



# The Bristol Bay Times

Spawned Weekly in Southwest Alaska



Vol. 27, No. 25

\$1.00

Dillingham, Naknek, King Salmon and Southwest Villages

June 7, 2007

## Perryville begins wind power project

Peninsula village looks to alternative energy

By Dustin Solberg  
The Bristol BayTimes

The fuel barge beaches at the village of Perryville twice a year. It comes once in the fall and again in the spring, as it did on a recent day late in May.

In this village of 120, as in most Alaska villages, giant tanks hold the rustic elixir that makes rural Alaska go. It's called No. 2 diesel, and it generates the electricity that keeps refrigerators cold, stoves hot.

Because few can live without its benefits, the village council just spent \$78,576.31 to fill its tanks with 25,421 gallons of it.

That's \$3.09 a gallon. Nobody knows what it will cost to fill the tanks again in the fall. It might cost more. A lot more.

"Fuel prices ain't going down, that's for sure," said

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## BLESSING OF THE FLEET



Courtesy photo/Fritz Johnson

At the 20th annual Blessing of the Fleet on June 2 in Dillingham, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin said, "We want to put Bristol Bay fish on the map to an even greater degree." During the governor's visit to Bristol Bay, she made a return visit to New Stuyahok, toured the University of Alaska Fairbanks Bristol Bay Campus, and painted a tile in a current downtown Dillingham mural project.

## Togiak residents organize to recall mayor, chief

City officials won't comment, petition awaits response

By Dustin Solberg  
The Bristol BayTimes

A group of 14 Togiak residents has filed paperwork with the city in an attempt to initiate a recall of Mayor Gary Carlos and Police Chief Aaron Parker.

The recall effort is led by Anecia Kertz and Kevin Ramey, who filed their request with the Togiak city clerk on May 3.

The group makes a number of accusations against the officials, ranging from ethical mis-

conduct to charging inebriated citizens with unsubstantiated crimes.

According to the application documents on file with the city, these extra criminal charges have resulted in transporting prisoners from Togiak to a jail in Dillingham on Alaska Island Air. The airline is owned by a member of Carlos' family, the application states.

Asked to comment on the recall effort, Carlos refused twice to speak to a reporter, hanging up the phone on both occasions.

Parker did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

City Clerk Margie Coopchiak, when asked

for a timeline on when the city will respond to the three-week-old request to initiate a recall petition, did not respond.

It appears the residents have adhered to the simple procedure established in the Alaska State constitution, which spells out the steps necessary for the recall of elected officials.

After receiving an application requesting a recall petition, according to state statute, the municipal clerk is to determine if the paperwork meets the requirements as provided by Alaska statute.

State statute requires a municipal clerk to respond to such a petition within 10 days. In

Togiak, after three weeks, Coopchiak ruled the application "does not meet the statutory requirements."

In a May 25 letter to Kritz and Ramey, Coopchiak wrote, "I believe that I could validly treat the document as either a simple expression of a desire to recall two officials, which would call for no action on the part of the city or the city clerk, or as an application for a petition for recall, which would require my review."

In a March 29 response, Ramey accused the city of stalling and insisted that the residents' request was clear and not "ambiguous" as implied in the city's May 25 response.

**'The Japanese came over and bombed us and the only trouble was, they missed us all together. That was nice.'**

Editor's note: This is the second of four interview excerpts to appear in successive issues of The Bristol Bay Times

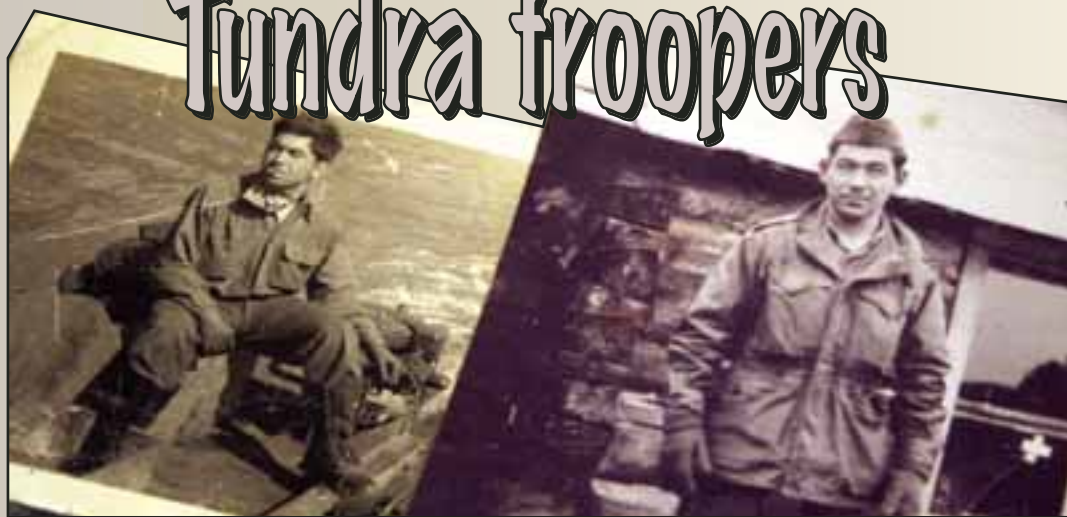
When we got to Adak, we went ashore on little life rafts and we spent the night on shore. The next morning we took off.

We went up on top of the hill there at Adak. And just as we got up there, here comes a Japanese bomber reconnaissance plane came over, circled around us, kind of banked, looked at us and kept on going.

So our guard - we gathered together, got five in each group, and took off and started off the island and we were there four days.

And we gathered together ... just south of

## PART 2 Tundra troopers



Mount Moffett, we gathered together and we found there was one man missing. So we all gathered together, waited, waited. And pretty soon, we seen a man down on the flats, and he was wandering around.

And Hank Farrington was our sharpshooter. So

he got his old Springfield out, got the sights up, laid down and got it all set, and Bob Thompson said, "Just wait and see who he is."

So we kept on. And all of a sudden there was

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# Wind ...

From Page 1

Gerald Kosbrook of the Perryville Village Council.

This is what sent the Council, which operates the village power plant's three John Deere generators, to search for another way to deliver electricity to its residents and its single largest customer – the village school.

The best way to reduce the amount of diesel it buys seems to be generating electricity on its own. To do this, the village has decided it will capture the wind.

In this village on the Gulf of Alaska side of the Alaska Peninsula, the abundance of wind has never been in question. Instead, the question has always been this: Where to locate a cluster of wind so that the peninsula's gales don't blow the \$6,000 turbines to pieces?

The council believes it has just such a place, near the beach a few hundred yards east of the village. This month, the village council will begin constructing 3-foot-deep footings for a cluster of 10 small wind turbines.

Utility wind projects in Alaska more commonly rely on higher capacity turbines. A project in Toksook Bay consists of three 100-kilowatt turbines, for instance. But such turbines are more costly.

U.S.-made Skystream turbines weigh 175 pounds each and can be installed without a crane. A skid-steer tractor is sufficient. Repairs may be less complicated, as well.

"(If) they need something, they can take care of on their own. (Or) they can take this down and put it in a (Cessna) 206 and send it to me. It's user friendly," said Kirk Garoutte of Susitna Energy Systems in Anchorage, the company assisting with the Perryville project.

The project is initially budgeted at \$100,000. The village will pay for this with a \$59,000 alternative energy grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the village general fund.

"It's time to help ourselves out," Kosbrook said.

Each turbine will generate just 1.8 kilowatts – the machines are in fact designed with the electrical demands of a typical U.S. household in mind. Yet in Perryville, this fleet of turbines is intended to fill a practical niche.

If the turbines can produce nearly 20 kilowatts, this addition to the village electrical grid will allow the power plant to generate electricity with the smallest of its three generators.

The 128-kilowatt generator consumes less fuel than either of the larger units next to it. This could translate to a fuel savings of 300 gallons per week.



Courtesy photo/Northern Power Systems

**This 100-kilowatt Northwind 100 wind turbine was installed in Toksook Bay in 2006. The 10 new turbines planned for Perryville will produce a total of about 20 kilowatts.**

"Three hundred gallons nowadays is about a thousand bucks," Kosbrook said.

Such are the financial travails of maintaining a village power plant reliant on once-affordable fossil fuel.

"It was a great idea when diesel was a buck a gallon. Now that it's more expensive than that, that's just not a viable economic model for these small communities," said Joe Austerman, a special assistant to Alaska commerce commissioner Emil Notti.

Whether it's viable or not, it is the infrastructure installed in Alaska's villages. Over the years, the diesel infrastructure was built with the help of Sen. Ted Stevens and the federal Denali Commission – the agency charged with assisting the state in lifting its rural reaches out of Third World conditions.

"Turning the ship is a difficult thing to do," Austerman said.

A project such as the one now under way in Perryville is one way to retrofit the now-antiquated use of diesel to create electricity.

Wind power will not replace the reliable diesel workhorse rural Alaska has come to depend on. But it can form a more practical wind-diesel hybrid generation system akin to what's under the hood of a gasoline-electric hybrid car.

"Whenever you have a wind system in Alaska, it's going to be a wind-diesel system," said Chris Rose of the nonprofit



Dustin Solberg/The Bristol BayTimes

**Kirk Garoutte of Susitna Energy Systems with a turbine similar to those soon to be installed in Perryville.**

Renewable Energy Alaska Project.

Some elegant engineering allows electrical generation to switch seamlessly between wind and diesel.

Such hybrid systems, which draw heavily from alternative energy sources such as solar and tidal turbines, may become practical for underdeveloped locales around the world.

"Alaska's really got a lab here, whether we like it or not," Rose said. "We've really got a unique place to test this kind of stuff. We can look at it as an opportunity."

The sub-Arctic nation of Iceland has developed its own most viable resource – geothermal energy. This has developed into a significant contribution to the nation's economy, though not because it exports energy.

"They're exporting their expertise and technology and themselves," Rose said.

Alaska may have a similar opportunity. But first, developing alternative energy resources would only benefit from a more coordinated statewide effort.

Part of this may come in the form of a bill

proposing a Renewable Energy Fund, which made its way through the Alaska Legislature's most recent session.

The bill would create a new loan and grant fund for renewable energy projects within the existing Power Project Fund.

The bill, with 11 co-sponsors in the Senate, fell just short of passing. It's expected to continue its passage through the Legislature in the next session.

The Alaska Energy Authority, an agency within the state's Department of Commerce, Community and Economic

Development, is planning regional hubs for alternative energy development.

"The idea is to have a hub city for a region," said Martina Dabo, who directs the authority's wind program.

A regional hub could include the parts and expertise necessary for the operation of new technologies such as wind turbines. Bulk purchases could help minimize costs.

"You can streamline wind development resources. If you have a region with the same wind resource, you can narrow it down to the optimum type of wind turbine," Dabo said.

Such coordination is already necessary, said Rose, because the energy crisis is here and prices are unstable.

"That means that we're going to get out competed if we don't put more (alternative energy) in place. If you've got no policy that says you're going to stabilize rates via renewables you're at a disadvantage," he said.

*For more information on wind programs in Kotzebue, Wales, St. Paul, Port Heiden, Selawik, Toksook Bay and Kasigluk, visit Wind Programs of the Alaska Energy Authority online at [www.akenergyauthority.org/programwindsystem.html](http://www.akenergyauthority.org/programwindsystem.html).*

## Public Meeting Announcement

*The United States Air Force Invites You to participate in a Public Meeting in your community to discuss the*

**PROPOSED PLAN FOR FINAL ACTIONS FOR SEVEN ERP SITES AT THE BIG MOUNTAIN RRS**

*being distributed for Public Comment*

**THE AIR FORCE INVITES YOU TO PROVIDE YOUR WRITTEN OR VERBAL COMMENTS DURING THE 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FROM JUNE 14, 2007 TO JULY 14, 2007.**

Interested stakeholders and residents are invited to attend Public Meetings being held in the following local communities at the dates and times specified:

**Igiugig:** Monday June 11, 2007 at 4:00pm at the Airport Building

**Pedro Bay:** Tuesday June 12, 2007 at 2:00pm at the Pedro Bay Village Council Building

**Newhalen:** Tuesday June 12, 2007 at 7:00pm at the Newhalen Teen Center

**Nondalton:** Wednesday June 13, 2007 at 2:00pm at the Nondalton Community Building

**Iliamna:** Wednesday June 13, 2007 at 7:00pm at the Iliamna Community Center

**Kokhanok:** Thursday June 14, 2007 at 2:00pm at the Kokhanok Village Council Offices

**Port Alsworth:** Thursday June 14, 2007 at 8:00pm at the PAIC Building

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