**12PortLionsAlutiiq PKG Hovey/KMXT 03.12.2025**

The number of Alaska Native language speakers has been declining over the years including speakers of Alutiiq [UH-lew-TICK]. But a new language class that’s live streamed from the Kodiak Archipelago community of Port Lions aims to combat that trend locally. KMXT’s Davis Hovey has more.

**12PortLionsAlutiiq\_PKG [2:00]**

***NAT Sound “Cama’I, Quyanaa, Taylugee and welcome. Thank you for coming to another episode of King’s Corner.” [:05]***

Every Thursday students from the school in the Native Village of Port Lions discuss Alutiiq culture and language. That’s in preparation for class lessons and conversations in Alutiiq that are live streamed online [through Facebook and YouTube.] twice a month.

It’s the Port Lions’ students’ first time speaking their Native language within school through the Alutiiq Culture class. That includes practicing everything from weather reports to animals and place names in Alutiiq.

Jess Eggemeyer II [the second], who works for the Native Village of Port Lions [as the Project Manager for the Language Department], teaches the class [and hosts the live stream].

**11PortLionsAlutiiq 1** “I really saw a need for content that was focused on the local community and that would include current events happening in the village and at the school. A local safety bulletin, the weather forecast, as you’ve seen.” [:18]

Eggemeyer says the livestream, which is called Kings Corner after the school’s mascot, is a product of Elders and the previous generation laying the groundwork for language revitalization in Port Lions and around Kodiak Island. That multi-year-long effort by multiple organizations and individuals has led to Alutiiq textbooks, digital audio recordings of Native speakers and language courses for college students or even adults.

**11PortLionsAlutiiq 2** “If we don’t teach our children now, this is how languages die and it’s unfortunately not uncommon.” [:11]

Alaska Native languages in general are at risk of being lost or going extinct as Elders who speak the language are passing on. For Koniag or Kodiak Alutiiq, which is the dialect mainly spoken in the Kodiak Archipelago, [less than 20 fluent first language speakers are still alive today](https://www.kmxt.org/news/2022-09-30/at-the-language-house-in-kodiak-new-learners-keep-the-alutiiq-language-alive).

Eggemeyer says the class will go through the rest of this semester and he hopes to continue it this summer and next school year too.

 ***“(sign off from show)*** [***tang’rciqamken***](https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/index.php/Detail/word/255#:~:text=The%20common%20leave%2Dtaking%20salutation,Anglicize%20the%20phrase%20for%20fun.) ***(I’ll see you again in Alutiiq)….”***

Reporting in Kodiak, I’m Davis Hovey