 32 million fish. Pink salmon harvest varies greatly from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, and the commercial catch in the 10 most recent even years has

averaged 21 million pink salmon. In 2022, fishermen caught about 18.3 million pinks. Pink salmon catches for even years 2020 and 2018 were around 8 million fish each, among some of the lowest pink harvests for Southeast Alaska in decades. This year, fisheries managers were surprised by a banner

pink salmon escapement and harvest given the poor pre-season forecast for 2023. However, a market collapse shook the seafood industry and sank fishermen's profits for pink and chum salmon. Southeast fishermen this year caught nearly 48 million pinks, earning an average 23 cents per pound, according to Fish and Game data. The 2021 harvest also was close to 48 million pinks, but prices were more than one-third higher than in 2023.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration since 2018 have produced an annual joint pink salmon harvest forecast under the Southeast Alaska Coastal Monitoring project. The forecast is primarily based on surface trawl surveys for juvenile pink salmon, which the agencies

conduct along inside waters of northern Southeast Alaska on a research vessel. The forecast for 2024 is based on 2023 juvenile trawl surveys, and accounts for the abundance of pink salmon that returned to their home streams during the parent year of 2022, as well as environmental factors such as sea surface temperature, water temperature during trawl surveys and zooplankton abundance, according to Fish and Game. Juvenile pink salmon found in the trawl surveys this year were “below average in size (length) and energy density” compared to annual juvenile sample data dating back to 1997, according to Fish and Game. The department reported that for these juvenile pinks, “any further growth and survival will depend on favorable resources in the Gulf of Alaska.”

Rock-N-Road trades rock for road

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

Rock-N-Road Construction proposed to make needed modifications to the Petersburg Borough’s rock quarry and mud dump access road in exchange for up to 60 thousand cubic yards of borough rock to use for the new hospital site.

The proposal benefits the borough by allowing further development of the borough’s quarry, which is currently exhausted with a shortage of accessible rock, and will also save money on the new hospital project.

The Petersburg Borough Assembly approved this trade during a regular meeting on Dec. 5.

According to Public Works, all of the easily-accessible rock in the walls of the quarry is currently exhausted.

Because the quarry’s walls “have been expanded as far as is safe and practical,” its floor will need to be developed in order to access and use more of the borough’s quarry, Public Works Director Chris Cotta stated in a letter to the borough assembly and manager.

The grade of the haul road needs to be lowered to create a usable working face for developing the quarry.

“Making these kinds of modifications is very costly and for this reason we had put it off for the time being,” Director Cotta noted.

However, Rock-N-Road proposed a trade of their services constructing these modifications in exchange for up to 60 thousand cubic yards of rock from the borough’s quarry.

With Rock-N-Road covering the cost of the

development work, the borough will save money in addition to gaining access to a usable rock quarry.

The estimated value of that much rock is up to \$90 thousand, which Director Cotta stated is “roughly equivalent” to the cost of the necessary development work — meaning the exchange is a fair trade.

In addition to benefiting the borough, allocating the rock to the new hospital site saves money on the project.

PMC CEO Phil Hofstetter said, to his understanding, this exchange would lower the total cost of the new hospital project.

Jay Farmwald said, “My understanding is that if the assembly approves this motion, then we would negotiate a cost reduction with Dawson construction. And so the GMP [guaranteed maximum price] amount would be reduced based on those pending negotiations.”

“I think it’s really a win-win for both the borough and Rock-N-Road on this,” said assembly member Jeigh Stanton Gregor. “I like opportunities where we can see private business and local government work together, and this seems like one of those good opportunities.”

The motion to approve Rock-N-Road’s proposed trade of development work on the borough’s rock quarry in exchange for use of up to 60 thousand cubic yards of borough rock for the new hospital site passed unanimously in the assembly on Dec. 4.

Mayor Mark Jensen said, “It looks like this is gonna open up access in our rock pit for more rock in the future, so it seems like a win-win.”

Sons of Norway Christmas Putluck



Sunday, December 17
at 5:00 pm

Sons of Norway Hall

for members
and their family

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

Say Happy Holidays in a very special way

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Deadline for advertising
is 5 p.m., Friday, December 15.
Issue will be published December 21.

Contact Orin or Ola to help you design your greeting.



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New Special Ed teacher was the Philippines’ 2022 Education Specialist of the Year

By **LIZZIE THOMPSON**
Pilot writer

Rosal Concepcion is eagerly awaiting her exit clearance for travel from Manila, Philippines, to Petersburg, Alaska, where she’s looking forward to starting an adventurous new chapter of her life working as a middle school and high school special education teacher.

Rosal grew up knowing a girl who was born profoundly deaf and unable to communicate. “Because of her, that’s how it started. I said, Okay, I really would like to be an instrument, so that the community will understand people like [her],” she says. “I saw the needs even when I was small. I really said, Okay, when I become a teacher I really want to be in special ed, without knowing that there is really a course or degree for special education. It’s one thing that I really love to do and I really want to do it for the rest of my life.”

Before she graduated university at the age of nineteen Concepcion began teaching at

the Philippine Institute for the Deaf. “That’s where I met students with different disabilities, multiple disabilities. Oh, my goodness, I didn’t know that there are so many,” Concepcion explains. “And then I studied different disabilities.”

She graduated in 1993 with Bachelor of Art degrees in psychology and secondary education. Two weeks later she began working on her Masters Degree. “It was not in my head to do other things, except going to school. Being in the special education field... I was just so passionate about what I’m doing.”

For the past twenty-eight years Concepcion has juggled the responsibilities of raising her three children while studying to earn multiple degrees, endorsements and certifications while teaching all ages of people with a wide range of special needs. After teaching several years in Manila, she moved to San Jose, California, where she taught for ten years before moving to Fairbanks, Alaska. She says she loved her five years in Alaska, but, when her mother became ill and needed her help ten years ago, she returned to Manila.

Now her children are grown and she’s free to pursue her dream of returning to Alaska. Though she had offers from other schools, Concepcion says Petersburg School’s Special Education Director Cyndy Fry with her outstanding credentials has become her idol. “Cyndy told me, ‘You know, our students here, we don’t know them with their numbers, we know them with their names’,” she explains. “Somehow it just touched my heart — you know your students

by their names. So, I really like this leadership. I feel it’s something like, okay, they really care for their students.”

Concepcion’s clearance for travel should come through soon and she says, “I am excited. I really miss cold places like Alaska. But you know what, I was searching for something that is different from my experience at Fairbanks. I searched Petersburg and, Oh, it is Little Norway! I always wanted to go to Norway, and I was attracted to the culture and thought, Oh, wow, probably Petersburg would be a very good place for me to start my life. I like the simplicity of Petersburg. You know, it’s not a big city — because all my life I grew up in a city. So I would like to [live someplace where] everything that you need is there. You know each other. It’s a close community and I can be involved in the community as well.”



Submitted photo

Petersburg Middle and High School’s new Special Education teacher Rosal Concepcion was the Philippines’ 2022 Outstanding Education Specialist and Special Education Leader-Advocate of the Year. Concepcion says as an advocate for inclusive education and deaf and hard of hearing, she is often invited to be a resource speaker in other schools and local government units, advocating for the rights of students with special needs and giving sign language workshops.

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NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF REDEMPTION PERIOD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Alaska Statute 29.45.440 and Section 4.24.440 of the Petersburg Municipal Code, that the redemption period for the properties listed in Exhibit “1” of the Judgment and Decree entered on December 7, 2022 by the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, First Judicial District at Petersburg (Case No. 1PE-22-37 Civil), foreclosing on real property against which taxes are delinquent for the year 2021, will expire on December 26, 2023. A copy of the Judgment and Decree is available for inspection at the Borough Finance Department, 12 South Nordic Drive, Petersburg, Alaska 99833.

Properties listed in Exhibit “1” of the Judgment and Decree, unless redeemed, shall be deeded to the Petersburg Borough immediately upon expiration of the period of redemption and every right or interest of a person in said properties will be forfeited forever to the Borough, subject to certain repurchase rights of the owner of record set out in Alaska Statute 29.45.470/Petersburg Municipal Code 4.24.465.

Published: November 23, 30, December 7 and 14, 2023

Jody A. Tow
**Jody Tow, Finance Director
Petersburg Borough**

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the Petersburg Indian Association will receive sealed bids for the CITY CREEK TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION ~ PHASE II. The project generally consists rebuilding of 3,111’ of existing trail with gravel to a new width of 8’. In addition 1,789’ of elevated wooden boardwalk on steel pipe pile will be built along the 19’ - 20’ elevation tideline for improved viewing - replacing the same amount existing trail that will be abandoned. Two new 8’ wide gravel trails will be built from Frederick Point Road down to the main trail. These trail lengths are approximately 447’ and 637’.

The estimated construction cost for the base bid is between \$500,000 & \$1,000,000. All Work must be completed by December 31, 2024.

Sealed bids will be received by the Petersburg Indian Association, by US mail at Post Office Box 1410, Petersburg, Alaska 99833, OR hand delivered upstairs at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Building, 15 North 12th Street, Petersburg, Alaska, (Telephone 907-772-3636) until 2:00 p.m. prevailing time on Friday, January 5, 2024, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Elizabeth Peratrovich Conference Room.

The Contract Documents may be obtained from the Petersburg Indian Association Office, located at 15 North 12th Street, Petersburg, Alaska (Telephone 907-772-3636), Petersburg, Alaska 99833, or viewed online at piatribal.org. A non-refundable fee of \$30.00 made payable to the PETERSBURG INDIAN ASSOCIATION is required for each set of contract documents. Additional charges will be required for special handling or delivery of the documents by means other than first-class mail. The Contract Documents may also be downloaded free of charge on the PETERSBURG INDIAN ASSOCIATION website (piatribal.org). Prospective bidders documents are required to sign the project bidders list to receive changes or addenda. All changes or addenda will be listed on the website. It is the Offeror’s responsibility to ensure that they have received all Addenda affecting this Solicitation.

Petersburg Standard Specifications (CPSS) that will be used in this contract are available for an additional fee of \$60.00 made payable to the Petersburg Borough or available for free on the Borough’s website www.petersburgak.gov. Additional charges will be required for special handling or delivery of the documents by means other than first-class mail. Petersburg Standard Specifications documents may also be obtained at the Petersburg Borough Public Works office.

Prospective bidders are encouraged to attend a Pre-Bid Conference that will be held in Petersburg at Elizabeth Peratrovich Building, 15 North 12th Street, Petersburg, Alaska, on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 2:00 PM in the PIA conference room. Attendance by teleconference will be available by calling 1-907-772-3636. Technical questions regarding this project may be directed to the Tribal Transportation Director, Susan Harai, (907) 772-3636. She is located at the Petersburg Indian Association Office, located at 15 North 12th Street, Petersburg, Alaska.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond, cashier’s check, or certified check made payable to the PETERSBURG INDIAN ASSOCIATION in the amount of five percent of the total bid price.

The PETERSBURG INDIAN ASSOCIATION reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in a bid, and to make an award to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder as it may best serve the interest of the Petersburg Indian Association.



Authorized by:
Chad Wright, Tribal Administrator

Published: November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023 and January 4, 2024



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

The team, hometown fans, and their families celebrated seniors Jonas Anderson and Lakell Deinhardt during senior appreciation last Thursday at the one home wrestling event of this year’s season. Sitka’s team swung through Petersburg for a duel before both teams continued on to Wrangell for the weekend’s tournament.

Petersburg wrestles in Wrangell, last tourney before Regions

By LIAM DEMKO
Pilot writer

With just one week left till regions, Petersburg High School’s wrestling team traveled to Wrangell last weekend for one more regular season tournament.

Petersburg brought seven wrestlers to compete—including two fresh faces for the season—leading to a series of high performances and a great momentum boost heading into their last events.

“Out of the seven [wrestlers] we did very well... It was good to be there to support the community of Wrangell in general,” said head coach James Valentine.

“Wrangell put on a very nice tournament that was also geared towards respecting what had just happened, and it was great.”

Senior Jonas Anderson and teammate Kaden Duke had stellar performances at the tournament, both taking first in their weight brackets.

Freshman Eli Anderson held his own as well, coming in second place in his bracket and only losing to a senior in the final match.

Angus Olsen put up a great showing against tough competition in his bracket but was unable to place.

Petersburg brought three girls this time around, with Fischer Humphrey and Nya Eby both taking third in their first tournament performances of the season and senior Lakell Deinhardt taking third in her bracket against a strong rival.



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

Jonas Anderson lifts a Sitka wrestler before swiftly establishing the pin during the home duel with Sitka.

"[Lakell’s] semifinal match against the second place wrestler was really good," said Valentine.

“We’re really excited for regions because I think we can do it. I think we can get into the finals and be where we need to be.”

Looking towards the regional championship this weekend in Juneau, the Vikings have high hopes and high spirits.

“I have great expectations for my kids... we’ll find out what happens, and I’m hoping that they can have trust in their training and that it will lead to success through the weekend,” said Valentine.



OLA RICHARDS / Petersburg Pilot

Elks Hoop Shoot

Ryder Diehl launches a free throw during the annual Elks Hoop Shoot last Saturday. 20 contestants, aged 8 through 13, participated; their results will be stacked up against hoop shooters across the state and those results will be announced in January.



at Petersburg School District

Monday, Dec 11

WG Pizza

Tuesday, Dec 12

WG Chicken

Wednesday, Dec 13

WG Beef and Sausage Penne

Thursday, Dec 14

WG Turkey Sandwich with Gravy

Friday, Dec 15

WG Beef Hamburgers



BREAKFAST MENU -

Served With Milk & Choice of:
Fresh Fruit, Applesauce or
Dried Cranberries

Homemade Granola with Yogurt,
Smoothie and Granola, Fruit
Parfait and Granola, French
Toast, Oatmeal, Homemade
Muffin, and Cereals

Don't like Lunch Menu?

Try the Salad Bar

All Breakfast and Lunch Meals

Served with Milk

*WG = Whole Grain



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• 800-950-4265

Rules of the Road US Coast Guard



**QUESTION
& ANSWER**

QUESTION:

“short blast” on the whistle has a duration of _____.

- A. 1 second
- B. 4 to 6 seconds
- C. 8 to 12 seconds
- D. 12 to 15 seconds

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

ANSWER A. 1 second

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



772-4563 • Corner of 5th & Gjoa Streets

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

Senior Meals

Christmas Dinner will be served on Friday. Meals are \$14 each and must be ordered before noon this Wednesday, December 13.



MONDAY, December 11
Vegetable Soup, Bread, Green Salad, Milk, Cookie

TUESDAY, December 12
Layered Taco Salad, Texas Toast, Milk, Peaches, Cake

WEDNESDAY, December 13
Salmon, Mashed Potatoes, Cucumber Salad, Cheese Stick, Cookie

THURSDAY, December 14

Moose Burger, Fries, Carrots, Poached Pears, Milk

FRIDAY, December 15 – Christmas Dinner

Prime Rib, Potato Wedges, Garden Salad, Broccoli, Dinner Roll, Cake

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.

Library News



The Library will be closed for the Holidays December 22 – 26 - Happy Holidays!

Friends of Petersburg Libraries PUZZLE SALE! / Saturday, December 9 / 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Yogi’s Playground with Ms. Barb (ages 5-8) / December 9 / 2 – 2:45 p.m. / Cost: FREE / Register at psglib.org

Curiosity Creates with Andrea Weathers / Mondays, December 4, 11, & 18 / 3:15 – 4:15 p.m. / Grades 1-5 / Space is limited, pick up a ticket at the Library Front Desk on the day of, beginning at 3 p.m.

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

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

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

Yoga with Karen Malcom / Saturdays, December 16 & 30 / 11 a.m. – noon / \$5, Pay at the front desk / Bring your own mat

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 at 907-772-3349 or library@petersburgak.gov

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

Those with birthdays this week are: **December 8:** Andy Olsen, Barry Morrison, Lindsi Dreisbach, Mette Miller, Terry Ruele, Tom Gilbert. **December 9:** Anne Loesch, Jody Tow, Katie Baird. **December 10:** Andy Edfelt, Jennifer Dupree, Norman Armin, Oliver Christensen. **December 11:** Alicia Kittams, Buddy Stelmach, Donna Olsen, Gerry Whitethorne, Kristi Barnett, Stacy Kittams. **December 12:** Sebastian Carroll. **December 14:** Erin Willis, Marissa Collison, Melissa Moede, Veronica King.

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

State Board of Fisheries votes down tighter regulation of sport Chinook catch

By ANNA LAFFREY
Ketchikan Daily News

The Alaska Board of Fisheries voted 4-2 against requiring in-season management to more effectively hold the sport fishery Chinook catch within its harvest limit.

The board voted on Friday, Dec. 1, at its meeting in Homer, which was primarily devoted to Southcentral fisheries issues.

The controversial proposal would have tightened in-season management of the Southeast Chinook catch to better guard against resident and nonresident sport fishermen exceeding their share of the overall sport and commercial harvest. The proposal’s intent was to better protect the share allocated to commercial trollers.

Trollers and sport fishermen for months have sparred over the intent of the Chinook salmon management agreement the parties forged during a Board of Fisheries meeting in 2022. However, when the state adopted regulations for that agreement, it dropped two words that would have required in-season management to keep the resident/nonresident sport fishery catch within its share of the chinook harvest.

The troll fishermen who submitted the proposal for last week’s meeting said the state created a “language error” in statute that goes against the terms of the 2022 agreement. David Richey and Monique Wilkinson wrote in their proposal that the state’s error “incorrectly liberalizes the sport fishery king salmon harvest.” That change, they said, “caused the sport fishery to significantly exceed its (Chinook) allocation in 2023, with the potential to continue to do so in the future.”

Under state statute, commercial net fisheries are allocated approximately 7% of the Chinook quota that the Pacific Salmon Commission approves each year. The remaining quota is split 80/20 between the troll and sport fisheries, respectively.

Under the state’s implementation of the 2022 sport/troll agreement, fisheries managers have not administered the sport fishery in-season to keep to its 20% allocation ceiling. Rather, any catch underage or overage from the Southeast sport fishery is added to or subtracted from the commercial troll allocation of Chinook so as to keep the total catch within the overall ceiling.

As the Board of Fisheries began its deliberations last week, Chair John Wood of Willow advocated in favor of the proposal for stricter adherence to the 20% limit for the sport catch.

Wood stood by the text of the agreement that representatives for the Alaska Trollers Association, Southeast Alaska Guides Organization and Territorial Sportsmen signed during the board meeting in 2022. “I’m old-school,” he said. “When you give me a deal, I make a deal, a deal is a deal. I’m not going to deviate from it. The deal that was reached had that (in-season sport fishery management) verbiage in it.”

Board member Tom Carpenter of Cordova voted against the proposal and expressed frustration that the board’s action in 2022 allowed the dispute between trollers and sport fishers to take root. “This situation quite frankly stinks to high heaven.”

Carpenter was not on the board in 2022. He said the board “made an error” by voting in 2022 to approve the agreement without “much conversation from the board ... specific to the intent.”

“I really feel when I look at the language and I look at those three signatures on the top of (the sport/troll agreement), I really think that all three people, or all three groups that signed that, believed something completely different,” Carpenter said. “That’s why we’re sitting here right now.”

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opioids.alaska.gov



December is
Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)
Awareness Month

If you've got the **winter blues**, you may actually be experiencing Seasonal Affective Disorder.

SAD is a form of depression that comes and goes with the seasons, usually beginning in late fall or winter and lasting into spring.

Symptoms Include (but not limited to):

- Increased Sleep
- Depression
- Lethargy
- Carbohydrate Cravings/Weight Gain
- Avoidance of Social Interactions
- Difficulty with Daily Tasks
- Feelings of Hopelessness
- Suicidal Thoughts

Those who are most at Risk:

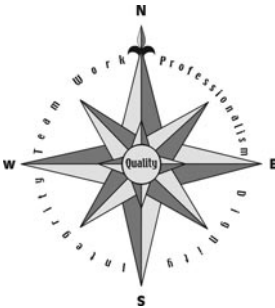
- Woman are diagnosed 4x more than men
- Living farther away from the equator increases the occurrence
- Personal or family history of mental illness
- Younger adults

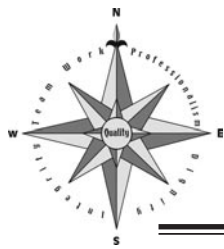


If you or a loved one may be struggling with SAD, call to schedule an appointment with a medical provider.



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- On-the-Job Training CNA Class
- 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
- Nurse (LPN or RN) - Primarily Night Shift



SCAN CODE
to view position descriptions
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at pmcak.org

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

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**PETERSBURG BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission, on **Tuesday, December 12th, 2023, at 12:00 pm** will be holding a meeting and conducting a public hearing in the Assembly Chambers located at 12 South Nordic Drive. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the following:

A. Recommendation to the Borough Assembly on an application from the Island Refrigeration to purchase borough-owned property located off Dock St. - Port Authority Staging Area. (portion of PID: 01-010-035)

B. Consideration of an application from Petersburg Indian Association for a Minor Subdivision at N 8th Street, Tract A, US Survey 1168. (PID: 01-006-060, 01-006-070).

C. Recommendation to the Borough Assembly to rezone Lot 4, Skylark II Subdivision from Single-Family Residential to Open Space - Recreation, and Government Lot 13, Section 33, T58S, R79E from Public Use to Open Space - Recreation. (PID: 01-010-243, 01-010-412)

Published: December 7, 2023



PROPERTY

Stikine River Property Konig Slough 6+ acres 220 ft river frontage \$80,000. 8-acre lot off river easy access \$60,000. Will finance. 907-518-0101

.....tfn11-4b22

JOBS

Immediate opening for front house customer service. \$15 hour plus tips. Contact Mindy at (907) 518-0571 or stop in the Salty Pantry.

FOR SALE
Power Troll
Permit - \$27,500
509-491-1236 or 425-677-3450

.....tfn11-30b22
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 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.

.....tfn11-30b7129
The Petersburg Borough, Alaska Electric Department has an opening for the position of Electrician/Operator. This is a full-time position, with a starting wage of \$60.42 for PERS Tier 1-3 employees or \$58.00 for PERS Tier 4, and full benefits. The Borough will consider applications from State of

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Cordova, AK 99574
907-424-2535 Office
907-424-2536 Direct

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

.....tfn11-16b155
First Bank is looking for a

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**PETERSBURG BOROUGH
MOTOR POOL DEPARTMENT VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT AUCTION SEALED BID**

The Motor Pool Department is accepting sealed bids for a number of surplus vehicles and equipment. The bids will be opened publicly at 1pm on Thursday, December 21st, at the Public Works Office located at 303 South 2nd Street. Units offered for sale are as follows:

- 2002 Argo Tracked ATV - \$1500 reserve
- 2005 Bobcat B300 Backhoe/Loader - No reserve
- 1997 Chevy 3500 Ambulance, 4x4 automatic - \$3000 reserve
- 2000 Chevy Blazer, 4x4 automatic - \$1500 reserve
- 1980's Detroit Diesel Generator 350KW, containerized - \$100 reserve
- 2000 Dodge 3500 Flatbed, 4x4 manual – No reserve
- 2003 Ford E350 Utility Van, 2wd automatic – No reserve
- 2001 International Vactor - \$20,000 reserve

All units are sold “as is, where is” without warranty or representation as to condition or fitness for a particular purpose. Vehicles and equipment may be examined by appointment - call 907-772-4430 with any questions or to make an appointment if you would like to look at one or more of the listed units.

Bids must be sealed and contain the bidder's name, address, phone number, the bid amount and the item being bid on. The outside of the envelope must be marked “Motor Pool Bid”. Bids may be submitted in person at the Public Works office, 303 South 2nd Street, or mailed to Petersburg Borough Public Works Dept – Motor Pool Bid, PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833. Bids may not be submitted verbally, or by email or fax. No bids will be accepted after 1pm on Thursday, December 21st.

Payment is due within two weeks of notification of winning bid. Vehicles must be removed from Borough property no later than 2 weeks after payment is made. If a purchased item is not removed within 2 weeks of payment it will be impounded and subject to impound fees and possible destruction. If the winning bidder fails to make payment, the next highest bidder will be awarded the bid.

Published: December 7 and 14, 2023



Early Voting Days

**Monday, December 4, 2023,
from 8 AM - 11 AM**

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023,
from 11 AM - 2 PM**

**Wednesday, December 20, 2023,
from 2 PM - 4:30 PM**

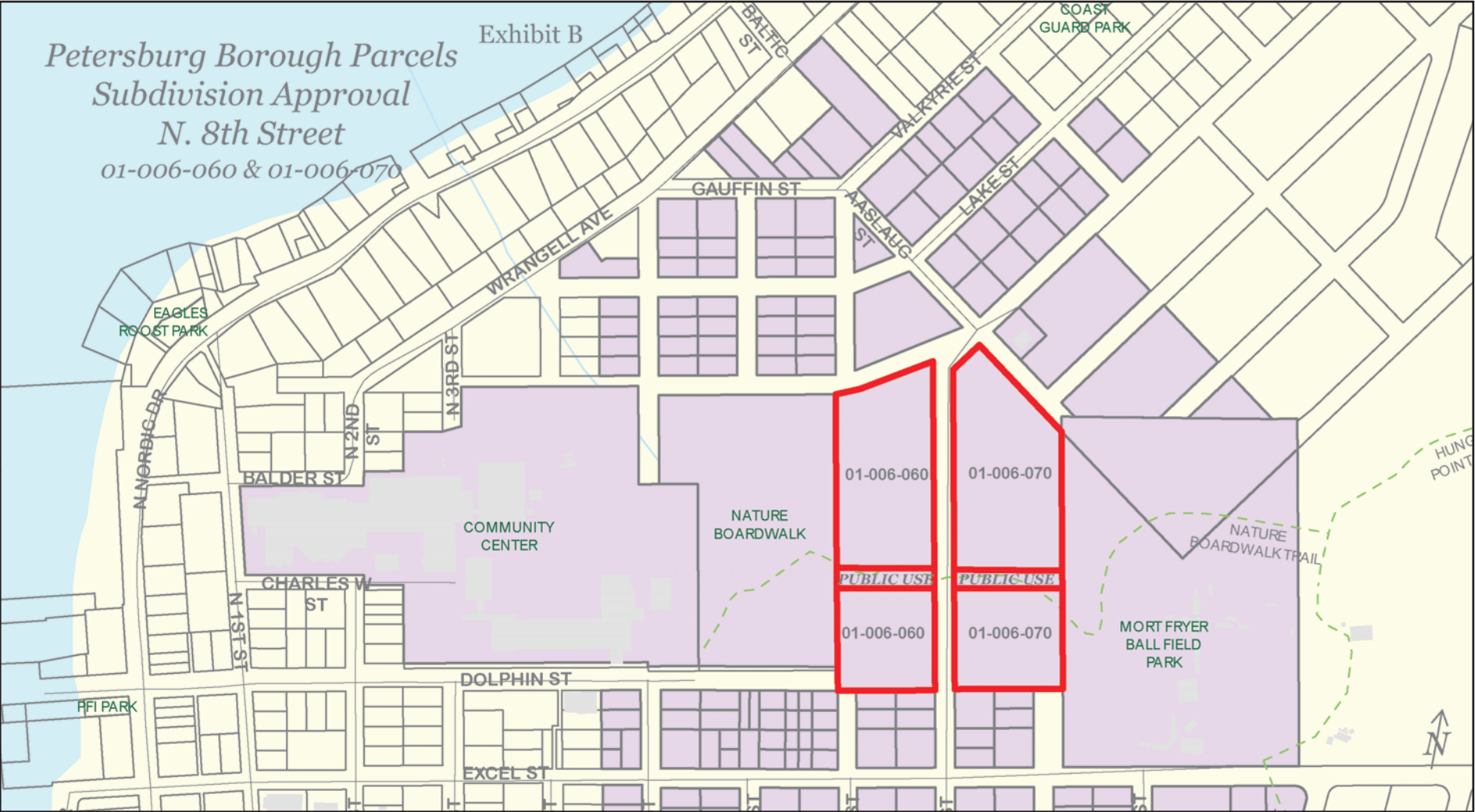
**Thursday, December 28, 2023,
from 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

Eligible PIA voters can come to the PIA Conference Room located at 15 N. 12th St to cast their early vote for their 2024 Tribal Council.

Election Day is
Monday, January 8, 2024
from 8am until 7pm.



Published: November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2023



The map of the area that PIA has requested to buy, although not yet officially subdivided like it appears. The land is located on N. 8th Street beside the Mort Fryer Ball Field Park.

PIA land sale

Continued from page 1

leaves a corridor of about 50 feet for the public boardwalk trail that runs through the unofficial parcels.

“We value trails, we are involved in the development of trails and maintenance of trails. We do not wish to own the property on which the trail has been constructed. The plat that we surveyed ... has a 50 foot width along that trail, excluded from the ... lots that we have surveyed and wish to acquire from the borough. So the public should feel confident that that trail will be impacted as little as possible,” Morrison testified on Dec. 4.

Assembly member Bob Lynn made a motion that in the negotiations, there will be an extended right-of-way where Dolphin street is, preserving the space from 7th to 8th streets that are included in the outlined property. The motion did not pass.

“I do think that having negotiations around public use, and the right of way will be an important part of the negotiations,” said assembly member Jeigh Stanton Gregor.

“I don’t want to necessarily put any limitations on [Manager Giesbrecht] and PIA in their quest to do that. So I don’t disagree with the point member Lynn made. I think my logic was to let it play out however it does as part of the process...”

Should any adjustments be necessary based on the ongoing negotiation, they can be addressed during the planning commission meeting on Dec. 12, or in January when the commission reconvenes, Cabrera told the Pilot. “It’s just working out the details of what the property is actually going to be, you know, is it going to have that right-of-way or not ... I mean ... now that it’s surveyed, it’s pretty clear on

what we’re talking about. We just need the paperwork to catch up.”

“We’re directing the manager to enter into negotiations, and during those negotiations, they will address these questions, there will ultimately be some sort of sale agreement presented to the assembly, at which point then I think we will be in a position to require answers to these types of questions,” said assembly member Thomas Fine-Walsh. “And I think they’ll be there.”

Upon this purchase, PIA plans to use this land to build housing.

PIA Tribal Council President Cris Morrison told the Pilot that there is a deadline to obligate ARPA funds by the end of 2024.

With plans to use the remaining ARPA funding to install construction-ready infrastructure, PIA aims to purchase the land “as quickly as possible,” because implementing that infrastructure takes time.

“Purchasing the land and putting in the infrastructure is an investment in the future. Because once we get the infrastructure in, then we would be potentially more attractive to grant funders because we have that in, we’re ready to build. So the council looks at this part of the project as an investment.”

According to PIA’s Sept. 22 application for the purchase of this property, the estimated completion date for all

structures is between 2028 to 2043 and the estimated dollar value for all structures is \$10 million.

“Increasing the rental market will benefit local employers by providing housing opportunities for new and existing employees and has the potential to attract new residents to the borough who might otherwise choose not to move here due to a lack of available housing.” This is of value to local the economy, along with, “property tax for structures on land that is now vacant,” the application stated.

“It’s super exciting,” Morrison told the Pilot. “I’m so happy that PIA is having this opportunity and that the borough is on board with it.”

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