

## The New Company in Town, Premier Harvest, LLC

Opportunity is in the eyes of the beholder; just ask Dustin and Lisa Anderson, founders and owners of Premier Harvest, LLC. Dustin Anderson has been coming to Adak off and on since 2010, to ship live crab fresh from fishing vessels to destinations around the world.

Despite the high costs of electricity and logistics, the Andersons have decided to make a 20 year commitment to Adak. Premier Harvest has purchased the fish processing equipment from the City of Adak and signed a 20 year lease with the Aleut Corporation for the big blue shed, known as the fish plant.

Premier Harvest specializes in premium live, fresh, and frozen seafood with sales on a global scale, not just domestic. Shipments of live crab have found their way to the Middle East, Europe and Asia. Not long ago, shipping live crab would have been impossible, but with patience, engineering, and invention, the Andersons have implemented a proven method.



Crab will refresh for 36 hours in the staging area prior to shipment

On the day of shipment, the totes are drained and transported to the packing area. The crab is inspected and weighed one by one. Crab that is not reactive enough or appears to be dead is set aside and counted as "dead loss". The crab is gently placed in wax boxes with a thick plastic liner until the box is at capacity. The average box weighs 54.6 lbs.



F/V Trojan offloading crab at pier 5

The Andersons, who have been in the crab business for over 18 years have developed a process of special handling; with habitat imitating holding tanks. The crab is gently offloaded from the boat into the specially designed totes. The totes full of crab are transported via forklift into the plant for weighing. After weighing, the totes are transported to the staging area and filled with hoses providing continuously flowing seawater and oxygen.



Premier Harvest employees weigh and pack the crab

The crab is pre-checked at the plant, and transported to the Adak Airport in specially designed "igloo cargo containers" or on pallets. Flight 164, scheduled to arrive at 5:00pm is tenuously watched for takeoff from the Anchorage Airport, especially on a bad weather day. If the flight does not arrive due to weather complications, the crab already packed in boxes for shipment has to be removed and returned to the habitat totes. The process of unpacking the crab and returning them to the habitat tote generally increases the "dead loss" rate, so the crab is packed at the very last minute for shipment. *Read more in next month's issue*



Tote of crab at the scales



Boxes packed with live crab ready for shipment

**It's Spring Clean-up Time**

**Get ready to make Adak beautiful. Date and details coming soon!**

**COUNCIL APPOINTS RIZO**

The City Council met on March 18, 2015. At that time the City Council appointed Estrella Rizo to vacant seat 1B. Ms. Rizo will serve until the next regular local election in October of 2015.

**LOCKETT ELECTED PRESIDENT AT SWAMC SPRING CONFERENCE**

Layton Lockett, City Manager, was recently elected president of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this month in Anchorage. SWAMC is a social and economic development non-profit organization that specifically promotes growth and stability in the Alaskan Southwest.

Lockett, who has served on the SWAMC board for several years now, also serves as an elected board member on the Adak Community Development Corporation.

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*Eastern Aleutian Tribes and Bristol Bay Native Health Corporation Presents "Adak Health Fair" and 3k "Rainbow Run"*

Run, don't walk to the health fair April 11, 2015 10:00am to 2:00pm in the community center. A 3k Rainbow Run (walking is allowed too), will be held after the fair. A light lunch potluck will be held in conjunction with the health fair; bring something healthy.

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PSST – Hey Kids!  
The Easter Bunny needs help finding eggs! Let's meet at the Community Center on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.



**APRIL**

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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

**Ferguson's Return for Visit - 20 Years Later**

Mark and Janet Ferguson were married in Adak on January 23, 1991 by a JAG when they were both serving in the U.S. Navy. The Ferguson's are standing in the very unit, E298E Arctic Acres in which they were living when Janet gave birth to their son, Andrew, September 26, 1992. The Fergusons left Adak when Andrew just 1 year old but hold a special place in their hearts for Adak.



L) Janet, Nickolai, Jenna, Andrew and Mark Ferguson



L) Andrew Ferguson and Mayor Thomas Spitler, also born in Adak

- April 4** – Recreation Dept. Easter Egg Hunt and Photos with the Easter Bunny at 2pm in the Recreation Dept.
- April 5** - Happy Easter
- April 8** - Adak Reuse Advisory Board meeting, 12pm in the Community Center
- April 11**- Health Fair 10 am in the Community Center  
3K walk/run 3 pm
- April 12** - Russian / Eastern Orthodox Easter
- April 15**- City Council 5pm, Community Center
- April 18** –Movie Night with Chief Tannehill, 6:15pm in the Community Center.



# FROM THE WILDSIDE

April 2015

## Spring is in the Air!

*...a time for farewells...*

We're used to hearing about birds migrating to warmer and milder climates during the winter; it might be hard to fathom, but some birds consider Adak to be that warm and mild place! This next week or two will be your last chance to get out and see our hardy winter visitors before they depart for their breeding grounds.

Emperor geese, considered by some to be Alaska's most attractive geese, nest on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and in Siberia. Nearly all of them winter on Kodiak Island, on the west and south sides of the Alaska Peninsula, and in the Aleutians. Each year these regal geese arrive in Adak in the late fall and spend their winters enjoying ice-free nearshore waters and tidal flats in Clam Lagoon. This time of year you will see restless noisy flocks gathering for the coming migration.



Whooper swans nest in subarctic Eurasia, and winter in southern Europe and eastern Asia. In the Aleutians, we only occasionally see their North American counterpart, trumpeter swans, but small numbers of whooper swans are seen every winter, arriving in early December and departing mid- to late April. Whooper swans pair for life, and their young stay with them through at least the first winter. They are lovely huge swans, considered one of the heaviest flying birds, but despite their size they are powerful fliers. The whooper swan is much admired in Europe, and is the national bird of Finland. Currently a pair has been hanging around on Lake Andy and adjacent ponds, but they won't be here much longer...



*Clockwise from top right: Emperor goose (c Suzi Golodoff); pair of adult whooper swans and one immature in flight (c Isaac Helmericks); pair of whooper swans on Lake Andy last month (c Tom Spittler)*

*...and for hellos...*

Any day now we will start to see flocks of Aleutian cackling geese flying over, sometimes stopping to loaf along runways, roads and gravel lots, then heading west along the chain to their nesting islands. Many other migrants pass through Adak, either regularly or accidentally when winds blow them off their normal course--take a look at the Adak bird list, available at the Refuge office (146B Sandy Cove) and see how many uncommon species of waterfowl, shorebirds, and passerines you can spot this spring.



Sometime in April the first Lapland longspurs will return to Adak to nest, and the hills will once again be filled with their cheerful chirps and tinkling songs. Our other nesting passerines (song sparrows, Pacific wrens, snow buntings and rosy finches) are present year round; only longspurs migrate to spend their winters in southwestern Canada and the lower-48.

Other birds that nest on Adak but winter to the south will be arriving soon. Keep your eyes open in the hills around the runways and Clam Lagoon for the first parasitic jaegers and terns, both Arctic and Aleutian. Right here in town you will see semipalmated plovers skittering along gravel roads and empty lots, looking for a place to make a shallow scrape and lay their eggs.



*A little privacy, please...*

All birds nesting on Adak, whether migratory or resident, are susceptible to disturbance as they prepare for their breeding season. Please try to give nesting areas a wide berth until later in the summer when young birds have learned to fly and nests are no longer being defended.

Some birds will warn you when you are getting close--bald eagles are especially fierce defenders of their nests and young, and will not hesitate to clobber you with raking talons or a breathtaking thump to the back should you venture too close. Male ptarmigan will croak and stand their ground, but the hens remain so still and camouflaged on their nests you might step on one before she flushes. Tall vegetation around ponds and streams provide shelter for secretive nesting waterfowl; you might walk within inches of a nest and never know it. In upland areas shorebirds, terns and

*Top: Lapland longspur, male and female (c Isaac Helmericks). Bottom: Semipalmated plover (cc Dick Daniels, carolinabirds.org)*

jaegers lay their mottled eggs in shallow scrapes--the birds may flush when you enter their territory but you are as likely to step on their eggs as to see them. If you are walking along a rocky beach and an oystercatcher is driving you crazy with its piping, chances are you are about to stumble over its eggs. By keeping your eyes open and heeding alarm calls, you can help Adak's birds have a successful breeding season.

**Employment opportunity, June - August 2015:** The Refuge is hiring Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) students, ages 15-18, this summer! Employment is full time for eight weeks, and pays \$9 per hour. The first 5-6 weeks will be spent in Homer at the Refuge headquarters, in remote Refuge locations, or on board the R/V *Tiglux*. The final 2-3 weeks will be spent on St. Paul Island. YCC enrollees work, learn, earn and have fun together! Applications due by 10 April; contact Kendra at 907-226-4606.