



This week's community highlight: Port Heiden

February 28, 2020

It's hard to believe we've spent nearly 40 days in Juneau. I'm happy to report on great progress on the budget and variety of other issues. I'm reflecting today on the life of William Paul (1885 – 1977) who was the first Alaska Native to be elected to the Alaska House of Representatives. Paul helped draft legislation to adopt Alaska's flag in 1927 and played a major role in laying the groundwork for the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. His contributions number so many more. Today, I'm thinking of his life and work.

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- I'm pleased to report that the House Finance Committee has just passed out the FY21 operating budget. The legislature is required to fulfill one constitutional duty every year: pass a budget. We've once again maintained pressure on the budget, and we look to come in flat from last year's number. I look forward to next week's debate on the floor as we move closer to completing our work down in Juneau in a timely fashion. You can watch the hearings on the operating budget [here](#) and beginning with the February 24th meeting.



Meeting with friends (and family) from the Head Start program back home

- The governor announced his [appointments](#) to the Alaska Marine Highway Reshaping Working Group this week. I am eager for the



Meeting with Bob Himschoot, CEO of the Nushagak Cooperative



Sleetmute students dropping by for a visit, along with their teacher. They were Global Innovation winners for creating a blood alcohol detector security camera



Twin Hills Close Up Students also visited the office

Working Group to take up its directive and get us recommendations. In the meantime, the legislature will be focused on providing adequate service for the summer and winter schedules. The appointees to that working group are Adm. (Ret) Tom Barrett (Chair), John Torgerson, Wanetta Ayers, Lee Ryan, Ben Goldrich, Robert Venables, Tony Johansen, Senator Bert Stedman (R – Sitka), and Representative Louise Stutes (R – Kodiak). You can listen to the first meeting of the Working Group [here](#).

- The Senate Finance Committee took up work on Senate Bill 6, the bill to address reading scores and provide for universal Pre-K across Alaska. Before the bill can become law, it must pass through the Senate Finance Committee as well as committees in the House. I look forward to beginning our work on the bill when it crosses over. You can watch the Senate Finance Committee hearing [here](#).
- I sponsored a Lunch and Learn with the Cold Climate Housing Research Center this week where the President and CEO Bruno Grunau gave an overview of the organization’s mission and work. The CCHRC promotes the development of healthy, durable, and sustainable shelter for Alaskans and other circumpolar people by building prototype houses and innovative renewable energy systems. The CCHRC has been working with Noorvik to relocate the village and is seeing success with its prototype homes. You can watch the presentation [here](#).
- The House Transportation Committee heard Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins’ (D – Sitka) bill, HB253, relating to the sale, transfer, or disposal of ferries. The bill mandates that the Department of Transportation obtain legislative approval before taking any of the above actions as they relate to ferries. This ensures that the public will have an opportunity to participate in the conversation *before* the Department takes drastic action that affects the future of the ferry system. You can listen to the hearing [here](#).
- The House Special Committee on Tribal Affairs is not wasting any time in bringing up long overlooked issues relating to our community. The Committee’s most recent hearing took up the issue of self-determination and self-governance among Alaska Native people. The presentation was prepared by a well-regarded law firm, Sonosky Chambers, that has specialized in Alaska Native and Native American law since 1976. You can watch the presentation [here](#) and access the document itself [here](#).

Please don’t hesitate to get in touch with any issues or concerns and remember, I work for you.

All the best,

Bo Edgman

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On Deck Next Week...

Next week House Finance is scheduled to meet Monday – Friday 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM
The committee passed HB205 (FY21 Operating Budget) out of committee on Friday, 2/28/20, and will resume hearing other legislation.

HB205 (Operating Budget) will be on the House Floor this week.

Monday, March 2

House Finance – 9:30 AM

[HB 79](#) – Peace Officer/Firefighter Retirement Benefits

[HB 30](#) – Workers' Comp: Death; Permanent Partial Impairment

[HB 186](#) – Naming irene Webber Bridge

[HB 223](#) – Naming Vietnam Helicopter Pilots' Memorial Bridge

House Resources – 1:00 PM

Bills previous heard/scheduled.

House Judiciary – 1:00 PM

[HB 198](#) – Aggravating Factors at Sentencing

[HB 148](#) – Marriage Witness

House Finance – 1:30 PM

[HB 127](#) – Dental Hygienist Advanced Practice Permit

[HB 159](#) – Medical Education Program

[HB 182](#) – Sexual Assault Examination Kits: Testing

House Labor & Commerce – 3:15 PM

[HB 232](#) – Municipal Tax Credits

[HB 93](#) – Military Spouse Courtesy License

[HB 235](#) – Alaska Workforce Investment Board: Allocations

Tuesday, March 3

House Community & Regional Affairs – 8:00 AM

[HB 193](#) – Second Verse of Alaska Flag Song

[HB 221](#) – State Recognition of Tribes

House Tribal Affairs – 8:00 AM

[HB 287](#) – Village Public Safety Officer Grants

House Finance – 9:30 AM

[HB 121](#) – Repeal State Agency Performance Audits

[HB 209](#) – Establish Dept of Management and Budget

House Fisheries – 11:00 AM

[HB 247](#) – Sport Fishing Enhancement Surcharge

Consideration of Governor's Appointees: Board of Fisheries, Fishermen's Fund Advisory & Appeals Council

House Transportation – 1:00 PM

[HB 253](#) – Sale, Transfer, or Disposal of Ferries

House State Affairs – 3:00 PM

[SB 101](#) – March 12 – Ashley Johnson-Barr Day

[HB 233](#) – Electronic Display of Requirement Documents

[HB 264](#) – Proof of Insurance: Unsatisfied Judgments

[HB 250](#) – Voter Registration Age

House Health & Social Services – 3:00 PM

[HB 183](#) – Alaska Psychiatric Institute

[HB 86](#) – Mental Health Hospital: Contracts/Bids

[HB 184](#) – Controlled Substance Data: Exempt Veterinarians

Wednesday, March 4

House Education – 8:00 AM

[HB 236](#) – Increase Base Student Allocation

House Finance – 9:30 AM

[HJR 15](#) – Constitutional Amendment: Votes Needed for a Veto Override

House Resources – 1:00 PM

Presentation: The State of Alaska's Unsung Economic Powerhouse by Lee Hart

House Labor & Commerce – 3:15 PM

[HB 235](#) – Alaska Workforce Investment Board: Allocations

[HB 27](#) – Regulation of Flame Retardant Chemicals



Meeting with the University Team

Thursday, March 5

House Community & Regional Affairs – 8:00 AM

[HB 174](#) – Minimum Age to Possess Nicotine/Ecig Product

[HCR 14](#) – Brain Injury Awareness

House Tribal Affairs – 8:00 AM

[HB 287](#) – Village Public Safety Officer Grants

House Finance – 9:30 AM

[HB 230](#) – Intensive Management Surcharge/Repeal Term Date

[HB 197](#) – Extend Seismic Hazards Safety Commission

House Fisheries – 10:00 AM

[HB 247](#) – Sport Fishing Enhancement Surcharge

House Transportation – 1:00 PM

[HB 273](#) – Abandoned Vehicles; Private Property

House Health & Social Services – 3:00 PM

Presentation: Addressing Caps in the Crisis Psychiatric Response System by DHSS

[HB 183](#) – Alaska Psychiatric Institute

[HB 86](#) – Mental Health Hospital: Contracts/Bids

Friday, March 6

House Education – 8:00 AM

[HB 180](#) – Add Faculty Member University Board of Regents

House Finance – 9:30 AM

[HB 187](#) – Restrict Out-of-State Correctional Facilities

House Judiciary – 1:00 PM

[HB 290](#) – Alternative to Arrest: Mental Health Centers

House Labor & Commerce – 3:15 PM

[HB 93](#) – Military Spouse Courtesy License

Miscellaneous Meetings

Monday, March 2nd, 12:00 PM

Lunch & Learn – Rural Tribal Broadband by Dana Shaffer, Deputy Chief of Wireless Telecommunications, FCC

Thursday, March 5th, 12:00 PM

Lunch & Learn: Shining a Light on Youth Mental Illness by Dr. Joanne Gartenberg, Behavioral Health Medical Director, Bartlett Regional Hospital