



Photo courtesy of Carey Carmichael Case/Wild Iris Photography

Fall migration

Canada Geese flying south in the morning light over Frederick Sound.

Library Board candidate questionnaires

see page 8

Public Safety Board candidate questionnaires

see page 9

Golden king crabbers push for harvest strategy change

see page 16



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Planning Commission recommends rezoning Skylark parcel

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

During a regular meeting on Sept. 12, the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved a recommendation to change the zoning of Government Lot 14, which is owned by Skylark Park LLC. The property is currently zoned as public use. However, owner Ambre Burrell

proposed a rezoning to single-family mobile home, citing the intention to subdivide the 5-acre parcel into lots for placement of manufactured homes. The proposal asks to make this amendment because the property area is “mis zoned.” The purpose of this shift is to ultimately install affordable housing options in Petersburg. The Planning Commission con-

sidered applicant materials, public commentary and testimony from Ambre Burrell, at the public hearing before unanimously approving to recommend the Borough Assembly rezone this property. The standard 75-by-100-foot lots would provide “a sound and attractive residential neighborhood for single-family mobile homes on standard

residential-size building lots,” according to the language of the proposal. In a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission dated Aug. 8, Sig and Ambre Burrell said the lots will be available for purchase to the public, and the zoning change “will allow a small home to be built or to work with us to bring in a custom designed manufactured home.”

Burrell emphasized that her vision for the property aligns with the housing goals outlined in the 2016 Petersburg Comprehensive plan to increase the availability of affordable, quality housing and “starter homes.” “This zoning change will allow us to create actual affordable housing options for people struggling to find housing in Petersburg. This will also entice investors to purchase a manufactured home on its own lot they could rent out. Creating affordable rental properties will help the rental crisis we are in,” the Burrells stated in the letter. While testifying at the meeting Sept.12, Ambre Burrell said they have a “premium” lot to develop.

School District confident in student safety after threat

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

The Petersburg School District said they are confident in the safety of students and staff at school, following a credible threat made by a student last Thursday. The school responded to the threat with an investigation in cooperation with law enforcement. The Petersburg Police Department told the Pilot there is no present danger to the school. “We evaluated the threat and ... we don’t see it as a threat to the students or to the public,” said PPD Chief Jim Kerr. Superintendent Erica Kludt-Painter told

the Pilot that the situation began when a staff member heard general comments of violence being made by a student in the secondary building and urgently notified Acting Administrator Jamie Cabral, while the rest of the administrative team were out of town attending a safety summit in Anchorage. Cabral communicated with the principal, and later with the superintendent, about the best protocol to handle the situation. Cabral and the principal decided that the comments and threats were credible enough to warrant further investigation, both at the school level and with the Petersburg Police Department. Law enforcement was involved in the conversation that took place at the beginning of the investigation, and continued to sup-

port the district. “We’ve been involved. They notified us right away and we’ve been there through the process,” said Chief Kerr. “We don’t believe there’s a threat to the community or to the students based on the outcome of the investigation.” “We do typically err on the side of involving law enforcement locally here, because ... they have a different set of training than we do in the school,” Kludt-Painter told the Pilot. “It’s challenging to determine credibility of any sort of threat.” Follow up investigations and meetings occurred in cooperation with the police and the student’s family to determine next steps.

Continued on page 3

Continued on page 3

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Yesterday's News

News from 25-50-75-100 years ago

September 21, 1923 – Earl N. Ohmer this week received a sea sled which was designed and built for him by S.V.B. Miller of Seattle and Gregory Hildebrand of the Fair Island fox ranch. The boat is twenty feet long, equipped with a 60-horsepower Scripps engine and at present makes about twenty miles an hour. Ohmer has been tuning up the engine during the past few days and says he expects to get considerably better speed out of the boat.

September 24, 1948 – Heavy winds were given as the reason for damage caused to the boat *Wave* last Sunday at Grief Island. Going to Grief Island last Saturday, Hack and Barney White had more than they could handle even with a 100-pound anchor and six fathoms of anchor chain in the heavy winds on Saturday night and Sunday. According to Hack, the wind blew so terrifically that nothing could stop the boat from drifting ashore as the anchor lay in the mud bottom. Beached on Saturday night on the outgoing tide, the boat still could have been uprighted had it not been for the heavy winds. Lines from shore were made fast but gushing waves filled her with water. Damage was confined to the keel and a few planks and she is now under repair at the shipyard. The *Wave* was towed here by Leonard Martens on the *Star*.

September 20, 1973 – The dream of many old-timer Alaskans is being realized right now as the *M/V Wickersham* is enroute to Southeast Alaska with 320 pioneers aboard. These pioneers, from all over the United States, signed on for a final cruise aboard the Wicky before she is retired from the Alaska Marine Highway and sold. The voyage will take them to Ketchikan, Wrangell, Sitka, Haines, Skagway, Juneau and finally into Petersburg. The whole trip is the brainchild of Bud Clark of Seattle, who came up with the idea two years ago. Clark is a native Alaskan who, unfortunately for him, finds it necessary to conduct his business from Seattle rather than Alaska. Clark, in many discussions with the old-timers around Seattle, found that their fondest dream was to return for a final trip to Alaska. But many were without means, so Clark enlisted the aid of his lodge of the Pioneers of Alaska in Seattle for his plan. The story of the projected trip hit the Seattle papers and Clark was swamped with phone calls from all over the USA and Canada. People who had pioneered in Alaska wanted to make the trip and the problem of having a full

shipload was solved. Aside from the regular ship's company, the tour includes a doctor and a nurse long for any emergencies, as most of those aboard the vessel are of an advanced age. The Wickersham will arrive in Petersburg on Tuesday afternoon at 5:30 and a number of organizations are preparing for their stopover. The Chamber of Commerce will be contacting local vessel owners who would be willing to meet the ship near the entrance to the Wrangell Narrows and escort the group to the terminal. Vikings and their ladies in full costume will greet the visitors at the terminal and escort them into town. Evidently transportation from the terminal to town is a problem and anyone who is willing to furnish a car is urged to contact Harold Lee. It is the realization of a dream for many of these pioneers and, although the notice of the visit was short, let's give these deserving people a real Petersburg "VELKOMMEN!"

September 17, 1998 – A weak Yukon River chum salmon run has the interior's mushers worried that they'll have to rely on costly commercial dog food to feed their dogs this winter. Mike Sager is a good example. The Eagle resident's fish wheel

usually scoops fall chum from the Yukon faster than he can split them and hang them on the drying rack. Most years it only takes a week or two for him to catch the 2,500 fall chums he uses to feed his twelve sled dogs. "Often by this time it's catching 300 a day," Sager told the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. Not this year. A few weeks ago Sager caught ten fish in forty-eight hours. An order of commercial dog food is on the

way. "It's so bad I'm not even going to turn that wheel no more," he said. "Nobody is catching anything, really." Brian Asplund's freezer is empty. The Circle trapper and commercial fisherman usually pulls about 3,000 chum and king salmon from the Yukon River. He sells the eggs as caviar and feeds the carcasses to his sled dogs. This year, like Sager, he'll be feeding his dogs commercial food.

Mitkof Mummers is hosting COSTUME SALE



Saturday, October 7th
9am - 4pm
@ Elk's Lodge (upstairs)

just in time for Halloween



P-W Insurance
772-3858 or 1-800-478-3858
We provide a full range of insurance services:
Life, hospitalization, homeowners, auto, renters, boat and more.



Stikine River
Gauge Reading
12.34'
(Reading taken 7:30 pm)
Forecast for 6 am, Saturday 15.07'

Brought to you by

ROCKY'S MARINE

772-3949



YAMAHA

Jet Boating Since 1967

Tune in to the Borough Assembly Candidates Forum
Thursday, September 21st, 6 - 8 pm
in Borough Assembly Chambers
& broadcast on KFSK

PETERSBURG HAPPENINGS

Brought to you by:



Alaska AIRLINES

THURSDAY, September 21

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance: 10:00am, Mitkof Dance Studio
Stories In Motion: 11:00am, Public Library
PIA Board Meeting: 5:00 pm, PIA Building
Borough Assembly Candidates Forum: 6:00 pm, Assembly Chambers

FRIDAY, September 22

Stories In Motion: 11:00am, Public Library
Al-Anon Support Group: 12:00pm, Episcopal Church
Reconnect Petersburg Volunteer Fair: 4:00pm, Sons of Norway Hall
Bingo Night: 6:00pm, Sons of Norway Hall
AA Candlelight Meeting: 7:00pm, Episcopal Church

SATURDAY, September 23

MS CrossCountry Meet vs. Wrangell: 12:00pm, Elementary School
Kids Can Code: 1:00pm, Public Library

MONDAY, September 25

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, September 26

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance: 10:00am, Mitkof Dance Studio
AA 12x12 Meeting: 7:00 pm, Holy Cross Classroom

WEDNESDAY, September 20

Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall
Bingocize Strength Building and Social Engagement: 10:00 am, Parks & Rec Community Center
PSG Rotary Lunch and Fellowship: 12:00pm, Salvation Army Hall
KFSK Board Meeting: 5:30pm
Free Supper: 6:00pm, First Baptist Church

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

Northern Nights Theater

This Weekend:

Blue Beetle

2h 7m • Rated PG-13

Action/Adventure

Showings:

Friday & Saturday @ 7 pm

Sunday @ 4 pm

Next weekend:

Gran Turismo

Concessions available.
Credit cards accepted.

650-7626



Date	High	Low	Precip
Sep 13	55	49	0.38
Sep 14	55	50	2.44
Sep 15	54	48	1.72
Sep 16	55	50	0.18
Sep 17	57	51	1.72
Sep 18	53	47	0.78
Sep 19	58	47	0.35

This Week's Precipitation: 7.57"
This weather service is provided by the FAA weather observation station at the James A. Johnson Airport.

DAYLIGHT HOURS



Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Sep 21	6:31a	6:55p	12:24hrs
Sep 22	6:33a	6:53p	12:20hrs
Sep 23	6:35a	6:50p	12:15hrs
Sep 24	6:37a	6:47p	12:10hrs
Sep 25	6:39a	6:44p	12:05hrs
Sep 26	6:41a	6:42p	12:01hrs
Sep 27	6:44a	6:39p	11:55hrs

FERRY SCHEDULE

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

NORTHBOUND DEPARTURES

SUN	09/24	COLUMBIA	06:00 P.M.
FRI	10/06	COLUMBIA	08:30 P.M.
SAT	10/14	COLUMBIA	12:15 A.M.
FRI	10/20	COLUMBIA	07:00 P.M.
SAT	10/28	COLUMBIA	12:00 A.M.

SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURES

TUE	09/26	COLUMBIA	11:15 P.M.
MON	10/09	COLUMBIA	12:15 A.M.
MON	10/16	COLUMBIA	04:00 A.M.
SUN	10/22	COLUMBIA	10:00 P.M.
MON	10/30	COLUMBIA	04:15 A.M.

PRESENTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY:



PETERSBURG
TIDE TABLE
SEPTEMBER 2023

	HIGH TIDES				LOW TIDES			
	A.M.		P.M.		A.M.		P.M.	
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
21 Thu	5:42	12.1	5:24	14.9	11:19	4.6
22 Fri	6:52	11.1	6:25	14.0	0:26	1.8	12:16	5.8
23 Sat	8:31	10.8	7:53	13.6	1:47	2.3	1:46	6.5
24 Sun	10:05	11.6	9:29	14.0	3:20	1.9	3:32	6.0
25 Mon	11:08	13.1	10:45	15.3	4:37	0.9	4:52	4.5
26 Tue	11:55	14.7	11:46	16.6	5:34	-0.4	5:50	2.5
27 Wed	12:36	16.3	6:21	-1.5	6:39	0.5

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Facebook: @PistonRudderServiceInc

Skylark project

Continued from page 1

“We privately own all the utilities and the road up to Skylark, which we have to maintain. The goal is to put in lots, put in the utilities, at our expense, to turn around and sell them.”

She said that the estimated costs for developing lots in Petersburg do not fall into an affordable category for a median-income family. “Not affordable. At all.”

The Burrells realized the potential for action and “moved forward in putting down 50% on a manufactured home,” which she expected to arrive this week.

Burrell said the manufac-

tured homes are “nice homes — something that people can be proud of.”

“We receive calls on a regular basis of people looking for homes because they can’t afford to live in Petersburg.”

The parcel is mostly vacant, with the surrounding area a mix of residential dwellings and vacant land. If the proposed plans for Skylark Park are seen through, a green belt owned by the Borough will still exist between the Skylark subdivision and the Severson Subdivision. “There’s a 150 foot greenbelt between our project and any house. As you move up the road, there’s a whole five acre parcel that is between our

... proposed project and Severson’s subdivision,” Burrell testified at the meeting.

“I’ve spoken to so many people in this community — everyone is excited about it, until it’s in your backyard. And as soon as that happens, all of a sudden nobody wants it.”

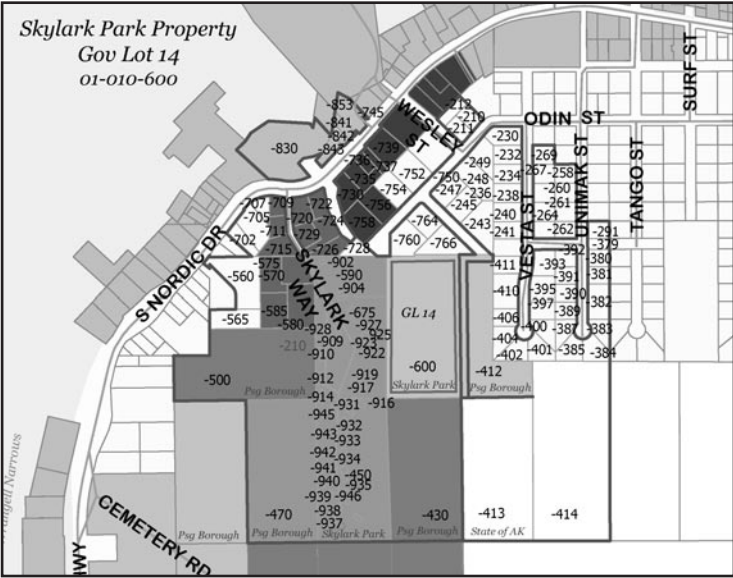
Assembly member Donna Marsh testified at the meeting in opposition of the rezoning recommendation. She noted that she lived in McGill’s trailer park for almost six years when she first moved to Petersburg before moving and raising her family at Severson Subdivision, where she praised the opportunity for playful exploration within the open space south of her home. “It’s been a marvelous place to be, so the thought of developing — even if it were, and I’m going to use this loosely, the Taj Mahal — I would be reticent to see this zoning change because of the open space being so critical and so close to town,” Marsh testified. A letter dated Sept. 5 and signed by Kirt, Donna and Evan Marsh was also sent to the Planning and Zoning Commission, writing in opposition to approving the rezoning request.

“Mobile home parks in Petersburg and even across the country often are not places of cleanliness and beauty. Crime is much more prevalent and frequently, they are not well kept,” stated the letter. “These factors will affect negatively the neighbors in Severson Subdivision and will also negatively affect property values.” No factual data was offered to support these claims.

Cynthia Lynn also testified at the meeting in opposition of this proposal due to concerns with it potentially increasing vehicle traffic. She urged the Planning Commission to “please take a break and consider the impact on the people that live around here.”

Assembly member Dave Kensinger spoke after Lynn, speaking from his role as Chair of the Housing Task Force and in support of Burrell’s proposal. “We need affordable housing,” he testified.

Kensinger said that, “unless the borough wants to go out and spend their own money to develop housing,” the Borough can change zoning or make land available to help deal with the housing crisis. He noted one of



This map shows the location of the Skylark Park Property, Gov Lot 14.

the primary recommendations made to the Borough in the Petersburg Housing Needs Assessment was to develop an area to put manufactured homes on small lots.

“I think this is a good idea ... when you change zoning you have to look at it very carefully. You have to look at the impacts and most important of all you have to mitigate those impacts ... So take your time on it but I encourage you to do it,” he concluded his testimony.

During the Borough Business program Sept. 19 on KFSK, Kensinger told Lynn, who had called in regarding the Skylark project, that “this development is specifically, not necessarily a trailer court, but for a manufactured home housing development.” He noted that this proposal has not appeared in front of the Assembly yet.

“Now, the comment about just because you have low-income housing, means you’re going to have drugs and stuff ... that’s not really a Planning and Zoning issue, that’s more of a police issue,” Kensinger said. “If we’re having an issue in a neighborhood where there’s a lot of crime or drug use, then the appropriate venue to deal with that is with the police department.”

Stacie McGill testified in opposition of the rezoning proposal, saying she often cleans up garbage and feeds skinny unleashed pets that she believes come from nearby trailer homes. “Who are we trying to attract to come to Petersburg? Are we trying to attract outsiders? Or are we trying to keep the Alaskan

people there?” she said.

Joel Randrup called in to the meeting in support of the project and to urge the Planning Commission to vote yes on rezoning the property. “I think this is a good project. I think any problems that I’ve heard so far could easily be mitigated by different methods of management of whatever problems are happening with pets or garbage or different things ... That’s just a neighborhood thing,” he said.

Sarah Fine-Walsh was the last to testify at the meeting. She spoke in favor of Burrell’s plan. “It sounds like there’s some kerfuffle over why privately owned land is zoned public use. But regardless, [the Burrells] already own it. And I think their plan is wonderful, for manufactured homes.”

“We really need working class housing if we’re gonna keep the working class working,” she said.

“We are ready to put our money where our mouths are,” Burrell concluded at the end of her timed testimony. “We are ready to solve your affordable housing problem. We just need you to give us the OK.”

It was in the interest of the Planning and Zoning Commission to move forward with this opportunity to address the present housing crisis in Petersburg. All five commission members present voiced support for the project, and unanimously moved to recommend the borough rezone the property as proposed.

The decision to change the zoning is now left to the Borough Assembly.

School threat

Continued from page 1

Police are “aware of plans moving forward with regard to consequences and supports,” said Kludt-Painter.

She said while the first reaction of responding to these types of situations is with law enforcement, it is essential to couple that response with other supports.

“We are confident in the plan we have moving forward to [provide] appropriate consequences, as well as supports for all of our students, you know, not just the student who ... has made these ... concerning comments, but also other students.”

The Superintendent said considering the motivation behind any threat is an important part of responding effectively.

“When students make comments or threats of harm toward themselves or others, even in a general sense, it has to be a balanced response of appropriate consequences and appropriate supports, because kids don’t make threats if they don’t need some additional supports,” she said. “Often, the research says ... it can be a cry for help, so that’s why it has to be balanced,” she said.

The school took precautions and the student was not in school after the comments were made, Kludt-Painter told the Pilot. According to an update from the district on Sunday evening, the student is home and under family supervision.

Kludt-Painter said the situation is “delicate and complex,” and she cannot provide the public with a straightforward answer about working with the student and the family individually.

School District had issued a brief initial announcement Friday evening informing families that a threat had been received, law enforcement was involved, and they believed there was no imminent danger to students or staff. Rumors stirred in the community as concerned families waited for an update, which the district released on Sunday night.

“One of the rumors that’s out there, that we actually quelled quickly with our kids [on Tuesday], is [claiming] that there was a weapon of some sort on site. And that was never the case,” Kludt-Painter clarified. “There was never a weapon on site during any of this.”

The superintendent told the Pilot how the district is aware that communication can and should be improved. “Fortunately ... we rarely, rarely — if ever — have dealt with one of these situations.”

She said the district will certainly be reviewing their communication and response processes, but stressed that, “Rumors are not helpful to anyone, to any of our students, to the families, [or] to the school overall.”

She encourages people with specific concerns to direct them to the principal, the main offices, or herself, but noted there are limits to what information can be shared because there are federal laws in place that prohibit the sharing of certain information.

After the next steps of the investigation on Monday, the police are still available in a cooperative sense and will be involved as needed, Kludt-Painter said.

Police were present on campus this week, and will be “for the near future” because the district understands “that these are hard situations and people are uneasy. And ... for some students and staff, that provides ... another measure of reassurance.”

“If there are people that are upset, they will see an officer present at different times throughout ... the day at school,” said Chief Kerr. “We realize during times like this, tensions are high. Parents who don’t know, do have higher anxiety levels. And so we’re just trying to help reassure them that everything’s okay.”

Kludt-Painter says navigating difficult situations presents opportunities for improvement and shines light on challenges that kids are dealing with in general. “These are some tough times. We have a lot of kids that ... need lots of support, you know, and it shines a light on ... the continued need for that [support].”

petersburg arts council presents

MIKE BLOCK TRIO

co-sponsored by Petersburg Rotary

“a burst of musical potency to the ears ... chamber music stirred gently with a bluegrass spoon. These fellows have a good grip on entertainment with classical instruments. Highly recommended.”

7 pm, Sept 28
Wright Auditorium
\$20 Door/ \$15 Lee’s Clothing

To the Editor

Do we really need a new hospital?

To the Editor:

When I first heard about the hospital project, like many of you, I had a lot of questions.

Do we really need a new hospital? The clinic, which is the part I mainly visit, looks great.

And, how in the world would we pay for an \$85 million facility?

Phil Hostetter and the hospital board informed me on both questions.

First, they started with a study of the current hospital. The original hospital, where Long Term Care is located, dates to the 1950s and is failing rapidly due to poor plumbing and rooms that do not meet current standards for care. The new part, which was built in the 1980s, was constructed to the more relaxed codes of that time, which means that the building would not survive a moderate earthquake. Living on a remote island, the last building we want standing in a natural disaster is our hospital.

Okay, how do we come up with 85 million dollars? No way can we bond for that amount of money. The fact is, it's through a bewildering number of grants from the state and the feds. Indeed, if anyone else, like SEARHC or Peace Health, came to town, they would use the same grants to build their project.

So, what happens if we do not proceed with a new hospital? We can probably keep putting band aids on the existing hospital for another five years or more, but we'd run the risk of losing the long term care portion - either due to a system failure or by running out of compliance with monitored care requirements. If we lose long term care, we'll have to send our elders out of our community, away from their family and friends. We will also lose our designation as a critical access hospital, a designation that is required to have large numbers of Coast Guard personnel and Forest Service employees in our town.

We're working hard to attract a large buoy tender and to develop a new harbor with a drive down dock at Scow Bay.

One of the first questions the Coast Guard Admiral and Army Corps Commandant asked when they came to town was whether or not our community hospital is designated as a critical access hospital.

We have a hospital that has never required your tax dollars to fund its operations. Hospital management achieves this by being very careful to provide services that will pay for themselves.

We have a hospital planned that, if constructed, will last for another fifty years or more. A hospital that will be cheaper to operate and maintain. A hospital that will enable our elders to remain in their community. All while not requiring any local tax dollars.

I urge you to ask all the candidates, whether for the hospital board member or the assembly, if they will support construction of a new hospital.

I ask a simple question: will you support, with your vote, a new hospital in our community?

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your assembly member,
Dave Kensinger

Let's keep moving forward

To the Editor:

I'm curious why people say we can't afford a new, safe, modern hospital and long term care facility. Is it fear of property taxes? The Petersburg Medical Center doesn't receive any local taxes and never has. The hospital boards and administrators have had to balance their budgets to provide us with all the health care services we have.

The 2015 condition assessment by Jensen Yorba Lott Architects states "PMC's facility hasn't changed significantly for 30 years, yet health care services, technology, health care guidelines and building codes have changed."

Now Phil Hofstetter and the board are working hard to find grants, infrastructure money and outside

funding for the new facility. They have made a very good start. All the studies and planning for the new hospital have been done in well advertised open meetings. And all the information is on their website.

PMC is one of the largest employers in Petersburg. It provides training for nurses, nursing assistants and medical assistants. It's wonderful to see Petersburg High School graduates working in nursing, IT, the lab, imaging and other departments.

Good schools, hospitals and libraries are things that attract families to Petersburg. Let's keep moving forward.

Susan Flint
25 years RN
10 years hospital board

Meucci and Kensinger

To the Editor:

We would like to thank Assembly Members Jeff Meucci and Dave Kensinger for taking the lead on creating a robust, dynamic safety culture in the Petersburg Borough.

They were instrumental in bringing forth this issue time and time again at numerous assembly meetings.

Through their efforts APEI (the Borough's insurance carrier) met with the Borough administration, staff, employees and assembly to conduct a review of the Borough's safety and human resources.

After that review APEI provided an easy-to-read, actionable document to the Borough and the community. It is a detailed roadmap for the Borough as to what needs to be fixed, provides instructions on how to fix those areas and recommendations as to how to go forward.

Because of Jeff and Dave's efforts, the Borough (as of the 9/18 assembly meeting) has promised there will be transparency, oversight and accountability in the Borough's efforts to follow APEI recommendations.

Which in turn will make Petersburg a safer community for Borough

employees, its citizens and visitors.

We would also like to thank the community of Petersburg.

This profound change towards employee's safety was brought about because of your public input.

It would have NEVER happened without you!

RD and Madonna Parks

Concern about a candidate

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my concern about a current candidate for the Public Safety Advisory Board, Tony Vinson. For nearly a year, this individual displayed a large banner that included what most of us would consider offensive language. I have no concern with the political opinion he was displaying, although it could be argued the sign crossed the line from expressing one's viewpoint to spreading offensive messages. However, I can only wonder how many kids on their way to and from school read that sign and asked questions of their parents or peers as to what that word actually meant and older students learning that this was an acceptable way of displaying public sentiment. Obviously individuals have the right to express whatever opinions they have, but public vulgarity displayed in a residential area two blocks from school seems to cross a line, for many of us anyway. The right to participate on any elected board carries many unwritten responsibilities: due diligence with respect to learning and understanding issues, a willingness to consider all aspects of an issue, and the ability to work with other board members and the public when tackling controversial issues. The displaying of the offending sign tells me this individual likely is not up to those responsibilities, especially for a board that is concerned with Public Safety. There are several qualified candidates for this board, please consider this when casting your vote.

Dan Sullivan

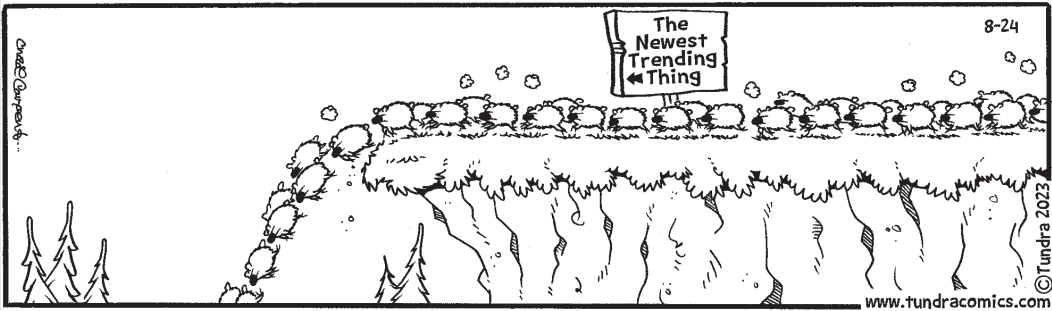
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



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



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Police report

September 13 - Petersburg Police Department received a report of a dog barking on Excel Street. The owner brought it inside.

A report of theft was filed.

September 14 - An officer conducted a welfare check on Skylark Way.

An officer responded to a report of a suspicious incident on North Nordic Drive.

PPD received a report of property lost on Sing Lee Alley.

A search warrant was executed.

PPD received a report of suspicious activity on Haugen Drive.

September 15 - An officer responding to the report of a bear getting into trash on Lumber Street was unable to locate the animal.

An officer responding to a report of items falling out of a truck along Libby Straits removed styrofoam pieces from the roadway.

An alarm activated at pump station #5. Water Wastewater (W/WW) was notified and

responded.

An officer assisted a motorist with an after hours lockout.

An officer responded to a report of a fire on Haugen Drive.

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

An officer responding to a report of minors violating curfew on Sing Lee Alley found them gone upon arrival and was unable to locate the youth.

September 16 - PPD received a report of an inoperable streetlight on

Lumber Street. Petersburg Power and Light (PP&L) was notified.

An officer conducted foot patrols downtown.

Jeffery Doerrer was charged with violating conditions of release.

An officer responded to a report of a disabled vehicle on North Nordic Drive.

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

An officer assisted EMS on Haugen Drive.

An officer responded to a noise complaint on South 5th Street and the responsible party curtailed their loud music.

PPD received a report of a possibly wind damaged roof and notified the owner of the property.

September 17 - PPD received an E911 text from Dry Straits Road. Alaska State Troopers (AST) were notified and responded.

An officer noticed an interior light on in a vehicle at South Harbor and had dispatch notify its owner.

An officer responding to a parking complaint on Chief

John Lott Street found the vehicle was no longer there.

A deer struck and killed by a vehicle on Mitkof Highway was unsalvageable.

September 18 - An officer conducted additional patrols on Charles W Street.

The officer responding to a report of suspicious activity on Aaslaug Street found all okay.

Melissa Moore was charged with violating conditions of release on Chief John Lott Street.

An officer provided a civil standby on Excel Street.

September 19 - A subpoena was served.

An officer spoke with an individual concerning a civil issue.

Vehicles that were illegally parked and impeding traffic on Birch Street were moved at the direction of an officer.

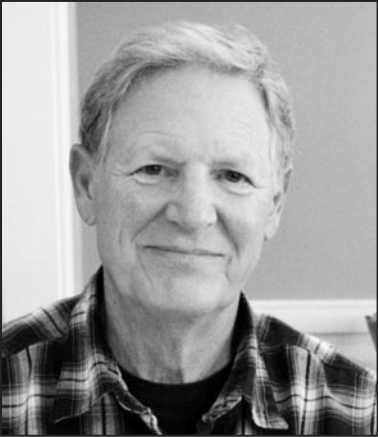
An officer responding to a report of suspicious activity on South Nordic Drive determined it was unfounded.

An officer spoke with an individual on South 3rd Street.

An officer responding to a report of fireworks being discharged on South 2nd Street was unable to locate the source.

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

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- ☑ Experience with commercial construction projects.
- ☑ Served on Petersburg’s Hospital Board for 4 years.
- ☑ Fiscally responsible.
- ☑ Petersburg resident for 9+ years.
- ☑ Vietnam Veteran, U.S. Air Force.

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Paid for by Jim Roberts, Box 1836, Petersburg, AK 99833



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Programs administered by Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), under the oversight of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

I. LIFELINE PHONE OR INTERNET DISCOUNTS

The Lifeline program provides eligible low-income residential customers a reduction in one of the following services:

Basic Landline Phone; or Wireless Phone; or Internet

- Internet Must meet the FCC Annual Minimum Standards for Speed
- Customers may not receive Lifeline services from more than one provider or more than one service type.
- Link-Up service covers a portion of new service installation for non-recurring connection fees and is available only once per customer at the same residence.

To find out if you qualify for this program:

Go to <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/> for information or to submit an application online. You may also print out a mail-in application or contact your local service provider for assistance.

2. AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM (ACP) INTERNET DISCOUNT

The Affordable Connectivity Program provides:

Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands;

- All of Alaska is considered Tribal for these programs
- The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount per household.

To find out if you qualify for this program:

Go to <https://www.ACPBenefit.org> for information or to submit an online application. You may also print out a mail-in application or contact your local service provider for assistance.

If signing up for both programs, you must apply for and be approved for Lifeline first.

You may also contact your local AP&T office for more information on these programs or visit our website at <https://www.aptalaska.com/>



OLIVIA ROSE / Petersburg Pilot

Rainforest mushrooms

After sharing a presentation about Southeast’s species of mushrooms on Thursday night at the public library, members of the community had the opportunity to find fungi out in the wild during Gregovich’s mushroom walks on Friday and Saturday. Pictured above, he answers a participant’s question after the group had sorted through the table of mushrooms they collected during the event’s 30-minute free-for-all ‘shroom hunt at Sandy Beach.



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Re-elect Jeff Meucci for Borough Assembly

I would be honored to have your vote
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- ✓ A strong school is the heart of a strong, vibrant community. Attracting quality teachers, providing quality programs and supporting trade and vocational education are all essential and I unequivocally support continued full funding for the quality education Petersburg School District provides.
- ✓ I believe that forward looking Borough policies can enhance opportunities for private enterprise to improve access to affordable housing. Such as putting borough property onto the market, flexible zoning regulations and open communication with private enterprise and PIA as they develop new housing options.
- ✓ I fully support the work of the Hospital Board and the CEO with their recommendations to build a new facility. This facility will replace an aging, out of compliance building, improve medical care for the community, and, like the schools, keep Petersburg a strong and vibrant community for all.

*I will listen to your concerns, use your input and thoughts as
a vital part of my decision making process.*

*I will always make my decisions based on what I feel is in
the best interest of the entire community.*

**I can be reached at 907 518 9007 and I would love to hear your thoughts.
I would appreciate your vote for Borough Assembly on October 3rd.**

Paid for by Jeff Meucci, Box 1086, Petersburg, AK, 99833



PHS cross country ramps up towards regionals

By **LIAM DEMKO**
Pilot writer

With two dominant performances under their belt in Klawock and Wrangell, Petersburg High School’s cross country team is training harder and harder as they get closer to regionals.

They faced tough competition at their third meet in Sitka last weekend and met the challenge head on.

"[It was the] biggest race in Southeast. About 260 kids racing, around 160 boys, 100 girls," said head coach Casey Gates.

"It's [all] wearing on the kids—as to be expected—but they're enduring it."

Despite the difficulty and a gray forecast on race day, Petersburg’s runners continued to shine.

In the boys race, the team ran strong amongst a set of fierce competitors.

"The boys did good, we got seventh place out of 16 teams. It was a far bigger race than anything we've done so far this year," said Gates.

"For a program of our size, finishing seventh was really good. We're racing with some of the top teams in the state, so we did well as a team."

Alex Holmgrain led the boys, coming in at 28th and continuing his streak of personal records with a time of 18:18.16.

Elias Ward quickly followed in 34th, with an exceptional performance in his second race of the season.

"Elias Ward had an excellent race. He had his all-time PR, he ran under 19 minutes, 18:58,



Kinley Lister crossing the finish line in Sitka with a fast time of 22:38:47

Photo courtesy of James Poulson / Sitka Daily Sentinel

which was great. That was a really big milestone for him," said Gates.

The rest of the team’s top five was made up by Ben Kandoll, Tyler Ward, and Calder Ratliff, coming in at 48th, 70th, and 79th respectively.

And the last few boys weren’t too far behind, with Ethan Bertagnoli in 111th, Waylon Jones in 115th, and Adrian Ducat in 118th.

Right after the boys race, the

girls put on another strong showing, with a pep in their step and a lot to be excited for.

Team scores are based on the results of a program’s top five runners. During the first few races of the season, the PHS girls didn’t rank as a team due to only having four out of the five needed members.

But if things go well, they’re hoping to have a fifth runner just in time for regionals.

"They're very excited, and if

everything works out and we have five girls at the line in regions, we should be pretty successful. So they're really excited about that," said Gates.

Maria Toth led the team once again, coming in 11th with a time of 22:07.24, followed quickly by Kinley Lister, who came in 14th with a time of 22:38.47.

Just a few minutes behind, Gabrielle Whitacre came in 30th with a time of 24:25.85—running her fastest race of the season—and Kate Thompson followed her in 43rd, with a time of 25:22.18.

"Kinley has been rock solid all year long running really well. In a tough week she was able to be steady and consistent and

ran a really good race," said Gates.

"[And] this is Kate's first race, so it was great to have her. She did good, especially for her first race."

PHS cross country has a lot to be proud of after their third performance in Sitka, and a lot to be excited for.

With their last meet before regionals coming up this next weekend, the team is in the final stretch of training.

"Like last week, we're increasing and amping up the intensity and volume just by a little bit," said Gates.

And with the season coming to a close, the team is working hard to make sure all their effort pays off.

PHS swim continues to train hard and race harder

By **LIAM DEMKO**
Pilot writer

Petersburg High School’s swim team of two is quickly accelerating towards the back half of their season with another strong performance in Juneau last weekend.

After an above and beyond first meet in Sitka, the duo of Logan Tow and Brooklyn Whitethorn are training harder and harder each week with the goal of a successful regionals, and possibly state.

"I'm pretty excited. I think they both might qualify for the state meet," said head coach Andy Carlisle.

Tow and Whitethorn both had standout showings across the course of last weekend’s two-day competition.

"Logan's 200 Freestyle on Friday was outstanding, and his 500 Free was his best time," said Carlisle.

Tow’s 200 and 500 Yard

Freestyle performances landed him in fifth and third respectively, with times of 2:02.1 and 5:28.86.

Not to be outdone, Whitethorn came in fifth for her 200 Yard IM and 100 Yard Freestyle with times of 2:29.95 and 59.81.

And on Saturday, she had a great showing in the Girls 50 Yard Backstroke, coming in at seventh with a time of 1:07.11.

With ambitious goals for the end of the season, the performances continue to improve and the training continues to intensify.

"I [worked] them pretty hard and they did well. We had several best times and really good racing," said Carlisle.

"So yeah, they'll probably get [worked] hard again these next two weeks."

The team competes next at the Sept. 29 and 30 meet in Ketchikan.

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Library Board Candidates Questionnaire

Mary Ellen Anderson

Why have you chosen to run for Library Board at this time?

I love being on the library board and serving my community. I'm very well suited as the former elementary school librarian at Stedman—a position I held for 19 years. I started early in the library world, numbering and checking out my dad's classic Dickens collection to neighborhood friends when I was about 10. Oddly enough, there were only a couple takers. I then worked for the library in high school, and as an adult at the Seattle Public Library for a few years before moving to Alaska. I enjoy supporting and advising our amazing staff as they develop programming and develop the collection to meet the diverse needs of our community.



Mary Ellen Anderson

What do you feel is the ideal role of a library in a community?

The library is the one place in town where everyone, without cost or membership requirements, can freely access knowledge and information, whether in print or online. Along with free public education, the library is one of the great

equalizers in society—as envisioned by many since our country's founding, including Andrew Carnegie, who used his fortune to build libraries all across the country, as he recognized the need for an educated populace. In addition to a wide range of materials, the library provides meeting rooms for anyone to use, and programming ranging from the Manhattan Short Film Festival to talks on fungus, from art classes to yoga sessions and everything in between. The library is also the place any person in town can simply “be” for free.

Please describe the ways that you and your family make use of the Petersburg Public Library?

We love to check out books, movies, and we use the online digital materials regularly as well. We

attend many of the events sponsored by the library, especially the Film Festival and art classes. I personally enjoy helping with and purchasing from the monthly used book sales put on by the Friends of Petersburg Libraries.

What, in your view, is the biggest challenge facing Petersburg's library?

A number of years ago, I used to hear from people that they would like to have additional hours of operation, but in order to stay within our current budget, the staff worked at shifting the open hours around and we now think we have met the needs of most people. Ever-changing technology advancements is another challenge, but our staff all keep up to speed on that front and manage it flawlessly. Other than that, we believe

we have a very smooth-running operation, overall. Any board member is always open to hearing about issues people may have, of course!

What is something you think Petersburg Public Library does well, and what is something you may like to see done differently?

I think the library provides excellent programming for all ages, in a wide variety of interest areas, and is very responsive to any member of the public requesting materials to purchase.

As far as things done differently, I'm unable to come up with any suggestions. But again, if anyone has ideas for change, bring it to the staff, or to the public board meetings we have once per month.

Tina Buschmann



Tina Buschmann

Why have you chosen to run for Library Board at this time?

I want to get more involved in the community and the Library seems like a non-controversial place to start.

What do you feel is the ideal role of a library in a community?

In a community, the library should be a place where the pub-

lic feels comfortable going to enjoy books, peace and quiet, gather for meetings and presentations, and, very importantly, to introduce children to reading.

Please describe the ways that you and your family make use of the Petersburg Public Library?

I currently use the library for books and audio books but, as the

grandma of an almost one year old, I'll soon be taking advantage of all the children's programs.

What, in your view, is the biggest challenge facing Petersburg's library?

More than ever there has been controversy over what reading materials should be available to our children and Petersburg has to face that challenge.

What is something you think Petersburg Public Library does well, and what is something you may like to see done differently?

I think the staff at the Petersburg Public Library has made a safe and welcoming place for teens. I would like to see open hours on Sunday.

Marilyn Menish Meucci

Why have you chosen to run for Library Board at this time?

First I want to thank everyone that has voted for me in previous elections and trusted me to do a good job. I am presently on the board and have enjoyed my time. I feel I contribute to the conversation and would like to continue being on the library board.

What do you feel is the ideal role of a library in a community?

The ideal role of a library is to have books and programs available for all age groups to expand their knowledge and vision of the world around them, not just in Pe-



Marilyn Menish Meucci

tersburg but the whole world!

Please describe the ways that you and your family make use of the Petersburg Public Library?

What do you feel is the ideal role of a library in a community?

Our family motto passed down from my mom is “A child who reads is a child who leads”. So the library has always been important to our family. When my girls were young and we would go to the library, they would go straight to the children's section and start picking out books and looking at them. It was a place where they could choose what they wanted. Because of the size of the library then we did not have near the programs that are available now. My family has grown and now my grandkids use the library and thoroughly enjoy all

of the book choices and reading time. There are so many programs available for all different ages.

What, in your view, is the biggest challenge facing Petersburg's library?

Funding! Our director does a wonderful job of getting grants and matching grants to buy books, sponsor a program, and get new equipment but none of these things pay for salaries. We have a bare bones staff which is why when a staff member gets sick or takes vacation sometimes the library closes on Mondays for a few weeks.

What is something you think

Petersburg Public Library does well, and what is something you may like to see done differently?

There are so many things the Library does well it's hard to pick. The book collection and the fact that we can access books from all over Alaska if a book is not available here. Also all the programs that are offered for all ages and interests, such as the Creative writing class for adults, painting classes for adults and kids, coding classes for the kids and the map making class for kids. Right now I can't think of anything different the library should be doing.

Lizzie Thompson

Why have you chosen to run for Library Board at this time?

I've enjoyed being a member of this highly functioning board since 2010 and am running now because I want to see the library continue to offer its remarkable slate of opportunities to any member of the community who chooses to take advantage of its excellent collections and programming.

What do you feel is the ideal role of a library in a community?

To provide anyone access to information and education regardless of their socioeconomic status.

As a child the library was a safe and enriching place I could count on and I want that for all the kids in our community.

Please describe the ways that you and your family make use of the Petersburg Public Library?

When I was new to Petersburg the children's story hour introduced me to a community of moms who continue to be dear friends. During many summers tendering on our boat, stacks of books and CDs helped us pass the time on rainy days and long passages. The library's program-



Lizzie Thompson

ming has enriched our lives with art classes, informational lectures, film festivals, podcasts and, for

me, the Rainforest Writers workshops. We also renew our passports there.

What, in your view, is the biggest challenge facing Petersburg's library?

Right now, I think funding is our biggest challenge. Currently the library is closed on Sundays. Especially during the dark days of winter, I would prefer the library (and Parks and Rec) to be open all weekend when kids are out of school and looking for a safe place to go.

What is something you think Petersburg Public Library does

well, and what is something you may like to see done differently?

Library Director Tara Alcock is excellent at securing grants that allow the library to provide an impressive diversity of programming. I'm equally impressed by the professionalism of its staff, how beautifully maintained the facility and its gardens are, and how the collection is constantly being upgraded and improved to serve all its patrons. As mentioned earlier, I would love to see the library open all weekend when children are out of school.

JoAnn Thynes

Why have you chosen to run for Library Board at this time?

I have lived in this community for over 34 years and would like to support the community however I can. A library is an important asset in a community, benefiting all ages.

What do you feel is the ideal role of a library in a community?

Using books, material, media

and programs, I believe a healthy library provides choices to enhance knowledge, learn about far away places and provide resources to address questions.

Please describe the ways that you and your family make use of the Petersburg Public Library?

I would not consider myself a heavy user of the local library at this stage of my life. Throughout my childhood, I was a regular

user, be it the local or school library. I remain a reader and consumer of digital media.

What, in your view, is the biggest challenge facing Petersburg's library?

Having read some of the past meeting minutes, outside of the normal budgetary issues and potential of material challenges I am not aware of any major challenges facing our present local library. I desire to see the library



JoAnn Thynes

remain a safe place for all.

What is something you think Petersburg Public Library does well, and what is something you may like to see done differently?

It is definitely a nice facility that is well kept up and organized. At this time I do not know of what opportunities are available or options on how things could be done differently.

Public Safety Advisory Candidates Questionnaire

Stan Hjort

Why have you chosen to run for Public Safety Board at this time?
I have chosen to run for the Public Safety Board again because I am familiar with safety issues having been an engineer officer on AMH.

What personal and professional experience do you bring to this role?

As an engineer on AMH, I was supervisor of a crew of up to 6 employees.

What do you define as the role of the Public Safety Advisory Board in Petersburg?
The role of the Safety Board is to stay in touch with citizens concerns and problems and run them through the committee, and I keep on the lookout

as I travel around town for things that may need attention, i.e. stop signs obscured.

What do you regard as an important challenge facing the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department?
The challenge for the Fire Dept. is that Petersburg is a small town and running out of volunteers.

What do you regard as an important challenge facing the Petersburg Police Department?
The challenge I see is too many repeat offenders the PD has to babysit. I know the chief and respect him to do a right job as chief, and am tired of hearing things blamed on him.



Stan Hjort

Jacob Slaven

Why have you chosen to run for Public Safety Board at this time?
I have chosen to run for this board position because I believe that members of this community with young families should have more of a voice or opinion when decisions are made that directly affect their lives.

What personal and professional experience do you bring to this role?



Jacob Slave

The only experience needed to fill this role is that of the ability to initiate conversations with people of all demographics. I have been a resident of Petersburg since 1989 and graduated highschool here in 1997. I have no problem going directly to the top of the chain when I wish to opine.

What do you define as the role of the Public Safety Advisory Board in Petersburg?
The role of this board in my

opinion is to be a link between the residents of Petersburg, the borough manager and the council members when safety concerns involving the community need to be vetted and discussed.

What do you regard as an important challenge facing the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department?
In regards to the police and fire departments the main challenge is not having a full staff.

When these professionals request the opinion of the public that they bravely serve, it is the obligation of the board members to have conversations with other members of this community in order to form an educated response to determine if that's what is best for this town.

What do you regard as an important challenge facing the Petersburg Police Department?
(see previous answer)

Russell Thynes

Why have you chosen to run for Public Safety Board at this time?
Since 9-11 and hurricane Katrina our public safety ambitions have been running "open loop" and since the recent Covid scare, and the incident on Maui, we have seen how the best intentions are often ham-handed, if not openly authoritarian.

My role on the Petersburg Public Safety (PPS) board would emphasis self-reliance (living on Kupreanof teaches

self-reliance) and frugality. We also need to keep in mind that Public Safety comprises the lions share of our local budget and that there is not always a corresponding relationship between expenditure and product.

What personal and professional experience do you bring to this role?
I am on the Kupreanof City Council. I was born and raised in Petersburg and apart from 16 years in Seattle/Kirkland, working in electronics technology, I have lived here most of my life.



Russell Thynes

I provided technical services to the Petersburg Police Department under former chief Stone and prior to the PPD upgrade several years ago.

What do you define as the role of the Public Safety Advisory Board in Petersburg?
The public safety board serves as an information conduit between the tax-paying public and those that we have hired to protect life and property.

What do you regard as an important challenge facing

the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department?
Recruitment seems to be the current topic.

What do you regard as an important challenge facing the Petersburg Police Department?
We have a great chief and staff, but in my opinion, the biggest issue with the PPD is costs. Costs are exacerbated by onerous regulatory compliance and nuisance distractions by some on the current assembly.

Mark Tuccillo

Why have you chosen to run for Public Safety Board at this time?
I am presently on the Board and was involved in resurrecting it. The town has great resources and a diverse board, such as we have had, provides an opportunity to present an array of opinions on the utilization of the Borough's public safety resources.

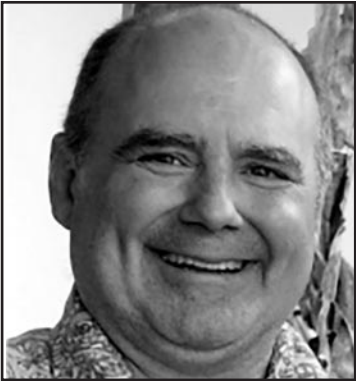
What personal and professional experience do you

bring to this role?
I have practiced medicine in PSG for most of the last 30 years while also being EMS medical director. I have significant experience with EMS, pre-hospital care and working with law enforcement in civilian and military settings.

What do you define as the role of the Public Safety Advisory Board in Petersburg?
The board provide advice and or recommendations for

the Assembly's consideration in areas that related to public safety: Fire, EMS, law enforcement.

What do you regard as an important challenge facing the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department?
Volunteerism is an ever-waning contribution to the organization. Establishing an additional service area for public safety entities to encompass more of the borough will con-



Mark Tuccillo

tinue to show increasing need as time goes on.

What do you regard as an important challenge facing the Petersburg Police Department?
The constant problem of balancing the concept of community policing with the increasing diverse population and potential crisis situations that can arise and heighten risk to officers and inhabitants.

Tony Vinson

Why have you chosen to run for Public Safety Board at this time?
I am choosing to run for Petersburg Safety Board because I feel like Petersburg is ready for change. Not so much a change in rules and how to function but a change in fresh and new ideas.

What personal and professional experience do you bring to this role?
First and foremost I am a US Navy Veteran. Safety is and always will be my number one priority. In addition, I owned it operated a Professional AAA Minor League Football team for 10 years. I was President of the entire West Coast for our 28-team league. There were approximately 100-players per

team, an event staff, cheer staff, coaching staff, team owners, vendors, etc. We had plenty of board meetings regarding public safety. One example is I passed a rule that games in Vegas cannot start any sooner than 5 PM. I made that rule specifically for the safety of the away players who were not climatized to that environment. I saw 110+ degree weather as extremely dangerous. Prior to me there they regularly had games between 11am and 2pm and did have some casualties. Absolutely not on my watch!

What do you define as the role of the Public Safety Advisory Board in Petersburg?
I feel our role should be to work with our local PD, Fire, and



Tony Vinson

ing our public informed and providing education.

What do you regard as an important challenge facing the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department?
I think the biggest challenge to PFD is recruiting. I think if we meet regularly and set recruiting as our goal, we can effectively brainstorm ideas to help increase recruitment. I appreciate our Volunteers 1000% and would love nothing more than to be a tool in their toolbox for recruitment.

What do you regard as an important challenge facing the Petersburg Police Department?
My main focus would be to find a way to assist and support

them during calls with a citizen in Psychiatric crisis. I think our PD does an amazing job but would benefit from some help in this area. An example would be a model used at some PD's in other locations. They use what is called a P.E.R.Team. It stands for Psychiatric Emergency Response Team. They have a counselor respond with the PD to calls of a citizen having a psychiatric emergency. Now I know Petersburg is unique, and sometimes things look great on paper but at times can be quite challenging to execute. However, I am sure with the Chief and all of the great minds we have working in our PD that we could come up with some sort of modified version that works for us.

Hungarian exchange student enjoys Petersburg

By JAKE CLEMENS
Pilot writer

Petersburg’s new Rotary Youth Exchange student from Hungary, Sara Eszik, says she’s “really happy to be in Alaska.” She had requested the U.S./Canada, followed by Finland and Taiwan. “I feel like I got kind of a two-for-one between the U.S. and Finland, getting to come to Alaska,” Eszik muses.

That’s where I feel like I am the best version of myself.” After multiple three-hour trainings/try-outs, Eszik made the varsity team, along with 8 others out of 40 who tried. It is no wonder since Eszik has been playing volleyball for nine years all year-round. In Hungary volleyball is not seasonal, nor are most other sports, so people tend to pick one sport for their whole life.

With the finite volleyball

Kaili Watkins, who is not only the local Rotary Club president, but also, “very fun to be around. We cook together often, or just hang out and talk.”

Dave Berg of the Rotary club also took Eszik to Anan to see bears. Watkins has taken Eszik on quite a few other local adventures, including swimming at Manmade Hole, Blind Slough, and Three Lakes, as well as hiking to Crystal Lake. Eszik is all smiles talking about it, although “It was slippery—I fell a lot.” At 3,317 ft, Crystal Mountain is almost exactly the elevation of Kekes Peak, the tallest mountain in Hungary, at 3,330 ft.

Eszik was born in Budapest, the capital and at two million people the largest city in Hungary, but when she was three, they moved to Szeged, at the third largest city at 160,000, which lies on the Southern plain of the country. “At home nature is not so close . . . here the nature is beautiful.”

In addition to the nature, Eszik is impressed by Petersburg kids’ independence.

“My five-year-old host sister rides a bike around on her own. Kids only learned to ride a bike when they’re seven or eight in Hungary.”

Eszik speaks Hungarian, English, German, and Spanish. She admits to thinking in Eng-

lish now, and even dreaming, but in statistics class she counts in her head with Hungarian numbers (0-nulla, 1-egy, 2-ketto, 3-harom).

While she is here, she aims to try snowmachining and snowshoeing, as well as ice skating outside on natural ice, and skiing, which she grew up traveling to Italy for, and once to Austria. Also, she has never slept in a tent, so camping is a specific goal.

As the rain poured outside the high school library, Eszik shrugged about the weather. “We have four seasons at home, so the weather doesn’t bother me here. I have xtratufs. I actually prefer the cold.”



Submitted Photo

Rotary Youth Exchange student Sara Eszik

“I don’t feel homesick at all,” declares Eszik, explaining that there are four stages to the experience of a typical exchange student. In the first stage, everything feels good and exciting, with little room for apprehension or regret. The second stage is a come down from that, along with a reckoning with how far away one has gone from friends and family. That’s when homesickness hits. The third stage is making friends in the new place. The fourth stage is dominated by the thought of going home.

Eszik feels that she skipped the second stage (with the homesickness) because she has made friends here so quickly. She does think about how at home her friends will be taking a class trip to Transylvania, which she knows would be fun. But she looks forward to traveling around Alaska for sports, and to Washington D.C. and New York City with Close-Up.

Joining the volleyball team has also helped with making friends, and Eszik says it is her favorite part of her experience here so far.

“The coach is awesome, and the people are very supportive.

season here though, Eszik intends to try her hand at other activities like cheer and track and field. She had strongly considered track and field during covid when volleyball events became limited, so that seems an automatic choice for after volleyball. She’s pursued running as far as completing a half-marathon. “And cheer is a very American thing—I love to dance—I can’t leave without trying it.”

As it is common to commit to one sport in Hungary, it is also typical to choose a major in high school and stick with that, only taking related classes. So none of the classes Eszik takes here will give her credits to bring back to Hungary. She will have to take exams for all classes to qualify for credit at home, where she will be a senior when she returns next year.

That said, Eszik says the classes here are fun, especially with laptops. “Home is more old-fashioned.” She also loves how interactive her aquaculture class is, taking field trips to the hatchery and local streams with the goal of “raising little salmons.”

Eszik is being hosted by

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JEIGH STANTON GREGOR FOR PETERSBURG ASSEMBLY

What’s your vision for a thriving community?

Here are four things that are top priority to me:

- ✓ **AFFORDABLE HOUSING** (Secure living = less stress and more productivity.)
- ✓ **HOSPITAL** (Hospital = local job retention, and control over our medical care.)
- ✓ **CHILDCARE** (All options need to be considered to support our workforce adequately.)
- ✓ **SCHOOLS** (Adequate funding = quality education.)

Families are more likely to stay here and move here if the four things above are accessible.

Families contribute positively to our economy.

People who feel secure, create a robust, healthy community.

Please **think carefully** about the candidates you vote for this election.

Do they share your vision for a thriving community?

Are they clearly telling you how the above needs will be met?

Please do your own vetting of the candidates and make sure they stand for a sustainable community. As always, I welcome you to contact me and

I will answer any questions you may have—honestly, and directly.

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Let’s work together to keep Petersburg Borough thriving!

VOTE FOR ME, JEIGH STANTON GREGOR ON OCTOBER 3RD

(or, early voting happening now at the Municipal Building), and I’ll do all I can to keep working on the important issues facing our Borough with integrity, honesty, and transparency.

Paid for by Jeigh Stanton Gregor. PO Box 2155 Petersburg, AK 99833

Fall Dungeness opens Oct. 1 with 1.3 million pounds expected

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

The numbers are in from the summer season of the Southeast Alaska commercial Dungeness crab fishery which closed in

mid-August. Over the two months that the season was open, 2.58 million pounds of Dungeness crab was harvested in Registration Area A, with 148 permit holders reporting landings.

Joseph Stratman of the Department of Fish and Game says the department estimates another 1.3 million pounds will be harvested once the fall season opens Oct. 1.

The Department of Fish and Game does not conduct surveys for Dungeness crab stock, instead the fishery is managed using information gathered through harvest tickets and port sampling data.

The summer fishery’s first week harvest of 755 thousand pounds by 132 permit holders led Fish and Game to estimate a full season harvest of 3.9 million pounds for Registration Area A. This estimate, which was well over regulation thresholds in the management plan, meant that stock health was suitable for a full summer and fall season.

Although there are not any stock health concerns from the department based on early summer findings, Stratman says harvest and effort for the entire summer season was below average compared to summer seasons over the last decade.

“Looking at the season as a whole, 2.58 million pounds with 148 permit holders reporting landings, [the] previous ten-year average for that is 2.92 million pounds by 182 permits. So quite a few less permits fished this summer. Harvest was down a little bit from the 10-year average, but I think down more was the number of permits.”

“There’s a lot of reasons for that,” Stratman said, “like the price they’re getting paid. I mean ... that price was lower than last year and lower than the previous 10-year average.”

According to price data from Fish and Game tickets, the total value of the 2023 Dungeness crab season in Registration Area A this summer was \$5.51 million and the average price for purchasing crab was \$2.13 per pound. This is lower than the previous 10-year average of \$8.29 million per total value and \$2.95 a pound. The 2022 summer season was valued lower at \$3.78 million, but crabs were purchased at a higher average price of \$2.96 per pound.

“So that, in combination with, you know, increasing costs of food and fuel ... the permit holders just kind of have to pencil it out ...”

Stratman says the price paid for Dungeness will fluctuate

going into the fall season, though notes he has not seen a drastic price change in his time.

With October marking the start of the season for numerous fisheries besides commercial Dungeness, “people are just going to have to weigh these factors in and decide, you know, whether they want to go crabbing October 1 or not.”

Stratman noted three top districts for the summer harvest: Districts 11, 10, and eight. “Out of the roughly 2.6 million pounds [harvested] in the whole region, 1.2 million [pounds] were taken in District 11,” which includes waters of Stephens Passage and associated bays and inlets. District 10, which includes waters of Frederick Sound and associated bays and inlets, harvested 365 thousand pounds, while District 8, which includes waters in the Wrangell and Petersburg areas, harvested 320 thousand pounds.

Anecdotally, the crab quality is “quite good, the crab were firm and full of meat” and the Dungeness seen earlier in the season appeared larger than average, according to buyers, Stratman told the Pilot, noting he was yet to look for that reflected into the port sampling data, but “anecdotally, that’s what I was hearing.”

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UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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d. Free distribution by mail	1,101	1,125
1. Outside-county	15	24
2. In-county	2	2
3. Other mail classes	0	0
4. Free distribution outside the mail	10	10
e. Total free distribution	27	26
f. Total distribution	1,128	1,151
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16. Electronic Copy Circulation:		
a. Paid electronic copies	114	117
b. Total paid print copies + electronic copies	1,215	1,242
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18. Orin Pierson, Publisher		




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In new challenges to Tongass ‘Roadless Rule,’ pro-logging arguments have disappeared

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

The state of Alaska, a coalition of business groups and a pair of electric-power organizations have opened a new round in the generation-long fight over environmental protections in Southeast Alaska’s Tongass National Forest.

On Sept. 8, the state and two other groups of plaintiffs filed three separate federal lawsuits to challenge a Biden administration rule restricting new roads in parts of the forest, which is home to some of America’s last stands of old-growth trees.

Each lawsuit asks U.S. District Court Judge Sharon Gleason to overturn the new rule and prior versions.

The Roadless Rule, as it is known, was enacted (and sued over) as early as 2001 by logging proponents, but the latest lawsuits bring a new wrinkle: In more than 100 pages of court documents, the word “logging” appears only once.

Instead, plaintiffs are arguing that the federal government’s rules make clean-energy projects and other economic development unaffordable.

The legal complaints cite prospective geothermal and hydroelectric power plants, as well as hypothetical metal mines whose products could be used for green technologies.

“You’ve got true roadblocks for very desirable projects. These are projects that are going to provide cost savings and environmental benefit,” said Luke Wake, an attorney with the Pacific Legal Foundation, which is representing the Inside Passage Electric Cooperative and the Alaska Power Association in one of the lawsuits.

The state of Alaska, which is leading a second lawsuit, has opposed the Tongass Roadless Rule through Democratic, Republican and independent administrations alike.

In a written statement, Gov. Mike Dunleavy said that “Alaskans deserve access to the resources that the Tongass provides — jobs, renewable energy resources, and tourism, not a government plan that treats human beings within a working forest like an invasive species.”

The third lawsuit, which includes the Alaska Chamber of

Commerce and Resource Development Council of Alaska among its plaintiffs, is being led by former Gov. and former U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski, the father of current U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska.

Jim Clark, Frank Murkowski’s former chief of staff and an attorney working on the case, said he remembers when he represented the Alaska Forest Association in a prior lawsuit on the issue.

“This case is old enough to drink in any bar in Alaska,” he said.

In the years since he first worked on the issue, Southeast Alaska’s logging industry has almost entirely vanished. A pulp mill in Ketchikan is now a cruise ship terminal; another in Sitka is a sanctuary for bears.

Overturning the Roadless Rule isn’t about clear-cutting anymore, he said. Instead, it’s about improving access for projects that now need special approval.

“It’s not like we don’t have access under the Biden law, notwithstanding the Roadless Rule, but it is a barrier,” he said.

In legal filings, the Inside Passage Electric Cooperative offered an example: It hopes to build a power line between Kake and Petersburg, allowing those communities to share low-cost power.

The project was expected to cost \$17.5 million, but because of the Roadless Rule, it would have to be maintained by helicopter, causing the projected cost to balloon to \$65 million.

“As a result of these heightened costs, the Kake-Petersburg Intertie Project remains stalled. But IPEC would resume efforts to further this project if it could obtain road access,” said Jodi Mitchell, IPEC’s CEO, in legal testimony.

Clark said that logging companies aren’t part of these new lawsuits because logging is restricted under a new forest plan, something separate from the Roadless Rule, and the prospects of changing the forest plan are limited.

“There’s no way we’ll be able to change the forest plan to make a difference here,” Clark said.

Kate Glover is an attorney with the environmental law firm Earthjustice, which has participated in prior Roadless

Rule lawsuits.

Glover said the attempt to switch to another focus in the Roadless Rule “is certainly noteworthy,” but that the issue “really is about logging,” which was the primary focus of the original rule.

The three lawsuits — which are expected to be combined into one by U.S. District Court Judge Sharon Gleason — will continue a 22-year-old dispute over the extent to which the U.S. Forest Service has the authority under existing law to restrict road building in the forest.

In 2001, the federal government wrote a nationwide rule restricting road building in designated areas. Roads are needed for intensive logging.

The state of Alaska challenged the rule in court, and the federal government agreed to exempt much of Alaska from it.

That changed in 2011, after a federal judge ruled in favor of environmental groups who had filed a lawsuit arguing that the Alaska exemption was unlawful.

The state appealed the verdict and saw it overturned by a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, but a subsequent appeal to the full Circuit Court saw the Alaska exemption again overturned.

The state challenged the legality of the 2001 rule overall in a separate lawsuit filed in Washington, D.C., but lost that case.

After the election of President Donald Trump, the state supported a new roadless rule

that allows Tongass development. The Trump administration passed the new rule, but lawsuits stymied its implementation, and the Biden administration’s new rule, enacted in January, overwrites the Trump rule.

Though the state and allied plaintiffs have repeatedly lost in court on the issue, attorneys say the legal groundwork has changed over the past few years.

The U.S. Supreme Court’s 2022 ruling in West Virginia v. EPA has the potential to signif-

icantly reduce the power of federal agencies to write regulations that aren’t specifically authorized by Congress, and in summer 2024, the Supreme Court is expected to reinterpret a standard known as the “Chevron doctrine” and again restrict the authority of federal agencies.

“All of which makes you think the Supreme Court is more favorable,” Clark said.

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

Thursday: 6p - Celebrate Recovery



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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

Those with birthdays this week are: **September 22:** Adam Fisher, Ariel Norheim, Bert Winther, Edward Tagaban. **September 25:** Shawn Lenz. **September 26:** Heath Whitacre, Ronn Buschmann. **September 27:** Chad Bell, Ole Nordgren. **September 28:** Jackie Guthr.

Those with anniversaries this week are: **September 25:** Brian and Ola Richards. **September 27:** Bud and Audrey Samuelson. **September 28:** Lloyd and Yvonne Thynes

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

Senior Meals

MONDAY, September 25

Shepard's Pie, Green Salad, Mayo Cake, Milk

TUESDAY, September 26

Chicken Alfredo, Noodles, Green Salad,

Fruit Cup, Chocolate Pudding

WEDNESDAY, September 27

Pasta Salad with Ham, Texas Toast,

Cottage Cheese with Peaches, Cookie

THURSDAY, September 28

Potato and Burger Soup, Biscuits,

Oranges, Milk

FRIDAY, September 29

Hot Beef Sandwich,

Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Milk, Peanut Butter Bar



Please call Mountain View Food Service at 772-4331 before noon for reservations. 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.

Public Notices

Read the
• BE AN INFORMED CITIZEN • PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY
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Public Notice

The Health Resources and Services Administration has determined that the proposed new Petersburg Medical Center will have no significant adverse impact on the quality of the human environment. The Environmental Assessment is on file at the Petersburg Library. Written comments must be sent to ecreely@dowl.com by October 4, 2023.

Published: September 21, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
PETERSBURG BOROUGH
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #2023-13

Ordinance #2023-13, an Ordinance Adjusting the FY 2024 Budget for Known Changes, has been adopted by the Borough Assembly. Provisions of the ordinance take effect immediately.

A copy of this ordinance is posted at the municipal offices at 12 S. Nordic Drive, the US Post Office, the City of Kupreanof, Papke's Landing posting board, the Library, and the Municipal Harbor office for review during normal office hours.



Published: September 21, 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will hold a regular board meeting on September 28, 2023 from 1pm - 5pm and September 29, 2023 from 9am - 12Noon at the Dorothy Ingle Conference Room at the Petersburg Medical Center in Petersburg, Alaska. During the meeting the Board may enter into an executive session to discuss a matter that may have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Agency. For additional information, please call 907.228.2281.

Published: September 21, 2023



Artifact Archive



Shipwrights of the past, as part of their apprenticeships, built a tool chest for the storage of their tools. Petersburg Shipwrights founder Fred Paulsen carried this toolbox from The Gloucester Marine Railways in Massachusetts to Petersburg, Alaska. Shipwright boxes were typically painted drab colors and had rope handles so as not to draw attention to their costly contents. Outfitted with wooden shelves and drawers, they protected and organized the tools of the trade – caulking mallets, augers, calipers, Jerry irons, and pitch ladles. Cleats built into the lids held and secured saws. Paulsen ran the shipyard for twenty years and especially loved the craft of restoring old wooden boats.

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

Study: Alaska is failing to keep most Alaska-born residents

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

More than half of Alaskans born within the state have moved away, according to an analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

A state's ability to retain native-born residents is an indicator of its economic health and attractiveness, and Alaska ranked near the bottom of the analysis conducted by University of North Florida professor Madeline Zavodny and two experts at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Using data from the Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey, they found Alaska retained 48.7% of those born inside its borders, ahead of only Wyoming (45.2%) and North Dakota (48.6%).

At the opposite end of the scale, Texas retained about 82% of its native-born residents, followed by North Carolina, Georgia, California and Utah.

The study noted that the five "stickiest" states — those able to keep their residents — each had above-average job growth between 2010 and 2019, and four of the top five states had below-average levels of taxation.

The new study corroborates familiar trends in Alaska, where

the number of people moving out of the state has exceeded the number of new residents for 10 consecutive years.

A long-term study conducted by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development found that in 2021, just 52% of Alaska high schoolers who graduated in 2005 were still state residents.

The Department of Labor's

next scheduled population and migration estimates are due to be released in January.

The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. Alaskabeacon.com.

Rules of the Road
US Coast Guard
QUESTION & ANSWER



QUESTION:

In a crossing situation, the vessel which has the other on her own starboard side shall _____.

A. if the circumstances of the case admit, avoid crossing ahead of the other
B. change course to port to keep out of the way
C. reduce her speed
D. All of the above

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

ANSWER A.

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.....tfn9-21b80

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association, a non-profit organiza-

tion that works on behalf of multi-gear and multi-species commercial fishermen, is seeking an Executive Director. Duties include tracking legislation, informing the board and membership of current issues, representing PVOA at various management forums, and building membership. Priorities identified by the membership guide PVOA's work and knowledge of the commercial fishing industry is preferred. The position is considered part-time with significant travel expected and salary DOE. Please contact pvoa@gci.net with any questions or to submit a resume. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.
.....tfn9-07b92

The Petersburg Police Department has an opening for a permanent full-time Police Officer. Applicants must be available to work all shifts (day shift, swing shift, and graveyard shift), holidays and weekends and be able to attend

out of town training. Starting wage is \$32.68 per hour. A complete job description and employment application can be obtained from the Borough's website at www.petersburgak.gov. Applications will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough office, 12 S. Nordic Drive, emailed to bregula@petersburgak.gov, or mailed to PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833, Attn: Human Resources, until position is filled.
.....tfn8-31b98

Hammer & Wikan Convenience Store is hiring part-time and full-time cashiers! Positions available include morning, midday, and evening. Applications available at the Convenience Store Counter or outside the Business Office. If you have any questions, contact Todd @ 907-772-4811.
.....tfn8-24b39

Scandia House is hiring! Housekeepers, front desk clerks. Applications available at hotel front desk.
.....tfn8-10b14

The Petersburg Borough has an opening for the position of Journeyman Lineman. This is a regular full-time position, Lineman must be trained as an operator. Wage \$49.23/hr with operator premium (Tier 4) \$51.21/hr with operator premium (Tier 1-3) (IBEW Contract, July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024). Signing bonus of \$15,000 Up to \$15,000 reimbursable relocation expenses. A complete job description and employment application can be obtained from the Borough's website at www.petersburgak.gov. Applications will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough office at 12 S. Nordic Street in Petersburg; by mail to Human Resources, P.O. Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833; or via email to bregula@petersburgak.gov until position is filled.
.....tfn6-8b112

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



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.....tfn7-13b117

Petersburg Indian Association is hiring for a 638 Grant Director/ICWA Worker position. This position is part-time. Wage DOE. The 638 Grant Director position requires the management of Federal grant funds to run 10+ programs, including social service and welfare assistance, job training, higher education, tribal member assistance, and more. The ICWA Worker position requires working with families and children in case management. The right candidate should be eager to work with tribal members in times of need, take utmost care of confidentiality, and exhibit traits of organization, management, and policy protocol. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen (including marijuana) and a background check. Native preference applies. Applications are available at PIA or pia-tribal.org.
.....tfn4-27b116

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- Gillnet - 1 Seat
- Power Troll - 1 Seat
- Hand Troll - 1 Seat

Nominations must be in writing and include the permit holder's name, address, vessel name, phone number and a brief statement. Nominees must be "active" Southern Southeast Commercial Salmon permit holders. Permit holders should nominate person from their own gear groups.

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

more information or to pick up an application, call Becky at (907) 772-5404.
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Commercial golden king crab fishermen hopeful for management changes following record-breaking season

By **CHRIS BASINGER**
Pilot writer

Golden king crabs appear to have returned to Frederick Sound en masse after years of low commercial harvests, but it remains to be seen how much crab will be up for grabs for fishermen next season.

The commercial golden king crab fishery in Southeast, which typically opens in mid-February, is regulated by an annual recommended harvest strategy developed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

Under the harvest strategy, the department establishes a guideline harvest level (GHL) and a guideline harvest range (GHR) for each of the seven management areas in the region.

The GHLs — the levels of harvest allowed each season for each management area — are based on fishery performance and are set annually within the range established by the GHR.

The current GHRs were set in 2018 and represent a rough estimate of the maximum sustainable yield of golden king crabs in pounds.

For the 2023 season, the East Central Management Area, composed of Frederick Sound, South Stephens Passage, and Sumner Strait, had a GHL of 13,255 pounds—well below the GHR’s maximum allowable harvest level of 225,000 pounds.

The 2023 GHL was typical of recent seasons and with it being so low, many Petersburg-based fishermen chose instead to target Tanner crab or go elsewhere, not knowing that the few who did pursue golden king crab in East Central would be in for a record-breaking season.

The Southeast commercial golden king crab fishery opened on Feb. 12, and just four days later the East Central area was ordered to close after 78,921 pounds of crab were harvested—nearly six times the GHL.

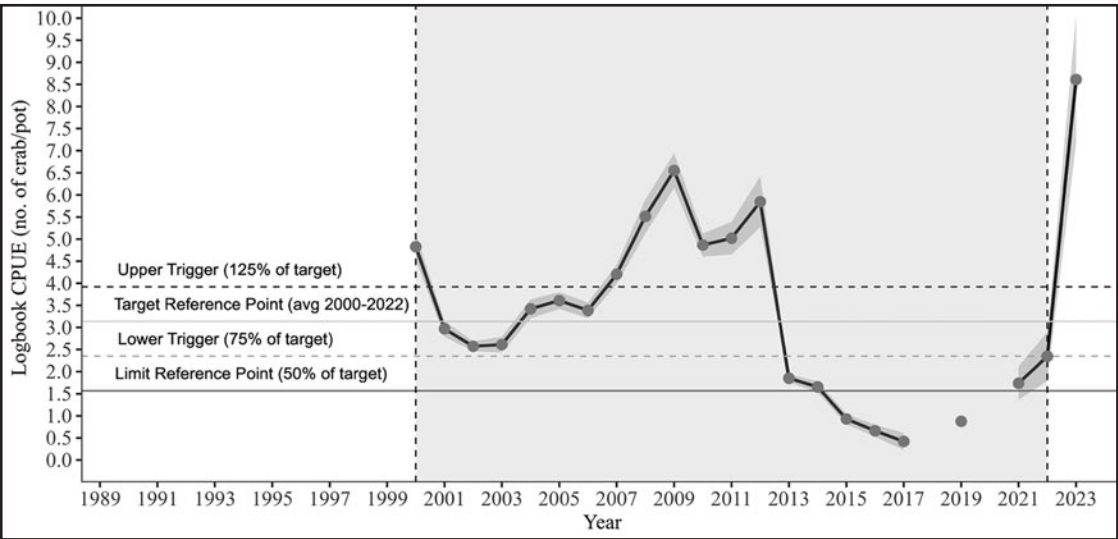
The harvest was the highest seen in the management area in nearly a decade and was about 4.6 times the amount caught in 2022.

“It was unexpected,” said ADF&G Southeast Regional Supervisor Lowell Fair.

“We’ve never seen a year with that much of an increase from one year to the next and it was the highest we’ve ever seen, so it took us by surprise and by the time we got the data and we were able to close the fishery, we had largely exceeded the GHL that we had set.”

Despite there being only eight permits fished in East Central, the handful of fishermen who did go recorded the highest Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE), calculated by crabs per pot, in the area since data collection began in 2000 with about 9.0 crabs per pot.

The average commercial logbook CPUE from 2000-2022 in East Central was 3.1 crabs per pot.



This chart displays the Catch Per Unit Effort of golden king crab in the East Central Management Area from 2000-2023.
Map courtesy of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Because the CPUE was so high, Fish and Game does not believe that there is a biological concern for the management area, just that the crabs were available in greater numbers than expected.

“We exceeded the GHL, but I wouldn’t say that we have a biological concern for exceeding the GHL. It was certainly a surprise, but I don’t think it’s a biological concern,” Fair said, adding that the fishery is data-limited so the department does not know what may have driven the increase in crab.

“I think that’s pretty common in king crab fisheries around the state. We have a very poor understanding of what drives these recruitment events like that, we just don’t know,” Fair said.

The price per pound for the East Central area was also \$11.73, making the total value of the fishery about \$925,886.

Jared Bright, skipper of the F/V Obsession and the co-chair of the King and Tanner Task Force, is one of the many Petersburg fishermen who opted to fish for Tanner crab but is now waiting to see if the East Central golden king crab fishery could be a viable option next season.

“It’s been a long time since

there was any golden king crab,” Bright said.

According to Fish and Game, after peaking in the late 1980s, the Southeast commercial golden king crab fishery collapsed in the 1990s but peaked again in the early 2010s. Since then, the overall fishery performance has steadily declined.

This February’s record harvest in the East Central Management Area has therefore led to much speculation on if the harvest strategy will change to accommodate the seemingly dramatic increase in available golden king crab.

Under the current harvest strategy, if the CPUE in a management area is above a certain amount, the GHL may increase the following season.

However, the maximum amount the GHL can increase season to season is by 35%, which would mean the 2024 GHL for East Central could only go up to 17,894 pounds, significantly lower than the 2023 catch.

In May, ADF&G and over a dozen fishermen met as part of the King and Tanner Task Force to discuss ideas for changes to how the fishery is managed including allowing for greater increases to the GHL above the

35% maximum.

“You know, we’ve had some internal discussions and that is one of the major points we want to talk about at the upcoming meeting,” Fair said.

“I mean, I suspect that we will increase it probably more than what the harvest strategy says...I don’t know exactly what that’s going to be, but we recognize that the harvest strategy, where it’s currently at as far as it’s a draft, it’s an ongoing draft, it really didn’t account very well for this type of change. So, we acknowledge that, and we are going to consider options above and beyond what that harvest strategy currently says as far as what we’re gonna set for GHLs next year.”

The task force also discussed potential opportunities to

gather more data for the fishery such as a post-season survey like what is used in the Bering Sea fishery and introducing a partial observer program to collect biological information on juvenile crab.

“The attitude of Fish and Game towards management and industry...there’s been a really positive reaction from them, proactive...” Bright said.

“I’m hopeful, I mean, I think this meeting’s, the one we have coming up, is going to tell the story but I mean if there is a story to be told about collaboration between the department and industry, I think that that’s a very important story to tell.”

As a follow-up to their meeting in May, the King and Tanner Task Force will meet in-person at the Petersburg Public Library on this Thursday, Sept. 28 at 11 a.m.

The task force plans to meet for a third time in December, at which point Fair expects that Fish and Game will have a firm, but not final, recommended harvest strategy to present and discuss.

“We’re all on the same team, sometimes people forget that. You know, the cyclical nature of adult golden king crab and it seems like they’re starting to get more on board that that’s a real thing and not something we made up, that we can harvest them when they’re around and we don’t harvest them when they’re not around,” Bright said.

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