

**State ferries increasing fares on May 1**

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**Chinook catch limit rebounds for Southeast**

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**Obituary: Geneva Bishop**

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# petersburg pilot

PETERSBURG, ALASKA



April 2, 2026  
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12 Pages  
\$2

## Petersburg soprano bringing chamber music festival in May

By **ORIN PIERSON**  
*Pilot writer*



Stephanie Pfundt

Stephanie Pfundt has spent the better part of a decade building a career in classical music far from Petersburg — graduate school in Boston, performing across the East Coast, a produced opera in Massachusetts, a growing network of colleagues at some of the country's top music institutions. And now the award-winning Petersburg-born soprano is bringing a long-dreamed-of project to life and bringing chamber music home to Alaska.

"This has been a project I've dreamt of for six years," Pfundt said. "This community raised me, so, darn it all, I will give back."

That project, the Devil's Thumb Chamber Music Festival, makes its inaugural run May 20–23, bringing three

world-class classical musicians to town for four days of performances, workshops and community events. Pfundt is the festival's founder and artistic director.

The festival is built around a specific and ambitious premise: that Petersburg — its mountains, its coastal soundscapes, the particular quality of its silences — is not just a backdrop for classical music but a resource and inspiration for it.

"Combining these really majes-

Continued on page 6



Photo courtesy of Katie Holmlund

## Snowy Spring Break

Thorin Stolpe shows Rader Evens how it is done during Spring Break Camp with Kinder Skog.

## Petersburg will go without ferry service 17 days starting April 15

By **LARRY PERSILY**  
*Wrangell Sentinel*

As the Alaska Marine Highway System moves around its limited fleet of operational vessels, Petersburg, Wrangell and the other communities served by the

Southeast mainline route will see a gap in service from April 15 to May 3.

The Kennicott, which has been serving Southeast this winter, is being pulled from the run mid-April to provide a couple of weeks of service on the cross-gulf route to Yakutat, Whittier, Kodiak and other

communities that have been without any service while their usual ferry, the Tustumena, has been in winter overhaul since mid-January.

The Tustumena is scheduled to return to service on the Gulf of Alaska route on May 2, freeing the Kennicott to come back

to Southeast.

The Kennicott will stop in Petersburg on its southbound voyage to Ketchikan and Bellingham, Washington, on April 15, then not return to town until its northbound run on May 3.

Continued on page 3

## Petersburg man sentenced for felony possession of child sexual abuse material

By **OLIVIA ROSE**  
*KFSK Radio*

A Petersburg man indicted in 2024 on felony charges related to child sexual abuse material will spend two years in prison.

Alejandro "Alex" Melendez Aguilar, 46, pleaded guilty in January to one count of possession as part of a plea deal between state prosecutors and the defense that dismissed most of the charges.

Aguilar was indicted on 10 felony counts for possession and distribution of the material, which he initially pleaded not guilty to over a year ago before changing his plea.

He was sentenced at the Juneau Courthouse on March 27.

During the hearing, Aguilar spent nearly 20 minutes reading from a prepared statement — reflecting, apologizing, and taking responsibility for his actions.

"My own despicable actions and immoral decisions brought me to this point. I did this to myself and I, alone, am responsible for the circumstances I find myself in today. That being said, I am taking productive steps to ensure that this never happens again by forcing that individual to evolve into a better person," Aguilar said. "The actual victims will probably never receive actual justice, and if the least that I can

do to ensure that or to give that is to hold myself accountable ... then that's what I'm doing. I apologize to everyone. I'm really sorry to my town, the community that I love that accepted me with open arms from the second I arrived there in 2017... I'm so sorry that I destroyed the trust that you had in me. I apologize to everyone, and I'm really sorry."

Superior Court Judge Katherine Lybrand presided over the case. When handing down Aguilar's sentence, she noted the grave severity of crimes involving child sexual abuse material. She said that while there wasn't a known victim in the community, there are real victims

of the crime as content of children being abused is shared worldwide.

"Their abuse that they're experiencing is being documented and traded like baseball cards," Lybrand said. "And that is one of the most abhorrent crimes that we have."

Aguilar will serve the minimum sentence allowed by state law for the offense: four years — two in prison and two suspended — and five years of probation. He'll be required to register as a sex offender when released from incarceration.

Lybrand noted Aguilar's lack of criminal history and said his beneficial engagements in prison

so far are strong prospects for his rehabilitation.

Aguilar is in custody at Lemon Creek Correctional Facility in Juneau. The case is closed.

His public defense attorney did not respond to a request for comment.

This story was first published at [kfsk.org](http://kfsk.org) and is reprinted here with permission.



# Yesterday's News

News from 25-50-75-100 years ago

**1926** - There are no issues in the archive until May 19, 1926. Thank you for your patience.

**March 16, 1951** - At the Petersburg Health Council's Monday meeting the health nurse reported a well attended well-baby clinic and, though there are many cases of flu and croupy coughs, there are no contagious diseases reported at the school. The town council is asking to install in the grade school this summer the juvenile plumbing currently in storage. Several complaints of rats in the Coliseum theater have been reported and it was decided to write a letter to the management suggesting that better rat measures be instigated. Annette Jacobson reported on the "World Health Organization" to which belong all countries of the world except Russia and those countries friendly to her. Its main function is the study of diseases, emphasizing malaria, syphilis and tuberculosis. Assistance is

given to needy countries facing health problems. The last meeting was held in Paris, she said, and new treatments for syphilis were the main topic.

**March 31, 1976** - Low bidder Dawson Co. of Bellingham, Washington, has been awarded the contract to remodel the boat harbor here. Dawson's bid of \$224,929 was some \$40,000 over the engineer's estimate and \$5,000 over appropriation, but the Alaska Division of Water and Harbors has accepted the bid. The state-funded project calls for replacement of the number 1 float in the old harbor with a new concrete float and extending the distance between floats 100 feet to accommodate new finger stalls all the way out on both sides of the new float. Created would be five more spaces for boats of 75-foot or smaller, eight new stalls for boats 60-foot or smaller and a new skiff float from materials salvaged in the old float's removal. In all, 17 additional stalls, a 25%

increase, come with the remodel. State funds through the Division of Water and Harbors come from state bonds and fuel taxes. Replacement and relocation of utilities in the harbor are not part of the state contract.

**March 29, 2001** - Thousands of pounds of frozen sac roe herring spilled from PFI's blast freezer onto a conveyor and into tubs at Icicle Seafood Inc.'s Petersburg Facility on Monday. 12,376 tons of sac roe herring were harvested during the Sitka Sound Herring Fishery between its opening on March 22 and the fishery's closure on March 27. Monday's flash-frozen herring was boxed by PFI workers and expedited to other processors and custom packagers in China and Japan. The roe sacs will be removed from the herring by overseas processors, then packaged and sold to consumers at grocery stores and supermarkets throughout Japan.

**Thursday, April 9th  
5:16-6:15pm**

**Stedman  
Elementary  
Kindergarten  
Registration**

Rae C. Stedman Elementary  
303 Dolphin Street  
Questions? 907.302.2385  
Child must be 5 by Sept. 1, 2026  
Please provide a birth certificate  
and vaccination record, required  
to attend in the fall

**Northern  
Nights Theater**


**No Movie This Week**  
Check our Facebook page  
and sign up for the latest  
updates for showings

**Coming this April**  
Hoppers  
Project Hail Mary  
The Pout-Pout Fish

Concessions available.  
Credit cards accepted.

**650-7626**

**PETERSBURG HAPPENINGS**

Brought to you by:  Alaska AIRLINES

**THURSDAY, April 2**  
**Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention:** 10:00 am, Mitkof Dance Studio  
**Free Dinner Get Together:** 5:30 pm, Lutheran Church

**FRIDAY, April 3**  
**Al-Anon Support Group:** 12:00 pm, Episcopal Church  
**Cancer Support Group:** 12:00 pm, Public Library  
**PIA Culture Club Program - All Students Welcome:** 2:30pm, Elementary School Cafeteria  
**Friday Night Bingo:** 6:00 pm, Sons of Norway Hall  
**Family Game Night:** 6:30 pm, Parks and Rec Gym  
**AA Candlelight Meeting:** 7:00 pm, Episcopal Church

**SATURDAY, April 4**  
**Constituent Meeting with Rep. Rebecca Himschoot:** 10:00 am, Petersburg Legislative Info, 11 Gjoa St # B,  
**Brunch of the Vikings, PHS Music performs:** 11:00 am, Bible Church  
**Free Soup and Bread Meal:** 12:00 pm, St. Catherine's Catholic Church  
**Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet:** 5:30 pm, Sons of Norway Hall

**Easter SUNDAY, April 5**  
**The Annual Easter Sunrise Service:** 7:00 am, Sandy Beach  
**Petersburg Elks Lodge Easter Egg Hunt:** 12:00 pm, Sandy Beach  
**Devil's Thumb Shooters:** 2:00 pm, Gun Range  
**Knitting Group - All Welcome:** 2:00 pm, Mt. View Manor Social Hall  
**Salvation Army Sunday Worship:** 4:30 pm, Salvation Army Chapel

**MONDAY, April 6**  
**Tai Chi:** 7:00 am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall  
**Burger Night:** 5:30 pm, Moose Lodge  
**AA Women's Meeting:** 7:00 pm, Presbyterian Church  
**Volleyball:** 7:30 pm, Parks and Rec Gym

**TUESDAY, April 7**  
**Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention:** 10:00 am, Mitkof Dance Studio  
**Family Game Night:** 6:30 pm, Parks and Rec Gym  
**AA 12x12 Meeting:** 7:00 pm, Holy Cross Classroom  
**Hockey Club:** 7:30 pm, Parks and Rec Gym  
**Elks Lodge Meeting:** 7:30 pm, Elks Lodge

**WEDNESDAY, April 8**  
**Tai Chi:** 7:00 am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall  
**Rotary Mtg:** 12:00 pm, Salvation Army Hall  
**Free Dinner For All:** 6:00 pm, First Baptist Church



**Petersburg Indian  
Association**

**Junk Vehicle Removal 2026**

PIA will be removing 10 vehicles. Sign-ups will be on a first come, first serve basis and begin on April 1st, 2026 on our website at [piatribal.org](http://piatribal.org)

**ELIGIBILITY**

- Must have title in hand
- Must have all tires
- Must NOT have any garbage inside of vehicle
- Must be accessible for a tow truck

Published: March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 2026

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

NORTHBOUND DEPARTURES			SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURES		
SUN 4/5	KENNICOTT	07:15 P.M.	WED 4/8	KENNICOTT	01:00 A.M.
SUN 4/12	KENNICOTT	10:45 P.M.	WED 4/15	KENNICOTT	01:15 A.M.
SUN 5/3	KENNICOTT	06:15 P.M.	WED 5/6	KENNICOTT	05:00 A.M.
SUN 5/10	KENNICOTT	08:30 P.M.	WED 5/13	KENNICOTT	12:00 A.M.
SUN 5/17	KENNICOTT	04:00 P.M.	WED 5/20	KENNICOTT	12:30 A.M.

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PETERSBURG, ALASKA

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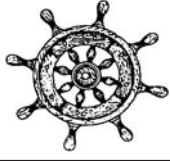
EATHER

	High	Low	Precip	Snow
3/25	32	26	T	0.5
3/26	37	28	T	0.5
3/27	36	30	T	0.3
3/28	35	27	0.20	2.8
3/29	36	24	T	T
3/30	39	30	0.32	1.2
3/31	44	30	T	0.0

This Week's Precipitation: 0.52"  
This Week's Snow: 5.3"  
This weather service is provided by the FAA weather observation station at the James A. Johnson Airport.

DAYLIGHT  
HOURS


Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Apr 01	6:24a	7:28p	13:04hrs
Apr 02	6:21a	7:31p	13:09hrs
Apr 03	6:19a	7:33p	13:13hrs
Apr 04	6:16a	7:35p	13:18hrs
Apr 05	6:13a	7:37p	13:23hrs
Apr 06	6:11a	7:39p	13:28hrs
Apr 07	6:08a	7:41p	13:33hrs



PETERSBURG  
**TIDE TABLE**  
APRIL 2026

	HIGH TIDES		LOW TIDES					
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.				
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
02 Thu	2:00	17.4	2:27	16.1	8:21	-1.1	8:26	0.4
03 Fri	2:28	17.4	3:03	15.6	8:54	-1.3	8:57	1.2
04 Sat	2:56	17.2	3:37	15.0	9:27	-1.0	9:26	2.2
05 Sun	3:24	16.7	4:12	14.0	10:00	-0.5	9:56	3.2
06 Mon	3:53	15.9	4:49	13.0	10:35	0.4	10:28	4.2
07 Tue	4:25	15.0	5:33	11.8	11:14	1.4	11:04	5.2
08 Wed	5:03	14.0	6:30	10.8	12:03	2.4	11:51	6.2

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# May 1 fare increase on state ferries, first since 2022

By **LARRY PERSILY**  
*Wrangell Sentinel*

Tickets to ride the Alaska Marine Highway System will go up a little more than 2% effective May 1, the first fare increase since 2019.

That 2019 increase instituted "dynamic pricing" of higher fares on popular routes, much like airlines and hotels price their rates to maximize revenues.

But dynamic pricing was not popular among ferry riders and the state rescinded the fare structure in 2022, leaving tickets unchanged since then.

Craig Tornga, marine director for the state ferry system, told legislators last month that it's important for the marine highway to keep up with inflation.

The fare increase will raise the cost of a car and driver between Wrangell and Ketchikan by \$6, from \$213 to \$219. A car and driver between Wrangell and Bellingham, Washington, will increase next month by \$30, from \$1,364 to \$1,394.

The system's operating budget for calendar 2026 is about \$170 million, with almost half expected from the federal government and the rest from ticket sales and the general fund. The ferries have never paid their own way from the fare box, always needing state or federal dollars to cover the difference.

A new budget issue is that this year's federal money is late, and the state may need to

front tens of millions of dollars until the federal aid comes through. The Trump administration has delayed since last year opening the ferry funding program at the Federal Transit Administration to grant applications.

The ferry system has enough state money to cover its expenses into July, Dom Pannone, director of program management and administration, told the state Senate Transportation Committee on March 19.

The soonest the federal aid might come through is August or September, he told lawmakers, which would require the state to cover up to \$30 million for two months until the federal check arrives.

Committee members asked Pannone how sure he was that the federal grant program would open soon enough for Alaska to receive the money by late summer or early fall, limiting the state's risk. "We have high confidence," he said, though he added "confidence can never be 100%."

At the committee hearing, Tornga also briefed legislators on the ferry system's ongoing efforts to recruit and retain more workers aboard the ships. The system has suffered from chronic crew shortages the past several years.

As of February, the ferries were short about 40 crew in licensed positions from full staffing of 336, he reported.

The state has embarked on several recruiting, training and scholarship programs to bring

in more licensed crew, including investing in employees who want to attend maritime school to move up to more skilled positions.

"We want to promote our own employees to move up," Tornga said.

In addition to dealing with crew shortages and delayed federal funding, the ferry system is managing an aging fleet.

Bids are due at the end of May for construction of a replacement ferry for the 62-year-old Tustumena, which serves

Gulf of Alaska communities. The federally funded replacement had been estimated at more than \$300 million, though Tornga declined to provide the Senate Transportation Committee with an updated number.

"I don't want bidders to know," he said. "It's an expensive vessel."

Until a new ship comes online, Tornga said they would try to keep the Tustumena out of rough storms that would twist the hull and risk damaging the welds that have accu-

mulated over the years.

The Columbia, which serves Southeast Alaska, is almost as old, built in 1973. "We want to keep it going until we get a mainline replacement," which could be eight or nine years, he told legislators.

Work will start next winter on a long list of repairs, rebuilds and maintenance aboard the Columbia, he said, starting with replacement of the "obsolete firefighting systems" and replacing leaky windows and rusted steel.



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

## Open Mic at the Clausen Memorial Museum

Clausen Museum hosted an open mic for local musicians on Friday and announced that the event will be ongoing, on the last Friday of every month. The room was full music lovers, and so was the lineup of performers who represented a broad range of styles and experience levels. Pictured above, local jazz ensemble Pendulum, wowed the crowd with their precise, toe tapping numbers.

## Ferry schedule gap

Continued from page 1

The Kennicott, which is scheduled to go into layup status in May when the Columbia comes out of winter overhaul to take over the Southeast mainline route, will stay on the job a little longer than expected. The Columbia is delayed coming out of the shipyard in Ketchikan, said Gabe Strong, public information officer for the Alaska Marine Highway System.

Instead of going back to work on May 6, the Columbia now is expected out of the shipyard on May 20, Strong said in an email on March 27.

The Kennicott will delay its summer vacation until the Columbia is back at work, Strong said.

The Columbia has been in winter layup and overhaul since

late November.

The state ferry system plans to send the Columbia back to the shipyard next winter for extensive work, including replacement of rusted steel and leaky windows, and a new firefighting system.

The marine highway's sum-

mer schedule starts May 1, with more frequent service on heavily traveled routes such as Juneau to Haines and Skagway. The schedule to Petersburg will be the same as during the winter season: One northbound stop on Sundays and a southbound stop on Wednesdays.



A memorial service for Annette Carol Olson will be held at Petersburg Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 4, at 1:00 p.m. followed by a reception at the Holy Cross House.

**First Baptist Church invites the community to the Annual Easter Sunrise Service at Sandy Beach on Sunday Morning at 7 am**



**PETERSBURG ELKS LODGE #1615**

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

**SUNDAY APRIL 5TH 12:00 PM**

**SANDY BEACH RECREATION AREA**

# COMMENTARY

## Eaglecrest: Southeast Alaska's favorite ski area

By **JAKE CLEMENS**  
Pilot writer

My wife was in a meeting with a few lobbyists talking about attending a legislative fly-in in Juneau, and someone mentioned sneaking off to Eaglecrest while they were there. "Eaglecrest is the ski resort in Juneau, right?" someone else asked.

A few others laughed, and said, "Ski resort? No. Eaglecrest is a ski area."

And that about sums it up. Eaglecrest is the ski hill for a southeast Alaskan's soul. Lots of people wearing xtratufs around the lodge. No spa. No condos. No trouble finding a parking spot. No lift lines. No high-speed lifts. Reasonable lift ticket prices, and this winter, no shortage of snow.

I got that fuzzy-hometown feeling immediately upon arrival, where I ran into two Petersburg high school students who had just spent a few days of snowboarding. They said they'd had a great time, despite one having a limp from catching an edge up Ptarmigan (Eaglecrest's upper mountain ski lift). Not only was the next generation experiencing Eaglecrest too, but they were enjoying the best snow year since I'd visited there as a high schooler in 2007.

Still, we'd felt indulgent planning a spring break ski trip with our kids. As much as we know our ski-bum pasts of sleeping in snowcaves and the backs of trucks in ski-area parking lots, it's hard not to imagine how other people think of a ski vacation. Fur coats and fancy sunglasses and après ski hot tubs (we did poach some hot tubs a few times in college, but that's another story). Long story short, we barely had enough money to feel like the trip was possible, but skiing is a big part of who we are, and we wanted our kids to experience how fun and different it is from what we'd exposed them to before, which was

mostly dragging them around the semi-frozen muskeg on cross-country skis. We wanted to show our kids that we aren't the only crazy people obsessed with sliding on snow, and that there are even entire areas especially for skiing.

"What's an awesa?" my son asked from the backseat of the rental car. "Uh, it's a place to do stuff in," Mariah said.

So, we were going to Eaglecrest Ski Area, for spring break, and praying that it would be open and that there would be decent snow and weather, and that our kids would have fun. And our prayers were answered.

We'd gone to Colorado to see family for winter break, and there was hardly any snow to be seen at the ski resorts along I-70, save for the man-made snow on the main runs, which we call the Ribbon of Death. We had found some decent cross-country skiing on Grand Mesa, but for the most part that trip felt like spring break. Temps in the 60s with scant patches of snow except when we really went looking for it.

But the Juneau airport got over 200 inches of snow this winter, the most since the airport was built. By the time we got to Juneau, a clear spell came through. Sun but with still cool temps. We crammed our ski bags into the compact crossover we'd rented, wondering if we should've taken up the rental car company on their offer to upgrade to a minivan. We'd stuck with the crossover since we thought we might need the all-wheel drive. And we did immediately, in the parking lot of the Baranof Hotel which had six inches of solid ice, save for the two ruts of tire tracks down the middle that had become more like crevasses in a glacier. Juneau had had some winter. We almost went straight up to Eaglecrest to take advantage of their boarding pass deal, where if you show them your flight boarding pass or ferry ticket from that day, you

ski for free. We should have done it, but we opted to take the time to relax at the hotel and try to force our kids to do the same for the afternoon.

The roads were almost entirely dry on the way up to Eaglecrest the next day, but there was snow everywhere else, not a single bare patch or icy patch or puddle to be seen on the slopes. The snow was still light and cold, not yet turned to spring slush, or even corn. Yet the sun came out for the three days we were there, enough to make me worry about my 7-year-old's refusal to wear goggles.

And yet, there were almost no lift lines. I think the longest we waited was four chairs at the bunny hill, three at Hooter (the lower mountain lift), and two at Ptarmigan (the upper mountain lift). An hour after opening, after we'd left our kids at their ski and snowboard lessons on the bunny hill, Mariah and I got our double-chair date time on the upper mountain, marveling at massive swaths of untracked groomers below us. Not only was Mariah impressed by the grooming and lack of crowds, but by the terrain. In-bounds has everything from wide cruisers to steep trees and cliff drops. And the views of the nearby sidecountry and backcountry are breathtaking. "This is what I dream about when I dream about resort skiing," Mariah said.

"Not a resort," I corrected. "Ski area."

It was dreamy how few people were there. And not only was it our kids' spring break, it was spring break for Juneau schools too, as I learned when I ran into someone I recognized who'd grown up in Petersburg and lives in Juneau now. She was there to watch her son at his ski camp, which had been going all week.

Snow, sun, no lift lines, quarter-full parking lot, if that. Nice people, both fellow skiing families and staff. It seemed at odds with

Continued on page 5

# GUEST EDITORIAL

## After 63 years, it could be time to scrap the Matanuska

By **LARRY PERSILY**  
Wrangell Sentinel publisher

Nothing lasts forever, particularly steel hulls floating in salt water their entire life.

The Alaska state ferry Matanuska, built in a Seattle shipyard in 1963, has been tied up in Ketchikan since 2022, serving as a floating hotel for ferry workers. The fact that it needs almost 125,000 pounds of replacement steel to repair extensive rust damage doesn't mean it can't float; it means it can't pass a U.S. Coast Guard inspection to take on passengers and go anywhere.

So it sits.

It's costing the state about \$800,000 a month for fuel, crew and other expenses to keep it shipshape enough for worker housing.

Last year's estimate for steel work and all the other repairs and upgrades needed to put the Matanuska back to work totaled at least \$45 million. That's money the Alaska Marine Highway System does not have and should not spend to extend the life of a 63-year-old ship.

Nothing personal, but it's time to untie the Matanuska from the dock, sell it off and find another option for crew housing at less cost than \$800,000.

That's the decision the Alaska Department of Transportation made when it published a notice last month, asking for offers on the ship by April 14.

And although the department is asking for proposals "to dispose of the vessel in a manner that honors its historic significance while allowing it to continue serving Alaska in new innovative ways," it's hard to imagine any fiscally responsible bidder willing to buy a ship that needs so much expensive repair work.

The state's request said it "invites thoughtful proposals for preservation, adaptive reuse or continued maritime service that respects the vessel's legacy and provides ongoing public value. Potential concepts may include maritime training, tourism, community or cultural use, education programming, museum or heritage preservation."

All that sounds good, though probably wishful thinking.

Maybe someone will want to buy the ship to use as summer worker housing during the busy tourism season. Maybe. If not that or some other reasonable offer, the state still needs to get out from under the cost of keeping it warm and tied to the dock in Ketchikan.

Sad as it is to say, the Matanuska, one of the three original ships that started off the Alaska Marine Highway System in the 1960s, and the last one still in state ownership, might be headed to a salvage yard.

# Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



# Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



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



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## Commentary

Continued from page 4

all the recent news we'd heard about Eaglecrest.

When we started thinking of a trip there, after Christmas, we learned that Eaglecrest had suffered multiple closures in the heart of winter. Some because of too much snow, which was understandable, since almost the whole city of Juneau was shut down by snow, it made sense that plowing the road to the ski area might not be a priority. There had been a main water line break in December. And both the general manager and the chair of their board of directors had resigned soon after Christmas. We crossed our fingers and booked our tickets for spring break anyway.

Listening to the radio on the way back from our first day on the slopes, I heard about how the Eaglecrest gondola project was expected to cost \$37 million in all, and somehow still be the "path to profitability." At least that had been the plan when the gondola was only expected to cost around \$10 million. By bringing in tourist money all summer, the idea was that Eaglecrest would start paying for itself, which was important since it's owned by the City and Borough of Juneau. But that expectation of profitability only applies to Eaglecrest, which has been nearly 70% self-sufficient, compared to other recreational facilities owned by the City and Borough of Juneau, like the field house which is only 54% self-sufficient, the ice rink at 47%, and the pool at 20%, according to the Juneau Independent.

One visible red flag about Eaglecrest's operations situation was the Black Bear chairlift. I'd been excited to learn there was a third chairlift on the main mountain since my last visit to Eaglecrest when I was in high school. Since it was installed in 2009, the Black Bear chair provided access to some of the terrain I remembered enjoying the most, in the East Bowl, which my dad and I had gladly booted to with our snowboards under our arms. But before our spring break trip, Mariah and I didn't look too much into what exactly was open on the mountain. So it wasn't until we made it up the Ptarmigan lift and turned left to check out Black Bear that we saw that it not only



JAKE CLEMENS / Petersburg Pilot

The Clemens family of Petersburg ride the chair lift up the Eaglecrest bunny hill over spring break 2026. The spring skiing was excellent thanks to the record snowfall Juneau received this season.

was it not running, but it didn't have chairs on it and the cable didn't even reach the top. Turns out it hasn't run since the 2023-24 season. Summer inspections found that it needed repairs that were deemed too costly by the general manager, and it was announced in the summer of 2025 that the Black Bear lift would be closed permanently until it could eventually be removed. That news made me wonder if our family was experiencing the end of the Eaglecrest era.

But the other new-to-me improvement to the mountain, the Porcupine lift on the bunny hill, was running smoothly. And that's where we spent most of our time, skiing together as a family. When I visited Eaglecrest for snowboard lessons as a kid, the bunny hill had a platter-pull lift, essentially a rope tow that you had to hold onto as it pulled you along the snow on your snowboard or skis. I caught a bad edge and had to squirm off to the side of the platter-pull more than once. But the Porcupine double chair was drama-free for my kids learning to ski and snowboard. Mariah or I could sit next to them and help them on and off the chair, and it was easy enough that my 7-year-old-son figured out how to ride it solo by the end of day three.

The bunny hill also seemed to have added a few runs, since the Porcupine lift ran to the right of the old platter pull, the terrain had been expanded some in that direction. And the old platter pull route was open as a downhill

run that my son loved to straight-line. My 5-year-old daughter had been terrified of the idea of being on a ski lift off the ground though, so my uninformed belief that the platter-pull was still there had helped coax her to the hill. When we discovered that the double chairlift was the only option, she accepted Mariah's pivot that, "This chairlift goes off the ground a little, but it's the closest one to the ground." My daughter had never been on anything besides three-pin cross-country skis or a plastic sled, but by the end of her second hour-and-a-half lesson she was skiing on her own. She even called out Mariah on doing things different than her instructor, saying, "That's not how my girl does it."

My son started off snowboarding, along with me. My dad might be the unlikeliest snowboarder, and he gets the credit for finding a board and boots for my son "to grow into." And since it was his, my son wanted to use it. But it was a bit big and hard for him to control. He straight-lined into a tree well the first run with his instructor, and got demoted from the chair lift to the astroturf walk-up area. By the end of the second day's morning lesson, he was on the lift again, but still crashing his way down the slope, although at more controlled speeds and directions. He was not happy that we made him ski the third day. I was a bit nervous to see if I remembered how to ski too, but I was excited for how much easier it is to ride a lift on skis,

and not have to re-buckle the back binding at the top of every lift, and be able to help learning kids by skiing in front or behind them, as opposed to side by side on snowboards. And my son picked up skiing quickly and was fully converted by the realization that he could make it down the run nearly every time without crashing—even French frying down the platter chute. And he had a near-perfect record of pizza-ing before plowing into the lift line at the bottom. Unlike our daughter, who purposefully crash-hugged into Mariah at full speed. The kids were having so much fun that to our surprise, they both insisted on skiing nearly to the end of every day.

And they weren't the only ones. Many people were doing the same thing as our family, skiing the bunny hill a lot with their kids, sneaking off to the upper mountain while their kids were in lessons, hanging out on the deck in the sun eating snacks, going on hot-cocoa and coffee runs to the café, which also had muffins and breakfast burritos. The cafeteria was usually closed due to some maintenance issues, but we did get chicken tenders and fries there the last day. It seemed that the bar was similarly limited in its schedule. But that all made for a good wholesome

multi-family picnic vibe.

We hadn't planned to buy our kids lessons every day, and if we did I think we could have gotten a better deal on a three-day lesson package. But we did inadvertently save some money by buying lessons, which come with rental skis and a day pass, instead of paying more to get a day pass and rentals separately. A good incentive by Eaglecrest to have more skilled shredders on the slopes. And I would definitely do the boarding pass deal if I could do it over. Turns out our kids behave better on skis than they do watching cartoons in a hotel room. I do too.

When we got back to Petersburg, a friend smiled at us carrying our skis out and said, "Ben skiing, huh? Back in Colorado?" "Juneau," I said. "It was great, and there's more snow there."

Our friend was surprised. We were too. It's surreal how close Eaglecrest is to our home, yet how different of an experience it is to anything else in Southeast Alaska.

Eaglecrest will be open Friday-Sunday for the next two weekends (April 3rd-5th and April 10th-12th), so it's not too late to get some more fun out of this snowy southeast winter. If you can sneak up to Juneau for some great skiing, do it.

## City

### Police report

**March 25** - An officer conducted extra patrols.

An officer responded to a parking complaint on S 3rd St., contacted the owner and the vehicle was moved.

**March 26** - An officer assisted a citizen on S 3rd St. with a dog complaint.

There was a report of a missing package on Excel St.

An officer completed a welfare check on S 2nd St.

**March 27** - An officer responded to a report of loud individuals behind a local business and found they'd left the area.

There was a report of a vehicle losing part of its load on Haugen Dr. The owner was notified of the loss by baler employees.

An officer responded to a report of an activated alarm on Haugen Dr. and was unable to locate the source.

A driver on S Nordic Dr. was issued a warning for headlight requirements.

An officer responded to a report of a strong odor in the S 3rd St. area.

**March 28** - An officer conducted extra foot patrols downtown.

Carl Guggenbickler, 38, was arrested for alleged vehicle theft on Excel St.

A driver on the Sing Lee Alley bridge was issued a warning for tail light requirements.

**March 29** - An officer conducted extra foot patrols downtown.

There was a report of a raft adrift in the Wrangell Narrows near Libby Straits.

An officer responded to a parking complaint and found a vehicle illegally parked at Birch St. and S Nordic Dr.

**March 30** - An officer conducted extra foot patrols in South Harbor.

An officer responding to a parking issue on Mitkof Hwy. found vehicles were unable to park in a driveway due to snow conditions.

An officer responded to a civil disturbance on Ira II St.

An individual reported to the Police Department (PD) to serve time.

An officer provided lockout assistance on N 2nd St.

An officer provided lockout assistance on N 4th St.

A found driver's license was turned in to the PD.

**March 31** - An officer responded to a report of unleashed dogs on Ira II St.

An officer responded to a report of parked vehicles presenting a hazard to navigation on Excel St. The owner was contacted and the vehicles were moved.

There was a report of a dog found on Ira II St.

Richard Haerling was arrested for allegedly violating conditions of release.

An officer responding to a report of children harassing a deer on Lumber St. found they'd all departed the area.



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# Chamber music festival

Continued from page 1

tic, fantastical, natural scenes with the Classical and Romantic composers that make up most of the classical canon — whether you're spending a lot of time listening to classical music or not, it's gonna blow your mind," Pfundt said.

"Our goal is to premiere pieces about Alaska," Pfundt said. "A lot of classical composers are incredibly inspired by both the soundscapes and the acoustic environments, as well as the visuals here. It's this untouched, rugged, complete inspiration. And if there is a place in the US that can do that, I think it is here, in Southeast."

That vision is directly embodied by one of this year's featured artists: Alexis C. Lamb, a Yale and University of Michigan-trained composer whose work has been performed across five continents and who founded the Refugia Festival. Lamb will bring her multimedia installation "NORTH/SOUTH" to Petersburg for the festival — a work built from field recordings gathered in the Tongass National Forest and the Amazon Rainforest. The installation will be available throughout the festival at the Petersburg Public Library.

The festival's other featured artist is pianist Artyom Pak, on staff at Juilliard and Sarasota Opera and a winner of multiple international piano competitions. Pfundt described him as one of the most gifted collaborative pianists of his generation.

"He's quickly rising to the top — one of the best young collaborative pianists in the States," she said.

Pfundt's ability to attract



Alexis C. Lamb



Artyom Pak

artists of that caliber is a direct product of her bicoastal career, she said — years of performing and making connections in Boston and New York that now give her access to a network of emerging musicians at the top of their field. She is frank about the fact that, while she aims to spend part of her life each year in Petersburg, maintaining that network requires her to spend significant time away from the community that shaped her.

"I love teaching, and that's what I do here ... but in order for me to give, I have to go fill

up on the East Coast and be enriched by my own colleagues and teachers there," she said. "It makes for a very bicoastal career path. But I absolutely love it."

She also noted that the late May timing of the festival is no accident. Most symphony and opera contracts run September through May, leaving a narrow window of availability before summer festival season begins. Devil's Thumb is designed to fit inside that window — and to align nicely with Sitka's classical music programming in early June.

"A lot of these people are just starting their first academic contracts, or they have a job with a symphony or an opera house," Pfundt said. "So there are these few weeks that people are free. It's a great time to contract these artists to come up for a week."

What she can offer them in return, she said, is something no East Coast residency can replicate.

"Everyone wants to go to Alaska ... it really enriches the lives of my colleagues," she said. "My vision is to, with my colleagues who are at the beginning of their careers, bring them up, get them involved as much as they can be in the community, and have them compose — give coastal communities a voice in this art form."

She also sees a real economic opportunity. Classical music audiences, she noted, tend to travel deliberately and spend meaningfully — and the festival's positioning just after the Little Norway Festival could enhance Petersburg's visitor season in a low-impact way.

"There's a lot of boats — cruiser-type people from Seattle and the West Coast" who travel to Sitka for classical music tourism, she said. "Hopefully we can just extend that season."

The festival plans to document this inaugural year with a short documentary series, filmed by a Boston-based filmmaker Pfundt is flying in for the week.

"There are so many wonderful things about Petersburg, and if we all go to the effort of getting these amazing classical musicians here, it's a really cool story," she said. "We need to tell that story. And I think it's

going to attract the kind of tourism that will be good for Petersburg, as well as the attention in the classical music field that will bring the best artists to us."

The festival opens Wednesday, May 20 with a free public event at Sandy Beach: Lamb will lead a "Forest Orchestra" experience, an all-natural, all-ages percussion activity drawing on her work as a composer and percussionist. The NORTH/SOUTH installation opens the same day at the library. That evening, a private Friends of the Festival gathering will be held for the donors and supporters helping to launch this project.

Thursday, May 21 begins with an 8 a.m. musical improvisation workshop at the high school, where festival artists will prepare students for the afternoon's centerpiece: a public masterclass with Pak at Wright Auditorium at 4 p.m. Masterclass tickets are \$10; students attend free. Pfundt describes the masterclass as "a way to build a wonderful culture around classical music. You have an expert basically publicly coaching students on their pieces ... I think that will be surprising and fun for people in the audience to see someone work at the highest level with our students."

On Friday, a workshop on the neuroscience of practice will be held at 4 p.m. in the library's Helmi Jensen Community Room.

The festival closes Saturday, May 23 with the main event, a 3

p.m. concert at the Petersburg Lutheran Church titled "Into the Tongass." Pfundt and Pak will perform art song together, alongside works by Beethoven, Strauss and Sondheim, and a premiere of one of Pfundt's own compositions. Concert tickets are \$25.

The pricing is deliberately affordable, Pfundt said. "It's really important that we can gift the community this first festival, keep it very accessible."

The festival is fiscally sponsored by Fractured Atlas, a national nonprofit that hosts startup arts organizations, and has received support from individual donors, the Petersburg Rotary Club and the Petersburg Arts Council. Pfundt admits she is personally covering a significant part of the capital this inaugural year, and she confirmed that the festival aims to be annual. "I won't take no for an answer. This will happen," she said. For next year, she plans to expand to two concerts, pursue independent nonprofit status and hold a dinner fundraiser with music during the holiday season.

She noted that, for this year, the festival is still seeking one more airline mileage ticket to cover a musician's travel. Those interested can reach out to her through the festival's website or social media:

devilsthumbchambermusic.com.

"We welcome all the support from everywhere," she said. "Classical music is good for everyone."

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Skoggies built several snow cave quinzees during Kinder Skog spring break camp. During the camp Skoggies had ample opportunities to practice skiing, kicksledding, snowshoeing, and snow fort building.

## Spring Break Camp, summer right around the corner



Grady Walker (left) challenges Amelia Pilcher and Henry Paul to a snowshoe race during Kinder Skog's spring break camp. For those already dreaming of summer camp, PMC Youth Programs will be opening Summer enrollment in April.

Photos courtesy of Katie Holmlund

# Chinook catch limit rebounds for Southeast

By ANNA LAFFREY  
Sitka Daily Sentinel

The 2026 regionwide harvest limits for Chinook salmon announced Tuesday by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

represent a rebound from the rock bottom limits set in 2025.

This year, all fishermen in Southeast Alaska can catch a total 205,300 treaty Chinook salmon – fish that didn't originate in Alaska hatcheries – the de-

partment said in the announcement.

State fishery managers use their harvest target for treaty Chinook to set catch limits for treaty Chinook in the sport and commercial fisheries.

This year's harvest target for Southeast was calculated in accordance with the Pacific Salmon Treaty, and includes a 1% reduction – a management buffer – from the 2026 treaty catch limit for Southeast, which is 207,400 Chinook.

The U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty regulates fishing for migratory Chinook populations along the west coast of both countries.

In 2025, due to poor forecasts for migratory Chinook stocks that drive Southeast fisheries, the Southeast treaty limit hit a record low of 133,500 Chinook. That represented a 40% cut from the 2024 Southeast limit of 211,400 treaty Chinook.

In recent years, the Southeast treaty limit has ranged between a high of 355,600 treaty kings in 2016 down to roughly 130,000 in both 2018 and 2025, Fish and Game records show.

Announcing the 2026 Southeast harvest limit of more than 200,000 Chinook, Fish and Game stated Tuesday that "several stocks have shown signs of improvement in 2024 and 2025."

"However, recent production has been poor in the region," the department said. "Some SEAK stocks have either been recently removed or adopted as Stocks of Management Concern, and management will continue consistent with the provisions of Board of Fisheries action plans."

### Troll

In 2026 commercial salmon troll fishermen can harvest up to 146,000 treaty Chinook. Trollers' preseason harvest limit rebounded from the record-low 92,730-Chinook limit in 2025.

Trollers get to fish "50,000 more Chinook than last year, with last year being the lowest allocation in history, so it's better than terrible for the trollers this year," said Patrick Baum, an Alaska Trollers Association board member.

The Sentinel spoke with troll fishermen who said that the low harvest limit in 2025 was hard on their earnings, and caused participation in the July 1 summer Chinook fishery opening to hit a new low.

Some trollers depend on Chinook for about 40 to 50 percent of their annual income, while facing ever-increasing prices for fuel, groceries, and maintenance required to operate their vessels.

Chinook also is a high-demand, high-margin fish for local seafood processors.

In early 2025 the Alaska Board of Fisheries changed the way the state divides the all-gear allocation between troll and sport by shifting 3% of the troll allocation to the sport sector each year, which added to trollers' frustration about the low harvest limit last year.

### Sport

Resident and nonresident sport anglers in Southeast can harvest a total 43,600 Chinook, ADF&G announced Tuesday.

That sport harvest limit is back up from the record-low 27,700 Chinook allowed for the sport sector last year.

This year residents can harvest two Chinook, 28 inches or greater in length, each day, with no annual limit, ADF&G said.

The record-low treaty allocation in 2025 triggered a one-fish daily limit for residents, with no annual cap.

Nonresidents in 2026 can catch one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, each day. From January 1 through June 30 nonresidents have an annual limit of three Chinook; from July 1 through Dec. 31 the nonresident annual limit is one Chinook.

In 2025 nonresidents were bound to an unusually tight, year-round annual limit of one fish.

Sport fishery manager Troy Tydingco told the Sentinel

Continued on page 9

# FIRST Friday

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# VSC prepares for Championship surge with elite competition

By AIDEN LUHR  
Pilot writer

With a focus of getting better before the state championship meets, several Viking Swim Club swimmers competed in high level age group competitions, competing against a plethora of west region teams such as Arizona, Oregon, Idaho, New Mexico and more.

There were three competitions all going on at the same time this past weekend. Swimmers Audrey Boggs, Trygve Marohl and Ryder Diehl competed at the Mountain West Age Groups in Boise. Jackson Zweifel also traveled to this meet but was unable to participate due to an illness.

After setting a new record during the time trial, Marohl got a taste of his first competition outside of Alaska. Marohl finished seventh in the 500 freestyle and fourth in the 200 freestyle.

"[Marohl] didn't think he had a good meet but I thought he had a great meet. After that 1000, he was on cloud nine which is to be expected," head coach Derek Gibb said. "He got seventh on the first day and then a couple of races that he wasn't happy with and I kept telling him keep going and you'll make finals."

After that, Marohl made finals in the 200 freestyle, his last event on the last day.

With roughly 30 teams at this event, this was a good experience for the young VSC team - a much different and higher level of competition.

"They exceeded my expectations and they swam decent on the first day but as they got into the meet more, they got more confidence," Gibb said. The most important thing for me was they grew within the meet and got better as they went."

Marohl, Boggs and Diehl all podiumed. Boggs had a third place finish in her 200 breaststroke, with a time of 2:49.57.

Diehl finished third in the 50 butterfly, with a time of 28.86.

Two other members, Cyrus Hulebak and Tori Miller competed at Western Senior Zones in Arizona and Northwest Age Groups in Washington respectively.

It was an adjustment for both of them as Miller only got to Washington the night before and had to compete the next morning while Hulebak went from 20 degrees and snow to 95 degrees, on the pool deck.

Gibb said there were roughly 1200 swimmers at the Arizona meet and 1100 at the Washington meet.

"Those [Northwest Age Groups and Western Senior Zones] are the two fastest meets



Photo courtesy of Derek Gibb

Viking Swim Club swimmer Audrey Boggs and other competitors receive medals after the completion of one of their races during the 2026 Mountain West Age Groups on March 20, 2026, in Boise, Idaho. Boggs had third, fifth and sixth place finishes at this meet.

on the west coast for age groupers," Gibb said. "They didn't place very high but they did in a couple of their events and I think that helped with their confidence."

Hulebak and Miller are among the best in Alaska so going and competing against higher level of competition will be beneficial to them as the season reaches its conclusion.

"I'm proud of the way they swam and I think it's good for them to get to that level and see what it's like and come back and reassess and train a little bit harder," Gibb said.

No more time trials, it's now just ramping up in preparation for southeast championships in Juneau then the state championships in Anchorage.

Gibb estimates that he will be taking roughly 26-28 swimmers to southeast championships.

This upcoming week an 3x Olympic medalist and former world record holder in the 200 backstroke, Margaret Hoelzer will be coming to Petersburg to talk to the team during their Laps for Loot fundraiser, which is on Friday, April 3.

"She's gonna put on swim clinic for us on Saturday and Sunday. "We're gonna try and inspire these kids a little bit and get some good technique stuff - starts and turns," Gibb said.

Gibb and Hoelzer were teammates at Auburn.

Any community members, sports teams, ect. are allowed to come to this three day fundraiser. During Laps for Loot, swimmers will swim for two hours, getting pledges from people to eventually get more

equipment and other things for the team.

#### Notable Times:

#### Boys:

Trygvr Marohl  
7th in Boys 10 and Under 500 Freestyle (6:32.12)  
5th in Boys 10 and Under 200 Freestyle (2:28.16)  
Ryder Diehl  
7th in Boys 12 Year Olds 50 Freestyle (26.45)  
6th in Boys 12 Year Olds 100 Breaststroke (1:13.83)  
3rd in Boys 12 Year Olds 50 Butterfly (28.86)  
5th in Boys 12 Year Olds 50 Breaststroke (33.54)  
4th in Boys 12 Year Olds 100 IM (1:06.65)  
Cyrus Hulebak (Western Senior Zones)  
36th in Boys 200 IM (2:04.25)  
29th in Boys 50 Breaststroke (28.56)  
36th in Boys 100 Backstroke (56.04)  
28th in Boys 50 Backstroke (25.82)  
36th in Boys 100 Breaststroke (1:02.16)

#### Girls:

Audrey Boggs  
6th in Girls 12 Year Olds 100 Breaststroke (1:19.30)  
3rd in Girls 11-12 200 Breaststroke (2:49.57)  
5th in Girls 12 Year Olds 50 Breaststroke (36.68)  
Tori Miller (Northwest Age Groups)  
14th in Girls 100 Butterfly (1:03.43)  
19th in Girls 50 Freestyle  
20th in Girls 200 IM (2:20.27)  
21st in Girls 100 Freestyle (57.08)  
31st in Girls 50 backstroke (26.57)

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## Chinook catch limit

Continued from page 7

Wednesday that the one-fish limit for nonresidents in 2025 is having a lingering impact on the Southeast sport fishing industry that services primarily nonresident clients.

"Anecdotally, what I've heard is charter operators have some holes in their schedules, especially this spring," Tydingco said.

He said that nonresidents may have been deterred from booking fishing trips after seeing the one-Chinook nonresident annual limit for all of 2025; and following emergency closures to Chinook retention in recent years.

ADF&G closed Chinook retention to nonresidents for most of July 2025, and closed all Chinook harvest by both residents and nonresident sport fishers from late August through September 2024. In both of those instances, managers shuttered retention because the sport fishery was on track to exceed its harvest allocation.

"The effects of that uncertainty are really being felt in the early season this year," Tydingco said.

He said "that probably has a little bit bigger impact in the Sitka area where our business model is more the three-day package trip, as opposed to some of the other ports that see more cruise ship passengers who are only going to be around for a day."

Managers aren't expecting to implement mid-season closures this year, Tydingco said.

"What we anticipate this year is no changes, that's what we're hoping for," he said. "We created the regulation package to run for the entire year. That being said, we will be monitoring in-season and if we get down to

July or August and it looks like we either need to add more restrictions, or alternatively, liberalize, we would probably do that towards the end of the year."

Based on historical data and abundance models, managers have a pretty good idea of what the sport harvest is going to look like this year, Tydingco said.

He noted that managers are following new guidance that the Alaska Board of Fisheries set in the King Salmon Management Plan during the Southeast regulatory meeting in Ketchikan in early 2025 - to provide uninterrupted resident Chinook harvest opportunities in state waters, and to require ADF&G to use in-season management to keep the sport sector from exceeding its allocation by first placing harvest limits on nonresident sport harvest.

Nonresident harvest has comprised about 75% of Southeast

sport harvest in recent years.

Sport fishery managers set sport fishery regulations with the goal of harvesting 65% of the treaty harvest target by July 1.

Baum said that is frustrating for residents of many Southeast communities as Chinook retention is closed until mid-June in swaths of inside waters.

ADF&G posted additional announcements on Tuesday regarding king salmon nonretention areas around Haines, Skagway, Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell and Ketchikan that are in effect beginning April 1 to protect wild king salmon.

When fishing in the exclusive economic zone (between 3-200 nautical miles from shore) all Southeast sport anglers must comply with regulations established for nonresident anglers, including the daily and annual limits for Chinook, ADF&G said.

## Obituary:

### Geneva Margaret Ann Bishop, 79

Longtime Alaskan Geneva Margaret Ann Bishop, 79, passed away Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at her daughter's home near Soldotna.

Geneva was born June 16, 1946, in Roseburg, Oregon. She moved to Alaska in 1976, living in Anchorage for a short time before moving to Petersburg. She lived in Petersburg until moving to her daughter's home in 2022.

Geneva was preceded in death by her husband, Ben Bishop and a brother, Alan Wooden.

Those left to cherish her memory include her son, Tim Bishop and his wife, Tammy, of Sanford, NC; daughters, Billie Symons and her husband, Henry, of Soldotna, AK and Lucelia Graves and her husband, Ricky, of Nikiski, AK; grandsons, Ben Bishop of Sanford, NC and Ricky Graves of Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada; granddaughters, Jerrica Bardwell of Sanford, NC, Brittany Abrams and Rebecca Abrams Lyle, both of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Jessica Graves of Nikiski, AK; great-granddaughters, Harli Folda, Jenna and Karson Henderson, all of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and Selene Graves of Cold Lake, Alberta; great-grandsons, Axel and Knox Bardwell, both of Sanford, NC, and Ricky "Little Ricky" Graves of Cold Lake, Alberta; and her brother, Mike Wooden and his wife, Glenda, of Roseburg, OR.

No services are planned at this time.



Geneva Margaret Ann Bishop

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

Those celebrating birthdays this week are: **April 3:** Anna Kvernvik, Jacob Jarabek, Joseph Prus. **April 4:** Brian Martens, Brian Richards, Danya Davis, Eveni Mamoe, Jack Slaght, Jaren Whitethorn, Shelly Ware. **April 5:** Kara Rao, Lacy Burrell, Matt Pawuk, William Jackson. **April 6:** Don Duke, Jennifer Thorsteinson, Maria Lopez. **April 8:** Aaron Murph, Dan Tate, Don Bieber, Hana Newman, Kayle Hebert, Remy Tolkachova, Robb Crenshaw, Teresa Pfundt. **April 9:** Karen Schramek, Ailene Estes, Amanda Birchell, Angela Henderson, Ben Svetlak, Charlie Christensen, Clifton Gudgel, Jim Engell, Julie Schonberg, Leo Luczak, Malika Brunette, Royce Vick.

Those celebrating anniversaries this week are: **April 9:** Susan and Angela Henderson.

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

## Senior Meals

**Monday, April 6**

Salmon Burger, Fries, Cheese Stick, Pudding Cup

**Tuesday, April 7**

Beef Stroganoff, Noodles, Mixed Vegetables, Orange, Brownie

**Wednesday, April 8**

BBQ Ribs, Potato Salad, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Cottage Cheese with Fruit

**Thursday, April 9**

Fried Rice with Diced Ham, Broccoli, Melon, Cookie

**Friday, April 10**

Chicken Caesar Wrap, Chips, Orange, Cheese Stick, Pudding Cup



The community dining room is open to eligible diners (60+ and their spouses, or disabled individuals living in an assisted living facility). Dinner is served at 5 p.m. All meals are suggested donation only. Please call Mountain View Food Service at 772-4331 before noon for reservations.

NOW SCHEDULING

## Dermatology Clinic

with Cameron French, PA-C

April 14th-16th

- Skin checks
- Mole, lipoma, and skin cancer removals
- Psoriasis, acne, atopic dermatitis, and skin abnormalities
- Cosmetic Botox

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Clinic: 907-772-4299



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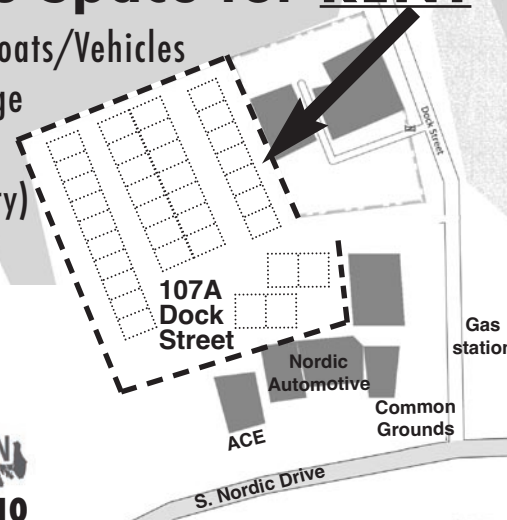
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### Artifact Archive

This handtinted photograph by H.A. Ives depicts an Alaska Steamship Company's steamship sailing north through the Wrangell Narrows. Heath Arlo Ives, 1890 – 1972, was a commercial photographer and an engineer working in Alaska and Canada from approximately 1910 through the 1940s. As the primary photographer for the ASC, Ives' photographs capturing the beautiful scenery and charming towns along ASC routes were used in the company's promotional materials. In the bottom left corner of this photo, the photographer wrote, "Misty Sailing, Wrangell Narrows, Alaska." His signature and copyright symbol can be found on the lower right.

While the Alaska Steamship Company operated passenger service from Seattle to various ports in Alaska from 1895 – 1954, it wasn't until the 1910s that steamship travel became common. The voyage from Seattle to Petersburg could take from 3 to 5 days, depending on the weather through the Inside Passage.

Passengers in First Class enjoyed private, luxurious cabins with mahogany woodwork, plush furniture, and even private baths. A one-way ticket cost between \$100 and \$250, equivalent to several thousand dollars in modern currency, and often included meals. For the price of \$40 to \$60, Second Class passengers were treated to comfortable, shared cabins with decent food service. Below decks, in Steerage, passengers slept in shared bunk rooms that were crowded and often unventilated. Steerage fares, designed for workers and prospectors, were significantly cheaper but required passengers bring their own bedding, face poor sanitation and eat in the same areas they slept.

Unable to compete with the rise of air travel, The ASC ended its regular passenger service to Alaska in 1954 to focus on cargo before closing entirely in 1971. Following the end of ASC's passenger service, the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National lines operated in the region until the Alaska Marine Highway System began operations in 1963.

### JOB

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

### Petersburg Indian Association

## JOB FAIR 2026

Join us to learn about exciting new career possibilities and information on Job Training opportunities!

**JOHN HANSON SR HALL  
12 N. 1ST STREET**

**Thursday, Apr. 16  
1pm - 6pm**

**Open to all in the community!**

### Rules of the Road US Coast Guard



### QUESTION & ANSWER

#### QUESTION:

Which vessel when anchored at night, would not be required to show anchor lights?

- a. A vessel engaged in underwater operations
- b. A vessel engaged in mine clearance
- c. A vessel engaged on pilotage duty
- d. A vessel engaged in survey operations

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

ANSWER: A.  
A vessel engaged in underwater operations

### ANCHOR PROPERTIES

Check out our listings across Southeast Alaska



www.apalaska.com



at Petersburg School District

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

**Monday, April 6**

Lunch

WG Tamales

Refried Beans

**Tuesday, April 7**

Lunch

Whole Grain Pork Fritter

or Chicken Sandwich

**Wednesday, April 8**

Lunch

WG Hamburger

**Thursday, April 9**

Lunch

Chicken Tikka Masala

**Friday, April 10**

Lunch

WG French Toast

Casserole

with Sausage and Berry

Sauce



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

### ALASKA MARINE LINES

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### Public Notices

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

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that April Lane Miller has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of James Lindell Miller. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to April Lane Miller, Personal Representative, c/o Faulkner Banfield, One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 300, Juneau, Alaska 99801, or filed with the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, First Judicial District at Petersburg, Alaska, 1PE-26-00012 PR.

Published: March 26, April 2 and 9, 2026

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA AT PETERSBURG

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE )  
OF: )  
HOMER HOSEA SARBER, )  
DOB: 04/11/1939 )  
Deceased. )

) Case No. 1PE-25-00019PR

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that SABRINA M.SARBER has been appointed as Personal Representative of the Estate of HOMER HOSEA SARBER. All persons having claims against the Deceased are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the Personal Representative at her address, as follows:

SABRINA M. SARBER  
4938 BARAT CIRCLE  
ANCHORAGE AK 99508  
Phone: (907) 964-2271

E-Mail: aksummitdog@gmail.com

Published: March 19, 26, and April 2, 2026

### Public Notices

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

#### Petersburg School District Is Seeking Quotes For Services

The Petersburg School District is seeking quotes from licensed providers for itinerant special education-related services in the following areas: **Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Educational Psychology.** These services include screening, evaluation, direct service contact, collaboration, and training for the 2026-2027 school year. **Contract specifications are posted on the school district website at www.pcsd.us** and are available at the School District Office, 201 Charles W. Street, Petersburg, AK 99833. Submit quotes to Mara Lutomski at [exec@pcsd.us](mailto:exec@pcsd.us) or (877) 526-7656 ext 100 for additional information. **Quotes are due by 4:00 pm on Monday, April 6th, 2026.**

Published: March 19, 26, and April 2, 2026

#### PETERSBURG BOROUGH ASSEMBLY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Petersburg Borough Assembly will hold a meeting and conduct a public hearing on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers, located at 12 South Nordic Drive, Petersburg, Alaska.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the following:

**Consideration of a recommendation to the Borough Assembly for a lease of approximately 22,000 square feet of borough tidelands to American Cruise Lines for the purpose of constructing a mooring float at the end of Dock Street. (Temporary PID: 01-008-099).**  
Published: April 2, 2026



# Classifieds

until filled. Harbor Way.  
 petersburgwave.org/careers . . . . . tfn10-30b29  
 . . . . . tfn3-5b80  
**First Bank is looking** for a Customer Service Representative/Teller for the Petersburg Branch. If you like to work with customers, enjoy problem solving, are dependable, and you are interested in the position, stop by the branch and let's talk about it. Previous experience is not required. Application can be found online at [www.FirstBankAK.com](http://www.FirstBankAK.com) or at the branch. We offer competitive salaries, health insurance, paid holidays, vacation, 401 (k) retirement plans, employees stock ownership plans and educational opportunities.  
 . . . . . tfn11-13b77

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

Anne 907-518-1912.  
 . . . . . 2x4-2b35

## MISCELLANEOUS

**ALASKA FIBRE INC.**  
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**772-2173**

**Classified deadline** is 5 p.m. each Tuesday for ads appearing in Thursday's paper. Call 772-9393 or drop by at 207 N. Nordic Drive.  
 . . . . . 1x4-2dh

**Office supplies** available at Petersburg Pilot. Paper and pens to crayons. We've got it all. 207 N. Nordic Drive.  
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**The Salty Pantry** is looking for enthusiastic full-time and part-time people to join our team. Contact Mindy at 907-518-0571 or stop in the Salty Pantry at 14

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

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**306 SOUTH HUNGERFORD HILL**  
  
**\$450,000**  
 Fantastic business opportunity to own a low-maintenance, income-generating manufactured (mobile) home park located less than 3 miles from town. This property features 8 units, with one vacant unit ready for you to rent out and boost your cash flow immediately. Tenants pay their own utilities, minimizing landlord expenses to just taxes, insurance, and snow plowing. With instant cash flow and hassle-free management, this mobile home park is a smart investment for steady, reliable income. Don't miss out on this turnkey opportunity!

Spacious 3,190 sq ft waterfront home features 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms, is expertly maintained and move-in ready. Energy-efficient with vaulted ceilings that enhance the open, airy feel. Stunning, unobstructed views of the Narrows right from the large windows in the living and dining areas--perfect for watching boat traffic, ferries, and local wildlife. Positioned just steps from Papke's Landing, you have easy water access for your adventures. With two kitchens and two separate living areas, this versatile property can function as a comfortable multi-family residence or one expansive single-family home. Step out onto the south-facing deck off the formal dining room for full sun exposure and breathtaking views. Additional features include a paved driveway with a carport to protect your vehicle or recreational toys, a large heated shop, and on-demand hot water for ultimate convenience. Experience waterfront living at its finest!

**18 Narrows Drive**  
  
**\$799,000**

  
**Job Openings**

The Petersburg Borough is accepting applications for the following positions:

- Resident Assistants at Mountain View Manor: \$20.67/hour**  
 On Call & Swing shifts available, Training Provided!  
 Bonus of \$900 after probation/\$900 at one year.
- Assisted Living Supervisor at Mountain View Manor: \$29.77/hour**, 40 hours per week, Monday through Thursday

**BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

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Full job descriptions and employment applications can be obtained from the Borough's website at <https://www.petersburgak.gov>. Applications will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough office, 12 S. Nordic Street; or via email at [tiffany.glass@petersburgak.gov](mailto:tiffany.glass@petersburgak.gov) Call Tiffany at 907-772-5404 for more information.

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**Petersburg Medical Center is accepting applications for:**

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  - Differentials: Weekend shift \$2.50 per hour, Evening shift \$1.25 per hour
  - Full time, with benefits, 40 hours per week
- STAFF NURSE – HOME HEALTH / ELDERCARE SERVICES**
  - Provide compassionate care to patients within their homes
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Additional information on PMC, our mission / values and job opportunities is available at [www.pmcak.org](http://www.pmcak.org). Questions contact Cindy at (907) 772-5719 or [cnewman@pmc-health.org](mailto:cnewman@pmc-health.org).

  
 SCAN CODE to view position descriptions & to apply online. Additional career opportunities are listed at [pmcak.org](http://pmcak.org)



Photo courtesy of Mike Reid

## An act of defiance

In Petersburg, on March 28, around 100 protestors took part in the local No Kings rally. Approximately 3,300 similar rallies took place in all 50 states with an estimated 8 million Americans gathering in nonviolent protest of the Trump administration's overreaching policies regarding immigration and the war of aggression against Iran and the resulting rapidly rising cost of living.

Pictured right, some of the rally's participants in Petersburg wore "nisselue," or gnome hats. These traditional red knit hats with a tassel were worn as a silent protest during the 1940-1945 Nazi occupation of Norway. This symbol of unity, identity, and hope against despair was officially outlawed by Nazi authorities in 1942.



Photo courtesy of Robin Roberts

## Canoe Lagoon Oysters looks to double production this year

By **LARRY PERSILY**  
*Wrangell Sentinel*

WRANGELL — Brian Herman, owner of Canoe Lagoon Oysters, didn't attend last month's Mariculture Conference of Alaska in Anchorage. He was busy at work.

Last year, he shipped out about 110,000 oysters raised at his farm 30 miles south of Wrangell on the Blashke Islands. This year he expects to more than double that volume.

"There is a ton of growth potential," Herman said. While the in-state market "is fairly well tapped ... shipping to the Lower 48 is a completely untapped market."

And that's where he focuses his efforts. "I have inquiries every month about our oysters."

Anchorage restaurants and retail shops are served by oyster farms in Homer and Kodiak, he said. Prince of Wales Island oyster farms sell to Ketchikan and Sitka.

Salty Lady Seafood operates an oyster farm about 35 road miles north of downtown Juneau, covering that market.

Herman sees his market in the Lower 48. The cost of shipping oysters south by air freight is about the same as shipping within Alaska, he said.

He uses shipping boxes, lined in insulating foil, a little smaller than a standard fish box, and can average about 20 dozen oysters in a box, allowing room for gel packs to keep the live seafood cold.

He sends out everything aboard Alaska Airlines, either in the cargo hold of the after-

noon southbound passenger flight or the weekly freighter.

"They got to go fresh," and reach the restaurant within three days of harvest, Herman said.

Canoe Lagoon sold 110,000 oysters in 2025 and is looking to sell 250,000 to 300,000 this year.

"We are on track right now to do 240,000 to 250,000," he said, expecting to ramp up the harvest mid-summer.

Demand far exceeds his production capacity, Herman said. He has been building up production since buying the operation in 2020.

One limiting factor is weather. Not so much on the oysters, which grow in submerged "float bags" in the lagoon, feeding on the environment's micronutrients, but on Herman's ability to safely run his boat to Blashke to pick up a load for sorting,

packing and shipping back at his downtown Wrangell shop.

He sorts the oysters by size, using the conveyor-belt contraption that's visible through an interior window of the Canoe Lagoon retail store.

Herman said he expects to miss about four weeks of harvest runs every year due to weather, but this year he already has missed eight or nine weeks due to lousy boating weather.

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*Jhumpa Lahiri*

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