#### Ketchikan apartment fire results in arson arrest

see page 5

#### **New Forest Service cabins** approved for development

see page 6

#### **Educators plea for changes** to school funding bill

see page 8



January 25, 2024 Vol. 50, No. 4

www.petersburgpilot.com

12 Pages



#### A Petersburg bluebird day

Before the snow turned to rain and slush this week, the Anchor Properties drone flew over downtown Petersburg capturing the beauty of a bluebird day when the clouds part after a winter storm.

# PIA Tribal Administrator steps down; New council members swear in

By OLIVIA ROSE Pilot writer

The Petersburg Indian Association is seeking to hire a tribal administrator after Chad Wright stepped down from the role last week.

Wright submitted his resignation on Jan. 10, the date when the PIA annual tribal council election was canvassed, electing four challengers running on a united ticket.

During the election campaign, policy decisions made by Wright became a subject of criti-

The four challengers campaigned to improve communication and transparency in the tribal government and won the election by a large margin with a voter turnout around four times higher than last year.

Wright's last day as tribal administrator at PIA was Jan. 15.

According to a Facebook post by PIA on Jan. 12, the decision of how "the void his departure will create" will be filled is now up to the newly constituted tribal council.

The four new council members were sworn into office at the recent tribal council meeting Jan.

"The staff of any organization is critical to its success, and PIA is fortunate to have the staff that it does ... I urge you to get to know them, be open to accepting them for who they are..." outgoing council president Cris Morrison addressed the newly seated council members. "... As you begin serving during this time of change and uncertainty, they are your most valuable resource. I urge you to look to them, and the incumbent council members for guidance."

Incoming council president Debra O'Gara said she wanted to echo Morrison's comments.

"The staff is invaluable, and we are already making efforts ... to make sure that you know who we are, and we know who you are ... because the tribe can't keep going and do what it's doing without you," O'Gara said at the meeting.

The new tribal council later met in an executive session and decided to appoint O'Gara as the acting tribal administrator until someone is hired for the position.

The new tribal administrator position was posted in this week's edition of the Petersburg Pilot. The job posting states that the full time position will be responsible for general oversight of operations and staff at PIA, with a salary range of \$75 thousand to \$90 thousand, and Native preference applies.

With a handful of projects currently in progress for PIA, O'Gara said the new members are currently "in the process of being briefed" on the situation, and the council has not made any changes or decisions at this point in the transition

"Our first order of business right now is to advertise and hire a tribal administrator, and to get up to speed on all the projects, and then we'll go from there," she told the Pilot.

Wright was traveling internationally and was not available to respond to the Pilot's request for

# Can Petersburg build a landslide warning system like Sitka's?

**By OLIVIA ROSE** 

Pilot writer

In 2015, a deadly landslide occurred in Sitka. Anxiety swept the community as a result, and the frequent heavy rainfall typical for Southeast Alaska became a source of fear for many Sitkans left questioning when the next disaster would strike — and wondering what they could do to keep the citizens of the city safe.

In response to the concerns, the Sitka Sound Science Center organized a volunteer team of geologic and climate experts from across the country.

For over a year, the group met frequently over the phone until they finally visited Sitka to educate the community and address their anxieties, and the idea to make a data-based model that could predict landslides was introduced.

Lisa Busch is the executive director of the SSSC. Last week, she gave a presentation at the Petersburg Public Library about the steps Sitka took to set up a community-based landslide warning system - inspiring attendees to consider what that could look like if replicated in Petersburg.

"We went into this thinking we just ... really want to save people's lives," said Busch.

The SSSC was the facilitating partner among nearly 20 collaborators who worked to create the Landslide Risk Dashboard, which launched in 2022.

This landslide warning system is a web app tool that posts how likely a landslide is —low, medium, or high risk level — based on a model that the team of scientists developed, which compares the

Continued on page 3

# Quakers contribute more than \$92k in reparations to develop Kake healing center

#### By CLAIRE STREMPLE Alaska Beacon

An unused U.S. Forest Service building near Kake may soon be a healing center for the community to move forward from generations of trauma after a boarding school harmed members of the Alaska Native popu-

When Joel Jackson, president of the Organized Village of Kake, saw the building on an access road between Kake and Petersburg, he said he was surprised. "A cultural healing center has been on my mind for decades," he said. "I said to myself, 'Hey, there's our cultural healing cen-

Now, with nearly \$93,000 in reparations money, Jackson can insure the building and move towards renovations. Quakers with the Alaska Friends Conference and from Washington and Oregon contributed money with

the goal of helping to repair the damage from colonial influence and boarding schools in Southeast Alaska at the turn of the century

Ouakers built a mission in Kake in the 1890s before the federal government handed the Quaker building over to the Presbyterian Church, which operated a boarding school there. Jackson said the legacy of forced assimilation has been hard in his

"I never knew anything about intergenerational trauma until I attended a few workshops when I traveled to different confer-

Continued on page 12



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

**January 18, 1924 -** An overheated stove caused a fire Wednesday forenoon which practically destroyed the residence of Mr. and Mrs. William Stedman. The house occupied by Miss Grissinger, teacher in the local school, who lost many of her clothes and personal belongings. The fire was caused by the heating stove in the front room and started in the partition back of the stove and quickly burned its way through the ceiling and roof. The alarm was sounded by M.S. Perkins who discovered the flames shortly after they started. The fire department was on the scene within a few minutes and after a hard fight managed to save the structure from total loss. Peter Jorgensen and Art Young both suffered severe cuts to their hands from broken glass while fighting the fire. Theodore Johnson suffered an injured toe and is confined to his bed. The loss was partially covered by insurance.

January 28, 1949 - The Dugout of the American Legion was taken over Monday night by the boys who took part in the smoker. The gang of boys did not only take over the Dugout, they also ran the show with their spirit and youth while the older members sat back and enjoyed the memories of youth once again. The affair started when Tony Schwamm showed his films on Petersburg dating from 1940. Some of the kids were not born at this period and it was a strange picture to them. Tony showed educational pictures and the youngsters expressed approval by a healthy applaud. Bill Lund brought a film from the U.S. Forest Service, entitled "Tongass Timberland." The youngsters all showed a keen interest in this film. The last act took place when ice cream and cake in large proportions were served. It did not take long before the supply of five gallons of ice cream was depleted. The American Legion wants to thank all and everyone who helped to make this party a success. They

High Low Precip Snow 01/17 15 0.00 0.0 01/18 28 15 0.00 0.0 01/19 9 0.00 0.0 26 01/20 26 9.4 01/21 21 0.71 01/22 26 21 0.97 11.0 1.37 01/23 29 25 14.1 This Week's Precipitation: 3.05' This Week's Snow: 34.5' This weather service is provided by the FAA weather observation station

# **D**AYLIGHT Hours

Sunrise Sunset Daylight **Jan 25** 8:05a 4:01p 7:56hrs Jan 26 8:03a 4:04p 8:01hrs **Jan 27** 8:01a 4:06p Jan 28 8:00a 8:08hrs 4:08p 8:12hrs Jan 29 7:58a 4:10p Jan 30 7:56a 4:13p 8:17hrs **Jan 31** 7:54a 4:15p 8:21hrs

also want to remember the ladies who baked the cakes.

January 24, 1974 - The National Education Association of Alaska has presented its first annual award to Harold Bergman and the Press. The award was presented to Bergmann through Paul Bowen, who attended the conference earlier this month. In part, the award commends Bergmann for his column "Grade School News," which appears in the Press. The award reads: "The Petersburg Press publishes a weekly column by elementary school teacher Harold Bergmann regarding educational and other news of interest. Mr. Bergmann's column also provides short anecdotes regarding school happenings, helping to keep the community he serves involved with its children and educational Congratulations program." Harold!

January 21, 1999 - The Bushed Pilot captures the life of a boy in Petersburg in the 1920s. Inside it says, "the book by the Goose Pilot was prepared by Bill Stedman for his two sons." Bill has done an excellent job chronicling the life of his family from the time his grandparents came to Wrangell in 1901. In 1920 Bill's father and grandfather came to Petersburg to build the house in which Bill now lives. His father met his mother in Petersburg when she came as a school teacher after visiting her sister in Wrangell. Historians will like Bill's excerpts from the Petersburg Weekly from 1920 to 1930. A 1920 item said: "Plane #4 of the New York to Nome air squadron flew over town. For most people this was their first glimpse of an aeroplane." A 1922 church notice was: "Lutheran Church Services in English 11:30 a.m., Services in Norwegian at 7:30 p.m." Bill was the first baby born in the hospital on September 27, 1923. His sister Marian was born in 1925 and Virginia in 1927. In 1938 Bill began his career in aviation by working for Tony Schwamm who set up Petersburg Air Service. After first being a licensed mechanic, Bill received his commercial pilot's license in 1954. One of his narrow escapes was flying into Big Port Walter. Bill wrote, "I circled the bay several times to check the landing conditions. It looked okay so I landed going straight in. I just touched down when all hell broke loose, the plane was bucking like a bronco. When I finally got it on the water and stopped, I saw the problem. It

was very windy with cat paws covering the bay, but they could not be seen because of herring oil from the reduction plant. The oil had calmed the water so you could not see the gusts. That was the closest I ever came to wrecking a Grumman." In 1980 Bill's first wife, Rae, whom he married in 1944, died. He married Carol Nelson the next year. His son, David, wrote, "Dad, you really know how to pick your women." Since Bill's retirement, they've traveled to many parts of the world as well as Alaska. Scattered through the book are excellent pictures of historical places and of many people. These include pictures of his parents, Tony Schwamm, the Petersburg Post Office in the big snow of 1926, the plane he soloed in 1941, Richard Burton and Robert Ryan in Petersburg for the filming of The Ice Palace in 1959, and photos from both his weddings. Bill has captured his enthusiasm for life between

these pages. In summary he says, "I've had a very good life. It started with hard-working parents who taught us how to work, play and enjoy life without a lot of material things. I know that they were not too enthused about my learning to fly, but they never discouraged me."

#### Northern Nights Theater

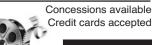
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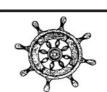
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SAT	1/27	KENNICOTT	01:30 а.м.
FRI	2/2	KENNICOTT	08:30 P.M.
SAT	2/10	KENNICOTT	12:30 а.м.
FRI	2/16	KENNICOTT	08:00 P.M.
SAT	2/24	KENNICOTT	12:30 а.м.

Mon 1/29 Kennicott 04:45 A.M. Mon 2/5 Kennicott 03:45 A.M. Mon 2/12 Kennicott 04:15 A.M. Mon 2/19 Kennicott 02:15 A.M. Mon 2/26 Kennicott 03:30 A.M.

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**PETERSBURG** 

# TIDE TABLE

**JANUARY 2024** 

	HIGH TIDES				Low Tides			
	A.M.		P.M.		A.M.		P.M.	
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
25 Thu	1:17	14.9	12:51	17.1	6:56	4.2	7:32	-1.3
26 Fri	1:50	15.2	1:28	17.1	7:33	3.7	8:04	-1.3
27 Sat	2:21	15.4	2:02	16.8	8:08	3.3	8:35	-1.0
28 Sun	2:50	15.5	2:35	16.3	8:42	3.0	9:04	-0.5
29 Mon	3:18	15.5	3:09	15.5	9:16	3.0	9:33	0.4
30 Tue	3:47	15.4	3:43	14.5	9:52	3.1	10:02	1.4
31 Wed	4:16	15.2	4:22	13.3	10:31	3.3	10:32	2.6

PRESENTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY:



Homecoming vs Wrangell Wolves, Girls JV: 5:00pm, PHS Gym Homecoming vs Wrangell Wolves, Boys V: 6:30pm, PHS Gym Homecoming vs Wrangell Wolves, Girls V: 8:00pm, PHS Gym Bingo Night: 6:00pm, Sons of Norway Hall

Homecoming vs Wrangell Wolves, Boys JV: 3:30pm, PHS Gym

AA Candlelight Meeting: 7:00pm, Episcopal Church

to you by:

Stories In Motion: 11:00am, Public Library

PMC Board Meeting: 5:30pm, Municipal Building

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

Commodities Distribution: 9:00am, Salvation Army Hall

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

#### SATURDAY, January 27

PETERSBURG HAPPENINGS

**THURSDAY**, January 25

SHARE Coalition Meeting: 12:00pm, Dorothy Ingle Conf. Rm. at PMC

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

FRIDAY, January 26

Alaska.

Homecoming vs Wrangell Wolves, Girls JV: 2:30pm, PHS Gym Homecoming vs Wrangell Wolves, Boys JV: 4:00pm, PHS Gym Homecoming vs Wrangell Wolves, Girls V: 5:30pm, PHS Gym **Homecoming Festivities Between Varsity Games** Homecoming vs Wrangell Wolves, Boys V: 7:15pm, PHS Gym

#### SUNDAY, January 28

Knitting Group- all welcome: 2:00pm, MVM Social Hall Ragnarok Rollers Practice: 5:00pm Parks & Rec Community Center

#### MONDAY, January 29

Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall SHARE Coalition Meeting: 12:00pm, Dorothy Ingle Conf. Rm. at PMC Burger Night: 5:30pm, Moose Lodge

AA Women's Meeting: 7:00 pm, Presbyterian Church

#### **TUESDAY, January 30**

Public Library Board Meeting: 12:00pm, Public Library Project Connect Recource Fair: 2:00pm, John Hanson Sr. Hall AA 12x12 Meeting: 7:00pm, Holy Cross Classroom

#### WEDNESDAY, January 31

Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall PMC Open House: 11:00am, Municipal Building Rotary Club Lunch and Fellowship: 12:00pm, Salvation Army Hall Free Super For All: 6:00pm, First Baptist Church American Legion Meeting: 6:30pm, Upstairs Elks Lodge

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

# City

#### Landslide Risk -

#### Continued from page 1

conditions of past landslides to real-time weather and precipitation measurements in order to determine the current risk level.

Establishing the system took several years, a team of experts, \$2.1 million in funding from the National Science Foundation, and the involvement of local citizens.

"Throughout the whole process, community engagement was central," Busch emphasized.

As the science center set up a two-way conversation between the scientific community and Sitkans about potentially having a landslide warning system, the experts educated the community on the circumstances for landslides to occur.

The team of scientists wanted to first figure out where landslides would happen in the area.

The U.S. Forest Service keeps a landslide inventory — a resource that is also available to Petersburg. Jacquie Foss, a Sitkabased USFS program manager who works with the landslide inventory, said the USFS has maintained and built upon this inventory over the decades documenting when landslides occur, and it has "been a really great tool for this landslide work."

More maps used to understand the geology and topography of the area came from the USFS and terrain works, the Alaska Division of Geology and Geophysical Services, from academia, and the City of Sitka.

In addition to knowing where landslides happen, the experts on the project wanted to know under what conditions they occur.

Busch outlined the basic science, or "recipe" for a landslide —or more precisely, debris flow—at her talk on Jan. 17.

Initial factors include a steep slope with weak material like soil, rocks or trees on top. "And then sometimes, one of the ingredients is undercutting at the bottom of the slope," like a road. Another factor is increased pore



OLIVIA ROSE / Petersburg Pilot

Lisa Busch (right) calls up Jacquie Foss (left) to answer questions from attendees during the presentation at the Petersburg Public Library on Jan. 17.

pressure, which "is basically the pressure in soil ... when the soil gets saturated with water ... and pore pressure is increased when water is added to the ground faster than it can drain..."

Water is the ultimate ingredient in the recipe for a landslide, Busch stressed.

Triggered by intense rainfall, debris flows can travel downhill at speeds exceeding 25 mph.

"Another thing that we needed to do was correlate land-slides and rainfall," said Busch.

They used data from the Federal Aviation Administration that tracks rainfall at the airport and reviewed past rain intensity data from times that landslides have happened to make that comparison.

In an effort to collect more data, they spoke with members of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska to investigate traditional knowledge about landslides in Sitka.

They set up soil moisture monitoring systems on hillsides that both collect rainfall and measure soil moisture — to understand what amount of rain results in what amount of water going into the soil and at what depth.

And they asked to install citizen science rain gauges, or tip-

ping buckets, in the backyards of some Sitkans.

Readings from those rain gauges contribute to National Weather Service forecasting, a crucial source of information for the Landslide Risk Dashboard.

"We were working towards developing a landslide warning system that would be equitably distributed to the whole community," said Busch.

Social scientists from the project partner RAND Corporation surveyed members of the Sitka community to learn how people receive and spread information in town. Understanding their information resource was important for developing an effective landslide warning system that is science-backed, user-friendly and meets the needs of the community it aims to serve.

"If everyone doesn't understand how it works, and if that's not how people get information, it doesn't matter how good the system is," Busch cautioned regarding what a system for Petersburg could look like.

Understanding what the community does not want as a resource is also significant, the project team found. Busch said Sitkans did not want to be told by the local government to leave their homes and did not favor expanding the use of their existing tsunami warning system to include landslide warnings.

"'I want to assess the risk myself, and make my own decisions about what I'm going to do with that information," was a sentiment widely expressed by the community, said Busch.

After extensive research and several phases of community input, the tool took form online as the Landslide Risk Dashboard.

Visiting SitkaLandslide.org on a rainy day will display what level of landslide risk is present, based on three-hour rain intensity data and the statistical model.

"Something that I think is very important about this is we have a high degree of confidence when the landslide warning system is low," said Busch. "That alone, I feel like eases people's anxiety..."

"Now every time it rains, you don't have to be so concerned. You can say, oh, it's low ... we don't have the high risk of land-

slides every single time it rains."
Recommended actions are posted alongside risk levels.

The dashboard also lists resources for information and education —including oral histories, landslide science, areas in Sitka susceptible to landslides, how to prepare for a landslide, and published research— as well as directions for reporting a landslide to the science center.

Busch shared the steps for developing a community-based landslide warning system in similar rural Southeast communities, like Petersburg.

A first step is to determine the interest of a community and its will to take on and maintain such a project. If a landslide warning system is something the community wants, the next step is to gather existing data — from maps to rainfall and stream data, to what agencies are involved — and then identify any gaps in information. After potentially collecting more geoscience data, the information can take form in a predictive forecasting model for the area.

"Our model is certainly published and ... we're of course happy to share it," said Busch. "There's other models, and there are people who do this work, so ... it's [possible]."

However, a model is a frame; data and information-gathering is what makes the picture.

The final point is to determine how to strategically disseminate the information to the community, "and then figuring out different ways to check-in with the community," said Busch. "And for [Sitka] that meant inviting specific organizations and specific people to come and sit down with us."

"It does take a lot of different kinds of expertise and a lot of partners to make this kind of thing happen," Busch said. "But ... in March, we're holding an inter-agency working group on landslides in Southeast Alaska, and we've invited the federal, the state, and local agencies ... and they've all been very enthusiastic about wanting to work together. So again, you know, we're not alone."

A public work session was held at the Petersburg Public Library the following morning on Jan. 18. Participants started to lay groundwork for future action and discussed possible barriers, what information is available, what more is needed, and what steps can be taken now to make progress towards developing a similar community-based landslide warning system in Petersburg. The next meeting is planned to happen in February.

"At this point, I think that any possibility is worth airing," Foss said at the work session. "This community's at the stage of: What does it look like? What's the right idea? What are the problems? What are the problems we're trying to solve? What are the questions that we have?"



OLIVIA ROSE / Petersburg Pilot

Outgoing tribal council president Cris Morrison (right) swears in Debra O'Gara (left) as the newly elected council president on Jan. 17, 2024.

## Tribal Council swearing in at PIA



OLIVIA ROSE / Petersburg Pilot

Tribal council president Debra O'Gara (right) swears in elected council members. From right to left: Everett Bennett, Jeanette Ness, Nathan Lopez, and incumbent Heather Conn.

Petersburg

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All are welcome!

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Hope to see you there!!!!

#### **Opinion**

# TO THE EDITOR

#### To Whom It May Concern:

On Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at a meeting of the Petersburg Indian Association (PIA) Tribal Council, a new council president was sworn in, as were three new council members. At the point in the meeting when the floor was opened for comments from visitors, I addressed the council as a private citizen. Since snippets from that address may be entering the wider public domain, I have decided to share my comments in their entirety.

"I would like to take this opportunity to address the four newlyseated council members and share some personal thoughts in the spirit of healing and unity.

In case you are unaware, the conduct exhibited and sentiments expressed by your team and its supporters, prior to and during your campaign, were interpreted by many as hostile, disrespectful, harassing, and intolerant.

Members of the PIA staff are among those who heard the words of "intolerance" toward non-natives and witnessed or experienced the conduct. As a result, there is a sense of apprehension and some real concern that has been expressed by employees and, directly related to those concerns, PIA has already lost one staff member. I fear that more may follow if your team (1) isn't able to interact in a manner that demonstrates respect for individual staff members and their time, and (2) isn't able to genuinely demonstrate that the intent behind the words attributable to you has been misconstrued. It may prove to be a difficult endeavor since "you reap what you sow", but I believe it would be well worth the effort.

The staff of any organization is critical to its success, and PIA is fortunate to have the staff it does. They are competent, dedicated, like what they do, and enjoy serving the people and purpose of this organization. I urge you to get to know them. Be open to accepting them for who they are. Be willing to support them as they support the tribe and its citizens. Be prepared to learn from them as those opportunities arise. Be grateful for the energy, skills, and knowledge they bring to PIA every day.

As you begin serving during this time of change and uncertainty, they are your most valuable resource. I urge you to look to them and the incumbent council members for guidance as you navigate the way forward."

Respectfully, Cris Morrison Former President PIA Tribal Council

# Capitol Updates

# Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It was an eventful first week of session. Using every parliamentary tool available to us, the House Coalition was able to compel the House to invite the Senate into a joint session. This is the first step in the process to consider a veto override of the governor's cut to half of last year's one time education funding. I was honored to make the motion to call for a joint session. I believe the Legislature was correct in responding to the needs of our public schools since the vetoed funds are sitting in an account and could be used in our classrooms.

Ultimately, we were unsuccessful in reaching the high bar of 45 of 60 votes to override the veto, yet I am proud of my for everything we had into attempting the override. As a career educator who represents a rural district, where our only "school choice" is to strengthen our public schools, it was humbling to see my caucus work together and put their full effort into releasing the funds our schools so desperately need right now. Then on Saturday,

January 20, 2024, the House Rules Committee considered SB 140 (the new omnibus education bill). The committee took nearly four hours of testimony from individuals around the state. Thank you to those of you who called in! Despite overwhelming opposition from the testifiers to the House Rules version of SB 140, the committee ultimately voted to advance it from committee. I will continue to work to amend this bill so that we are supporting schools in a meaningful and effective way.

As you may know, the summer ferry schedule was released last Thursday, January 18, 2024. You can look at the sailing calendars by community or look at the colored schedule grids on the Alaska Marine Highway website. Unfortunately, many of the communities in House District 2 do not get the service they need, and sadly Yakutat is again not scheduled for ferry service during the summer. This will change if the department can hire enough staff to run the Kennicott this summer. We will continue to work with the department on this issue.

The House Resources Committee has scheduled HB 201, "An Act changing residency requirements for hunting, trapping and sport fishing privileges; and providing for an effective date" for two hearings this week. This is a bill constituents requested to closely align the residency requirements to obtain hunting, trapping and sport fishing license with the



Rep. Rebecca Himschoot

requirements to obtain a Permanent Fund Dividend. The goal is to ensure that year-round residents of the state are able to enjoy the benefits of increased bag limits and reduced costs that come with a resident license. In addition, I am hopeful that this will also make it easier for the Department of Public Safety to enforce residency requirements.

On Friday, January 26, 2024, the House Resources Committee will take public testimony on the bill during the hearing that is scheduled to start at 1:00 pm. You can testify from your local Legislative Information Office or by calling in. If you are calling from outside Juneau or Anchorage the toll-free teleconference number is 1-844-586-9085. In addition, you can always send in written testimony to the House Resources Chair, Representative Tom McKay and myself.

Please contact my office if you would like more information on the bill or have any questions or concerns.

> Sincerely, Representative Rebecca Himschoot Alaska House of Representatives

# **Ritter's River**



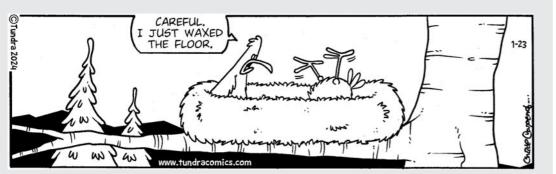






# Tundra

by Chad Carpenter





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# Ketchikan apartment fire results in arson arrest

By SCOTT BOWLEN Ketchikan Daily News

A Ketchikan woman faces a felony charge of first-degree arson after allegedly setting several small fires in her apartment before leaving the multi-unit building located on the 100 block of Inman Street on Saturday afternoon.

Firefighters responded quickly to a report of smoke coming from the eaves of the building and were able to contain the fire to the one apartment, according to Ketchikan Fire Department information. There were no injuries.

Belinda Nelson, 42, was taken into custody later in the day, and, on Sunday morning, participated telephonically in a first felony appearance hearing before Ketchikan Superior Court Judge Daniel Doty. The judge set Nelson's bail at a \$25,000 cash performance bond, and a \$25,000 appearance bond that has a 10% cash requirement. Nelson's next scheduled court appearance is a preliminary hearing at 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 31 at the Ketchikan Courthouse.

The report of smoke coming from the eaves of the three-story building was received at 2:18 p.m. Saturday, according to Ketchikan Fire Department Assistant Chief Greg Karlik. Firefighters were on the scene at the building on the hillside just south of Thomas Basin at 2:27 p.m.

The first KFD engine on scene had a three-person crew — one more than usual — that "got up the steps and got water on that fire really, really quick," said KFD Fire Chief Rick Hines, who noted that KFD shift crews have been training on moving hoses up stairwells swiftly. "(They) kept it contained to one apartment."

The emergency response grew to include a total of eight KFD apparatus and 14 KFD personnel, according to Karlik. There was a mutual aid response by the North Tongass Volunteer Fire department and South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department, as well as the Ketchikan Police Department and Ketchikan Public Utilities Electric Division.

No one was in the middlefloor apartment when firefighters arrived. According to the criminal complaint filed by KPD Sgt. Mike Paulsen, the fire department's first responders noted "four different origins of set fire within the apartment."

Paulsen, who is one of KPD's two trained arson investigators, later would identify five different

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

Thursday: 6p - Celebrate Recovery

origins of set fire within the apartment. Two were in a bedroom of the apartment, one was in a bathroom, and two were in the main living room, according to the criminal complaint.

With the initial fire in the apartment extinguished, fire-fighters checked other portions of the building for fire and other issues, which did result in some damage, said Hines.

"We had to force doors open, because, you know, you always, when you search for a fire in a multi-occupancy (building), you want to search the fire room, obviously. you want to search the rooms on either side of the fire, but ... the most important place you could search is above the fire the apartment above the fire, right? Because carbon monoxide and those gases travel upward and they can go through dry wall, you know, without necessarily having the heat. The cyanide that comes from formaldehyde from the way stuff is made nowadays. So, (sometimes) we have to damage those doors on those folks' apartments. We bang on the door, nobody's there. We can't find the occupants. And then obviously we force the door and we go in there and search."

Karlik said that some smoke got into other apartments in the building.

Ketchikan Fire Department's last apparatus departed the scene at 5:54 p.m., he said.

Damage to the apartment was estimated in excess of \$50,000, according to the KPD complaint filed with the court.

The Ketchikan fire and police departments have established a joint fire investigation task force. As noted above, Paulsen is one of KPD's two arson investigators.

According to the police complaint filed by Paulsen in the case, Nelson allegedly was heard throwing items and making noise in the apartment before quieting down. About 20 minutes later, smoke allegedly was smelled coming from the apartment. Nelson allegedly told Paulsen that she was making noise in the apartment while looking for her key and was the only person inside the apartment that day. She allegedly said that she left the apartment to go for a walk about 20 minutes to 30 minutes before returning to the apartment to find it was on fire, according to the complaint.

Security video footage allegedly showed Nelson leaving the apartment complex just before the fire was reported, and

"nobody returned to the apartment complex near (Nelson's) apartment stairwell until the Ketchikan Fire Department's arrival," according to the complaint.

The complaint notes that on Jan. 15, Nelson had been served a notice of "termination or tenancy for nonpayment of rent," with the option of paying rent or moving out by 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 22.

Hines said that he's pleased with agencies' joint fire investigation task force, noting that this was the second case that an arrest for arson had been made relatively quickly. The other case involves the fire that gutted the American Legion post building in September.

Karlik praised the swift action by the firefighters on Saturday.

"The fire crews did a great job and made a quick knock-down of the fire, which kept it from moving outside of the room and contents — which, ... if you know the area, that can be a very tough situation if anything would have expanded," Karlik said. "So, proud of our duty crews and their effort in keeping it to what they did."



Photo courtesy of Christopher Mulle

Smoke rises from a window of an apartment building in the 100 block of Inman Street above the Thomas Basin area of Ketchikan on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024. Crews from the Ketchikan Fire Department, South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department and North Tongass Volunteer Fire Department responded to the fire.

# Police report

**January 17 -** An officer spoke with neighbors on Mitkof Highway who were arguing over snow removal and they agreed to be neighborly.

An officer assisted a citizen on South 2nd Street.

Petersburg Police Department (PPD) received a report of a disabled vehicle at Eagles Roost Park.

An officer conducted a welfare check on Nordic Drive.

PPD received a report of items left at the post office.

PPD received a report of suspicious activity on Excel Street.

Extra patrols were conducted on Haugen Drive.

January 18 - An officer conducted a welfare check

on Haugen Drive.

PPD received a report of an individual

behaving suspiciously on Fram Street.

An officer assisted with a vehicle lockout on

North Nordic Drive.

An officer assisted with a vehicle lockout on Excel Street.

Extra patrols were conducted on Haugen

Drive.
Extra patrols were conducted on Excel Street.
PPD received a report of a black dog running

around on South Nordic Drive.

Extra patrols were conducted on Haugen

Matthew Davis was arrested on Chief John Lott Street for allegedly violating conditions of

**January 19 –** PPD assisted a citizen experiencing breathing problems on Rose Lane.

A caller from Nordic Drive reported a television was up way too loud.

PPD received a report of loud music on Excel Street.

A caller reported a subject laying on the ground at 4th and Ira II Streets and not getting up and then a child helping them up.

PPD received a report of suspicious activity on South Nordic Drive.

An officer assisted an individual locked out of their residence on Gjoa Street to gain entry.

An officer assisted with a vehicle lockout on North 7th Street.

PPD assisted an individual experiencing abdominal pain on Wrangell Avenue.

Extra patrols were conducted on Haugen Drive.

PPD received a report of a four-wheeler on the airport access road.

**January 20 –** An officer spoke with the owner of a vehicle with its door found open. The owner didn't notice anything missing.

An officer assisted a citizen on Brothers Avenue.

An officer assisted with a vehicle lockout near the water treatment plant. A caller reported electrical wires in some tree

branches on South Nordic Drive.

PPD responded to a report of trespassing on Excel Street and the subject was removed from an

apartment at its owner's request.

An intoxicated individual was removed from a bar on Chief John Lott Street.

An overdose was reported on South 2nd Street. **January 21 -** An alarm activated on North Nordic

An officer conducted a civil standby on Gjoa Street.

A subject came to pick up personal property from the PPD

from the PPD.

An officer assisted an individual on North

Nordic Drive.

January 22 - PPD received a report of an intoxicated individual disturbing people on North Nordic Drive.

PPD received a report of a vehicle blocking snow removal on Kiseno Street.

PPD assisted an individual suffering a seizure on Lumber Street.

An officer assisted an individual on North Nordic Drive.

An officer assisted with a vehicle lockout on Haugen Drive.

PPD received a report of a vehicle blocking snow removal on Haugen Drive.

PPD received a report of a transformer popping on North 2nd Street.

A caller reported a brown out at a residence on Gjoa Street.

January 23 - PPD received a report of bad road conditions on Lake and Aaslaug Streets.

Petersburg Public Works (PPW) was notified. An officer assisted with a lockout on Excel

An officer assisted with a lockout on Excel Street.

PPD received a report of a vehicle blocking snow removal at 1st and Excel Streets. The owner moved the vehicle.

PPD received a report of suspicious activity on North Nordic Drive.

An officer assisted an individual locked out of their residence on South 2nd Street to gain entry.

An officer conducted welfare check on Haugen

772-4563 • Corner of 5th & Gjoa Streets

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

FBC Petersburg

**Sunday:** 9:45a - Bible Classes • 10:45a - Fellowship/Meet & Greet

• 11a - Worship in person & Facebook • 6p - Youth Group

Wednesday: 6p - Outreach Fellowship Meal

### City

# New Forest Service cabins approved for development

By OLIVIA ROSE Pilot writer

The U.S. Forest Service approved six new recreational cabin sites in the Petersburg and Wrangell Ranger Districts for development in a final decision notice signed on Jan. 17, 2024.

Out of eight potential sites proposed in the October 2023 draft decision, the final decision approved all three sites in the Petersburg district — Keex' Kwáan, Blind Slough and Woodpecker Cove Road— and three of five sites in Wrangell district — Fools Pass, Little Lakes and Mustang Lake.

Using funding from the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the National Forest Foundation and the Forest Service have partnered to build new cabins and repair existing cabins in Alaska.

The region was allocated \$14.4 million for cabin projects on the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, and the National Forest Foundation leveraged another \$3.7 million in matching funds for the Alaska Cabins Project in partnership with the USFS.

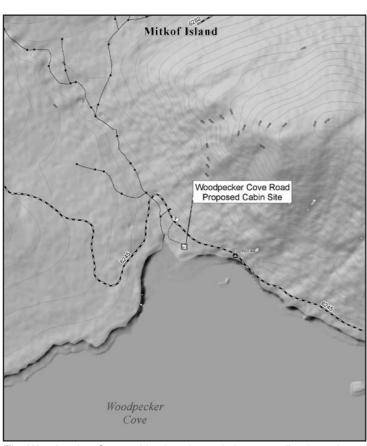
"Presently, we're in a design phase ... we're trying to figure out how all the different pieces of construction will happen," garding documented cultural sites near the other two proposed cabin sites in the Wrangell Ranger District — Burnett Portage on Etolin Island and Fools Inlet on Wrangell Island — so officials removed the sites from the decision for further consultation of the archeology in the locations.

The exclusion of the Burnett

Portage and Fools Inlet potential cabin sites is the notable difference between the draft and final decision notices. Burnett Portage and Fools Inlet may be reconsidered in the future depending on the outcome and public interest.

With financial backing from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Houser said the goal is to establish approximately 15 new cabins on the Tongass National Forest in the next four to six years.

But right now, "we're focused on making sure that we get a really high quality opportunity out of the one that we're working on and then as opportunity allows, we'll see what comes next," said Houser.



The Woodpecker Cove cabin site, situated about 30 miles from downtown Petersburg, is accessible from both water and road.

The USFS has already started designing the Woodpecker Cove Road cabin site and the Little Lakes cabin site.

The Keex' Kwáan approved cabin site is located on Kuprenof Island and the Blind Slough and Woodpecker Cove Road approved sites are located on Mitkof Island.

The Woodpecker Cove Road cabin site is accessible from both water and road, located about 30 miles from downtown Petersburg with a south-facing view of Sumner Strait. It remains the Petersburg Ranger District's top priority for development and funding.

Recreation staff officer Tori Houser told the Pilot that constructing a cabin on the Mitkof Island road system is a goal in the year 2025. Although the Blind Slough site also fits that description, Houser said Woodpecker Cove Road is the site that the Forest Service wants to concentrate on first.

"This is the cool part," said Houser, "We went out with a drone and we got ... really good site footage, which is helping us do our site development plan. And we're figuring out the ... specifics of exactly how the cabin could be constructed at that location and the access trails ... the outhouse ... the woodshed, and how all of that will be oriented in the space."

said Houser. "Then we'll work, with the National Forest Foundation, to put those into contract documents and put them out for bid ... The funding is for all of those pieces, like the design work the Forest Service is doing in-house, and then the contract will be for the construction part and that funding is secured as well."

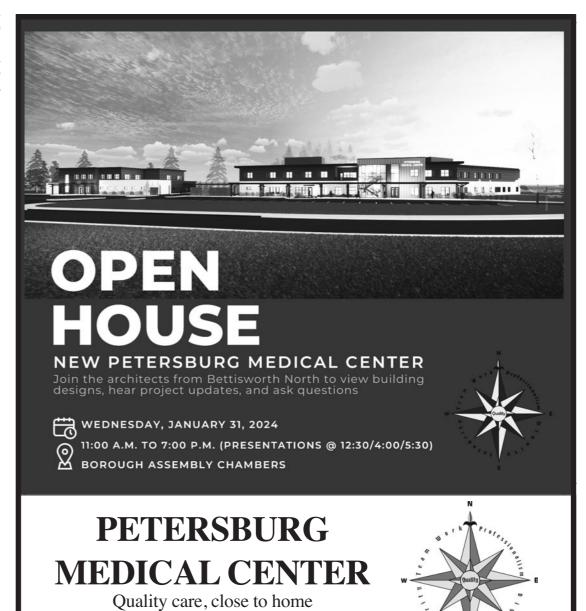
The district selected the sites after assessing each of their environmental impacts, accessibility, potential for traffic and competitive edge for federal funding.

To narrow down the decision out of roughly 195 suggested sites in the Wrangell and Petersburg districts, "accessibility was a really big player."

The USFS wants the cabins to be used regularly so they may cover their own maintenance costs, because unpopular cabins in locations that are difficult to access are "hard to argue for their upkeep and maintenance when only like three people a year use them," said Houser, "just economically not really feasible."

Public feedback given during comment periods was also considered before approving the decision

During the objection filing period in late 2023, the Forest Service received a request for additional tribal consultation re-



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

#### **Southeast**



## South Harbor dredging nears completion

By ORIN PIERSON Pilot editor



Western Marine's dredging operations in South Harbor are expected to reach completion this week. Access for harbor users has been partially blocked as crews push through the

winter weather to dig the final

The next step will be a survey of the most recently dredged areas, and if all looks good Petersburg Harbormaster Glo Wollen can sign off on the work and the US Army Corps of Engineers can close out the administrative details of the project.

The dredge work began in early 2022, but the planning, feasibility study, permitting, testing, advocating for funding and more planning began in 2015, Harbormaster Wollen told the Pilot.

During 2022, the dredge work ran into delays due to hard digging that extended the effort into a multiyear digging schedule, involving extensive scheduling and coordinating with boat owners in the har-

"We are finally seeing the light!" Harbormaster Wollen told the Pilot on Wednesday. "Western made their last area move yesterday and should complete the dredging today ...'

# March for Life

Sunday, Jan. 28 @1pm meet across the street from Trading Union

The Bible declares that God is creator and sustainer of Life. Life is sacred from the moment of conception to natural death.



"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Psalm 139:13-16 (NIV):

Sanctity of life applies to abortion and also to euthanasia, human trafficking, domestic abuse, and much more. Our belief in the sanctity of the life motivates us to combat all forms of evil and injustice that are perpetrated against human life.

> Sponsored by concerned citizens of Petersburg. (Contact any local pastor if you have questions)

# Governor wants to take over appointment of entire ferry system advisory board

**By LARRY PERSILY** 

Sentinel writer

Unless the Legislature decides otherwise by mid-March, Gov. Mike Dunleavy will take over appointment of the entire nine-member Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board.

State law reserves four of the seats for appointment by legislative leaders, but Dunleavy on the first day of the legislative session Jan. 16 introduced an executive order that changes the law so that the governor would control all of the appointments.

The change will take effect 60 days after the order was issued - unless a majority of the 60 legislators vote in a joint session to reject the executive order.

The governor's office said there is no particular reason for the change in the appointment process for the ferry system advisory board, other than Dunleavy's priority "to make state government as efficient and effective as possible."

The Legislature created the advisory board in 2021 in an effort to bring more public input to management decisions and diminish political interference in ferry system operations.

"It's a big concern," Ketchikan Rep. Dan Ortiz said of the governor's order. "Creating that board was a first step" in trying to give more autonomy to the ferry system.

Changing the law so that governors get to appoint the entire board "pulls things back and puts the board under more control" of the administration, said Ortiz, who also represents Wrangell.

Kodiak Rep. Louise Stutes, who served as House speaker in 2021 when the first legislative appointments were named to the new board, said she will push hard for the House Transportation Committee to hold a hearing on the governor's exec-

Stutes opposes removing the egislature's ability to four of the nine seats. "It's politics at its best," she said of the governor's move to take over all of the appointment author-

Stutes, who has served in the Legislature since 2015, the same as Ortiz, fought hard in 2021 to ensure that the legislation creating the advisory board included

public members appointed by the House speaker and Senate president.

The bill amending the structure and membership of the advisory board passed without any "no" votes in the House and Senate in 2021.

If Dunleavy's executive order goes into effect, as of July 1 he would be able to remove any current members of the board — even if they have time remaining on their terms — to make room for new appointees. Or he could reappoint the current members.

Juneau Sen. Jesse Kiehl questioned the reasons for the order. "I think it's a functional board today and I'm not sure why there's a need for change," he told the Juneau Empire last

"I'm really concerned about it," Senate President Gary Stevens told the Empire. "I like the Legislature having input into that board. It's very important for me in Kodiak, it's important to a lot of people in Southeast Alaska as well. Who knows how it's going to turn out, but I think we're unlikely to give up our authority to appoint people to boards."

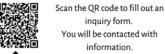
The executive order was among 12 issued Dunleavy last week, all dealing with state boards and commissions.





#### GOOD BEGINNINGS 2023-2024 ENROLLMENT

Thanks to grant funding, Good Beginnings is pleased to offer a discounted tuition rate starting in January!



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inquiry form. You will be contacted with information.

# Despite educators' pleas for changes, school funding bill advances closer to Alaska House vote

By JAMES BROOKS Alaska Beacon

The Alaska Legislature's big education funding bill will reach the floor of the Alaska House of Representatives by next week, a leading Republican lawmaker said Monday.

"We're going to get it out. It's not going to sit anywhere," said Rep. Craig Johnson, R-Anchorage and chair of the House Rules Committee.

On Saturday, members of Johnson's committee heard more than seven hours of public testimony, mostly in favor of a large increase in Alaska's funding for public schools.

The committee declined to fulfill that request before advancing Senate Bill 140 to the House floor.

The bill proposes a \$300 increase to the state's base student allocation - the funding formula for public schools but that would actually be a year-over-year cut due to the expiration of a one-year \$340 per-student bonus payment authorized in 2023.

The committee's proposed action would nevertheless be the largest permanent bump for the base student allocation since it was created.

School districts have requested a \$1,413 per-student increase — enough to make up for inflation since 2012 - and the Alaska Senate approved a \$680 per-student increase in a separate bill last year.

The committee's word isn't the final one: The full House could begin voting on amendments as soon as Friday, Johnson said. Any bill passed by the House will also be subject to negotiation with the Senate.

Over the weekend, school district leaders and advocates for public schools unsuccessfully urged the committee to add more funding.

"I appreciate the proposed

\$300 BSA increase included in this bill. But it's clearly not enough to support the necessary programs and learning opportunities for our stusaid Erica Kludtdents," Painter, superintendent of schools for the Southeast Alaska town of Petersburg.

Sandra Barron, a K-6 teacher at Moose Pass School on the Kenai Peninsula, has been teaching for 21 years at various Alaska districts and said a funding increase would help districts hire staff for vacant jobs.

"Many schools have fewer teachers, and support staff. And they're all doing more and finding it difficult to provide our students with everything they need," she said.

Testifiers and some lawmakers drew a direct correlation between the BSA and class sizes. While the bill also would provide funding for student transportation and improved Internet in rural classrooms, BSA money isn't designated for a single purpose, allowing school districts to use it for teachers, summer school, maintenance, and non-teaching positions.

'We already have massive class sizes," said Rep. Zack Fields, D-Anchorage. "Far too many of our classes have well over 30 kids; we have elementary schools with class sizes in the upper 20s. ... Educational best practices don't recommend having class sizes in excess of 25 for any of the elementary class sizes."

In addition to addressing the base student allocation, the version of Senate Bill 140 advancing toward the House floor also contains several priorities advanced by Gov. Mike Dunleavy and Republican members of the House, such as greater funding for homeschooled students and charter

On Saturday, the committee voted 5-2 to give students in home correspondence programs - typically used by homeschooled students - the same treatment in the base student allocation as traditional

Previously, the Legislature funded them at a lower level because they don't typically use brick-and-mortar schools and so don't need to worry about school maintenance.

"Funding correspondence students at the same level as other students is only fair and timely," said Rep. Jamie Allard, R-Eagle River.

The committee voted down an attempt by Rep. Calvin Schrage, I-Anchorage, to remove sections of the bill dealing with charter schools.

Those sections would allow the state school board to approve a charter school in a local district, bypassing the local school board.

in the bill would ultimately do is take away all of that local control, and put it in the hands of a board which is not elected and serves at the whim of the governor," Schrage said.

Allard, speaking in favor of the proposal, said the current system is weighted against charter schools because districts effectively decide the fate of a competitor.

have McDonald's and Burger King, and Burger King says, 'You can't open up next to me because I want to sell my burgers. They're better than yours.' We can't do that," she said.

Another late amendment mandates courses in civics education. That proposal was first written by Senate President Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak,

"It's almost like when you in Senate Bill 29, and was adopted unanimously by the rules committee.

Senate Bill 140 is expected to be read onto the House floor Wednesday morning, and floor amendments could begin Fri-

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

# Read the Public Notices BE AN INFORMED CITIZEN PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The deadline for all Property Tax Exemption Applications for 2024 is February 15th.

Any qualifying party that has not already applied or any party that was asked to provide proof of eligibility needs to have all information in to the Finance office by February 15th at 4:30 p.m.

Please remember that it is the responsibility of the property owner to update our office of changes in ownership, mailing address, exemption eligibility, and any other changes to the property.



The Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption Application is a onetime application.

Published: January 25 and February 1, 2024

Petersburg Borough Siren Alert & Warning System (SAWS)

# **Siren Testing**

# **First Wednesday of Every Month** at 12pm - 30 seconds, using a steady signal



The sirens — used to alert the public in the event of an emergency such as a Tsunami, Natural Disaster, Major Fire or Foreign Attack — located on the roof of the Syd Wright Auditorium located at Petersburg Middle School, the Mort Fryer Sports Complex (Base Ball Fields) and Bayview Estates (Hungerford Hill) may use different sounds and tones to alert the public of different emergencies. Here is what they could sound like:

**Emergency Warning - Wail Tone** This will be a 3-5 minute wavering (warbling in pitch) tone or siren. The "Emergency Warning" signal should mean to all people that a danger is imminent and protective action (Evacuate, go to high ground or take shelter, depending on the emergency) should be taken immediately. Turn on your radio and listen for essential emergency information, keep telephone use limited to emergency contact, do not call 911 to ask about the sirens. The "Emergency Warning" signal shall be repeated as often as deemed necessary by local government authorities to obtain the desired response by the population.

Attention/Alert - Steady Tone A 3 - 5 minute steady signal from sirens. This signal may be used as authorized by city officials to alert the public to potential emergencies, where the public may face danger in the near future, such as under a Tsunami or Earthquake Advisory, in addition to any other meaning or requirement for action as determined by Borough officials. The Attention/Alert Signal should mean to all people, "Turn on radio or TV, keep telephone use limited to emergency contact only. Listen for essential emergency information, Be prepared to act."

Local Fire Alert - Wail Tone This will be a 30 second wavering (warbling in pitch) tone or siren. The Local Fire Alert is only to be used in cases of major fire, where multiple structures are endangered, Initial responders are over-whelmed and additional help is needed from reserve units, or abnormal events such as a plane crash or other accidents that require many more responders. The "Local Fire Alert" signal should mean to all people that an active Fire response is ongoing, affected areas should be avoided and routes leading to the scene should remain clear. Turn on your radio and listen for additional information, do not call 911 to ask about the sirens. The "Local Fire Alert" signal shall be repeated as often as deemed necessary by local government authorities.

#### Rules of the Road **US Coast Guard**



**QUESTION** & Answer

QUESTION:

A vessel anchored in fog may warn an approaching vessel by sounding

A. the whistle continuously B. one short, one prolonged, and one short blast of the whistle

C. five or more short and rapid blasts of the whistle

D. three distinct strokes on the bell before and after sounding the anchor signal

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

one short blast of the whistle one short, one prolonged, and YNZMEK B.

"What this change outlined

# Vikings take on 4A teams in Anchorage

By LIAM DEMKO

Pilot writer

Petersburg High School's varsity boys basketball team traveled up north to Anchorage last weekend for an eightteam, three-day tournament.

Unfortunately, they weren't able to pick up a win against their 4A competition, but coach Rick Brock reported that the weekend of tough games wasn't without its merits.

"We went up knowing that when you're the only small school in a 4A tournament, you're up against it anyway," he said.

"We knew that going in and our goal was to finish the tournament playing better than we started it, and I really felt that

After a long day of traveling, they played their first game on Thursday against the hosts of the tournament, South Anchorage High School.

According to Brock, the team struggled against the South Anchorage's constant pressure throughout the first half of the game, but they were able to start to turn things around in the second half.

"We did a nice job of adjusting at halftime. We ended up losing 38-59, but we actually outscored them in the second half," he said.

Things played out in a similar manner during Friday's game against Fairbanks' Lathrop High School.

The Vikings struggled to

keep up during the game's first half but found their footing quickly after.

"We thought South Anchorage [played] fast, but Lathrop was really quick and their pressure was different. They were really tenacious in the full court," said Brock.

"We did a nice job of adjusting at halftime and again we actually outscored them in the second half. We ended up losing 43-63, but again we played a pretty good second half to get to that point."

Finally, the Vikings played their final match on Saturday against Anchorage's Mountain City Christian Academy.

Unfortunately, Kieran Cabral sprained his ankle during Friday's Lathrop game, so the team was short a valuable ball handler.

However, the Vikings still came out of the gate strong, tying the game 10-10 by the end of the first quarter.

They kept up their momentum with a fantastic second quarter, holding Mountain City to two points and coming out 21-12 at halftime.

But during the end of the third quarter the game started to swing in the other direction. Mountain City cut the lead down to 30-27, leading to an intense fourth quarter battle for

After going back and forth all quarter the Vikings missed out on the win by just a few points, losing 42-40.

But despite the loss, there were still a lot of positives to

"That game was the most complete game that we played, which was a good way to end the tournament," said Brock.

"We handled their pressure better, got better looks at the basket, and our defense holding them to two points in a quarter was very good."

Certain Petersburg players also picked up some additional honors throughout the tourna-

Rik Cumps was awarded player of the game for Thursday's game as well as Saturday's, where he put on quite the performance.

"Rik Cumps—he played really well throughout the ball game – but he had a very very good end of the third quarter into the fourth quarter. Especially when we lost our ball handlers, they really keyed on us defensively and he was able to break their pressure and still get us in a more offensive set," said Brock.

Additionally, Hunter Conn was awarded player of the game for Friday's match and was also selected for the all tournament team.

And looking forward, the Vikings have another exciting set of games ahead of them.

With their homecoming games against Wrangell approaching quickly, the team is trying their best to get back in fighting form.

"It's a super important weekend for us because they're also conference games," said Brock.

"We're trying to get healthy. We've got guys sick and injured, but it's homecoming and it's against Wrangell... So it's always exciting to have homecoming for the guys and we're looking forward to playing."



Monday, Jan 29 No School Tuesday, Jan 30 Mac and Cheese Wednesday, Jan 31 Pork Chili

Thursday, Feb 1 Fish and Rice Friday, Feb 2 Grilled Cheese

Breakfast Menu -

Served With Milk & Choice of:

Fresh Fruit, Applesauce or Dried Cranberries Homemade Granola with Yogurt, Smoothie and Granola, Fruit Parfait and Granola, French Toast, Oatmeal, Homemade Muffin, and Cereals Don't like Lunch Menu? Try the Salad Bar All Breakfast and Lunch Meals Served with Milk \*WG = Whole Grain



#### Fishing Vessel Drill Conductor Training in Petersburg

The Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA) will offer a Fishing Vessel Drill Conductor Course in Petersburg, Alaska, on February 10, 2024, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., in the Petersburg Parks and Recreation Activity Room. The cost for the class is \$125.00 for commercial fishermen and \$225.00 for all others. Interested mariners may register online at www.amsea.org or call (907) 747-3287.

The class will cover cold-water survival skills; EPIRBs, signal flares, and mayday calls; man-overboard recovery; firefighting; flooding and damage control; dewatering pumps, immersion suits and PFDs, helicopter rescue, life rafts, abandon ship procedures, and emergency drills. AMSEA's Fishing Vessel Drill Conductor workshops meet the U.S. Coast Guard training requirements for drill conductors on commercial fishing vessels, 46 CFR 28.270 (c).

This Fishing Vessel Drill Conductor class is an excellent opportunity for commercial fishermen and other mariners to gain hands-on training with marine safety equipment and learn best practices for surviving emergencies at sea. Participants qualify for up to \$95 off the purchase price of their next PFD.

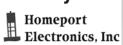
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The Bushed Pilot

#### Pilot Publishing Publications available at the Pilot Office

#### "The Bushed Pilot"

By local resident and retired southeast Alaska bush Pilot Bill Stedman. The book is the story of the life of a man who was born and raised in Southeast Alaska who lived in the world. The story covers the life of Bill Stedman as he lived it as a Bush Pilot, a Family Man and a World Traveler..

This book is for those who have dreamt of the adventure of Alaska..

"Little Norway The Story of Petersburg" A history of Petersburg by Don Nelson

"Lutefisk on the Lens" Over two decades of photojournalism in Alaska's Little Norway

"No Show Tonight" A historical collection of stories from Petersburg's past told by the people who lived it "Salmon Post Cards" Full color, oversized, two styles

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#### **About Town**

# PHS Honor Roll -

congratulate those Petersburg High School students who earned a spot on the First Semester Honor Rolls.

Students with a 4.0 grade point are named to the Highest

The Pilot would like to Honor Roll: Natalee Bertagnoli, Hendrik Cumps, Waylon Jones, Eleanor Kandoll, Ali Kittams, Kinley Lister, Martha Midkiff, Rebecca Midkiff, Mette Miller, Anya Pawuk, Joseph Tagaban, Maria Toth, and Elias Ward.

#### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

Those with birthdays this week are: January 26: Brian Look. January 27: Bob Haltiner, Gabe Dunham. January 28: Doug Welde, Terry McEldowney, Tony Moran. January 29: Matthew Duddles, Tazer Stone, Vicki Kaer. January 30: Doug Ware, Jayne Aiken, Steve Burrell. January 31: Bill Haley, Jillian Versteeg, Jimmy Clark, Tess Abbott. February 1: Britina Lyons, Dorothy Bentley, Scott Hjort.

Those with anniversaries this week are: January 30: Jeff and Amber Libbert.

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

#### Senior Meals

MONDAY, January 29

Macaroni and Cheese with Ham, Vegetables, Fruit Salad, Ice Cream

> TUESDAY, January 30 Chicken Chow Mein with Noodles, Cucumber Salad, Cookie, Milk WEDNESDAY, January 31

Pork Chops with Gravy, Rice, Mixed Vegetables, Sliced Pears, Cake THURSDAY, February 1

Pork Fried Rice, Egg Rolls, Green Beans, Cottage Cheese with Fruit, Cake

FRIDAY, February 2 Salmon Fettuccine, Vegetables, Applesauce, Brownie, Milk

The community dining room is open to eligible diners (60+ and their spouses, or disabled individuals living in an assisted living facility). Dinner is served between 4 and 4:30 p.m. All meals are suggested donation only. Please call Mountain View Food Service at 772-4331 before noon for reservations.

Read the Public Notices · BE AN INFORMED CITIZEN · PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY

· EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is seeking proposals from qualified firms to clear, trim, and cut 49.07 acres of Swan-Bailey transmission line right-of-way located on central Revillagigedo Island north of



Ketchikan in Southeast Alaska. Bids are due February 28, 4:00 p.m. AKST. For a complete set of the bid documents with additional details, please navigate to:

https://www.seapahydro.org/opportunities/bids-projects interested respondents may call the SEAPA office at (907) 228-2281 for a copy.

Published: January 25, 2024

The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is seeking clear, trim, and cut 81.53 acres of transmission line right SEAPA's Swan-Tyee Intertie located on Revillagigedo Island north of



Ketchikan in Southeast Alaska. Bids are due February 28, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. AKST. For a complete set of the bid documents with additional details, please navigate to:

https://www.seapahydro.org/opportunities/bids-projects interested respondents may call the SEAPA office at (907) 228-2281 for a copy.

Published: January 25, 2024

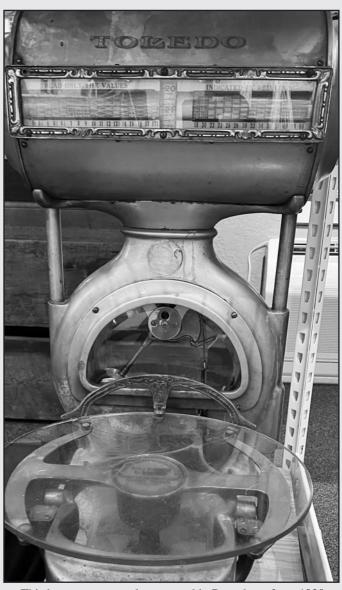
Students with a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.99 are named to the High Honor Roll: Anderson, Kristina Barkfelt, Ethan Bertagnoli, Heidi Brantuas, Zane Browning, Kieran Cabral, Eden Davis, Lakell Deinhardt, Payton Dreisbach, Adrian Ducat, Ashley Eilenberger, Canek Elias Sosa, Yenka Ferriera, Torey Ann Fry, Serena Helms, Hahnah Hoffstetter, Alex Holmgrain, Benjamin Kandoll, Nathan Kerr, Trent Kittams, Isaac Litster, Ruby Litster, Kesia Luhr, Charlotte Martin, Kylie Mattingly, Rikka Miller, Landon Odegaard, Thomas Olsen Phillips, Noah Pawuk, Laughlin Pegoda, Thomas Siek, Cheyenne Steele, Alysa Thomassen, Thynes, Sean Toth, Logan Tow, Abigail Trueblood, Brayden Tucker, Freya Tucker, Tyler Ward, Elijah Whitacre, Gabriele Whitacre, and Brooklyn Whitethorn.

Students with a grade point average of 3.3 to 3.49 are named to the Honor Roll: Markus Anderson, Dakota Caples, Lucas Dormer, Myah Enriquez, Sara Eszik, Logan Haley, Olivia Hinde, Aiden Knudsen. and Nolan Lutomski.

#### **School News**

Julian Cumps, son of Alice and Thomas Cumps, was named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List, a scholarly award for students who demonstrate academic excellence. Julian is studying Mathematics and Computer Science at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

## **Artifact Archive**



This brass counter scale was used in Petersburg from 1928 to 1946 in the Modern Grocery Store, owned and run by Andrew Heimdahl. Heimdahl arrived in Petersburg on May 7, 1911 and initially worked in the fishing industry before going to work for various stores, including the Trading Union which he managed from 1921 to 1928.

In 1929 Andrew purchased the Modern Grocery Store where he used the scale to weigh and then calculate the prices of items for purchase. Made by the Toledo Computing Scale Company, known for their quality craftsmanship and attention to detail, the scale features a computing mechanism patented in 1906.

In 1967, a after many years in the grocery business, Andrew closed the Modern Grocery Store to retire in Everett, Washington.

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

# Read the Public Notices BE AN INFORMED CITIZEN PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY

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## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Petersburg Borough would like all property owners to be aware of the assessment and tax schedule for the 2024 calendar year. Forms and information can be found online or in our office.

#### 2024 Property Tax Timeline

February 15, 2024 Deadline for Fire/EMS, Fire Suppression System, Disabled Veterans and Senior Citizen, and Non-Profit Exemption Applications March 1, 2024 Property Assessments Mailed Out

Property Taxes Due, 4:30 pm Finance Office

March 1 - March 31, 2024 Appeal Period

Board of Equalization during the Regular Borough April 15, 2024 Assembly meeting @ 6pm

Delivery of Final Assessment Roll to Assembly By May 6, 2024

**Prior to June 15, 2024** Mill Rate of Tax Levy set by Assembly

Property Tax Invoices Mailed July 1, 2024

Petersburg Borough Finance Office

Open 8-4:30 Monday-Friday Call 772-4425 ex 3 or stop by 12 South Nordic Drive www.petersburgak.gov

Published: January 25, 2024

October 15, 2024



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#### **JOBS**

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

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  - · Adult Day Care Program Aide (PT)
  - Physical Therapist
     Activities Assistant
  - Medical Assistant Materials Assistant (PT)
    - · Bingocize Facilitator (PT as Needed)
  - · Clinic Reception/Admissions (FT)
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- · Radiologic Technologist · Speech Language Pathologist
  - · Nurse (LPN or RN) Primarily Night Shift



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.....3x1-25b147 Petersburg's Public Works Department has an opening for a fulltime Administrative Assistant I. This position pays \$21.95 per hour and has full benefits. A full job description and employment application can be obtained from the Borough's website at www.petersburgak.gov. Applications will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough offices, 12

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.....tfn1-18b68 Petersburg Borough has an opening for a permanent full-time Motor Pool Equipment Mechanic. Starting wage for this position is \$32.42/hour. \$2500 hiring bonus after six-month probation period and \$2500 bonus after one year. Three years of vehicle repair and maintenance employment experience is required. Possession of a Class A or B Commercial Driver's License with air brake and tanker endorsements is preferred; howev-

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er, applicants with the ability to obtain the required CDL within the first six months of employment will be considered. A full job description and employment application can be obtained below. Applications will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough office, 12 S. Nordic Drive, or mailed to P.O. Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833, attn: Human Resources, until the po-

.....tfn11-30b129

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#### **Southeast**

# Reparations

Continued from page 1

ences. And then I realized how that can be passed on through the generations and how it affects our people. That made sense to what I witnessed growing up," he said.

Jackson said he witnessed people in his community struggle with alcohol as they aged and he sees that as a result of forced assimilation among people who experienced boarding school and their children. "That was the generation that was subjected to forced assimilation, where they couldn't speak their language or do the things that they normally do," he said.

He said the colonial presence also disrupted transmission of the Tlingit language by supplanting it with English. "We have very few fluent Tlingit speakers anymore. Most of them are leaving us," he said, referring to how many fluent elders have

"Hopefully we can get people over here that are struggling with addiction and alcohol. It's not just going to be for our community, it's going to be regionwide," he said. "I want to open it at first to the rural smaller communities because a lot of times they don't have the option of going to treatment because, you know, most centers are in the bigger cities. And there's usually a waiting list to get in there. So yeah, I want to open that up for them.

The reparations were announced at Kake Day, a yearly celebration of when the Southeast Alaska city incorporated in 1912 and its residents became the first Alaska Natives to have United States citizenship and have the right to vote. The reparations follow an apology the Quakers made in Juneau in 2022 to the Alaska Native community for the harms of boarding schools.

#### How it happened

Jamiann S'eiltin Hasselquist, a regional healing catalyst for the nonprofit Haa Tóoch Lichéesh, said the reparations followed testimony she and Jim LaBelle gave at the Sierra Cascades vearly meeting outside of Portland, Oregon.

"This is a monumental moment in history," Hasselquist said. "I hope it leads to the righting of relations, joining hands together in healing for people on

our own land."

Hasselquist is involved in work that re-centers Alaska Native presence in Juneau's history, such as cleaning up a neglected Alaska Native cemetery on Douglas Island and finding the location of a former Quaker boarding school there. She is an advocate for right relations and healing.

Hasselquist said she is the great granddaughter of a woman born on Douglas Island who would have experienced the harms of a boarding school. She was prepared to meet with the descendant of a Quaker missionary in Kake, but bad weather delayed the woman's flight. She said she sees this event as part of a bigger "river" of healing.

'Everything that was taken from us through the genocide of our people through residential boarding school institutions, which are government-funded and church-run institutions the things that they took from us are the very things that are going to heal us," she said.

She pointed the Quakers to Joel Jackson, that they might support his healing center proj-

Hasselquist was first introduced to the Quakers through Jim LaBelle, a boarding school survivor, who has spoken out previously about his experience and how those harms have affected his life and the lives of his peers. He joined Hasselquist to address the Quakers in Oregon.

"I believe that our stories were very impactful because they recognized that they had a role that they played in attempting to Christianize and colonize Native people up here," LaBelle said. "And I think they were very surprised how traumatic that attempt was. Some of it was successful. But others were left with long-lasting effects that they passed on to their family members throughout the generations."

He said the moment was special because some members of the audience were the descendants of the Quaker ministers that were sent to Alaska in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

"They were so affected by our story. I remember a number of times, individual descendants and they were in their 80s and 90s – would come to our table and just make a heartfelt apology for what happened," he said.

LaBelle said he has hope that



Jamiann S'eiltin Hasselquist stands with Quaker Cathy Walling and organized Village of Kake President Joel Jackson at an altar draped with orange shirts commemorating the harms of boarding schools, Jan. 19, 2024.

reparations like this one will be part of the future relationship between Alaska Native people and churches. He pointed to a bill in Congress that calls for healing centers, the return of land, and help rebuilding Native language

When he reflected on what his younger self would have thought of the apologies and reparations, he paused: "That would have been quite a revelation, pardon the pun," he said. "I would have been ecstatic. The reason I've been so passionate about doing this line of work for so long is that I was robbed of my childhood."

He said that at the Southern Baptist Church in Wrangell he was told that his mother was involved in devil worship when she sang, danced and drummed.

"When you're an impressionable little kid, and you hear that over and over, you start believing it." he said.

#### An apology

Cathy Walling, a member of the Chena Ridge Friends Meeting in Fairbanks, and Jan Bronson, an Anchorage Quaker, traveled to Kake to apologize and contribute the money on Thursday.

But their path towards right relations with Alaska Native people began years ago, when they joined with First Alaskans Institute, an Alaska Native advocacy nonprofit, to learn about their religion's history in Alaska.

"First Alaskans encouraged us to learn our history as missionaries in Alaska. So that's what got us started. We spent a year doing research, reading what we could, talking to people," Bronson said.

While Quakers didn't run a

boarding school in Kake, they had a mission and supported teachers working at the government school for about 20 years.

The women presented the Kake community with nearly \$93,000 to insure the building that will become the healing center because they said they are coming to understand that healing begins with cultural and community connections.

"This is lifelong. This work is lifelong for us," Bronson said. Then, she quoted another Quaker: "We don't imagine that a few tens of thousands of dollars is commensurate to the past evil or the present need. We have heard that it will help in the healing and we are glad to be able to give it. More to come."

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