

Vikings crowned 2A Region V Champs



Photo courtesy of James Poulson / Sitka Daily Sentinel
The Petersburg Vikings come together to celebrate their win in the championship match against Metlakatla on Friday at the Region V Championships in Sitka.

PHS Cheer earns second consecutive regional title



Photo courtesy of James Poulson / Sitka Daily Sentinel
Petersburg cheerleaders engage the crowd at the B.J McGillis gym during the Craig vs. Petersburg girls basketball game. See pages 8 and 9 for the Region V stories.

Silver Bay Seafoods agrees to acquire Trident's Ketchikan plant; Petersburg deal entering final stages with yet unnamed buyer

By PILOT & SENTINEL STAFF

Trident Seafoods reported last Friday it was "entering the final stages of closing deals for three of its Alaska shoreside plants," including its operations in Ketchikan and Petersburg.

On Wednesday, Trident announced that an agreement has been reached "in principle" for Silver Bay Seafoods to acquire the Trident processing plant in Ketchikan.

A buyer for Petersburg's plant has not yet been officially named, but rumors are circulating that an announcement to that effect is expected to happen this Friday.

Seattle-based Trident Seafoods — the largest seafood harvesting and processing company in the United States — announced in December it planned to sell four of its Alaska plants as it restructures its operations amid weak markets.

In addition to Petersburg and Ketchikan, Trident said it wanted to sell its processing operations in Kodiak and at False Pass in the Aleutian Islands.

The company has said it plans to retain ownership of its

Wrangell plant, boosting hiring over last year to process more chum and pink salmon this summer.

In addition to negotiating with buyers for its Petersburg and Ketchikan facilities, Trident said March 8 it is close to a deal for False Pass and continues talking with multiple potential buyers for Kodiak.

"These are relatively simple, straightforward transactions," Jeff Welbourn, senior vice president of Alaska operations, said

Herring roe ripens as the fish get ready to spawn; their small, white, hard eggs become golden, larger and more desirable.

The herring sac roe fishery is a careful waiting game in order to harvest maximum quality mature roe, before the herring spawn.

Prior to and during fishing

of the Petersburg and Ketchikan properties in a prepared statement March 8. "We're simplifying the deals to facilitate closing as quickly as possible," he said.

"We are keenly aware of the upcoming salmon season, and we are confident that the buyers, with Trident's support, will be able to communicate with the fleet, employees and tenders in the coming weeks," he added.

The Ketchikan plant, with canning lines in addition to

periods, herring distribution, abundance, and quality of roe are monitored by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) via aerial survey, test fishing and vessel sonar surveys to check on the herring biomass.

"We've seen a large increase in the biomass of herring," ADFG Region I Management Coordinator Troy Thynes told the Pilot.

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2024 Sitka Sound

freezing lines, is the company's largest operation in Southeast. The Petersburg plant's capacity is about one-quarter the volume of Wrangell, according to Trident's website.

"We know this is an unsettling time, but the company has not been standing still," Welbourn said. "We're moving as quickly as possible to minimize the impacts on the fleet, our employees, and the communities."

Kodiak is the company's largest plant, with year-round

sac roe herring fishery is 81,246 tons — not quite double the previous high quota of 45,164 tons that seiners saw in 2022.

It is the largest quota for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery since 1979, according to harvest data from Fish and Game.

Although the impressively large biomass forecast is "very encouraging," Thynes noted that "we don't expect the harvesters to take 80 thousand

operations to process multiple seafood species, particularly pollock, salmon, Pacific cod and crab. "Even if we don't close a deal by this summer, Trident will still provide a market for salmon season in Kodiak," said Welbourn. "This means that our employees and fleet are secure, and we will share a tender strategy soon."

Trident is privately held, with operations in six countries and about 9,000 employees worldwide.

tons or anywhere close to it."

"Due to the large size of the GHL and a limited market, only a portion of the GHL is expected

Continued on page 16

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

Guideline harvest level for Sitka Sound Herring Sac Roe Fishery at record high, amidst declining market conditions



Yesterday's News

News from 25-50-75-100 years ago

March 14, 1924 - The people of Petersburg got up a last minute dance Saturday evening for the townspeople and the passengers on the Admiral Evans. They were ably assisted by Miss Mary Allen, who played the piano and Dick Hanson, who played the drums. The dance was attended by a good crowd, better than was expected on so short a notice. It was not known until rather late whether the Evans would be in port very long, but owing to the large amount of freight the Evans was in longer than expected. The passengers on the Evans that went up to the dance enjoyed the evening and appreciated the getting up of the dance on such short notice.

March 11, 1949 - One of the oldest landmarks in Petersburg is in the process of being demolished this week with the wrecking of the old Wheeler Drug building on Main Street adjacent to the Men's Shop. According to Wheeler, it was erected in 1910 following the fire which destroyed a large part of the town in that year. The present Building burned five years ago. Wheeler's plans call for rebuilding the store this summer.

March 6, 1974 - "If you take a ceremonial knife and commit suicide with it, the act is called hari kari. In Alaska, if you see a man poaching a moose, or a salmon, or a bear, and you don't report it, you are doing the same thing with your renewable resources." Those were the words recently of the state Department of Public Safety Commissioner Pat Wellington in a hard-hitting statement calling for Alaskans

to help enforce their own game laws. "We have 59 Fish and Wildlife Protection Officers in the state. This means we have one officer for every 10,000 square miles of land, not excluding the sea. Our men cannot do this job of protecting the fish and game laws of Alaska without the help of the public," Wellington said. "Too often we take the easy way out by ignoring violations of fish and game laws. If you see a man fishing illegally, this man is hurting you, not some vague constituency floating around in the clouds. This fish in this state belong to the citizens of the state - so do the birds and animals. Such natural resources if taken without the state's written or implicit permission, is a kick in your shins as a citizen," Wellington observed. "Alaska can go a long way toward policing its own resources without one person stepping out of his house," Wellington said. "Just teach your children the basic laws of protecting our wildlife. If you stand by and cheer while your boy is throwing rocks at a spawning salmon, you might as well be the skipper of a purse seiner high-grading fish at the mouth of a spawning creek," the commissioner said. "Public Safety will enforce the laws governing the taking of fish and game, but we can't do it alone."

March 4, 1999 - After a short stint as a temporary

physician at the Petersburg Medical Center, Dr. Sharon Junge will be returning to Petersburg in April to become the fourth full-time physician at the Joy Janssen Medical Center. Following the signing of a two-year contract Junge (pronounced Youngee) told the staff of the medical center that coming to Petersburg was like coming home, even though her home is far different from the smalltown life of Petersburg. Junge grew up in the Chicago area and completed her medical training at the Loyola Stritch School of Medicine. She completed her residency in Carbondale, Illinois. Junge then worked for six years at inner-city community health centers before traveling overseas to "widen her experience." She worked in the Amazon basin in Brazil and in the outback of Australia's Northern Territory before coming back to the United States to work on a Navajo reservation in the Southwest. In a letter to the medical center she wrote, "I felt a sense of meeting my destiny and coming home while on temporary assignment in Petersburg last December." Junge was the fourth in a series of temporary physicians that were filling in following the exodus of Dr. Walt Fernau, who left last year to start his own practice. Hospital administrator John Bringhurst explained this week that after physicians assistant Claudia Heath left the medical center,

the board began looking at the possibility of hiring a full-time physician instead of another physician's assistant. Bringhurst said having a full-time physician on board allows the doctors to have more free time between stints when they are on call. "Whereas a physicians assistant can provide many services," Bringhurst said, "physicians still had to be back up and that didn't allow them enough time for comfort." He said too that with the addition of Junge in April, physicians will be on call every fourth night or weekend. In addition to providing more patient stability, Bringhurst said that it may help to alleviate burn-out in the physicians on staff. He said that there has been a fair amount of turnover due to physicians burning out and having four full-time physicians may help cut down on the overload they often feel.

Junge, who has been board certified in Family Practice Medicine since 1991, brings with her a strong interest in women's and children's health, obstetrics and preventative health.


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SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURES

FRI 3/15 KENNICOTT 07:00 P.M.

FRI 3/23 KENNICOTT 12:00 A.M.

WED 4/10 HUB 04:30 A.M.

FRI 4/12 KENNICOTT 08:30 P.M.

FRI 4/19 KENNICOTT 10:45 P.M.

MON 3/18 KENNICOTT 01:15 A.M.

MON 3/25 KENNICOTT 03:45 A.M.

MON 4/15 KENNICOTT 02:15 A.M.

MON 4/22 KENNICOTT 02:30 A.M.

MON 4/29 KENNICOTT 03:30 A.M.

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WEATHER

	High	Low	Precip	Snow
03/06	35	25	0.06	2.3
03/07	40	32	0.60	0.3
03/08	42	34	0.37	0.0
03/09	42	27	0.02	0.0
03/10	40	27	0.30	1.8
03/11	42	30	0.00	T
03/12	41	34	0.44	0.0

This Week's Precipitation: 1.79"
This Week's Snow: 4.4"

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

DAYLIGHT HOURS

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Mar 14	7:09a	6:52p	11:43hrs
Mar 15	7:06a	6:54p	11:48hrs
Mar 16	7:04a	6:56p	11:52hrs
Mar 17	7:01a	6:58p	11:57hrs
Mar 18	6:58a	7:00p	12:02hrs
Mar 19	6:55a	7:02p	12:07hrs
Mar 20	6:53a	7:04p	12:11hrs

PETERSBURG HAPPENINGS

Brought to you by:  

THURSDAY, March 14

Stories In Motion, ages 0-3 with caregiver: 11:00am, Public Library
Free Dinner Get Together: 5:30pm, Lutheran Church- Holy Cross Hall
USCG Auxiliary Meeting: 6:00pm, The Moorings
Ragnarok Rollers Practice: 7:30pm, Parks & Rec Gym

FRIDAY, March 15

Al-Anon Support Group: 12:00pm, Episcopal Church
Bingo: 6:00pm, Sons of Norway Hall
AA Candlelight Meeting: 7:00pm, Episcopal Church

SATURDAY, March 16

Moving Music Concert Series: 6:00pm, Sing Lee Alley #12

SUNDAY, March 17

St. Patrick's Day Parade: 4:00pm
Ragnarok Rollers Practice: 5:00pm, Parks & Rec Community Center

MONDAY, March 18

Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall
Hospital Guild Meeting: 1:30pm, Dorothy Ingle Conf. Rm. at PMC
Burger Night: 5:30pm, Moose Lodge


TUESDAY, March 19

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

WEDNESDAY, March 20

Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall
Rotary Club Lunch and Fellowship: 12:00pm, Salvation Army Hall
Free Super For All: 6:00pm, First Baptist Church
Sons of Norway Meeting: 6:00pm, Sons of Norway Hall
ANB/ANS Business Meeting: 7:00pm, John Hansen Sr. Comm. Bldg.
Narcotics Anonymous Meeting: 7:00pm, Holy Cross House Basement


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



PETERSBURG
TIDE TABLE
MARCH 2024

	HIGH TIDES				LOW TIDES			
	A.M.		P.M.		A.M.		P.M.	
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
14 Thu	4:29	18.4	5:10	15.0	11:04	-1.4	11:01	2.2
15 Fri	5:11	17.2	6:05	13.2	11:56	-0.2	11:46	4.0
16 Sat	5:58	15.7	7:15	11.7	12:59	1.2
17 Sun	7:00	14.1	8:53	10.9	0:45	5.7	2:19	2.3
18 Mon	8:29	13.0	10:33	11.3	2:16	6.7	3:49	2.5
19 Tue	10:03	13.0	11:37	12.2	4:08	6.6	5:03	2.0
20 Wed	11:13	13.6	5:24	5.6	5:56	1.3

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Leading Alaska legislators propose task force to help rescue a seafood industry ‘in a tailspin’

By YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

Russian fish flooding global markets and other economic forces beyond the state’s border have created dire conditions for Alaska’s seafood industry. Now key legislators are seeking to establish a task force to come up with some responses to the low prices, lost market share, lost jobs and lost income being suffered by fishers, fishing

companies and fishing-related communities. The measure, Senate Concurrent Resolution 10, was introduced on March 1 and is sponsored by the Senate Finance Committee. “Alaska’s seafood industry is in a tailspin from facing unprecedented challenges,” said the measure’s sponsor statement issued by the committee’s co-chairs: Sen. Bert Stedman, R-Sitka; Sen. Lyman Hoffman, D-

Bethel; and Sen. Donny Olson, D-Golovin. The measure is also being promoted by Senate President Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak. The industry’s troubles caused a loss to Alaska’s economy of more than \$2 billion in 2023, the sponsor statement says. The resolution got its first hearing on Thursday in the committee that introduced it. The Joint Legislative Seafood Industry Task Force task force idea is modeled after one created 20 years ago to help the then-struggling Alaska salmon industry, Tim Lamkin, a Stevens staff member working on the subject, told the finance committee. Then, Alaska salmon fishers and sellers were facing low prices and a shrunken global market share caused by booming production of cheap farmed salmon. That 15-member task force needed two years to com-

plete its work, Lamkin said. In contrast, the Joint Legislative Seafood Industry Task Force would consist of seven members and would present its findings and recommendations to the legislature in less than a year, by Jan. 21, 2025, according to the resolution wording. However, the measure is still a work in progress, with the size and makeup of the task force among the details to be worked out during the rest of the session, Lamkin told the committee. Testifying in favor were the chief executive of OBI, one of Alaska’s major seafood processing companies; the president of the Pacific Seafood Processors Association; the executive director of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, a state-owned corporation funded in part by the industry; the head of United Fishermen of Alaska, a large trade association of commercial fishers; the head of the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission; and the mayor of the Kodiak Island Borough. That mayor, Scott Arndt, said industry woes have caused severe strain in his region. He mentioned the pending closure or sale of Trident Seafood plants, which have been economic pillars in the region, and a looming 12.5% increase in Kodiak Electric Association rates – the first increase in 30 years – that is needed, in part, because of reduced sales to seafood processors. “We have stress in all species, along with all markets for seafood prices. In my 60 years as a resident of Kodiak, I have never seen it this bad. It is scary for a lot of families,” he said. UFA Executive Director Tracy Welch, who said her association in February voted unanimously in support of such a task force, ran through a list of industry troubles. “Alaska’s seafood industry is facing unprecedented challenges in every area of the state and across every fishery. Alaskan fishermen, processors, processing workers, support businesses, communities are confronted with low prices, plant closures, lost markets and foregone fishing opportunities,” she said.

The more than \$2 billion in losses in 2023 affect communities and state government as well as the private sector, she noted. “I cannot sum up the situation more succinctly than by saying the Alaska seafood industry is in crisis,” she said. Russia is the source of a significant amount of trouble for the industry, said ASMI Executive Director Jeremy Woodrow. He cited a dramatic example. While Alaska’s 2023 pink salmon harvest of nearly 200,000 metric tons was large, Russia harvested over three times that much, he said. And while sales of Russian fish are banned in the United States, Alaska still competes with Russian fish in the global marketplace, he said. Global inflation is another challenge, causing demand for seafood to slide, he said, while high interest rates are squeezing harvesters and processors. “There is no silver bullet to solve the challenges we face, and this situation certainly will not turn around overnight,” Woodrow said. John Hanrahan, OBI’s chief executive, identified some potential state actions that could provide some relief. He suggested increased funding for ASMI to broaden markets, loan guarantees to help offset the impact of high interest rates, and purchases of Alaska seafood for state food-assistance programs – similar to the recently announced U.S. Department of Agriculture commitment to buy large quantities of salmon and pollock for federal nutrition and school lunch programs. The salmon task force work of the early 2000s resulted in some legislation and policy changes. In general, industry and state efforts at that time started to focus on differentiating Alaska wild salmon as a premium product. Within a decade, that focus on higher quality, more niche marketing and new markets was showing some success, according to a 2012 analysis by Gunnar Knapp of the University of Alaska Anchorage’s Institute for Social and Economic Research. “The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. alaska-beacon.com.”

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Russia’s loss could be Alaska’s financial gain

By LARRY PERSILY
Wrangell Sentinel writer

Even in winter, there are hot opportunities. And since the state’s prospects for economic well-being are in short supply these days — like being short of buyers for Alaska salmon, running short of energy for Southcentral residents and businesses, and falling woefully short of funding for public schools — the state needs to seize whatever unexpected opportunities arise.

Alaskans have long prided themselves on ingenuity, making something anew from the discard piles left behind by others. In this case, there are six ice-class liquefied natural gas carriers sitting in South Korean shipyards that need a new home. Why not Alaska?

The shipyards can’t deliver three of the vessels to the Russian company that ordered the custom-built tankers. State-controlled Sovcomflot canceled its order amid Western sanctions intended to hurt an Arctic gas project majority owned by Russian company Novatek.

And the shipbuilder has three more of the high-class, high-cost, double-hulled ships that were supposed to go out on charter to Japan-based Mitsui OSK Lines. But Mitsui last month said it no longer would put the carriers to use on the Russian gas project, Arctic LNG-2, because of sanctions. It needs to sell the ships.

The tankers run close to \$300 million each, about 20% more than the price of a conventional LNG carrier. It costs a lot of money to harden a ship to run through six-foot-thick Arctic sea ice.

Between the high cost and international politics, the special-built ships are about as marketable as canned farmed pink salmon in Alaska.

Therein lies the opportunity.

Alaska needs to accept the reality that no matter how many more millions of dollars it burns up on its dream of a North Slope natural gas pipeline project, it’s going nowhere.

The state-backed mirage has no investors, no partners, no gas, no customers, no financing and no market. There is money to be made in gas — just not our gas.

Just as some investors make money in bankruptcies by buying buildings, businesses or inventory on the cheap, Alaska should make an offer for the unwanted LNG carriers. Start with a lowball offer; not a lot of buyers out there.

Instead of losing money on politically inspired oil field and mining road investments, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority could get into the shipowner business.

Of course, we would have to rename the ships, but think of the statewide contest open to school kids. Maybe instead of a certificate, the winning school could get additional state funding to keep teachers employed.

The state could lease the tankers to the multinational partners in the LNG export project nearing completion next door in Kitimat, British Columbia. The tankers are too expensive to run if you buy them at list price, but get ‘em on the cheap and they could be money makers.

The Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute could paint attractive and delectable images of fresh wild salmon on the hulls for consumers across the world to see. If you thought the Alaska Airlines Salmon 737 was an eyecatcher, imagine a bright sockeye on the side of a 1,000-foot-ship pulling into Asian and European ports.

Even if we needed a little federal smudging and fudging of Western sanctions to pick up the ships at a bargain rate, take ownership and lease them out, I expect Alaska’s congressional delegation would be happy to support an effort to make money for the state and stick it to Russia.

Someone is going to buy those ships at a cut rate; it might as well be Alaska. It’s the closest the state will ever get to profiting from an Arctic gas project.

To the Editor —
Love thy neighbor as thyself

To the Editor:
Dear Borough Assembly:

My name is Almont Lindsey. I own lot 6 block 2 in the Frederick Point East neighborhood. I am asking that you all please do not repeal the no discharge of firearms law in that area.

I want you all to ask yourselves if you would like strangers or people you know discharging around your homes or cars? I am guessing most of you would not. Thus, I ask you humbly please; “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Why not use the money paid in property taxes (from Frederick Point East property owners) to replace the “no discharge of firearms” signs that have been riddled with bullets with large, bright signs making it explicitly clear where the no discharge of firearms area is?

James, Chapter 2, Verse 13: “For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.”

Lastly, Please let the Frederick Point East neighborhood be a habitat for humanity, not a habitat for gun violence.

Thank you very much,
Almont Lindsey

THANK YOU

Wanda, Diana, and Helen Olson would like to thank the following: Liv, Heidi, and Stacy for the wonderful food. Lloyd and Yvonne Thynes for the prayer. Theresa Vick, Sally Dwyer, Rhoda Gilbert for the yummy baked goodies. Wendel Gilbert, Michael Crawford for the electronics. Aunt Glenda Lindley for the reading of our mother’s obituary. Uncle Alan Olson for the reading of our father’s obituary. To family that helped with set up and clean up and to all our family and friends that came to celebrate our parents Mary Ann and Darryl Olson’s life.

Wanda, Diana, and Helen Olson

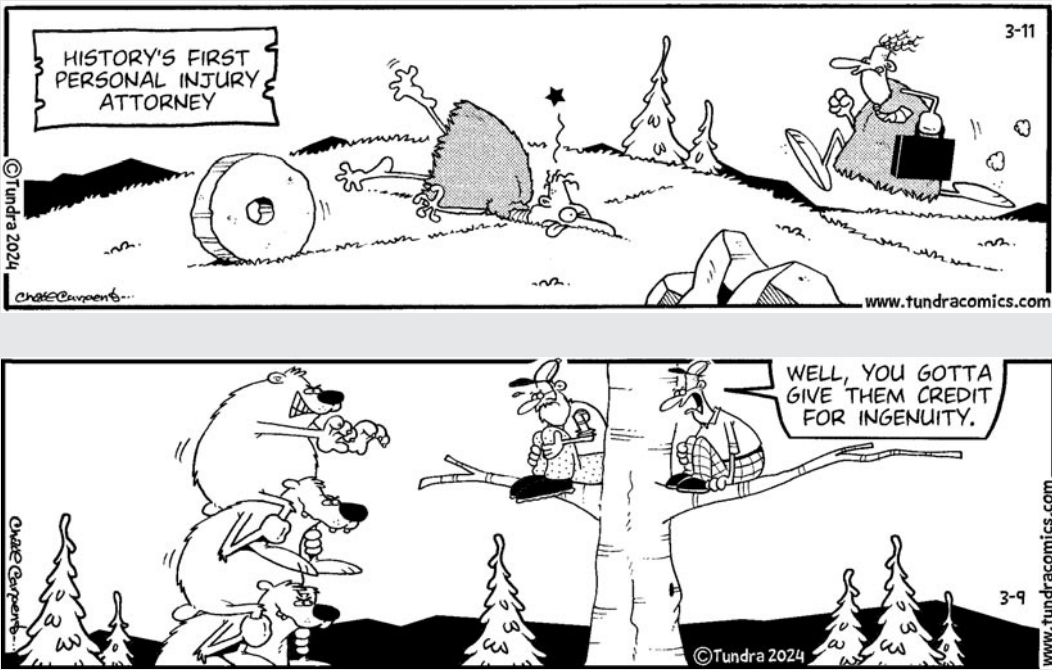
Ritter’s River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



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New forecast bumps Alaska oil price estimates slightly

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

A new state revenue forecast that includes modestly higher oil prices promises to give Alaskans a slightly larger Permanent Fund dividend and the Alaska Legislature some additional breathing room as lawmakers craft a new state budget. The forecast, released Wednesday by the Alaska Department of Revenue, updates a fall estimate and predicts that the state of Alaska will collect \$140 million more in revenue than previously expected during the 12 months that begin July 1. That will help legislators as they write a budget bill that must be passed and become law before July 1, the start of the state’s fiscal year. It’s not all gravy, said Rep.

DeLena Johnson, R-Palmer and co-chair of the House Finance Committee. While having additional money “certainly doesn’t hurt anything,” Gov. Mike Dunleavy is already planning to present some extra spending requests to the Legislature, she said. “And so I want to see what those look like before I could say much about what the impact (of the new revenue forecast) would be,” Johnson said. Sen. Bert Stedman, R-Sitka and Johnson’s counterpart on the Senate Finance Committee, said it’s also important to note that the new forecast also increases expectations for the current fiscal year. For the 12 months ending June 30, the Department of Revenue expects an additional \$58 million. Under the budget law

passed last year, some of that extra money is reserved for a bonus to this year’s Permanent Fund dividend. Stedman said he now expects that bonus to be slightly more than \$200. That would be paid atop to the amount that legislators set as this year’s dividend. After subtracting the dividend bonus, Stedman said there’s about \$170 million in additional dollars between the two fiscal years. Sen. Click Bishop, R-Fairbanks, was among the lawmakers who said they hope some of the money will be spent on maintenance projects statewide. “We’ve got a lot of need out there,” he said. “That snow removal number statewide, maybe we’ve got some wiggle room now to help with snow removal.” “In Western Alaska, it’s em-

barrassing to look at the black mold in those schools ... fire alarm systems that are defunct, etc. So hopefully we can throw a lifeline for deferred maintenance at our K-12 schools,” Bishop said. Oil revenue represents only about a third of the state’s general-purpose income, but it’s extremely variable from year to year and even month to month, dependent upon fluctuations in price and production. The Alaska Department of Revenue uses 30 days’ worth of data from oil markets to estimate prices in the future. An annual transfer from the Alaska Permanent Fund to the state treasury is the state’s No. 1 source of revenue, accounting for more than half of its general-purpose revenue, but the stability of that transfer is negated by the sheer changeability of oil,

causing legislators to pay close attention to forecasts as they set the state’s annual budget. Last year, members of the House Finance Committee drafted a balanced budget before the annual spring revenue forecast, only to see the document turn into a deficit after the forecast came in lower than expected. This year, the committee is waiting for the forecast, amendments from the governor, and a decision by the governor on a multipart education funding bill. The House’s version of the budget should be in front of the full House by the end of the month, Johnson said, and is expected to be sent to the Senate for further debate on April 12. *The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. Alaskabeacon.com.*

COMMENTARY

Seeking a new model of education

Outer Coast looks to the places, languages and cultures of Sitka and Southeast

By BRYDEN SWEENEY-TAYLOR,
Executive Director of Outer Coast

In 1986, two linguists, Ron and Suzie Scollon, drafted a proposal for the Sealaska Heritage Foundation to inaugurate a new kind of education, which they had developed with help from Tlingit scholars Nora and Richard Dauenhauer. It was an education that would prioritize building knowledge about the place you live in, the cultures you interact with, and the communication skills you need to flourish in an interconnected, media-saturated world. The Axe Handle Academy, as it was called, never became a physical school, but its curriculum and values have continued to live in the minds of educators as a vision for place-based education that relates directly to the lives that we lead. About 70 years earlier, an entrepreneur by the name of L.L. Nunn decided to open a small, unorthodox two-year college on a cattle ranch in eastern California that would give students a liberal arts education while building the tools of self-sufficiency and “service to humanity.” That college, Deep Springs, remains in existence, and its three-pillar model of academics, labor and self-governance has taken root in other institutions around the country. I am the executive director at Outer Coast, a small, emerging two-year liberal arts college located on the Sitka Fine Arts Camp/historic Sheldon Jackson campus in Sitka. Inspired in part by the Axe Handle Academy, in part by Deep Springs, and most of all by the places, languages and cultures of Sitka and Southeast, Outer Coast was founded to reconceive what higher education in Alaska can look like and whom it can serve. Over the past several years, our team has run college-credit-granting Summer Seminars as well as a postsecondary academic-year program for both Alaskan and non-Alaskan students while moving steadily toward our longstanding goal of opening a new college in Alaska. Now, we are at a critical turning point: our inaugural class of undergraduates will matriculate at Outer Coast in the fall of 2024. (We are still accepting applications for the 20 students who will make up our founding class, hailing from communities across Alaska and around the world.) Alaska has the lowest four-year college graduation rate in the country, and its college attainment numbers are dismal compared to other states — all the more so for low-income students, rural students and Alaska Natives. At the same time, higher education across the country is in a state of seemingly endless crisis: tuition costs are skyrocketing, universities are run like corporations (often at the expense of the communities in which they are located), the academic job market is increasingly precarious, and significant numbers of the country’s most high-achieving students leave college for lucrative positions in finance, management consulting, or big tech, with the sense that they have neither the obligation nor the ability to effect meaningful change in the world. At Outer Coast, we seek to challenge these prevailing norms. We are building an institution that gives curious young people the opportunity to simultaneously invest in

their own growth and that of the communities around them. By prioritizing financial affordability, we hope to reach students who are underserved by higher education, especially Alaskans. And unlike colleges where each student is one among hundreds in a lecture hall, or a small square on a screen, life at Outer Coast is intimate and deeply communal. Our curriculum features a range of interdisciplinary seminars that are informed by the study and practice of Indigenous traditions in Sitka and Southeast Alaska. Students are responsible for undertaking independent service work and admitting future students, hiring faculty, and making other critical decisions for the institution through collective governance. On a given Thursday, students could be trickling out of a class discussion on intertidal ecology to head into a committee meeting, where they discuss applications from prospective faculty members. In the afternoon, one student may walk down the street to the salmon hatchery at the Sitka Sound Science Center for her volunteer shift, while another commandeers the kitchen to make jars of jam for elders in town. Their dinner conversation is peppered with phrases in the Tlingit language, which they have been practicing in class. One student is zealously recruiting participants for a Dostoevsky reading group; a few others scroll through Raven Radio’s community calendar to plan out their weekend. In the evening, the more intrepid among them venture out to the rocky beach steps away from campus for a cold-water plunge. Over the course of their two years at Outer Coast, undergraduates will earn college credit en route to obtaining an associate degree; after they graduate, our students will be well-positioned to transfer to another four-year university with junior standing in order to complete their bachelor’s degree. “Outer Coast is a place where academics are informed by your personal experiences. What drives you to think about the things you want to think about and solve the problems you want to solve is rooted in your lived experiences and your life decisions,” said Feli, a student who attended the Outer Coast Year program last fall. “Outer Coast has been quite formative in making the connection between what is academic and what is just human.” All of our work at Outer Coast springs from two convictions. The first is that education should begin in the place where you are: the body you are in, the people you interact with, the ecosystems you inhabit, the histories that surround you. The second is that a true community is one where every individual has a responsibility to everyone else. Every student, no matter who they are, brings essential gifts to their peers, our institution and the community. With these convictions in mind, Outer Coast can be a model of what college can and should look like — one that can be emulated by other schools, in other contexts. At the end of an Outer Coast education, we want students to understand that two of life’s key questions — Where am I in this world? And, what are my responsibilities to this world? — can only be answered together.

Capitol Updates

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It feels like everyone in the Capitol is holding their breath as we count down the days until March 14, the deadline for the governor to sign, veto, or allow SB 140 to become law by taking no action. As a reminder, SB 140 is the bipartisan education bill that will increase the Base Student Allocation by \$680, provide assistance and a faster timeline for charter school approval, adds funding for student transportation, internet speed increases in remote schools, charter schools, and the Individual Reading Improvement Plans required by the Alaska Reads Act. The funding increases are both targeted and strategic, as requested by the governor, and I remain hopeful he will either sign the bill into law or allow it to become law without his signature. In the meantime, a couple of bills and a resolution passed the House last week (see below), and all House operating budget subcommittees have closed out. The constant flow of advocates for various needs across the state has slowed and House Committees are focusing on the 390 House bills and 259 Senate bills (this doesn’t include any of the resolutions) that were introduced by individual legislators prior to the February 19 deadline to file personal bills. At this point, only committees can introduce new bills, so I do not expect to see many new pieces of legislation. We will be busy enough with over 619 bills that can be considered! If there is a bill or budget item you would like to share your position on, a district issue you would like to bring to my attention, or if you will be Juneau, please contact my office by phone (907.465.3732) or email (rep.himschoot@akleg.gov). To learn more about what is going on in Juneau, you, your friends, and neighbors can subscribe to my weekly newsletter, which contains the contents of this column and much more, by emailing rep.himschoot@akleg.gov

Sincerely,
Representative
Rebecca Himschoot



Rep. Rebecca Himschoot

USFS plans to revise Forest Plan

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

Gears are in motion for the Forest Service to revise its Land and Resource Management Plan — a process that invites public involvement and will take years to complete.

The land management plan, or forest plan, provides guidance for future decisions and sets overall management direction.

The existing land management plan for the Tongass National Forest was originally adopted in 1997 and amended in 2016.

According to the USFS, plans are “strategic and broad in scope” rather than site or project specific.

Revisions help keep the Tongass National Forest Plan up to date with current laws, policies, regulations and conditions of the natural world.

In the revised plan, the USFS

intends to cover several topics from environmental health and quality to climate change and infrastructure.

The planning process will take multiple years and progress in phases. Pre-assessment began in 2023. The assessment stage starts now, in 2024, and involves substantial public engagement. This phase will be followed by a plan development and revision phase and environmental analysis from 2025 through the implementation and monitoring phase in 2028, respectively.

There are quite a number of opportunities for the public to be involved in the forest plan revision process. The Forest Service invites those with interest in the future vision and management of the Tongass National Forest to attend virtual or in-person engagement opportunities that will be hosted throughout Southeast in

March and April.

A series of public online webinars — the so-called Wednesday Webinar Series — about the plan revision are hosted by USFS via Zoom every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. from March 6 through April 17. The next online webinar is March 20 and will discuss the wild and scenic river eligibility study process.

The webinars will also be recorded to view at a later time.

An in-person community workshop with the Forest Service will be held in the Petersburg Borough Assembly Chambers from 4 to 7 p.m. on April 23, which will involve a brief presentation followed by an open and informal discussion to share ideas and ask questions about the plan revision process.

“Meaningful dialogue throughout this lengthy process is vital to ensuring the revised Forest Plan meets the needs and



Scan this QR code with the camera of a smart device and click the link to find the Tongass National Forest Plan Revision Survey, where feedback from the public can be given virtually.

values of the diverse publics we serve ... If you are unable to attend a community workshop, you can provide your feedback online at the: Tongass National Forest Plan Revision Survey,”

stated the Forest Service in an email. A public comment period will take place later on in the forest plan revision process.

Police report

March 6 - Papers were served for a protective order.

Officers did a bar check on North Nordic Drive and on Chief John Lott St.

March 7 - Prisoners were transported.

An officer assisted with vehicles blocking the bike path.

A warning was issued on North Nordic Dr. for expired registration.

Officers did a bar check on on Chief John Lott St. and North Nordic Drive.

March 8 - An officer removed debris from the roadway on Sandy Beach Road. And officer assisted EMS.

A protective order was served.

Lost items were reported to the police department.

A subpoena was served.

A water leak was reported on Sandy Beach Road. Wastewater was notified and responded.

An officer provided a courtesy transport of a citizen on Sandy Beach Road.

Officers did a bar check on North Nordic Drive and on Chief John Lott St.

March 9 - Officer responded to a report of fraud on Excel St.

A dog at large on Lumber Street was reported.

PPD received a report of a power outage on 2nd Street. Power and Light was notified and responded.

An officer assisted with a civil matter on N. Nordic Dr.

PPD received a report of boat in distress in the Wrangell Narrows. The Harbormaster was notified and responded.

A subpoena was served.

Lost property downtown was reported.

Officer responded to a report of a possibly blown transformer and determined the report to the unfounded.

Officers did a bar check on

on Chief John Lott St. and North Nordic Drive.

March 10 - PPD assisted another agency at Papke’s Landing Road.

A vehicle was reported as disabled on Sandy Beach Road.

March 11 - A subpoena was served.

Officers did a bar check on North Nordic Drive and on Chief John Lott St.

March 12 - Officers conducted extra foot patrols in downtown Petersburg.

A theft was reported on Sing Lee Alley. Officers responded and the incident was resolved.

Officer provided traffic control at the scene of a disabled vehicle on 12th and Haugen.

PPD received a parking complaint. The vehicle owner was contacted, awaiting tow.

PPD assisted another agency.

A bar check was conducted.

2024

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SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD @ COMMUNITY GYM

Health & Safety Fair Booths @ Community Gym
10:00am-1:00pm

Visit 25+ booths for health screenings, local and regional services, resources, health information, interactive kids' activities, fitness opportunities, door prizes and much more!

Fitness Class Demonstrations @ Fitness Court

15-20 min each. All Levels Welcome!

10:00am Bingocize: Bingo+ Exercise

11:00am Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance

12:00 Zumba: Dance Fitness

Kid's Activities @ Racquetball Court

Drop off the kids between 10:00-1:00 and attend a presentation or browse the fair!

Health Fair Presentations @ Activity Room

9:30am High Blood Pressure - The Silent Killer
Angela Menish, APRN, FNP-BC (PMC)

10:30am SAFE Zones - LGBTQ Allyship
Samuel Steinbruegge (SEARCH) & Everett Bennett (WAVE)

11:30am High Cholesterol 101
Erik Hulebak, PA-C (PMC)

12:30pm Understanding Health Fair Blood Draw Results
Dr. Alice Hulebak (PMC)

1:30pm Gut Check: Nourishing the Mind through Gut Health
Janet Peterson, DrPH, RDN, WEMT (guest speaker)

3:00-6:00pm Stewards of Children: Preventing Child Sexual Abuse
Coleen Hedglin (WAVE)

DETAILED HEALTH FAIR WEEKEND SCHEDULE

www.pmcak.org/health-fair1

Fire! Bistro opens for business in downtown Petersburg

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

The customer line was out the door on opening day at Fire! Bistro — Petersburg’s newest restaurant located in the former conference room of Tides Inn.

Community members looked forward to eating their fill of gourmet sandwiches, salads, wraps, and smoothies found on a new menu chock-full of flavors missing from the local food scene until Fire! Bistro opened March 5.

Owner Chef Juan Herrera is no stranger to the food business. He earned a catering certificate and personal chef certificate from the International Association of Professionals career college, a

attend culinary school in Spain and instead stay in town after meeting his wife and Fire! Bistro co-owner, Ashley Grone.

Since setting out on his journey as a chef, Petersburg is the first place Herrera has called home for this long — ultimately leading him to see through his dream as a restaurateur.

“I’m super proud and just privileged to have the opportunity to have this little spot. I’ve been wanting to do this since ... I started getting serious about food when I was about 21. My uncle has a restaurant still to this day, and I would help them prep and do dishes when I was like [age] 15, 16 ... and then I started liking it, you know, you’re sitting there and you’re starting to learn how



OLIVIA ROSE / Petersburg Pilot

The former conference room has had a major makeover; the decor and curated music selection and a decent amount of seating available makes dining in an attractive option at Fire! Bistro.

The kitchen is small but functional — equipped with a special oven used to cook ingredients like bacon without allowing steam or grease to escape, and five crock pots for designated dishes from mac and cheese, to beef, to nacho cheese, kalua beef, and barbecue. “Those are my life savers.”

A smoothie station and shelves of dry goods fill the pantry, next to a freezer full of fruit and other backup ingredients.

With the help of an inspector from Juneau, the menu was designed to work around the kitchen’s quirks like not having a hood system to vent out steam.

Although the kitchen space is tight and has certain appliance requirements that somewhat limit the culinary possibilities, Herrera has found creative ways to work with the space and make a product to be proud of. “I’m super happy with what we have.”

Loaded nachos, housemade tea, fruit smoothies and soon-to-come smoothie bowls, specialty sandwiches made hot or cold with vegan and gluten-free choices — the menu is generous in variation.

“It was cool to name certain things,” like the ‘Palm & Saturn’ smoothie, an homage to the crossroads he grew up on in San Diego and complete with acai, his favorite. Other item names on the menu are more straightforward, like the all vegetable ‘Veg-Head’ sandwich — which has hummus made in-house, likewise to a lot of the specialty items at Fire! Bistro.

Some items, like the smoothie bowls anticipated to come in May, may “take a while to catch on” for locals who may be unfamiliar with the concept.

“I like feedback ... Let’s try it out. I’m very open to what people in Petersburg would like ... the options are very limited when it comes to food and what you can make and what you can get, what’s fresh, what’s in season, so we got to kind of play with that menu with what we can grab from here, too.”

Certain ingredients, like truffle oil from Italy, are

imported and used to enhance the flavor of the dishes.

“It elevates the other flavors going on on your palate, without you really noticing,” he described the truffle oil. “A little bit goes a long way, so when you’re eating your sandwich with the cranberries, and you have that sweet and then like umami-ish, and then everything kind of works together. So I wanted to kind of build that to kind of like a flavor bomb.”

The menu will rotate to keep a variety that customers enjoy and adjust to what is obtainable throughout the seasons on a rural island.

Herrera has big-picture ambitions for what he would like to do in the future as a food business owner — from gamey sliders, to ramen or pho, to sushi, and his grand dream to open up an indigenous restaurant with food from the area, inspired by his grandfather’s side of the family with roots in Mexico. “But for now, I think this will do,” he said, chuckling lightheartedly.

Centered above the kitchen entryway is a framed photo of Herrera’s grandparents.

As for the rest of the spacious former hotel conference room, the wallspace is filled with “quirky” posters — a comical image of a sasquatch petting a raccoon, surrealist art by Vladimir Kush, momentos of monopoly, boxing, Beetlejuice and more, with more to come — lined at

the bottom with red brick wallpaper and warm string lights.

“We’re gonna get some more random stuff going on for sure ... we’re gonna decor it out a little bit more just to get kind of funky,” Herrera said with a laugh. “The music playlist is kind of funky, too.”

Music from the decenniums, the 50s through the 90s, sets the vibe inside Fire! Bistro with a custom crafted, intentionally filtered playlist free from explicit words to be as family friendly as possible.

Customers can enjoy their meal inside, sitting at one of several tables.

“[Petersburg is] super cool, because everybody’s nice and if you need something, [they’re] there with open arms ... way different than some places down south where, you know, a lot of people just come and go, just pass through. Here, it’s like a little community, you know, and everybody kind of helps each other out,” said Herrera. “The first day when we opened, I got that feeling of like, that’s cool, you know, people actually do come out to support small businesses and stuff like that. So it was super nice to see everybody kind of coming through, checking out a new spot.”

Fire! Bistro is a small hometown restaurant with flavors reminiscent from cities around the world. It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Tides Inn.



OLIVIA ROSE / Petersburg Pilot

Chef Juan Herrera chops up a cucumber in the kitchen of Fire! Bistro.

diploma from Penn Foster career college as a gourmet chef, and is currently working to grow professionally and elevate his certification levels as a member of the American Culinary Federation.

Herrera has helped open different restaurants throughout the United States during his career as a chef, which has brought him to travel or live in all but two states.

While he also owns the local !Fire! Catering business in Petersburg, Fire! Bistro is the first restaurant of his own to open.

Herrera had ambitions to open his own restaurant, but “never really had the opportunity to stay in one place too long to do it.”

Herrera moved from Austin, Texas to Petersburg to work after the COVID pandemic hit in 2020. He had lived in Petersburg briefly 13 years ago, but this time, however, he decided to turn down plans to

to slice and you’re starting to learn how to [make] these sauces, what goes in this and what goes with that — and so from there, it kind of sparked something,” he recalled.

“I was always intrigued by food ... Later on in life, I was like, I want to open up my own spot and try to make my own food and my own flavors. This is a good starting point ... This is more than a dream come true.”

From hot pork sandwiches to organic fruit smoothies, the menu items are some of Herrera’s favorites that he tasted during his travels or his own version of items from different restaurants that he worked for as a chef.

“The menu I picked here was, besides being my favorite food and stuff, it was what are we missing in Petersburg that sounds fun to make that people would enjoy and what can I get away with cooking in my kitchen?”

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Photo courtesy of James Poulson / Sitka Daily Sentinel

The PHS pep band travelled to Sitka for the championship along with the basketball teams and cheer squad. The band’s talent and intensity during the tournament was certainly part of Petersburg’s impressive showing at regionals.

Vikings are the 2A Region V Champs

By **LIAM DEMKO**
Pilot writer

The Petersburg Vikings had a hard-fought weekend at the 2A Region V Championships in Sitka, playing two back and forth games to win the crown. The Vikings entered the tournament as the second seed, pitting them against Wrangell in the first round where they pulled out a close win, allowing them to move on to the championship game on Friday where they battled with Metlakatla to win the tournament. “I’ve said all along that our league was very balanced from top to bottom and that really played true at tournament,” said head coach Rick Brock. “There were multiple games that were close throughout, and ours were no different.”

Wednesday’s game against Wrangell closely followed that observation. The teams started out the match with a 9-9 tie at the end of the first quarter and the tie continued into the second half, with the scores at 23-23 by half-time.

“It seems like it was towards the end of the [third] quarter [that] we finally got into a better offensive rhythm. We [started] to find it in the second quarter, but in the third quarter we finally got a little bit of a margin,” said Brock. “We had five different players score for us in the third quarter [and] we went into the fourth quarter up 36-32.”

The Vikings continued to stretch their lead throughout the fourth quarter thanks to some great play and consistent free throw shots, earning them the win with the score ending at 54-43.

And with that, the Vikings were already on to the championship game. On Friday, the team knew they were in for another battle, with Metlakatla who entered the tournament as the number one seed.

“We knew it was going to be a possession-by-possession game and that was true, just like the Wrangell game. It was tied 10-10 at the end of the first quarter...and it was 18-18 at halftime,” said Brock.

And once again, things started picking up for the Vikings in the second half. “Again in the third quarter we made some important defensive stands and got a slight margin in the fourth quarter, a four point lead. We were up 32-28 going into the fourth quarter,” said Brock. “That margin just sat there again till there were a couple of minutes left... It went back and forth but we always had a four-to-six-point cushion.” The final moments of the game kept the Vikings on their toes, with Metlakatla hitting a few three-point shots throughout the quarter. But by the end of the match, the Vikings were able to maintain their lead, closing out the tournament with a 49-42 win.

“I’m very happy for the guys. They’ve put a lot of work into this season. They’ve been dedicated to working together to get the best team we can on the floor by the end of the year,” said Brock. “We’ve come up short the last couple of years against Metlakatla, so the seniors especially were very happy to be successful and to get to cut the net.” Several team members were honored at the event, with Alex Holmgrain and Nathan Kerr taking the good sport award.

“[Alex and Nathan] have been incredible teammates all year. They have been awesome to travel with, they are the first guys to step up and help,” said Brock.

Additionally, Rik Cumps, Kieran Cabral, and Elijah Whitacre qualified for the all-academic team, and Rik Cumps and Hunter Conn were selected for the all-conference team.

Brock also made sure to shine the spotlight towards Elijah Whitacre, who had been showing up and holding the team together all season long. “Elijah Whitacre had a very solid two games also. What he does for us doesn’t show up necessarily in a box score, but we always ask him to defend the best player on the other team. His rebounding and defense [are solid] and he was



Photo courtesy of James Poulson / Sitka Daily Sentinel

Elijah Whitacre powers into the key and puts up two more points for Petersburg during their neck and neck battle against Wrangell on day-one of the regional tournament.

consistently making free throws and baskets for us... He’s just a steady force for us and does all the little things that keep us together,” said Brock. And with the regional tournament win under their belt, the Vikings are already moving onto State, with their first game taking place Thursday Evening.

“I think this is kind of like regionals, there’s eight quality teams here,” said Brock. “A lot of teams have had very good seasons... [But] I think this year there’s eight teams that have a shot at winning the thing, so we’re excited to show our strength in our conference.”

PHS Cheer take second consecutive regional win



Photo courtesy of James Poulson / Sitka Daily Sentinel

The cheerleading throughout the games kept the basketball teams energized and was judged as an excellent part of the cheer squad's championship performance.

By **LIAM DEMKO**
Pilot writer

Petersburg High School's cheer squad had a big week during the 2A Region V Championships in Sitka, where they won the regional cheerleading competition. The team faced off against several other southeast cheer

squads throughout the week-end, with this year marking their second win in a row. "This year we had three freshman... [It was a] pretty young squad, so I'm super proud of what they accomplished this year," said head coach Andrea Weathers. "It's a lot to learn [and] it's a lot of memorizing. They have to



Photo courtesy of James Poulson / Sitka Daily Sentinel

Members of PHS cheer squad smile holding their 2024 Region V first place cheerleading trophy.

memorize every single cheer, they have to memorize all of the sideline dances, the fight song, [and] choreography for the region routine. It's a lot." The regional tournament in Southeast Alaska is an especially rigorous event, even compared with cheerleading competitions across the United States. Unlike other events, the cheer competition in southeast critiques teams from the beginning of the game to the end. Teams are judged on their performances during the fight song, the sidelines, the announcement of the starting five, and the difficult regional routine, which counts for half of the team's score and must include

elements of stunting, pyramids, dance, and cheer. "You've got to try and check as many boxes as you can and hope that you're giving them what they want," said Weathers. "It's a pretty intense tournament where everybody is staying together for five days and emotions are high. But really the kids performed super well and I couldn't be more proud of the work they did with the regional routine." This marks Weathers' second year as the head coach of Petersburg's cheer squad, and she believes she's already learned a lot since her first go. "I work with the kids' skills and try to push those forward,

allowing the kids to succeed at what they're really good at. I think that's one of the things that makes us a really good team," she said. "We practice roughly five days a week for an hour and a half to two hours a day, which does get pretty intensive." But despite the intensity, Weathers and the team have had a great time throughout the season. "I love cheer, I love the community aspect of it, and I love bridging basketball and cheerleaders together in a small community... the Petersburg cheer squad is pretty special and awesome... it's been pretty fun to be a part of," she said.

Lady Vikings get stopped by Metlakatla at regionals

By **LIAM DEMKO**
Pilot writer

The Petersburg Lady Vikings closed out their season last week during the 2A Region V Championships in Sitka. The team were able to pick up a win against Craig after playing them the weekend prior but couldn't beat Metlakatla and ended up in the loser's bracket, where they faced Craig once again and lost, ending their tournament run.

"This is how a good season should feel when it ends"
— Head Coach Matt Pawuk

"It was a pretty emotional locker room after our last game. But I told the girls that this is how a good season should feel when it ends," said head coach Matt Pawuk. "We were disappointed that our season ended sooner than we hoped it would, but it was bittersweet because I could tell the girls were sad just that the season was over... It made me happy to know that they still wanted to be in the gym this week practicing." Their tournament started off on Wednesday against Craig once again after taking a win against them just days before. With momentum on their side, they had a great start heading into the rematch. "We got out to a really strong start. We were actually up 7-0 to start the game. It was kind of a game of streaks.

We started out really strong in the first quarter, Craig came back strong in the second quarter. We actually ended up going into halftime down 13-11," said Pawuk. But the Lady Vikings picked up their steam heading into the second half of the game. Pawuk reported that they had an exceptionally strong third quarter, with the team building up a 10-point lead heading into the fourth. Craig made a great effort to catch up, but the Lady Vikings were able to hold their lead, winning their first match 31-27. However, their next match up against Metlakatla on Thursday stopped them dead in their tracks. "We tried a new defense against them, but they honestly couldn't miss a shot. It was impressive to see, [but] it was unfortunate that it was against us. They just got out to an extremely fast start," said Pawuk. The Lady Vikings had lost 63-14 at the end of the match, putting them in the loser's bracket where they faced Craig once again. Their second tournament match up against Craig turned out to be a different story, with their opponents taking a lead in the first half. "We came out and battled Craig pretty hard. We were again down two or three at halftime... They came out a little bit stronger in the first half than we did," said Pawuk. "In the second half they actually changed up their defense... It was really effective. It took us out of the rhythm of our offense and we struggled to overcome that change. It was a good adjustment by their coach."



Photo courtesy of James Poulson / Sitka Daily Sentinel

Iris Case battles for a rebound up against Craig defenders during the Lady Vikings' winning game at the Region V Championships in Sitka.

The Lady Vikings tried their hardest, but couldn't pull out another win against Craig, with the game ending 38-21. Despite the loss, the team had a lot to be proud of. At the end of the tournament, Adara Curtiss and Anya Pawuk were named to the all-conference team, Adara Curtiss and Cadence Lopez were named to the good sport team, and Anya Pawuk and Alysa Thomassen were named to the all-academic team. "It was a good final season for the seniors, we had some good high points," said Pawuk.

"For most of the kids that was their first win ever at the tournament. All in all, I would say the season was a pretty big success." During his first season as head coach Pawuk was especially proud of his team's attitude and effort and is just as excited as them to get back at it next year. "There's a lot more to being a head coach than I thought there was going to be, so I think I learned as much as the kids did this year. But honestly this season went better than I could have hoped, and it was a lot of fun. I'm really looking forward to next year already," he said.

Sitka Land Trust to get \$2.17M for 4-Plex

By SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sentinel Staff Writer

The Sitka Community Land Trust announced today it has secured \$2.17 million in federal funding to build a four-unit apartment building on the property it owns on Halibut Point Road. Trust Executive Director Randy Hughey said he was not expecting the email from Sen. Lisa Murkowski’s office telling him SCLT’s project had been included for funding in the consolidated appropriations act that has been passed by Congress. “It took a few hours to sink in,” Hughey said. The funding may take a while to come in, he added, but it will be enough

to cover the cost of the planned four-plex at the western end of the S’us’ Héeni Sháak neighborhood. The local affordable housing non-profit has announced that it will stop accepting applicants for new housing because the number of applicants has exceeded the number of lots available. There are 20 applications on the waiting list already, and there is space for only four more lots on the SCLT land now being developed. The four-plex will mark the first rental project under SCLT. “Our mission is actually affordable home ownership but there’s such a dire need for rentals that the organization and board decided to subdivide the westernmost land we received from the

city,” Hughey said today. “This will provide, one, affordable housing, and two, an income stream to help cover the cost of our work in affordable home ownership.” The new apartment building will add four rental units to the 14 two- and three-bedroom homes built - or being built - for sale to the occupants. The owner pays only the cost of the house and the trust continues to own the land. The city transferred land to the trust in 2015 and 2021, after city voters approved the proposal to use it for affordable housing. Eight homes have been built so far, with construction to start on two others this month and next. Hughey thanked Murkowski for

“championing our cause and recognizing the vital role the SCLT plays in our community. Their support and confidence in our mission has made this achievement possible.” Hughey said he has been connecting with Murkowski’s office since meeting with her staff, and Murkowski when she was here in 2022. In their meeting, he discussed the challenges of affordable housing, and the idea for the fourplex. “Senator Murkowski and her staff took it from there,” Hughey said. The fourplex of 850-foot units will feature two-bedroom apartments which are intended to be for below-market rents in the spirit of the referendum in 2006 dedicating the old city shops property to affordable housing.

Legislative budgeters say Dunleavy’s proposed 2024 Permanent Fund dividend is a no-go

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

Leading Alaska legislators said last week that there’s little appetite for spending from savings to pay a super-sized Permanent Fund dividend this year, likely killing a proposal from Gov. Mike Dunleavy. In December, the governor proposed spending almost \$2.3 billion on a dividend of roughly \$3,500 per recipient under a formula in state law. That would result in a \$1 billion deficit and require spending from the state’s Constitutional Budget Reserve, but as a draft budget takes shape in the House, top members of both the House and Senate said they’re unlikely to spend from the reserve this

year. “I don’t think it’s a wise thing to draw from savings,” said Rep. Will Stapp, R-Fairbanks and a member of the House Finance Committee. “I personally would not be in favor of tapping the state’s savings.” Rep. DeLena Johnson, R-Palmer and co-chair of the House Finance Committee, said that at this time, she has not been having conversations with the House’s 16-member minority caucus about spending from the reserve. Minority support would be needed because 30 votes are needed in the House to spend from the reserve, and the majority caucus has 23 members. (Rep. David Eastman, R-

Wasilla, is not a member of either caucus.) When the budget leaves the House, Johnson said, she expects the dividend to be whatever can be afforded under a balanced budget. “We are not awash in cash. Let me put it that way. So it’s based on revenue,” she said. Sen. Bert Stedman, R-Sitka and co-chair of the Senate Finance Committee, said that a “25% dividend” — so named because it would be paid for with ¼ of the annual transfer from the Permanent Fund to the state treasury — could fit within a balanced budget alongside the Legislature’s just-passed education funding increase, though there wouldn’t be a lot of excess room, he said.

The 25% dividend would be worth about \$1,360 per recipient and cost about \$914 million, according to estimates published by the Legislative Finance Division last week. Last year’s budget law allows a bonus on top of that amount, depending on the price of oil in the current fiscal year. Officials from the Alaska Department of Revenue are expected to present an updated state revenue forecast to legislators on or about March 15, which will begin the process of finalizing the Legislature’s preferred budget. The House will write the first draft of the state operating budget, and the Senate will have the first draft of the state’s annual construction and reno-

vation budget, called the capital budget. Disputes over the handling of last year’s budget bills created distrust between the House and Senate majorities, and to avoid a similar problem, the House and Senate intend to pass their budget bills on the same day, then hand-deliver copies to the other half of the Legislature, literally crossing in the hallways as they do so, Johnson said. That is expected to take place in mid-April, leaving about a month for legislators to finalize the budget before the end of the regular legislative session in mid-May. The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. Alaskabeacon.com.

Juneau will loan school district \$4.1 million to help cover deficit

By JUNEAU EMPIRE

A \$9.7 million bailout package to ensure that the Juneau School District can cover a nearly \$8 million deficit this year and help toward resolving a projected deficit of nearly \$10 million next year was approved March 4 by the Juneau borough assembly. The package, consisting of a loan and taking over some “non-instructional costs” from the school district, won final approval after several weeks of consideration by city and school leaders. The Juneau assembly voted to provide the district with an interest-free loan of up to \$4.1 million dollars, due within five years. The district is not required to begin repaying the loan until the 2025-2026 school year. The unanimous assembly vote approving the financial assistance was preceded by nu-

merous residents offering public testimony generally expressing dissatisfaction with a consolidation plan the school board approved to help balance the budget. The restructuring plan scheduled to take effect for the 2024-2025 school year consolidates students in grades 9-12 at Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé, shutting down Thunder Mountain High School in the Mendenhall Valley and using that building for grades 7-8 and the HomeBRIDGE program. The district will close two middle schools, and sixth graders will be moved into K-5 elementary schools. Even with the consolidation, the district will have a multi-million-dollar shortfall. That means a likely combination of city assistance, further budget cuts such as layoffs and a hoped-for increase in state funding will be needed to balance the budget.



Petersburg High School’s school play brought down the house last weekend. “Peter and the Starcatcher” was a prequel of sorts for the story of Peter Pan, and the costuming, direction and student performances were a great delight to the sizeable audiences who attended. Eleanor Kandoll, pictured center, was a crowd favorite as a drastically mustachioed pirate captain.

Starcatcher brings down the house

Following the final performance on March 3, theater teacher Elsa Wintersteen (pictured left) offered a heartfelt appreciation to her graduating seniors Zander Jones (center) and Kinley Lister (right),



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

Obituary

Per Kruger Sather, 78

Per Kruger Sather was born in Petersburg, Alaska, on October 5, 1945 to Per (Pete) and Lovise Stokke Sather. He enjoyed an idyllic boyhood roaming the waters and forests around his hometown and crewing on his father’s halibut boat, the Zarembo.

As a young man, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served in Vietnam. After being discharged, Per earned a bachelor’s degree from Humboldt State University in California and a master’s degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Although both degrees were in biology, he decided to become a licensed land surveyor working for private firms and eventually retired from the State of Alaska Department of Transportation.

Per married Lynda Bashor in 1978. In 1989, their son, Paul Kruger Sather, was born. Per enjoyed many happy years in Fairbanks, hunting, fishing, camping and working all over the state. He traveled extensively throughout the South Pacific, New Zealand, Australia, Mexico, Panama, Belize and Costa Rica. The family also made annual visits to California and several trips to Norway where his numerous relatives treated him like royalty.

Since 2018, Per lived in La Grande,



Per Kruger Sather

Oregon, with his niece Sabra (Thomassen) and Walt Johnson, where he passed away on January 20, 2024. Per is survived by his wife Lynda, son Paul, and daughter-in-law Angie Sather.

The Committal Service for Per Sather will be held Saturday, March 23, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Petersburg Memorial Cemetery, followed by a gathering at the Elks.

Obituary

Andrew C. Greinier, 59

Andrew C. Greinier of Petersburg, Alaska, passed away in his home of natural causes on February 04, 2024.

He was born in Wrangell, Alaska, to Bill and Barbara Greinier Jr. He moved to Petersburg in 1971 when the family resettled. He acquired lifelong memories, skills, and solid friendships over the many seasons he worked as a cook, shipmate, and video man documenting all events surrounding him. His shutterbug talents are now being viewed and appreciated by all.

He was a beloved son, father, grandfather, and just recently a great-grandfather.

Andrew was preceded in death by his father, William A. Greinier Jr; uncles and aunts, Tom Greinier Sr, Richard and Esther Harris, and Andrew and Zella Greinier; grandparents, William A. and Ruth Greinier Sr, and Hugh and Alice Harris.

He is survived by his mother, Barbara Greinier; two sons, Aaron (Stevie Glass) and Christopher (fiancé Sarah Otness) Greinier; grandchildren, Andrew, Aiden, Penny, and Henry; great-granddaughter, Gracie Grenier; sister, Cynthia (Timothy) Zimmerman and their children, William, Kathryn, and Samuel; brother, Joseph R. (finacé Ana Bradley) Greinier; and many faithful and supportive uncles, aunts, cousins and z niece.

Andy’s unwavering resolve and steadfast loyalty to his family, friends, and those he embraced continue to be a testament of his love for life.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.

Alaska newspaper publishers worry about bill ending some public notice requirements

Notices of water reservations, commonly used by mining projects, would not be published in local newspapers anymore

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

The Alaska Senate voted without dissent Monday to allow the Department of Natural Resources to stop publishing some public notices in local newspapers.

Senators approved Senate Bill 68 by a 17-0 vote. It now advances to the House for consideration. Sens. Lyman Hoffman, D-Bethel; Bert Stedman, R-Sitka; and Shelley Hughes, R-Palmer, were excused absent.

Before the final vote, newspaper publishers unsuccessfully asked legislators to reconsider their plans. Allowing the state to control its public notice process poses transparency risks, they testified, and it likely will harm papers’ finances, potentially reducing the amount of independent reporting available in Alaska.

“Newspapers certainly are concerned that not everyone has internet coverage, and it’s going to just further depress the finances of a money-losing business that’s important to communities,” said Larry Persily, owner and publisher of the Wrangell Sentinel.

“Public notices are one of the few remaining revenue streams we have left,” he said.

SB 68 addresses only a fraction of the notices required, by state law, to appear in local newspapers, and it doesn’t affect notices published by local

cities and boroughs, most of whom still require newspaper publication as well.

The bill only applies to “public notices relating to the sale, appropriation, or removal of water,” commonly required of mining projects.

Persily said he nonetheless thinks it’s the sign of a national trend reaching Alaska.

“I’m actually surprised it took this long,” he said.

States are moving away from mandatory print publication, with some requiring publication on a newspaper website instead. Florida, for example, implemented a law this year that allows a local government to publish notices on a public website instead of through a newspaper.

In the United States, mandatory publication dates to the first Congress, in 1789, and the practice has continued as a way to keep the public informed.

Speaking to the Senate on Monday, Giessel said that newspaper readership has declined and that internet access has become common in Alaska.

Requiring only online publication — with print publication as an optional backup — isn’t a barrier to access, she said.

Sen. Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage, said after the vote that getting rid of the public notice newspaper requirement isn’t a new idea, but he opposed it the last time it came around because he didn’t believe his

district had appropriate internet access.

Now, following the advance of technology, he believes it does, and he voted for the bill.

Virginia Farmer, publisher of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, and Ryan Binkley, owner and president of Anchorage Daily News, were among those who testified against it, mostly on transparency grounds.

“The public has relied on community newspapers to keep them informed and to publish public notices. If the state government publishes their own notices, where’s the transparency in that?” Farmer wrote in a letter to Giessel.

Binkley, who wrote a separate letter, said by phone that he’s surprised the Senate was willing to give the executive branch more power over public notice requirements.

“That’s a lot of power for the executive branch to hold. I’m surprised the Legislature wants to continue to consolidate power,” he said.

He also said he was skeptical of claims by state agencies that publishing their own notices will have no cost.

“Anybody who runs a business knows that a website isn’t free,” he said.

Binkley said that if legislators are concerned about the cost of print notices, they might consider changing the law to require publication on newspaper websites instead.

“If the goal is for people to see those notices and be able to find them as easily as possible,” he said, “use the website with the highest amount of traffic in the state. If you want eyeballs on notices, if you want them

easily findable, there’s no better place than adn.com or the local paper in any community.”

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



This is Molly, a lovely 11 year old spayed female. Molly is a mixed breed of Rhodesian Ridgeback Golden Retriever, and Labrador and is current on her vaccinations. If you have room in your heart and home for Molly

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

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

Thursday: 6p - Celebrate Recovery



772-4563 • Corner of 5th & Gjoa Streets

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

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

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE
OF ALASKA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT PETERSBURG

In the Matter of the Estate of:)
)
Fredrick Ivar Thomassen)
Person Who Died (Decedent))
DOB: 06/06/1944)
) Case No. 1PE-24-00004PR

Date 02/27/2024
Greg Lutton
PO Box 1924
Petersburg, AK 99833
541-260-2441

Published: March 7, 14 and 21, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS & BOE

2024 Property Assessments have been mailed. If you have not received your assessment, or if you have received one in error, please contact the Borough Finance Office as soon as possible.

Please pay close attention to your assessment and the information on the back. Appeal deadline is March 31, 2024 by 4:30pm. Assessment and Appeal information can be found on the borough website or can be emailed or mailed to you at your request. If your appeal cannot be resolved with the assessor, the Board of Equalization will meet April 15, 2024 during the regular 6pm Assembly Meeting. The burden of proof lies with the petitioner, and not with the Assessor.



For assistance, please call 907-772-5409 or email
acaalum@petersburgak.gov
www.petersburgak.gov/finance/page/property-tax
Published: March 7 and 14, 2024



Federal Subsistence
Regional Advisory Council

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

Application Deadline
March 15, 2024

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



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

Those with birthdays this week are: **March 15:** Bob Benitz, Kelly Hall, Marissa Sanchez. **March 16:** Richard Benard. **March 17:** Ana Enge, Denny Heimdahl, Dominic Bazer, Marc Martinsen, Nick Gilbert. **March 18:** Karen Ellingstad. **March 20:** Beth Loesch, Deanna Vick, Eric Schwartz, Leann Collins. **March 21:** Don Schmit, Valori Enge.

Those celebrating anniversaries this week are: **March 16:** John and Vicki Kaer.

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

Wedding announcement

Kassandra Klose, the daughter of Pam and Kurtis Klose, of Ketchikan, was married to Stuart Meeks, the son of Sandi and Phil Meeks, of Petersburg, on January 20, 2024 at the Chapel By The Lake, in Juneau. The wedding was officiated by Pastor Tim Harrison. The ringbearer was Avery Stephen and the maid of honor was the bride's best friend, Bailey Marshall. The bride was given in marriage by her parents and the best man was Sam Jensen. Many relatives from Ketchikan and Petersburg were in attendance and the reception was held at Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau. The couple will honeymoon in Bali, Indonesia.



Library
News



The Library will be closed
Monday, March 25, in observance
of Seward's Day.

Yoga with Karen Malcom /
Saturdays, March 16, 23 & 30 / 11
a.m. – noon / \$5, please pay at
front desk / Bring your own mat

Yogi's Playground
with **Ms. Barb** /
Saturdays, March 16 & 30
/ 2 – 2:45 p.m. / ages 5 – 8
/ Cost: FREE /
Registration Required at
psglib.org

Afterschool Art with
Ashley Lohr / Monday, March 18
/ 3:15 – 4:15 p.m. / ages 6-10 /
Cost: FREE / Registration
Required at psglib.org

Make Enamel Earrings with
Ashley Lohr / Tuesday, March 19
/ 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. / ages 14+ / \$65
(free for MS/HS students please
contact the library for details) /
Registration Required at psglib.org

Spintronics / Tuesdays, April
9, 16 & 23 / 6 – 7:30 p.m. / Youth
in grades 6 and up / Cost: FREE /
Registration Required at psglib.org

Science Series talk with Eric
Castro, USFS / Amphibians in our
Neighborhood: How you can help
collect quality data / Thursday,
March 21 / 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Gaming Tournament with
Gus Petersen & Keston Lyons /

Tuesday, March 26 / 5:30 – 7:30
p.m. / ages 13 and up (adults
welcome) / Cost: FREE / Register
at psglib.org

Homegrown Conversations
Podcast on KFSK Community
Radio / Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7 p.m.

Stories In Motion! / Thursday,
March 14 / 11 – 11:45 a.m. / ages
0 – 3 with a caregiver / Sing,
dance, read, and play!

Book Sale with Friends of
Petersburg Libraries / Saturday
April 6th / 11am-1pm / All
proceeds go to benefit Petersburg
Borough School Libraries &
Petersburg Public Library

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

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

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

Senior Meals

MONDAY, March 18

Fish Sandwich, Chips, Vegetables,
Yogurt with Fruit, Cake

TUESDAY, March 19

Chili Dog with Onions and Cheese, Macaroni Salad,
Cottage Cheese with Fruit, Cookie

WEDNESDAY, March 20

Liver and Onions, Potatoes, Corn,
Green Salad, Ice Cream

THURSDAY, March 21

Cheeseburger, French Fries, Vegetables,
Orange, Pudding

FRIDAY, March 22

Chicken Caesar Wrap, Chips, Fruit Cup,
Cheese Stick, Cookie

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.



at Petersburg School District

Monday, Mar 18

WG Chicken Nuggets
WG Pasta Salad

Tuesday, Mar 19

Pork Green Chili
WG Corn Bread

Wednesday, Mar 20

WG Alaskan Fish Sticks
WG Rice

Thursday, Mar 21

WG Grilled Cheese
Tomato Soup

Friday, Mar 22

WG Asian Chicken
WG Rice



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



HIRING NOW



ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

- Help Wanted -- The Petersburg Chamber of Commerce is seeking applicants who will handle the administration and daily operations of the organization. The applicant will answer to the board of directors, assist and advise the officers, board and committees on the operations, goals and objectives of the Chamber. This is a part-time of 16-20-hours a week with \$20 an hour. We will receive applications until 3/21/24.
- Please reply with a cover letter and resume to Jim Floyd, Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 649, Petersburg, Alaska 99833. For questions, contact: Mindy at 907-772-3646

JOBS

Petersburg Municipal Power and Light has an opening for the position of Power Generation Mechanic/Operator. This is a regular full-time position, with a starting hourly rate of \$50.00 for PERS Tier 1-3 employees or \$48.00 for PERS Tier 4. This position performs maintenance and repairs on diesel generator sets and hydro generators, including maintenance, recordkeeping and periodic testing of fuel, water and oil samples. Performs minor repair work including carpentry, welding and pipe fitting; performs a variety of other skilled or semi-skilled tasks to accomplish

maintenance of electric department facilities and equipment. This position is also responsible for data collection, surveillance and monitoring of the Crystal Lake Dam and Blind Slough Hydroelectric facility. Must possess current and insurable Commercial Drivers License, Class A or B, or have the ability to obtain within 6 months of hire. For a full job description and application, please go to www.petersburgak.gov. To apply, please email a completed application and background packet to bregula@petersburgak.gov, fax to (907)772-3759, or hand deliver to the main office at 12 South Nordic Drive. Applications/background packets are also available

Alaskan

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FOR FISHING PERMITS
907-772-4000

Call Olivia
FOR FISHING QUOTA
907-772-7000

VESSEL DOCUMENTATION
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at the main office front desk.
.....tfn3-14b185
The Petersburg Borough is seeking a part-time (20 Hours Per Week) Customer Service Representative at the Power & Light Department. This position is compensated at \$25.51 per hour for Tiers 1 – 3; and \$24.49 per hour for Tier 4 employees. This position is eligible for benefits. For more information, please go to the Borough’s website at www.petersburgak.gov to review the job description, benefit information, and the IBEW Collective Bargaining Agreement. To apply, please email a completed application and background packet to bregula@petersburgak.gov, fax to (907)772-3759, or hand deliver to the main office at 12 South Nordic Drive. Applications/background packets are available on the Borough’s website or at the main office front desk.
.....tfn3-14b112
Petersburg’s Parks & Recreation Department has an opening for a full-time Facility Attendant scheduled to work 40 hours per week for the closing shift from 1:15 pm –9:15 pm Tuesday

Come join the Petro Marine Services team!

- CDL Fuel Truck Driver

Full-time, year-round positions with generous benefits!

See full job description and apply online at www.petro49.com

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through Saturday. This position pays \$17.73 per hour. A full job description and employment application can be obtained from the Borough’s website at www.petersburgak.gov. Applications will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough offices, 12 S Nordic Drive, by mail at PO Box 329, or emailed to bregula@petersburgak.gov until the position is filled.
.....tfn3-7b85
Mountain View Manor is hiring a full time Resident Assistant, 40 hr/week, Friday–Tuesday, and a permanent part time Resident Assistant 30 hours per week. Wednesday - Saturday, starting at \$19.67/hour. Recruitment bonus of \$900 upon completion of probation at six months and \$900 at one year of employment! No experience needed; we will train you! Benefits include paid time off, holiday pay, retirement plan, health and life insurance. If you are interested in joining our team, please submit a completed Borough employment application and return to the front desk of the Borough office at 12 South

Nordic Drive, mail to P.O. Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833, or email to bregula@petersburgak.gov. Go to www.petersburgak.gov for an application and complete job description or stop by the front desk of the Borough offices to pick up a copy.
.....tfn2-29b137
Petersburg’s Public Works Department has an opening for a full-time Administrative Assistant I. This position pays \$21.95 per hour and has full benefits. Wage increases to \$22.50 on July 1, 2024. A full job description and employment application can be obtained from the Borough’s website at www.petersburgak.gov. Applications will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough offices, 12 S. Nordic Drive, or mailed to P.O. Box 329, Petersburg, AK, 99833, or emailed to bregula@petersburgak.gov .
.....tfn2-29b78
OBI Petersburg is hiring a receptionist to work full time at our facility. The timeline of this position is from the beginning of Feb-

Read the

Public Notices

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STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION
SOUTHEAST AREA OFFICE

PUBLIC REVIEW
FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES
STATE FISCAL YEARS 2025-2029

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DOF) Preliminary Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales for the Southern Southeast Area is available for public review. Per AS 38.05.113 this is a scoping document that outlines the proposed timber sale activity to be undertaken on State land over the next five years. The Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales is not a decision document.

The public is invited to comment on any aspect of the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales. Comments should be mailed to the DOF and must be received by the close of business at the DOF’s office no later than **April 8, 2024** to be included as comment to the file in the adopted schedule. This document can be viewed at the Area Office in Ketchikan, the public libraries in Craig, Edna Bay, Ketchikan, Petersburg and Wrangell, the State of Alaska’s on-line public notice website <http://notice.alaska.gov/214508> as well as the DOF’s website <http://forestry.alaska.gov/>.

After public comment has been received and reviewed, the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection may proceed with planning the proposed timber sales and associated developments. When each sale is prepared and ready for review, notice of the proposed decision and the opportunity for public comment will be given for that specific timber sale, as is required under state statutes and regulations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS CONTACT:

Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213 Ketchikan, AK 99901	Contact: Phone: Email:	Greg Staunton 907-225-3070 dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov
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The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Complies with Title II of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate in this review may contact the number above.
Published: March 14 and 21, 2024

Read the

Public Notices

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING APPLICATION TO PURCHASE BOROUGH TIDELANDS


April 1, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
Borough Assembly Chambers (12 S. Nordic Drive)

The Petersburg Borough Assembly will hold a public hearing during the regular Assembly meeting of April 1, 2024, to consider an application from Island Refrigeration, LLC, Brock Snider, owner, to purchase tidelands located on the south side of Dock Street (legal description: a portion of Wilson Tidelands Lease Plat #2000-6, T-37; parcel ID #01-010-035).

Borough Code Section 16.16.070 states that in isolated and necessary instances, the Assembly may sell tracts of tidelands which are not needed for public purposes. Code requires that at the hearing, the benefits of the sale of the subject tideland that could not be realized through leasing must be clearly demonstrated; and, that an applicant for purchase of tidelands must conclusively demonstrate that outright sale of a tideland, as contrasted with lease of the tideland, is in the borough’s best interests.

The April 1, 2024 Assembly meeting will begin at 12:00 p.m., with the public hearing on the agenda under item 5. The public is invited to attend and provide testimony regarding this tideland purchase application. Written comments to the Assembly may be dropped off at the front desk of the municipal building, mailed to PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK, 99833, or emailed to assembly@petersburgak.gov.

For more information, contact Clerk Thompson at (907) 772-5405 or dthompson@petersburgak.gov.
Published: March 14, 2024



Petersburg Properties LLC



Sarah Holmgrain

907-518-0718



Jalyn Pomrenke

907-723-3157



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ruary through November. The primary job responsibility of the receptionist is to provide assistance to the main office. The receptionist will route incoming calls, greet and assist customers and fishermen visiting the office, handle incoming and outgoing mail, copy and file paperwork, assist the accounting and fleet department, and other duties as assigned. This

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.....tfn2-8b124
Petersburg Borough has an opening for the position of Lineman. This is a regular full-time position in which the Lineman will also be trained as a generation operator. Wage for a Journeyman Lineman is \$59.75/hr with operator premium (Tier 4) \$62.17/hr with operator premium (Tier 1-3). Signing bonus of \$5,000 after completion of six-

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• Clinic Reception/Admissions (FT)

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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

month probationary period. Up to \$15,000 reimbursable relocation expenses with a minimum two (2) year employment agreement. A complete job description and employment application can be obtained from the Borough's website at www.petersburgak.gov. Applications will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough office at 12 S. Nordic Street in Petersburg; by mail to Human Resources, P.O. Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833; or via email to bregula@petersburgak.gov. Open until position is filled.

.....tfn2-1b128
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

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.....tfn1-25b47
Petersburg Borough has an opening for a permanent full-time Motor Pool Equipment Mechanic. Starting wage for this position is \$32.42/hour. \$2500 hiring bonus after six-month probation period and \$2500 bonus after one year. Three years of vehicle repair and maintenance employment experience is required. Possession of a Class A or B Commercial Driver's License with air brake and tanker endorsements is preferred; however, applicants with the ability to obtain the required CDL within the first six months of employment will be considered. A full

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job description and employment application can be obtained below. Applications will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough office, 12 S. Nordic Drive, or mailed to P.O. Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833, attn: Human Resources, until the position is filled.

.....tfn11-30b129

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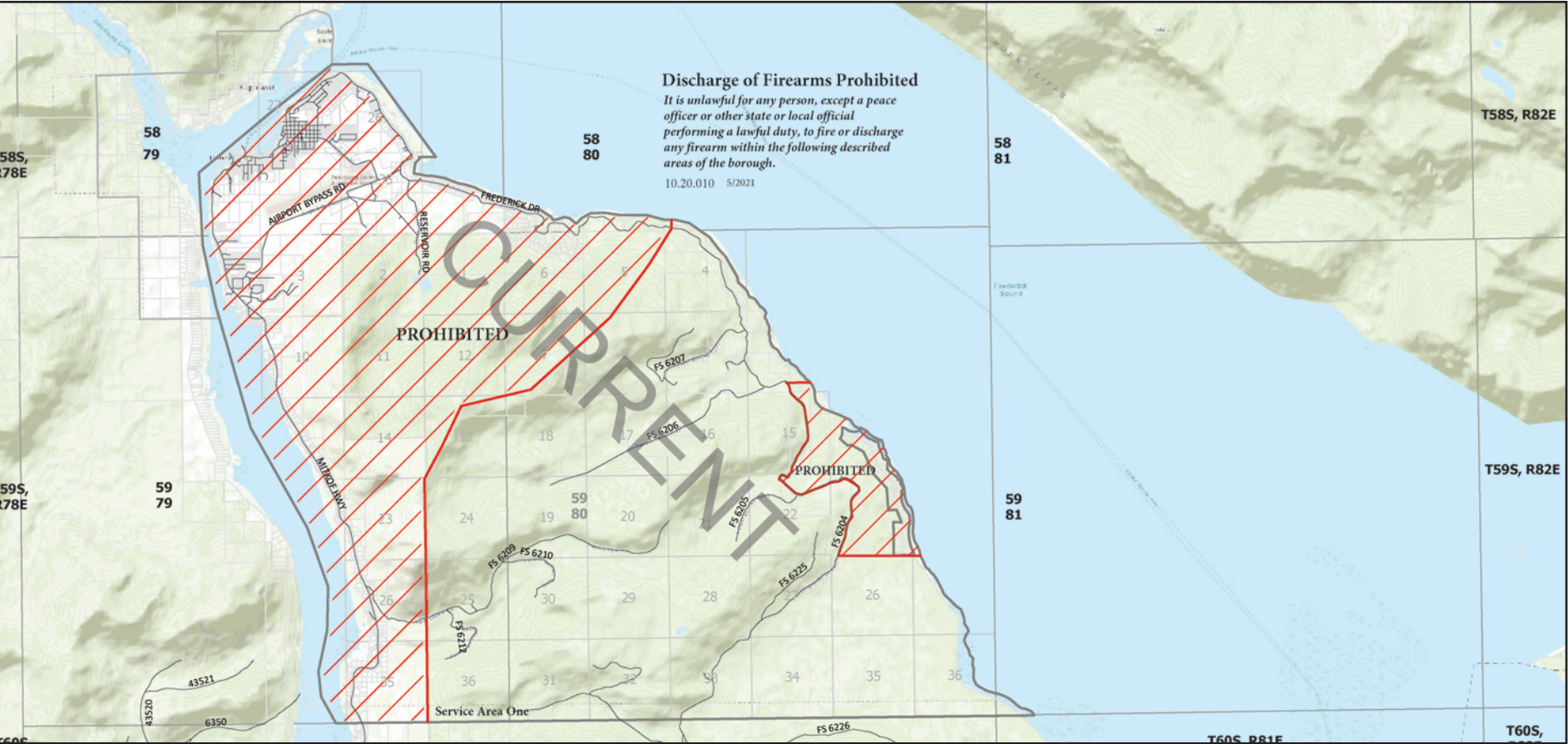
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Topographic map outlining the current areas where discharge of firearms is prohibited under borough code. Frederick Point East Subdivision is in the prohibited area to the right. A new ordinance aims to remove that right chunk from the code language.

Assembly considers potential code change for firearm discharge at Frederick Point East Subdivision

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

Shots fired by a person other than an officer may soon be allowed in the Frederick Point East Subdivision area.

As it stands, Petersburg municipal code prohibits the discharge of firearms in the area of Frederick Point East Subdivision — calling it “unlawful for any person, except a peace officer or other state or local official performing a lawful duty, to fire or discharge any firearm within the [area].”

The Petersburg Borough Assembly passed an ordinance to amend this section of code in its first of three readings March 4.

The codified prohibition of discharge of firearms is, at its core, for safety reasons in populated areas.

The intent behind code Section 10.20.010 is to prevent the discharge of firearms in residential and more populated areas of the borough, states the ordinance, further noting that the Frederick Point East area is “largely inaccessible by land for law enforcement” due to the road access conditions and

that the area has a much smaller population than the other part of the borough within Service Area One where discharging firearms is not allowed.

The Frederick Point East Subdivision area is described in the municipal code as “all land located to the east of Forest Road 6204 from the marker located at approximately mile 7.9 south to the marker located at approximately mile 10.0.”

It is a remote area accessed by Forest Service Road 6204, with a population of very few residents.

The ordinance aims to remove the Frederick Point East Subdivision (FPE) area from the described areas that are codified to prohibit the discharge of firearms.

“That rule is limiting you from hunting all this area,” Petersburg Police Department Chief Jim Kerr told the Pilot, pointing out the mountainous area around FPE on the other side of the Forest Service road, “It doesn’t make sense.”

“That’s a large area out there ... people use that area for subsistence purposes, so why are we limiting that?” he added.

Frederick Point East Subdivision is not

part of Service Area One. When Petersburg became a borough and everywhere within old city limits became Service Area One, Frederick Point East was within the service area boundary. But in 2021, voters approved a ballot proposition to remove Frederick Point East Subdivision from Service Area One through a boundary reduction.

However, because FPE was within the City of Petersburg at borough formation, Petersburg police officers can provide law enforcement at FPE, per charter.

So, currently, if a gunshot was reported from Frederick Point East — during hunting season, for example — Petersburg police would likely be called upon to investigate.

“Back then [when the borough was formed]... there were big ideas that all of that was going to get developed. The road was going to be extended, a good road, all those lots were going to get developed. It was going to be, you know, more residential — that hasn’t happened. So having the prohibition [on the discharge of firearms] just really didn’t make sense,” borough clerk Debbie Thompson told the Pilot.

Overall, there is a low population density present at FPE and the Petersburg Police Department maintains it does not have substantial access to enforce this borough law in the area. It is accessible by water, but not always by land because of the road conditions. The road is higher than the properties, which officers would have to hike down to access.

The potential removal of FPE from this code has caused safety concerns in some community members. However, Chief Kerr noted that the area, depending upon the approval of this ordinance, would be comparable to the firearm discharge laws relevant at “the Papke’s area ... Point Agassiz ...[or] down the Narrows.”

“If you’ve been deer hunting in the fall and you drive out past Sandy Beach and on that road you can shoot there and you can’t shoot there and it’s very confusing,” said Mayor Mark Jensen during the March 4 assembly meeting. “I will be voting in favor of this.”

A public hearing regarding this ordinance will take place at the next borough assembly meeting scheduled on March 18.

Sitka herring

Continued from page 1

to be harvested,” ADFG Sitka area management stated in a recent advisory announcement.

Thynes explained that expectation is primarily related to market conditions.

In the herring heyday, there used to be numerous fisheries for herring throughout the Pacific west coast, upward from San Francisco, California. But now, that has since fallen to a mere few.

“As far as Southeast is concerned, there’s just the Sitka Sound Sac Roe fishery,” said Thynes.

The steady decline in these fisheries are “due to declines in the stock abundance, but also to primarily the markets, too,” he noted.

While herring abundance has increased in recent years — as evidenced by the boom in biomass in Sitka — the markets have declined for herring, sac roe in particular; Thynes said sac roe is primarily a Japanese market, and the change in conditions may be attributed to the younger generation in Japan having “less of a desire for that roe product, so there’s less demand for it.”

As for price, Thynes said that in recent years, “depending on what the fishermen actually get paid ... anywhere from \$150 to \$300 a ton, somewhere around there.” He noted that in the heyday during the late 1980s and early 90s, “they were getting well above like ... \$1,200, \$1,300 a ton ... Quite a big difference there. The

demand is down and the price is down.”

The market was down for several years — with no commercial fishery conducted and no harvest in 2019 or 2020 — before the large quota for Sitka in 2022.

In 2022, the GHL was 45,164 tons, the largest on record for the fishery; 25,090 tons of that was harvested, which was also the largest sac roe harvest recorded for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery.

“Even at that,” Thynes added, “the whole quota wasn’t harvested.”

He said for this year’s 80 thousand ton quota, “expectations are for a harvest that is probably going to be between the 10 and 20 thousand ton range. And that’s

... what satisfy the markets.”

There are 47 permit holders eligible to fish the Sitka Sound herring fishery this year. In 2022, just 29 out of 47 permits fished — and only 18 in 2021. Thynes said he would expect about 20 to 30 permit holders to fish this year, “maybe less.”

The department and industry have not yet determined if the 2024 fishery will be competitive or noncompetitive, though the harvest strategy will likely be structured similarly to noncompetitive like in recent seasons.

Multiple openings will be required in order to harvest enough herring for market needs due to processing and tending capacity limitations. The fishery announcement by ADFG stated “the total daily

processing capacities for the 2024 season will not be determined until immediately prior to the fishery, though it is expected to be approximately 2,000 tons per day.”

When monitoring efforts identify the herring maturity and quality to be close to prime time, the department will announce a short notice for the fishery and try to give the industry a notice of 36 hours, or possibly less if spawning is earlier or heavier than anticipated, according to ADFG.

Now entering the historical timing for the herring roe to ripen, seiners will soon start to prepare for the fishery and make their way to Sitka, ready for the herring to move into the shallows.