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Alaska trollers in lawsuit**

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**Vikings wrangle Wolves
at Homecoming**

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**Ferry system hires crew
for summer schedule**

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petersburg pilot

PETERSBURG, ALASKA



January 26, 2023
Vol. 49, No. 4

www.petersburgpilot.com

16 Pages
\$1.50

USDA will restore the 'roadless rule' in the Tongass

By **JAMES BROOKS**
Alaska Beacon

The Biden administration will ban new logging roads and most development in much of Southeast Alaska's Tongass National Forest, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Wednesday.

The decision, which repeals a 2020 USDA action under the Trump administration, continues a quarter-century of action and counter-action over development in the region, which contains the world's largest temperate coastal rainforest and is home to more than 72,000 people.

"As our nation's largest national forest and the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, the Tongass National Forest is key to conserving biodiversity and addressing the climate crisis," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in a written statement. "Restoring roadless protections listens to the voices of Tribal Nations and the people of Southeast Alaska while recognizing the importance of fishing and tourism to the region's economy."

Robert Venables, executive director of Southeast Conference, a regional economic development organization, noted that the Trump administration's decision never had an effect, so the result of Wednesday's announcement is to keep in place a status quo

that has existed since 2001.

"There really hasn't been any operational change in years and years and years," he said. "It's a non-consequential event when the reality of forest management is concerned."

An official notice will be published Friday in the Federal Register.

When published, the decision is expected to apply the USDA's national "roadless rule" to the Tongass, prohibiting most kinds of development.

The state of Alaska, hydroelectric power companies, mining interests and logging companies have argued that the rule should not apply and successfully convinced the Trump administration to rescind it in the Tongass.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy criticized Wednesday's decision.

This decision is a huge loss for Alaskans, and it's yet another way the Biden administration is singling out Alaska," he said in a written statement. "Alaskans deserve access to the resources that the Tongass provides — jobs, renewable energy resources, and tourism, not a government plan that treats human beings within a working forest like an invasive species."

U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, also criticized the move.

Environmental organiza-

Continued on page 2



CHRIS BASINGER / Petersburg Pilot

Here come the Vikings

The Petersburg Vikings basketball team bursts onto the court ahead of their homecoming clash with the Wrangell Wolves Saturday night.

Crime in Petersburg hits a five-year low

By **CHRIS BASINGER**
Pilot writer

The Petersburg Police Department released its annual report last week, which includes an array of statistics that give insight into slowing local crime rates.

The total dispatch center calls for service, which includes calls for police, fire, and EMS, saw its lowest activity in five years with 3,356 calls—down almost 400 from 2021.

That number only includes calls for service and does not represent the total number of calls dispatchers receive, which Petersburg Police Department Chief Jim Kerr expected to be five times higher.

Saturdays saw the most calls for service in 2022 with an average of 521 followed by Thursdays with 504 while Sundays saw the least calls with 382.

Total calls for police service were also at a five-year low with 2,922 calls, about 300 less than 2020.

Arrests were at their lowest in

five years with 75 in 2022—55 less than 2021 and almost half the 141 arrests 2020.

Additionally, felonies charged were also down to 12 last year and total offenses charged, including felonies and misdemeanors, totaled 82—less than half the 178 offenses charged in 2021.

Kerr attributed the lower rates to the police department's increased community involvement over the last couple of years.

"A police department's only as effective as the community it serves and so I believe with the buy-in from the community and the community support, I think it's everyone working together has reduced everything," Kerr said.

He also reported that the average police response time for Priority 1 calls, which numbered 220 last year, was four minutes and eight seconds.

"I'm really proud of that," Kerr added.

Petersburg's 70 jail bookings in 2022 were also the lowest in

five years and the days served in jail last year of 288 was significantly lower than the 524 days served in 2021.

According to the report, the police department received zero calls for service for murders, sexual assaults, and robberies in 2022, but received 10 calls for assault and 16 calls for domestic violence.

Calls for service for agency assists shot up significantly in the last two years with 480 in 2022 and 439 in 2021.

Those calls are for whenever the police are asked to assist another agency, such as performing traffic control for another department, but Kerr said many of those calls are to help with pretrial enforcement, which they are

Continued on page 16

South Harbor dredging going slow but steady

By **CHRIS BASINGER**
Pilot writer

The South Harbor dredging is continuing to make progress as crews dig their way to the shore, having removed approximately 13,000 cubic yards of material as of Monday according to Harbormaster Glo Wollen.

Western Marine is undertaking the project, which is being overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and plans to dredge a total of 83,000 cubic yards of material from the harbor.

Crews are working 12-14 hours a day scooping out blue clay using a grab dredger on the dry cargo deck barge Stan Boice and depositing it onto the open hopper barge Ken Clark, which dumps the material in Frederick Sound.

Currently, they are digging from Ocean Beauty toward C float before eventually dredging down along C and D floats.

Continued on page 16



Yesterday's News News from 25-50-75-100 years ago

January 26, 1923 - There is every indication that actual work will start on the big paper plant at Thomas Bay as early as this spring as weather conditions will allow. Two crews are now engaged in cruising the timber in the Rocky Pass section and the Forestry officials at Ketchikan are rushing work on one of their boats so that another crew can be sent out at once. Those who are backing the plant have applied for a final permit to develop the water power there and this will be granted as soon as the Forest Service has set aside thirty years supply of timber. According to word received the Forest Service and the Federal Power Commission have been given substantial evidence that the backers are ready to start as soon as the timber supply is assured. It is also understood that the plant is being backed by San Francisco capitalists and newspaper publishers and that approximately eight-hundred men will be working there before the summer is over. The total amount of standing pulp timber the forest service offers for sale to any pulp or paper concern is two billion feet for the entire term of the contract, which would furnish approximately from sixty to seventy million feet a year for a plant producing from two-hundred to two-hundred and fifty tons of paper a day. If proper care is taken in the cutting of the timber, this would furnish a perpetual supply. In order to meet this demand the forest service is rushing the work of cruising the timber in the Rocky Pass region.

January 23, 1948 - Attempting to make an emergency landing when the motor of his plane started missing, Neil McDonald escaped injury from a minor crack-up at Ideal Cove at 10 o'clock this morning. McDonald, a student pilot who soloed recently, was flying alone in an Aeronica trainer of Alaska Island Airlines. When the motor started missing he tried for a landing at Ideal Cove but about ten feet above

the water his plane stalled and he nosed into the water. Damage to the plane was very slight, mostly in the pontoons, and McDonald was uninjured. When word of the accident was received here, Quentine DeBoer went out in an AIA Waco to pick up McDonald. Another student pilot, who is taking training with Alaska Island Airlines, made his first solo flight this week. Pete Thynes, one of the owners of the Pastime Cafe, made his solo flight Wednesday.

January 25, 1973 - Becky and David Ohmer, daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Ohmer, have been named Teenagers of the Month for December, according to Richard Greseth of the Petersburg Elks Lodge. Miss Ohmer, a 16-year-old sophomore at Petersburg High School, has been active in band, junior varsity and varsity basketball cheerleading, pep club and Student Council. She has been named to the Honor Roll and has served on the housing committee and as girls' track manager. Her hobbies include cooking, sewing and crocheting. David Ohmer, 17, is a senior at PHS. He has participated in cross country, track, basketball and band, and has served as president of band and the senior class. He currently serves as vice president of the Associated Student Body of Petersburg High School. Ohmer has been named to the Honor Roll and has been a member of Student Council, the housing committee, the Lettermen's Club and the All-Tourney Southeast Alaska basketball team. He was sergeant at arms of the freshman class and has been active in the Catholic Youth Organization. He is captain of the 1972-73 Viking basketball team. Dick Greseth explains that the Teenager of the Month program is sponsored by the Elks Club in an effort to bring

recognition to outstanding teens in the community.

January 29, 1998 - After more than two years of work, the Bojer Wikan Memorial Park is becoming a reality. Glorianne DeBoer and Dale Rose are two of the community members who have been working to develop the park which they say will acknowledge the Norwegian heritage and the fishing industry of Petersburg. "It's really going to happen," DeBoer said on Tuesday. "We needed to secure the permits and there were several committees that it needed to pass through, and when you are dealing with tide lands or anything natural it's a big deal. It takes time." DeBoer said that despite the difficulties involved in the project, all involved are happy that they put forth the effort. "The whole deal with this is that it is for Petersburg and about Petersburg. Any visitor who gets to walk through it will feel lucky to have seen it," she said, "We're so excited. Tourists are, of course, welcome, but it's not aimed at them." Rose and DeBoer said the committee's goal has been to create a park that would acknowledge those community members who have been lost at sea or spent much of their lives working directly in the fishing industry. Rose added, "We all came to realize that a project like this was long overdue." DeBoer said, "This has never been done before because it's such an awesome project. It's such a personal thing. I mean, we not only know the people being memorialized, but love them and how do you attempt to do justice to someone's child?" The funds for the project came from a \$250,000 state grant that the committee worked to have allocated to the park. The Committee raised twenty percent of the money needed

and with that portion they will be purchasing the monument that will be the centerpiece of the park. DeBoer explained that the monument will be a nine-foot bronze statue of a fisherman with the face of Bojer Wikan. Around the base of the statue

will be plaques remembering those who have given their lives and lost their lives working in the industry. Rose stressed that the memorial will be an on-going thing. "We hope we never lose another boat, but we'll always be able to add to the memorial."

Roadless rule

Continued from page 1

tions, as well as some fishing, tourism and Native groups, praised the announcement.

Many of them had filed a lawsuit in December 2020 to keep the roadless rule in place and testified in favor of its restoration after the USDA declared in 2021 that it would "repeal or replace" the Trump administration's action.

"The Tongass Roadless Rule is important to everyone," said President Joel Jackson of the Organized Village of Kake, one of the plaintiffs in the 2020 lawsuit, in a written statement. "The old-growth timber is a carbon sink, one of the best in the world. It's important to OUR WAY OF LIFE - the streams, salmon, deer, and all the forest animals and plants."

Linda Behnken, commercial fisherman and executive director of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, said in a written statement that her organization was "thrilled and relieved" by Wednesday's announcement, and Meredith Trainor, executive director of the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council said her group is celebrating the announcement.

"Today's win is the work of hundreds and thousands of hands and voices, all lifted up to protect this most precious place that we love - the Tongass National Forest," she said in a written statement.

Officials at the governor's office and in the Alaska Department of Law did not immediately answer questions asking whether the state of Alaska will sue to overturn this week's announcement.

The state conducted a protracted and unsuccessful legal campaign against the prior implementation of the roadless rule, and Dunleavy has already asked the state Legislature for an additional \$10 million to fund lawsuits against the federal government.

The AlaskaBeacon.com is a donor-funded independent news organization in Alaska.

Petersburg Happenings

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

Watershed Restoration Projects Presentation: 6:30 pm, Public Library

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

Al-Anon Support Group: 12:00 pm, Episcopal Church

Commodities Distribution: 9:00 am, Salvation Army

Steak Night: 5:30 pm, Moose Lodge

Friday Night Bingo: 6:00 pm, Sons of Norway Hall

PSG Basketball Hosts Craig: 6:00 pm, PHS Gym

Open Swim: 6:30 pm, Parks and Rec Pool

AA Candlelight Meeting: 7:00 pm, Episcopal Church

Hockey Club: 7:30 pm, Community Gym

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Indoor Park: 9:00 am, Parks and Rec Gym

Free Soup and Bread Meal: 12:00 pm, St. Catherine's Catholic Church

Open Swim: 6:30 pm, Parks and Rec Pool

Basketball/Open Gym: 7:30 pm, Parks and Rec Gym

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Adult Roller Derby Practice: 5:00 pm, Community Gym

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

SHARE Coalition Meeting: 12:00 pm, Dorothy Ingle Conf Room PMC

Burger Night: 5:30 pm, Moose Lodge

Water Aerobics: 6:30 pm, Parks and Rec Pool

AA Women's Meeting: 7:00 pm, Presbyterian Church

Volleyball Open Gym: 7:30 pm, Parks and Rec Gym

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

HIP Project Connect Resource Fair: 2:00 pm, John Hanson Sr. Hall

Parent-Tot Swim: 6:30 pm, Parks and Rec Pool

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

Hockey Club: 7:30 pm, Parks and Rec Gym

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Free Supper: 6:00 pm, First Baptist Church

Open Swim: 6:30 pm, Parks and Rec Pool

ANB/ANS Monthly Meeting: 7:00 pm, John Hanson Sr. Hall

Volleyball Open Gym: 7:30 pm, Parks and Rec Gym

If you have questions call us at 772-9393

WEATHER

	High	Low	Precip	Snow
01/18	38	31	0.18	T
01/19	40	34	0.56	0.0
01/20	47	37	1.73	0.0
01/21	43	34	0.19	0.0
01/22	37	32	0.82	0.5
01/23	42	32	0.43	T
01/24	42	36	0.61	0.0

This Week's Precipitation: 4.52"

This Week's Snow: 0.5"

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

DAYLIGHT HOURS

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Jan 26	8:03a	4:04p	08:01hrs
Jan 27	8:01a	4:06p	08:05hrs
Jan 28	8:00a	4:08p	08:08hrs
Jan 29	7:58a	4:10p	08:12hrs
Jan 30	7:56a	4:13p	08:17hrs
Jan 31	7:54a	4:15p	08:21hrs
Feb 01	7:52a	4:17p	08:25hrs

FERRY SCHEDULE

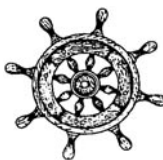
Terminal Office • 772-3855 or call 800-642-0066

NORTHBOUND DEPARTURES

SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURES

FRI 02/17	COLUMBIA	10:30 P.M.	MON 02/20	COLUMBIA	02:15 A.M.
FRI 02/24	COLUMBIA	07:00 P.M.	MON 02/27	COLUMBIA	01:30 A.M.
MON 02/27	LeCONTE	06:00 A.M.	MON 03/06	COLUMBIA	10:45 A.M.
SAT 03/04	COLUMBIA	12:15 A.M.	FRI 03/10	COLUMBIA	04:00 A.M.
TUE 03/07	COLUMBIA	04:00 P.M.	SUN 03/12	COLUMBIA	06:00 P.M.

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PETERSBURG

TIDE TABLE

JANUARY 2023

	HIGH TIDES				LOW TIDES			
	A.M.		P.M.		A.M.		P.M.	
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
26 Thu	4:24	17.4	4:29	15.7	10:36	1.4	10:47	0.4
27 Fri	5:09	16.8	5:25	13.8	11:34	1.9	11:32	2.3
28 Sat	5:57	16.0	6:32	12.2	12:38	2.4
29 Sun	6:52	15.2	7:55	11.2	0:24	4.1	1:51	2.7
30 Mon	7:56	14.7	9:28	11.2	1:29	5.6	3:07	2.5
31 Tue	9:05	14.5	10:44	11.8	2:49	6.4	4:15	2.0
01 Wed	10:08	14.8	11:37	12.6	4:06	6.5	5:10	1.2

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1000 S. Nordic Drive • Phone: 772-4240 • Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 5 pm, Sat. 8am - 4pm
Facebook: @PistonRudderServiceInc

Sitka Assembly: Lawsuit poses 'existential threat' to SE trollers

By SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sitka Sentinel Staff Writer

SITKA – After hearing comments Tuesday night on the “existential threat” facing the Southeast troll fishing industry, the Sitka Assembly gave unanimous approval to a resolution and a financial contribution to help the Alaska Trollers Association fight a lawsuit by a conservation group against a federal fisheries agency.

“I hope we have a unanimous decision because if the resolution is going to have any effect, we have to have real solidarity,” Assembly member Thor Christianson said prior to the vote.

ATA Request and Resolution

The resolution and the city’s \$25,000 cash contribution are aimed at helping ATA fight a lawsuit filed by the nonprofit Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service. ATA and the state of Alaska have intervened on the side of the federal fisheries managers.

The WFC lawsuit is aimed at making more king salmon originating in the Pacific Northwest available to the southern resident killer whales, which historically have spent part of the year in Puget Sound.

The lawsuit recognizes that invalidating the 2019 biological opinion under which the federal government authorized the state of Alaska to manage these

migratory kings would shut down the Southeast Alaska troll fisheries.

A number of fishermen testified in favor of one or both items supporting their legal battle. Other Southeast communities, individuals and companies are supporting the effort with cash contributions or resolutions.

“This existential threat to close down our Southeast troll fishery in a fund-raising charade by the Wild Fish Conservancy is a brutal assault on us that won’t save one orca,” fisherman Eric Jordan said. The term “existential threat” was heard in several of the statements about the issue.

“It is the most vicious, misguided assault I have witnessed in a lifetime of experience with fisheries conflict,” Jordan said. “I really appreciate the support from around Alaska for trollers and urge you to join the hundreds of individuals and numerous businesses, communities and groups rallying to our support. It will make a difference.”

Trollers argue that if federal courts uphold the preliminary recommendation by a federal magistrate judge in favor of the WFC, it will threaten not only the king winter and summer fisheries, but coho fisheries as well.

The Sitka Assembly expressed concern as well.

“It’s going to destroy a big part of our economy if this happens,” Christianson said. “While (the Assembly’s) resolution has limited power, it has a fair amount of power if it’s in conjunction with every city in Southeast Alaska. ... We need to go on record and say it very clearly and say this lawsuit doesn’t make sense, that we support our troll fisheries.”

Chris Ystad, who is a fisherman, co-sponsored the resolution with Christianson, and agreed that Sitka and Southeast need a united stand on the issue.

“I do believe it’s very important as a community that we band together, support the state and federal government in these not very not-very-scientific attack-lawsuits we are facing more

and more every day,” Ystad said. “Resolutions and just coming together like this to show the support of our industry and our scientifically based fisheries management is extremely important. This is just something that needs to happen.”

Jeff Farvour, a member of the ATA and board member of the Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association, said the ATA is receiving help from many quarters, due to the lawsuit’s far-reaching effects, not only on trollers, but processors and local economies.

“Clearly our community will suffer severe economic hardship if the Southeast Alaska troll fishery is closed,” he said. “Each troller and commercial fishing operation is a small business. With 85% residency rate and \$85 million in total Southeast economic output trolling’s reach is profound. Southeast processors will be impacted, especially smaller ones, which would probably not be able to support their local workforces. Some of the smaller communities would see a good portion of their tax base wiped out ... While we care about all marine mammals, clearly this lawsuit will not save the Southern Resident killer whales, but it would destroy the whole region.”

Some of the commenters said they were shocked that the lawsuit has gotten this far, since they believe it has no merit.

“It’s surreal,” commented Matt Donohoe, ATA board pres-

ident. “This is like one of those bad dreams. ... All the science debunks this but the court wouldn’t allow science into the court.”

All six of the Assembly members present voted yes on the resolution and the ordinance authorizing the city contribution.

Donohoe said today that the Southeast communities donating to the defense fund include Craig, Petersburg, Port Alexander, Myers Chuck and Pelican. Sitka has contributed \$5,000 so far, in addition to the \$25,000 in the ordinance passed on first reading Tuesday night.

The Southeast Alaska Guides Organization and individuals have also made contributions, he said.

Fisherman Jacquie Foss listed help from several other quarters as well, including communities, hatcheries, aquaculture association and The Boat Company, which wrote a letter to the editor.

“I feel super grateful to live in a place where everyone’s rallying around small boat fishermen,” she said. “A third of the fleet is here. With donations people give what they can, small communities give what they can and bigger communities with most of the fleet give what they feel is appropriate, too.”

At the Assembly meeting, Tad Fujioka, Seafood Producers Cooperative board chairman, said ATA requested a \$48,500 contribution from SPC, but the

Co-op is going beyond that.

“We heard from our fishermen members two weeks ago and members tonight, and we also heard from our senior employees, fishermen told us to donate some of the money that we made from selling the fish they caught last summer which would have otherwise gone back to fishermen,” he said. “Employees told us to take some of the money that would have gone into their profit sharing pool, and contribute that to ATA.”

“So even though ATA only asked for that \$48,500, SBC board voted to contribute \$59,000,” Fujioka said. “It’s an investment in our company’s future, we can’t afford to lose access to troll salmon, and neither can Sitka. So I encourage the Assembly to be similarly far-sighted and make this investment.”

Roger Hames, president of Hames Corporation, talked about his family’s more than 80-year history in the community, observing that every aspect of the community is interconnected. He said ATA asked the company to contribute \$5,000 but the family business will likely contribute more due to what is at stake.

“We are all too reliant on each other,” he said. “You’re on the right track, I would ask you to consider (a higher contribution). We just care a lot and we depend a lot on the various aspects of our economy.”

Northern Nights Theater

This weekend
Avatar:
The Way of Water
3h 12m • Rated PG-13
Sci-fi/Action
Showings:
Friday & Saturday @ 7 pm
Sunday @ 4 pm
Next weekend
Avatar: The Way of Water
Concessions available.
Credit cards accepted.
650-7626

Alaska Marine Highway System awarded \$285 Million in infrastructure funding

Historic funding to aid marine highway’s operations, vessel acquisitions & shore side infrastructure

Washington, DC – U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, both R-Alaska, announced Wednesday that the Federal Transit Administration is awarding more than \$285 million of investments to improve the reliability and service of Alaska’s ferry system, which serves more than 30 communities across 3,500 miles of coastline. The funding, all awarded to the Alaska Marine Highway System, is designated to replacing an aging vessel, upgrading ferry dock infrastructure in rural communities, modernizing four vessels, procuring an electric ferry, designing a new mainliner vessel, and for generating sustainable operations. This landmark funding was made possible by H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), in which Senator Murkowski played a lead role writing and negotiating for Alaska. These awards are the first of the IIJA’s newly established Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program and the Electric or Low Emitting Ferry Pilot Program. Additional grant funding from these programs will be available to the AMHS in fiscal years 2024, 25 and 26.


“Having grown up in coastal communities that rely on the Alaska Marine Highway System, I’ve always understood the importance of Alaska’s ferry system. That’s why it was one of my top priorities when I helped craft the bipartisan infrastructure law – one of the most consequential legislative efforts I’ve worked on during my time in the Senate. I’m proud to have led the charge on this historic investment to upgrade our aging ferry fleet and hopefully restore connections throughout our coastal

communities—specifically through the Ferry Service for Rural Communities program, which I created with rural Alaskans in mind,” said Senator Murkowski. “Thanks to the infrastructure law, the state will receive over a quarter of a billion dollars to ensure that this vital mode of transportation can continue. Whether it’s modernizing current vessels, upgrading dock infrastructure in rural communities, or investing in sustainable transportation—I trust the State will capitalize on the opportunities of these grant awards for the betterment of Alaskans.”

“The vast majority of communities in Alaska have no connection to the road system, making ports and ferries as essential as roads and highways, and a critical area of responsibility for the federal government,” Senator Sullivan said. “The funding awards announced today are great news for the thousands of Alaskans who rely on the ferry system, which serves an enormous expanse of coastline—roughly the distance between St. Louis and San Francisco. These funds will help deliver a safer and more reliable means of transportation by updating existing AMHS vessels, finally procuring a replacement for the Tustumena, and repairing deteriorating portside infrastructure. I commend Senator Murkowski for her work to ensure Alaska’s ferry system was prioritized in the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Through my seat on the Commerce and EPW Committees, I will continue to fight to bolster Alaska’s ports and ferries, which are vital to the economic interests and well-being of Alaskans across Southeast, the Gulf and the Aleutians.”

THE PETERSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
is offering
a Basic Firefighter Course

February 11 thru March 25
Classes will be held on Saturdays 8a-5p
For more information stop
by the Fire Station
or 907-772-3355



TO THE EDITOR

Thank you, thank you, thank you

To the Editor:

Mike and I are so incredibly humbled by and grateful for the outpouring of support, generosity, thoughts, and prayers after our house fire. It has been said many times that this community rises to the occasion to help each other, but to be the recipient of such support and generosity – there are not enough words to express how much we appreciate everyone and everything that has been done for us.

Although our home and possessions are a total loss, we are extremely lucky to live in such an amazing community that pulls together and provides such immediate relief and support. To the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department and EMS, your organization, professionalism and efficiency are outstand-

ing. Thanks to each and every one of you.

To Derek Gibb and Ariel Norheim, Nick and Kathleen Boggs, Joe and Helen Boggs, Garrison and Wolf Brooks; to Bob Olsen and the Steelhead construction crew, Jeff Hupp and Alaska Fibre, Marty and Patty Susort; to Mark Tuccillo and Susan Ohmer, to PMC, my wonderful co-workers, and to the community: thank you again, and know that every act of kindness we were extended will be paid forward.

Brandy Boggs

Stepping up to meet the Reads Act requirements

To the Editor:

I just came home from a meeting with school administration, teachers and parents regarding the Alaska Reads Act. There were a lot

of acronyms tossed about which challenged my understanding of everything that was said but several things came through loud and clear.

The act will require a level of reading proficiency for students K through 3. Some of these standards will carry forward through grades 4 and 5. If the K-3 student does not meet the level of proficiency, intervention in the form of additional instruction will automatically kick in. There will be two levels of intervention. The first level will require up to 45 minutes of additional instruction in an in-school setting. The second level will require the in-school instruction as well as additional outside-of-school instruction.

Any intervention will require the school to interact with parents, up to 10 times during the school year. While the school will have required interventions up to and

Continued on page 5

COMMENTARY

117th Congress featured big wins for Petersburg

By SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI

Earlier this month, the 117th Congress formally adjourned, marking the close of a remarkably productive legislative stretch for Alaska. The last Congress was one of the best for our state in recent memory, and the bipartisan bills we passed during it will produce lasting benefits for Petersburg and across Southeast.

Most significant is the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which I played a lead role on. In just over a year, roughly \$3 billion from it has already been announced for Alaska. Those dollars are helping us build, expand, and modernize everything from our roads, bridges, ports, and airports to our water, broadband, energy, and ferry systems. In doing so, they're creating jobs, boosting our economy, and transforming lives.

Specific investments that I included in the infrastructure law should support the Marine Highway System to help restore connections for Petersburg and Southeast Alaska, so residents and businesses can once again rely on this critical transport. The recent announcement of \$285 million for the Alaska Marine Highway System will allow us to upgrade docks in five communities, modernize several vessels, including the Tazlina and Kennicott, and design a new mainliner.

In addition to the infrastructure bill, the budget packages we passed included hundreds of millions of dollars in standard allocations for Alaska. We also leveraged my position as a senior appropriator to directly fund nearly 200 projects across the state without adding to federal spending levels.

Working with leaders in Petersburg, I was proud to secure funds to support the construction of a new hospital, bringing the community closer to a new, modernized facility. We also secured funding to upgrade Petersburg's water treatment plant – another critical project that will benefit the health of the community.

Alaska received \$33 million in Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds, including over \$650,000 to Petersburg Borough, in the last Fiscal Year alone. As Ranking Member of the Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, I ensured the program was fully funded so that communities like Petersburg can budget for essential services.

We've provided historic investments in our Alaska-based
Continued on page 5

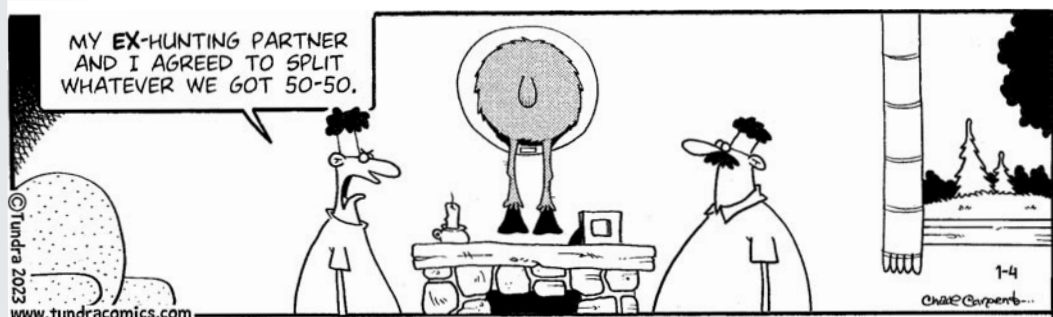
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



King Aquatic

by Gus Petersen



2017 GENERAL EXCELLENCE FIRST PLACE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION AND NAMED BEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER IN 2013 & 2015 BY THE ALASKA PRESS CLUB



Established in February, 1974 • Petersburg's Weekly Newspaper

USPS NO. 053-570-00

Published Weekly by:

PILOT PUBLISHING, INC.

207 N. Nordic Dr., P.O. Box 930 • Petersburg, Alaska 99833

PHONE 907-772-9393 • FAX 907-772-4871

E-MAIL pilotpub@gmail.com

WEB SITE www.petersburgpilot.com

PILOT STAFF:	SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
PUBLISHER Orin Pierson	Single Copy \$1.50
NEWS REPORTER Chris Basinger	Local \$52
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Online Only \$52 Jake Clemens and Lizzie Thompson
	Other Alaska \$68
PRESS OPERATOR & PREPRESS..... Ola Richards	Lower 48 \$78
OFFICE STAFF Lizzie Thompson	6 Month Out of Town \$48
.....Meghan O'Soup and Jenny Winters	First Class Mail \$112
CIRCULATION Chris & Joelle Reyes	SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE



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POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to Petersburg Pilot, Box 930 Petersburg, AK 99833
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MURKOWSKI COMMENTARY

Continued from page 4

Coast Guard—upgrading assets, investing in shoreside infrastructure, and improving emergency communications. Through the Don Young Coast Guard Reauthorization Act, we're working to improve the quality of life and mental health of those who serve.

To honor our ironclad obligations to veterans, we passed the PACT Act, which will ensure healthcare access and treatment for all who are impacted by toxic exposures.

Legislation like my BLUE GLOBE Act will support the rapidly growing blue economy—allowing coastal communities like Petersburg to invest in technology innovations and protect our oceans while spurring economic development and growth in ocean-based jobs. Its passage will pair nicely with the excellent work being done to establish a vibrant mariculture industry in Southeast.

Knowing how important healthy fisheries are to Alaska, we chartered a federal research task force to get to the bottom of our alarming salmon declines. I also secured funding for additional research, indigenous co-management, surveys, fisheries management, marine debris removal, transboundary watershed monitoring, and related priorities.

Finally, we took great care to address some of the most acute sources of pain and suffering in our state. I helped reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, continued to prioritize the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women and children, devoted real resources to reducing homelessness, and improved access to care for those experiencing mental and behavioral health issues.

While we still have a hole in our hearts from the loss of Congressman Don Young, we honored his legacy by passing many of the bills he was working on, including three land conveyances that will help improve Alaska Native medical access. We also named one of the most active volcanoes in the Aleutians after him.

As the 118th Congress begins, I'm proud of what our congressional delegation accomplished over the last two years, and grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the state and people I love. Rest assured—for as long as I have the honor of being your Senator, I will be doing everything I can to deliver for you and for Alaska.

TO THE EDITOR

Continued from page 4

including holding the student back a year, the parents will have final say on the option of holding the student back. Other interventions may not be optional.

In the last comprehensive testing done, over 70% of our students were below the proficiency level. This number was skewed by a number of factors, mainly the last two years of interrupted schooling because of COVID. And the proposed regulations seem to say that when a child enters kindergarten, he or she will be below the proficiency level on their first day of school! The last of course, is utter nonsense but the overall number of kids K-3 who are below proficiency level is concerning. Different testing criteria and a more recent comprehensive test will probably reduce that 70% significantly but there will still be quite a few kids who will have the intervention scheme kick in.

My biggest take away is that all this will require more teacher time, both in instruction and training. Since their days are already full, it means more staff. That, of course, means more money. Other school districts, Anchorage and Fairbanks, estimate an additional \$800-900 per student will be needed to meet the state mandated requirements under the Alaska Reads Act, already passed into law. Our school district will probably need a similar amount. Do the math and multiply \$900 by a hundred or so kids and we are looking at a minimum of \$90,000-\$100,000 that will be needed next year, probably more.

What does this mean? For starters our Borough Assembly should start planning to contribute more money to our school district since they are not near the cap they can contribute. Perhaps some of the COVID money could be used. Then we can all write to our legislators and demand they provide money to meet the staffing and training costs their mandate will require.

Superintendent Kludt-Painter made it very clear the school district is not opposed to the intent of the Act to ensure our kids excel at reading. She said it is very important that our kids "learn to read" so that they can later "read to learn." We can support her by asking our Borough Assembly and our Legislature to provide her with the monetary resources she needs to meet the mandate of the Alaska Reads Act.

George Cole

A response to Williams letter

To the Editor:

Rick Williams in a letter in the 12 January edition of the Pilot, cited the NIPCC petition signed by thousands of "scientists." According to Wikipedia, "The Global Warming Petition Project, also known as the Oregon Petition, is a group which urges the United States government to reject the Kyoto Protocol of 1997 and similar policies. Their petition challenges the scientific consensus on climate change. Though the group claims more than thirty-thousand signatories across various scientific fields, the authenticity and methods of the petitioners as well as the signatories' credentials have been questioned, and the project has been characterized as a disinformation campaign engaged in climate change denial."

Sam Bunge

50 Years of the March For Life

To the Editor:

When Rowe was overturned federally and sent back to the individual states for abortion guidelines I called our LIO to check on our in place "trigger law." I was shocked to learn there are no gestational restrictions for abortion, meaning a child can technically be aborted through the 9th month or 40 weeks.

I then proceeded with months of research. I contacted our representatives, Mr. Bert Stedman and Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins office as well as Governor Dunleavy's office. I called three pregnancy support centers (we have 11 in our state - 3 of which are in Southeast), Planned Parenthood, our AK state law library and got a copy

of an Anchorage Daily News article by Annie Berman dated 7/4/22 revised 7/7/22 on this issue.

Researching all of these sources and our school superintendent, Erica Kludt-Painter I found out the following.

In 1972 a privacy amendment was voted into our state constitution. In 1997 our State Supreme Court (5 appointed judges) determined abortion fell under this as a medical privacy issue. Since then 2-3 times our state legislature passed a bill asking for parental notification and consent to be required for a person under 18 years to receive an abortion. One time a bill was passed by 2/3's and signed by our Governor for medicaid to not pay for abortions. Interestingly most private insurance companies will not pay for an abortion. All 3-4 bills were struck down by our Supreme Court. Reportedly no physician in AK has performed an abortion past 26 weeks. I know for certain 30 years ago 28 week babies could survive.

I was told our schools do teach all 8-9 forms of contraception in 8th and 9th grade. This is taught by a PMC physician.

I am old enough to remember when brutal dangerous abortions were done illegally often in back alley apartments. Also when our only forms of birth control were a condom or diaphragm. A girl who got "in trouble" went away for 6-10 months and the word "illegitimate" was written on a baby's birth certificate.

Do I have the right to tell another what to do? No. On one side people of faith often believe only God has the ability to create and "thou shalt not kill." Also that creation happens at the time of conception. On the other side many feel this is a medical decision between a woman and her physician. Both hold merit.

Our Governor vowed to propose a constitutional amendment to our current state legislature. This would require passage by a 2/3's majority in our house and senate. It would then go to the voters if passed. This is my opinion and limited to only my investigative efforts. If you wish to have input on this issue please call Matt at the LIO for the contact numbers and websites for our representatives and Governor.

Respectfully, Cindy Lynn
Retired Pediatric RN

The Friends of Petersburg Libraries

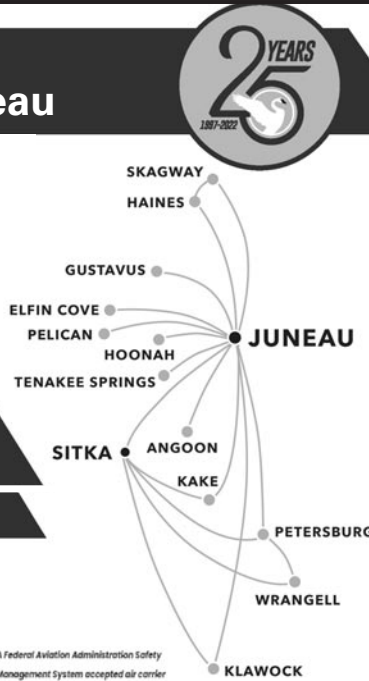
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Police report

January 18 - An officer responded to a report of a possible garage fire on Wrangell Avenue and found that the smoke was coming from a pellet stove.

An officer conducted a welfare check on Harbor Way.

Petersburg Police Department (PPD) received a report of a dead eagle on 8th Street. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) was notified and responded.

A driver at South Nordic Drive and Tango Street was issued a warning for headlight requirements.

A driver on Chief John Lott Street was issued a warning for signal requirements.

A driver at Fram Street and North Nordic Drive was issued a warning for headlight requirements.

January 19 - An officer responded to a report of suspicious activity on Haugen Drive.

An officer spoke with an individual on South Nordic Drive concerning a civil issue.

January 20 - An officer responded to an animal complaint on Cornelius Road.

PPD received an accidental 911 call and determined all was okay.

A citizen delivered three found dogs to the PPD. They were later released to a responsible party.

An officer responded to a report of a disturbance on South 3rd Street and determined it was non-criminal.

January 21 - An officer conducted foot patrols downtown.

An officer responded to a noise complaint on South 3rd Street.

Officers responded to a report of a barking dog on South 5th Street but were unable to locate the dog.

PPD received a report of a boat drifting in the Wrangell Narrows around 5-mile. The



Photo courtesy of Rachel Cassandra / KFSK

Marching for Life

Over 75 people attended Petersburg's local March for Life on Sunday, which proceeded down main street toward the municipal building, in observance of National Sanctity of Human Life Day. The march opposed abortion, euthanasia, human trafficking, domestic abuse, and more.

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) was notified.

A driver on South Nordic Drive was issued a warning for tail light requirements.

A citizen self-reported a minor parking accident on North 2nd Street.

A driver on Hungerford Hill was issued a warning for tail light requirements.

An officer responded to a noise complaint on South 3rd Street.

January 22 - A driver on South Nordic Drive was issued a warning for signal requirements.

Officers located and disposed of a hypodermic syringe, with an attached needle, found on Birch Street.

A dog found on Kisen and 3rd Streets was returned to its owner.

An officer spoke with individuals on South Nordic Drive concerning a civil matter.

A driver on South Nordic Drive was issued a warning for tail light requirements.

A deer was killed by a motorist on Mitkof Highway. Its meat was salvaged.

A driver on South Nordic Drive was issued a warning for tail light requirements.

January 23 - An officer conducted foot patrols downtown.

An officer responded to a report of an unusual mechanical noise on Skylark Way but the noise had ceased by the time he arrived.

Trace Cook was issued a citation on Mitkof Highway for an expired vehicle registration.

January 24 - A wolf was observed on the bike path near the airport. Officers used noise deterrents to drive it away from populated areas.

A set of keys was turned into the PPD.

Found property was turned into the PPD.

A welfare check was conducted at a residence on Birch Street after its door was found open.

An officer responded to a report of visible flames at the landfill burn pile.

An officer conducted additional patrols on Gjoa Street.

An officer provided transport to the hospital to a person in

need of assistance.

An officer spoke with an individual on South Nordic Drive concerning a civil issue.



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PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION TO QUOTE

Notice is hereby given that the Petersburg Indian Association will receive sealed quotes for the PIA – EP BUILDING-MAINTENANCE LIST PROJECT -2023. The project generally consists of maintenance list of work in the EP building at 15 North 12th Street in Petersburg, Alaska. The project will be the completion of various maintenance work throughout the building as listed on the maintenance list. The work is outlined in the EP Building-Maintenance list which is available upon request. The contract quote will be for a BASIC QUOTE.

All work must be completed on the EP BUILDING-MAINTENANCE LIST PROJECT - 2023 by September 1, 2023.

Sealed quotes (pages BP1 & BP2) will be received by the Petersburg Indian Association by hand delivery to Petersburg Indian Association. Located upstairs in the Elizabeth Peratrovich Building, 15 North 12th Street, Petersburg, Alaska, (Telephone 907-772-3636) until 11:00 a.m. prevailing time on February 10, 2023, and will be publicly in the EP Building conference room located upstairs.

The Contract Documents may be obtained from the Petersburg Indian Association Office, located at 15 North 12th Street, Petersburg, Alaska (Telephone 907-772-3636), Petersburg, Alaska 99833.

Prospective quoters are encouraged to visit the site before quoting.

The Petersburg Indian Association reserves the right to reject any or all quotes, to waive any informality in any quotes, and to make award contractor as it may best serve the interest of the Petersburg Indian Association.

Published: January 12, 19, 26, February 2, and 9, 2023



PHS Cheer Squad is taking cheer off the sidelines

By **LIZZIE THOMPSON**
Pilot writer

Petersburg High School Cheer Squad's new coach, Andrea Weathers, is on a mission to bring cheer off the sidelines and into the community. Weathers' main goal this year is "...to bridge the gap between the players, the cheerleaders and the spectators – to really create a strong trifecta of community and to strengthen

school spirit. I think that it's a great time for that, coming out of a pandemic. I really want to have that full-circle connection."

Weathers is finding creative ways to cheer off the court. "There can be more to cheer than yelling on the sidelines. We're there to give support – both verbally and with acts that cheer. Like we've changed the way we line up for the introduction of the starting five

players so that we aren't blocking the spectators' view, and we've brought back the run-through – you know, the paper banner the first player breaks when they run through it," she laughs. "We've decorated the players' lockers, made cookies for the game officials and the volunteers, and on February 1st, we're going to read Dr. Seuss books to the Elementary kids."

Spectators at the girls' Homecoming game last weekend were treated to a halftime performance featuring the elementary school kids who attended the annual Cheer Camp. Senior Novalee Thomas thinks Cheer Camp is important. "The little kids are the next generation of cheerleaders, so if we don't get them excited the sport could die out."

Coach Weathers agrees. "I'm really proud of this. The cheerleaders have always taught Cheer Camp, but I think this year may be the first time that the little kids performed in a halftime show. Part of that is just the shift from 'what can the cheerleaders show the community' to 'what can the cheerleaders do to build community' to encourage people to come to the games and cheer with us – and for us!"

Middle School Cheer Coach Becky Turland has been observing some of the High School squad's practices. "We're going to try to bridge that gap between the middle and high school cheer teams." Both coaches plan to collaborate so that the cheers learned in middle school carry over to



Photo courtesy of Carey Case

Front row, left to right: Lakell Deinhardt, Lillith Odegaard, Rebecca Fisher, Meghan O'Soup, Back Row: Angus Olsen, Kaden Duke, and Nya Eby. Not pictured: Novalee Thomas, Rebecca Thynes, Jonas Anderson, and Harley Dunbar.



Photo courtesy of Carey Case

This year the students who participated in the Petersburg High School Cheerleader's annual Cheer Camp performed during the girls' basketball team's halftime. In addition to learning their cheer, participants enjoyed tumbling and lots of clapping.

high school. "That will strengthen and help grow our program."

Weathers loves everything about cheer and plans to keep coaching for the foreseeable future. "This is just the beginning. This is really a foundation year for me. There isn't anything I don't love about cheer. I love the sharp moves, I love how bold everything is, the intensity, pushing your body, bringing your A-game. I love performance. And I thought I could give something to the team – the cheerleaders and the basketball players. I've worked with most of these kids in other capacities. I know them, I have relationships with them, I love them."

Though she cheered all through high school, Weathers says, "I have more of a dance background. We never stunted, so all of the stunting I'm learning this year. I brought maybe two-thirds of what they needed. I brought the cheers, the performance, the en pointe, the sharpness and the dance. The one-third piece I don't really have is the tumbling and the stunting. So one of the first things we did was have two Ketchikan coaches, Lacey Bailey and Jaylyn Merrill, come to Petersburg to teach a two day, ten hour stunting clinic. They're from a bigger division than us and they volunteered their time, which was super supportive of them. I'm hoping we will be performing more stunts, but I'm very picky about

what we put out on the floor. If it isn't successfully executed, cheers or stunts, it's pulled until they really have the whole thing down. I want everything we execute out there to represent my squad's best work. Everything we're working on is building up to the regional competition."

The sport of cheer is demanding. Cheerleaders are on the sidelines for three hours paying close attention to the action on the floor and yelling while exercising. Novalee Thomas explained, "It takes a lot of strength and conditioning to have the endurance to last those three hours and to perform while always having a smile." Becky Fisher added, "I think holding the smile the whole time is the hardest, and trying to find ways to keep the smile even when you aren't feeling the best out on the court."

Looking to the future, Weathers says, "At the end of this year we'll lose four seniors, so I hope that there will be more kids interested in joining the cheer squad next year, all genders. It's a real commitment. We practice five days a week, though these guys have been working almost six days a week with the stunt clinic and the Cheer Camp. Right now we're a squad of ten, seven girls and four guys who happen to also be wrestlers and their strength is definitely an asset when we're doing stunts, which we hope to do more of."



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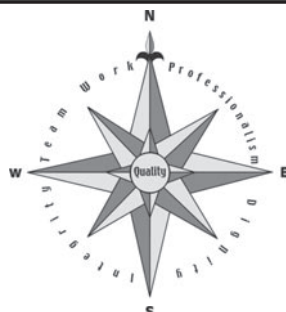
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The 2023 Homecoming Court debuted between the varsity basketball games Saturday night. The court included freshmen Gaje Ventress and Eden Davis, sophomores Caleb Lutomski and Adara Curtiss, Juniors Elijah Whitacre and Anya Pawuk, Seniors Wyatt Litster and Meghan O'Soup, and Homecoming King Malcolm Fry and Homecoming Queen Kasiah Lopez. Fry and Lopez were crowned by crown bearers Henry Kandoll and Madi Ward.

Photos by CHRIS BASINGER / Petersburg Pilot



The Petersburg High School cheer team put on a performance along with kids who participated in a cheer camp to show their Viking spirit, much to the adoration of the crowd.

Vikings wrangle Wolves

By CHRIS BASINGER
Pilot writer

The Petersburg High School boys basketball team ended the Wrangell Wolves' prowl last weekend, celebrating homecoming with two victories over their local rivals.

The Vikings dug in on Friday to claim the first game 53-40 after struggling to find their feet.

Petersburg trailed the Wolves in each of the first two quarters and were behind 23-19 at the half.

Rik Camps went down early in the first quarter, but Kieran Cabral came in to run point in his stead and scored nine in the second half.

"Being a point guard against that zone is tough and I was real happy with...his composure on the floor, he really did a good job of getting us into offensive things," Head Coach Rick Brock said.

The Vikings battled back in the third to cut the visitor's lead to three and broke through Wrangell's tight zone defense in the fourth to outscore them 23-7.

Kyle Biggers and Jack Engell combined for 14 in the final quarter as the Vikings took the win.

Petersburg was up for the challenge again on Saturday and overcame the Wolves 56-51, led by Engell with 19 and Biggers with 15.

"I told the guys, I said, one of the things I know about this league is that if you win on Friday it's even tougher to win on Saturday and it's pretty true, I mean, if you look at the games that we've had this year. So I knew Wrangell would come after us

and boy they came out shooting the ball well and jumped on us right away," Brock said.

Wrangell established a solid lead early in the first quarter, but Petersburg clawed back to make it a one possession game by the whistle.

The Vikings hit a couple of fast counters at the beginning of the second quarter and went ahead, outscoring Wrangell 17-9, to take a five-point lead into the half.

The Wolves, though, were not going to give up without a fight and came out of the half flying to again take the lead 39-38.

Owen Anderson kept the Vikings in the game in the third quarter, netting seven of Petersburg's eight points.

The game remained within one possession through most of the fourth, but Biggers and Engell came up big again to combine for another 14 points down the stretch to help seal the back-to-back wins.

Brock also praised Hunter Conn, who had the job of covering Wrangell's top scorer, Jacen Hay, who led the Wolves' scoring by a country mile, hitting double digits in both games.

"Boy he worked hard, he did a good job, he made him work for most of his points and stuff, and that's a hard thing to do," Brock said.

Petersburg will battle the Craig Panthers at the Longhouse this weekend, playing Friday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday night will also be Cancer Awareness Night.

A donation station will be set up at the gym entrance and all proceeds will be donated to Seattle Children's Hospital.



CHRIS BASINGER / Petersburg Pilot

Kyle Biggers slams the ball away to win the first possession of Saturday night's game.

Lady Vikings come up short against Wrangell

By CHRIS BASINGER
Pilot writer



CHRIS BASINGER / Petersburg Pilot

Bryana Ratliff guards the ball during Saturday night's homecoming game against Wrangell.

The Petersburg High School girls basketball team is still seeking its first win of the season after suffering two losses to Wrangell during last weekend's homecoming games.

The team fell last Friday 39-15 as Kiara Harrison led the visiting Lady Wolves with 21 points.

Petersburg scored nine in the first half, courtesy of Iris Case, Adara Curtiss, and Bryana Ratliff, but a shaky defensive performance saw the hosts behind by 14 going into the half.

The Lady Vikings shored up their guarding in the third quarter, holding Wrangell to just

six, but fell flat in the fourth quarter and were outscored 10-2.

The next evening the Lady Vikings lost again to their rivals from across Frederick Sound 42-18, the same margin of victory as the first game.

Petersburg suffered a poor run of shots to start the game, only scoring a single field goal in the first half, but the team flipped the script out of halftime.

The Lady Vikings netted 10 points in the third quarter, marking their first double digit haul in a quarter this season.

"For us that was a huge step," Head Coach Dino Brock said.

It did not, however, make up for their leaky defense, which gave up

14 points in each of the final two quarters to put the game out of reach.

Harrison again led Wrangell with 20 points while Anya Pawuk scored the most for Petersburg in the game with seven.

"Our goal from the very beginning has been to get better every week and I thought that we definitely showed signs of that," Head Coach Dino Brock said.

The Lady Vikings will host Craig and play Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 6 p.m.

Petersburg will hold a Cancer Awareness Night on Saturday and will have a donation station at the gym entrance.

All proceeds will be donated to Seattle Children's Hospital.



Kate Thompson leaps into the air with a high kick as Brooklyn Whitethorn and Lakell Deinhardt crouch alongside her during the Petersburg High School performance team's routine on Saturday.



The Petersburg High School pep band keeps the energy up in the gym during half-time.

How does wastewater work?

A tour of the award-winning Petersburg wastewater treatment facility

By **JAKE CLEMENS**
Pilot writer

The Alaska Rural Water Association (ARWA) has named Petersburg Alaska's Wastewater System of the Year for 2022.

"Petersburg stays on top of routine maintenance and keeps their certifications up to date. Not everyone does that," said Mark Wuitschick, who nominated Petersburg and works at ARWA as the Wastewater Training and Technical Assistance Specialist.

Petersburg also goes beyond the minimum requirements, and the award highlighted efforts at composting removed solids, which the Petersburg wastewater utility has done since 2015. This diverts approximately 40 metric tons from the landfill to the waste soil disposal site, with the potential of selling it as fertilizer in the future.

"Fairbanks has been selling theirs for years. If they can do it in the cold up there, we can handle some rain," reasoned Wastewater Operations Supervisor Justin Haley. He usually keeps tarps over the pile and injects air from underneath. He maintains a 4 to 1 ratio of woody debris to waste solids and monitors the temperature to decide when to turn the pile over with a front-end loader. "The hotter it is, the more we can turn it. It has to be at 60 degrees Celsius (140 F) for over a week to kill the bacteria. Then it's safe for a garden, but some people still don't like the idea. I guess they don't care in Fairbanks though." Though just in case the mention of composting stirs community interest in expanding Wastewater's program to include accepting compostable household scraps, Haley explains that wouldn't be doable at this time due to staffing and time constraints.

Inside the treatment plant's control room, a large monitor displays the status of the 20 lift stations in town, all with at least one green light indicating an operational pump. "Gravity

does most of the work, but then there are lift pumps to move the waste out of lower areas," explained Utility Director Karl Hagerman. "Almost everything goes through the pump at the Whale Observatory, then it comes here."

The monitor displays how many gallons per minute are coming into the plant and tallies the total for the day. "About 250,000 gallons is typical for a day," Haley said. "If there's much more than that then we know we're getting extra from somewhere." On a rainy day, Haley said, runoff can enter the system through the little holes in manhole covers, cracks in concrete manholes, cracked pipes, or some low-lying areas where gutters must drain into the sewer. Rain on snow made for one day of 1.9 million gallons last year, approaching the plant's daily capacity of 2.1 million gallons. "Excess water is our enemy," Haley said.

Haley is onsite almost every day. "There's someone here seven days a week," he said. "Even on Christmas, I'll come in for a couple hours to check on everything."

Round-the-clock staffing could be required in the future since the EPA will be conducting a review to see if secondary treatment is needed in Petersburg. If required, the extra equipment could cost around \$20 million and would require staffing around the clock. Said Hagerman, "We don't want people to have \$100 dollar a month water bills, but if we have to pass along the cost, it could be that much or more."

Despite disposing of the solids in a safer and cheaper way, the treated liquids are still emptied into Frederick Sound without a full disinfection process. Hagerman says the plant was originally built with disinfection equipment, but it never worked properly. The city later sued the manufacturer and removed the equipment, obtaining a 301(h) waiver which allows for less than complete

Continued on page 11



JAKE CLEMENS / Petersburg Pilot

Justin Haley shows the composting process which helps divert 40 metric tons of waste solids from the landfill each year.

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Wastewater tour

Continued from page 10

secondary treatment, or the process of disinfecting the water that comes out of the plant.

Wrangell recently applied for a renewal of their 301(h) designation, which has been tentatively approved. Petersburg will likely be asked to renew soon, along with most other towns in Southeast. The 301(h) waiver applies to many coastal towns that discharge into marine waters where deep channels and tidal mixing provide adequate dilution. Even Anchorage is part of the 301(h) program.

The Petersburg wastewater plant has its own lab, complete with Erlenmeyer flasks full of colorful liquids and a clipboard with a built-in calculator. "We spend two or three days a week in here," says Haley. They're responsible for collecting approximately 300 tests per year, ensuring that the impact on the water quality of Frederick sound remains minimal.

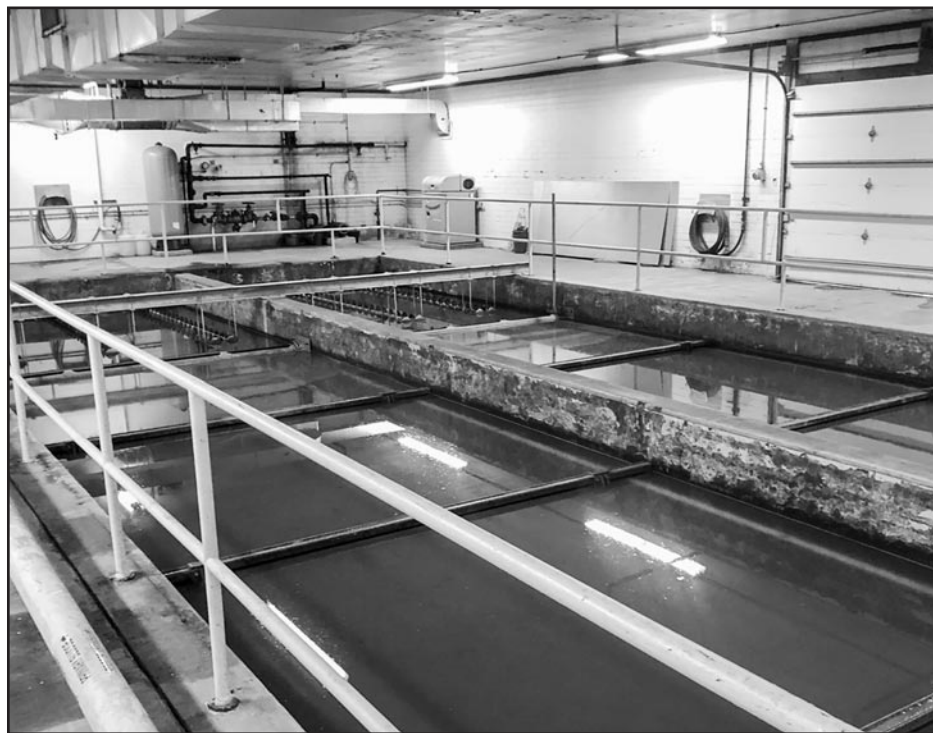
Four treatment processes occur at the Petersburg plant. First, water passes through a pair of rotating stainless-steel screens that scrape off much of the larger debris such as food waste and paper towels. Next, grit is centrifuged out, including sand, clay, and other inorganic material. The grit gets pushed through a tube into the next room by a long auger, wringing most of the water out of it. After a time in a settling tank, the sediment travels up a bucket conveyor, like a small-scale mining operation. "Oh

there's gold in there," said Haley, possibly seriously. The sediment goes to the compost pile, while the water goes back inside to the digester, a room-sized tank where warm air is blown through the water to aid the natural decomposition by bacteria. The next stage is a calmer pool called the clarifier, with slowly moving oil booms skimming grease and other floating material from the surface, then sinking to again remove sunken sediment from the bottom. Finally, the semi-clear gray water goes through one more settling tank, then to the outfall in Frederick Sound.

"The biggest problem we have is flushable wipes," says Haley. "Nothing jams up the machinery like them. We've put out notices in the paper, and it might help a little, but not for long. Grease is the other thing that plugs up the pumps. Combined they're like concrete." Toxic, corrosive, or flammable materials shouldn't go down the drain either.

Around the outside of the building, a pit covered with a steel grate is where the town's Vactor truck dumps waste from all the vault toilets at campgrounds and day-use areas. A utility worker hoses the material through a grate to mix it well enough to be pumped into the plant. Material is brought to the pit from the landfill when they clean out their collection trenches. And waste from cruise ships is also brought here which can be an added burden on the plant's capacity.

It's not glamorous, but the wastewater



JAKE CLEMENS / Petersburg Pilot

After going through the digester tank where bacteria aid the natural decomposition processes, the water rests in clarifier pools where slow moving booms skim grease and other floating material as sediment settles on the bottom for removal.

utility is a crucial element of Petersburg's quality of life. It's one of those underpinning systems that are hardly visible and easy to take for granted until something goes wrong. That Petersburg's system was named best in the state is something the community can take pride in, but for the utility workers the goal is simply to

keep the system running smoothly. In fact, until the Pilot reached out for an interview following a press release about the ARWA award, the wastewater team was entirely unaware that they had received the statewide recognition.

The next time someone from ARWA is in town the award will be presented.

ADF&G seeking comment on sport fish stocking plan

By CHRIS BASINGER
Pilot writer

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is currently seeking public comment on the draft of its 2023 Statewide

Sport Fish Stocking Plan, which includes two programs affecting the Petersburg area — the Southern Southeast Chinook Salmon Enhancement and the Blind Slough Coho Salmon Enhancement.

According to the stocking plan, Fish and Game is looking to release approximately seven million fish in hundreds of locations across the state annually over the next five years.

Matt Catterson, a fishery bi-

ologist in Juneau with Fish and Game, said the two Petersburg area plans are "very similar" to what has been done in previous years.

The one major change in this year's stocking plan, however, is the discontinuation of the chinook salmon release in City Creek.

The City Creek release site was closed last year due to continued struggles with obtaining enough broodstock and because it was determined that the sport fishery was not the primary beneficiary of the site as was intended.

With the City Creek release closed, ADF&G has been able to redirect some of its funding to the Whitman Lake Hatchery in the Ketchikan area for its release at Herring Cove.

"We know that release provides really good benefit to the sport fishery there in Ketchikan, there's a shoreline fishery and also the small boat folks can access those fish, so it's a good location for our program because a lot of those fish do make it back to the sport fishery, which is a major goal of our program," Catterson said.

The first of the two programs affecting Petersburg, the Southern Southeast Chinook Salmon Enhancement, plans to have an annual release of up to 600,000 Chinook salmon smolt reared at the Crystal Lake Hatchery into Blind Slough.

From 2016-2020 the average release into Blind Slough was about 611,000 annually.

The program's objective is to generate 2,500 angler-days of salmon fishing effort at Blind Slough and 4,000 angler-days in the Wrangell Narrows marine boat fishery annually

and hopes to provide for a harvest of 3,000 Chinook salmon per year.

The second program affecting Petersburg is the Blind Slough Coho Salmon Enhancement, which hopes to mitigate the losses of the Crystal Creek spawning habitat during the Blind Slough hydroelectric refurbishment by increasing fishing opportunities at Blind Slough and around Petersburg.

The program will see up to 160,000 coho salmon smolt stocked annually, of which 20,000 fish will be adipose fin-clipped and tagged with coded wire.

The program's objective is to generate 2,000 angler-days in Blind Slough and 2,000 angler-days in the Wrangell Narrows marine boat fishery annually and provide for a harvest of 1,500 coho salmon per year.

Catterson added that Fish and Game is always open to ideas from the public about potential release sites as they look for ideas to maximize the benefit to the sport fishery.

"If people like something or they don't like it, you know, we're always looking for feedback whether it's critical or if they say, hey this release is super important to us and we go out there and fish it with our kids, we'd really like to hear that as well because it helps us justify these releases and the funding going forward," Catterson said.

Comments are being accepted until Jan. 31 at 5 p.m. and can be submitted to Statewide Stocking Coordinator Summer Woods by email at summer.woods@alaska.gov.

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Ferry system says it has enough crew to run summer schedule

By **LARRY PERSILY**
Wrangell Sentinel writer

Other than still needing crew if it is to put the Hubbard into service for the first time since it was built a few years ago, the Alaska Marine Highway System believes it has enough staff to operate the confirmed runs of its proposed summer schedule this year.

The state ferry system has been plagued by staffing shortages the past couple of years due to retirements, resignations and hiring efforts coming up short, temporarily sidelining vessels on occasion.

"We're still really pushing hard on recruitment," Shannon McCarthy, communications director at the Department of Transportation commissioner's office, said last Friday.

Turnover, however, continues to hamper staffing levels. Between June and the end of November 2022, the ferry system hired 42 new crew members, mostly entry-level, but lost 32 in the same job categories, McCarthy said.

The department about a year ago contracted with an Anchorage-based search firm to help find new hires for ferry jobs. The contract focused on recruiting people to fill jobs as junior engineers, oilers, able-bodied seamen and several management positions. The contract paid \$5,000 per recruit, not to exceed a total of \$250,000. The contract is being extended and expanded past the \$250,000 limit, McCarthy said.

The department wants the contractor, Alaska Executive Search, to help recruit for lower-level crew workers too, such as stewards, who are covered by the Inlandboatmen's Union, she said.

Coast Guard licensing is required for all crew aboard the ships.

In addition to paying a search firm and advertising on its own in Alaska and nationwide, McCarthy said the department will continue to offer \$5,000 signing

bonuses for new stewards and other crew who stick around through their probationary period.

If enough crew can be hired, licensed and trained in time — 75 new hires would be needed — the Hubbard would join the LeConte in Lynn Canal under this summer's proposed draft schedule. The \$60 million Hubbard, just a few years old, has never been put into service.

The state would need to know sometime this spring if it is going to succeed with adding that many new crew members in order to ensure they are all licensed and trained, allowing the marine highway to start accepting summer reservations for travel aboard the Hubbard.

In 2021, the ferry system was short about 125 workers from the staffing level needed to keep its fleet fully operational and accommodate sick leave and other vacancies without excessive overtime. However, service cutbacks, due to COVID-weakened passenger counts, allowed the marine highway to operate fewer vessels, reducing the need for as many crew members.

Transportation Department officials acknowledged the hiring challenges during 2021 and 2022, briefing legislators several times about worker shortages.

Cutbacks in ferry service the past few years have reduced work hours for crew, adding to the exodus of staff. The ferry system from 2019 through early 2022 lost 155 more employees than it had hired, the department told legislators a year ago.

The Alaska Marine Highway talked of bringing its largest ship, the Columbia, back to service last summer, but never found enough crew to staff the vessel, which has been out of service to save money since fall 2019.

However, the Columbia now is scheduled to rejoin the operating fleet next month to take over the Southeast run while the Matanuska is out of service indefinitely for extensive steel work. Much of the Matanuska's crew will move over to the Columbia.



Screenshot from video courtesy of Tina Kerr

Wolf on the loop

This wolf was spotted strolling along the Airport Bike Path Tuesday morning around 7:30 a.m. The Petersburg Police Department responded non-lethally soon after, firing buckshot into the muskeg nearby in an attempt to drive it away. The wolf eventually made its way near Raven's Roost Trail and after a couple more nearby shots it ran into the woods toward Raven's Roost. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and the PPD are keeping an eye out for further sightings.

Polar bear emerged unseen from snowstorm to kill mom, son

By **MARK THIESSEN**
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Summer Myomick bundled her baby against the freezing winds whipping off the Bering Sea and stepped outside into a blur of blowing snow. It was a short walk from the school where she had visited relatives to the health clinic about 150 yards (137 meters) away, but the young mother could hardly have seen where she was going — or the terror that was approaching.

Myomick, 24, and her son, 1-year-old Clyde Ongtowsruk, made it just beyond the front of the Kingikmiut School in Wales, Alaska, just below the Arctic Circle, when a polar bear emerged from the impenetrable snow squall and mauled them Tuesday. It was the first fatal polar bear attack in 30 years in Alaska, the only U.S. state that is home to the animals.

As the attack unfolded, the principal ordered a lockdown and closed the blinds so the children couldn't see what was happening outside the entrance. Several employees and community members left the safety of the building and tried to scare away the bear with shovels.

The mauling stopped temporarily, but only when the animal turned on them, and they rushed back inside. Principal Dawn Hendrickson slammed the door in the face of the charging bear, possibly saving lives, according to Susan Nedza, chief administrator of the Bering Strait School District.

"The polar bear was chasing

them and tried to get in as well," said Nedza, who received frantic calls about the attack in Unalakleet, about 250 miles (400 kilometers) away. "Just horrific. ... Something you never think you would ever experience."

There is no law enforcement in Wales, so with the bear still outside, a call went out to community members for help. A person who has not been identified showed up with a gun and killed the bear as it continued to maul Myomick and her son.

It appears the mother and toddler had no idea what was coming because of low visibility, Alaska State Troopers spokesperson Austin McDaniel told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The immediate family was living at the school temporarily while they were fixing electrical issues in their home, according to a post on a GoFundMe fundraising site established to help the family "in the face of unfathomable tragedy and heartbreak."

"We ask that you respect their privacy in this period of immense grief," the post read.

Wales, a whaling community, is the westernmost point on the North American mainland — just 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Russia across the Bering Strait — and is home to about 150 people, almost all of them Inupiat. It's accessible by plane and boat, including barges that deliver household goods. Winter trails provide snowmobile access to other communities and subsistence

hunting grounds.

Kingikmiut School, like other schools in many rural Alaska Native communities, doubles as a community center. The view from its front, where the attack occurred, is an endless expanse of frozen snow and ice to the horizon.

Nedza, the school district chief administrator, said she received a call from a distraught Hendrickson just after 2 p.m. Tuesday. She said the students were locked down and safe.

The snowstorm that camouflaged the bear, along with a lack of runway lights at Wales' gravel air strip, prevented Alaska State Troopers from flying in an officer and a state wildlife official from Nome to investigate until Wednesday.

It's not known what prompted the attack. However, polar bears potentially see humans as prey, said Geoff York, the senior director of conservation at Polar Bear International.

Samples from the bear were taken for the state veterinarian, and the bodies of Myomick and her son were flown to Nome for eventual transport to the State Medical Examiner's Office in Anchorage.

School was cancelled Wednesday so students could be with their families, and the school district flew counselors to Wales. The school planned soft openings Thursday and Friday with no classes but opportunities for students to meet with counselors, get a meal or play a game, Nedza said.

Alaska scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey in 2019 found changes in sea ice habitat

had coincided with evidence that polar bears' use of land was increasing and that the chances of a polar bear encounter had risen.

Polar bears are the largest bear species, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Males typically weigh 600 to 1,200 pounds (270 to 540 kilograms) but can reach more than 1,700 pounds (770 kilograms) and as many as 10 feet (3 meters) in length. Females weigh 400 to 700 pounds (180 to 320

kilograms). Polar bears generally feed on seals, but also walrus and beluga whales.

They were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 2008 and are also protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Both laws prohibit harming the animals without authorization, unless necessary for human safety.

Associated Press writer Gene Johnson in Seattle contributed to this report.

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Obituary

Robert George Olsen, 69

Robert George Olsen (Bob Sr.) was born January 7, 1954 to Ray and Gladys Olsen in Arlington, Washington. He was their fourth son, joining older brothers John, Jim, and Ray Jr. Soon to follow was the youngest brother of the bunch, Mike.

In 1967 the family moved from their cattle ranch in Washington to pursue logging opportunities in Alaska, which landed them in Petersburg. It

was a family business and every one of the Olsens had a hand in the operation. By the time he was fourteen Bob was operating trucks and heavy equipment, beginning his decades long career in heavy equipment operating.

In 1975 he married the prettiest girl in town (his words!), Linnea Thorsen. They had three children together, Jennifer, Bob Jr., and Heather. Though their



Robert George Olsen

marriage ended some time ago, they remained good friends and cared deeply for one another.

Anyone who knew Bob Sr. knew he was one heck of a story teller. Whether it was about the old logging days of punching in new roads or epic trout fishing and hunting trips, he could recount every detail in a way that completely captivated his audience.

He truly adored and admired his children and was a doting "Papa" to his four grandchildren.

Bob Sr. left this world on January 15, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gladys Sensen Olsen (2020) and Ray Olsen Sr. (2022). He is survived by his brothers, John, Jim, Ray Jr., and Mike; his children Jennifer (Kevin) Hess, Bob Jr. (Niccole) Olsen, and Heather (Travis Phibbs) Olsen; and his four grandchildren, Tani Schwartz, Paige Hansen, and Declan and Oskar Olsen.

The community is invited to join in supporting the family and celebrating the life of Bob Sr. at 4 p.m. on Friday, February 3rd at the Sons of Norway Hall.

Rules of the Road US Coast Guard QUESTION & ANSWER



QUESTION:

Sailing vessels are stand-on over power-driven vessels except _____.

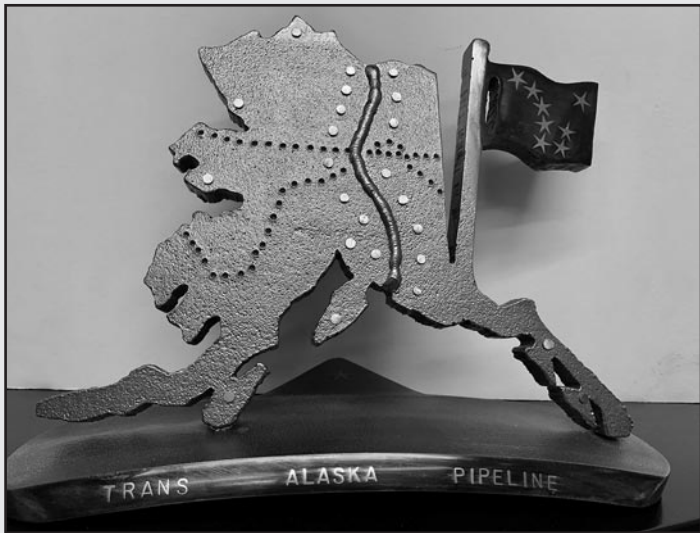
- A. In a crossing situation.
- B. In a meeting situation.
- C. When they are the overtaking vessel.
- D. On the inland waters of the U.S.

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

ANSWER: C. When they are the overtaking vessel.

Artifact Archive

This sculpture commemorates the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, which has influenced the lives of all Alaskans in some way. The steel is 1/2" thick. It is unknown if the object was made from the actual pipeline, or not. Engraved on the back are the words "Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, July 19, 1976" and the name "Vince Barnabas". There is no record of who Vince is or whether he was the donor of the piece. While it memorializes an interesting piece of Alaska's history, the lack of documentation illustrates the importance of museum donations including some historical record for future generations.



Information and photos for this column are provided by the Clausen Memorial Museum.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

Those with birthdays this week are: **January 27:** Bob Haliner, Gabe Dunham. **January 28:** Doug Welde, Terry McEldowney, Tony Moran. **January 29:** Matthew Duddles, Tazer Stone, Vicki Kaer. **January 30:** Doug Ware, Jayne Aiken, Steve Burrell. **January 31:** Bill Haley, Jillian Versteeg, Jimmy Clark, Tess Abbott, **February 1:** Britina Lyons, Dorothy Bentley, Scott Hjort. **February 2:** Jeremy Hicks, Paul Nice, Roger Thompson.

Those with anniversaries this week are: **January 30:** Jeff and Amber Libbert.

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



Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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

**Application Deadline
February 21, 2023**

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



at Petersburg School District

Monday, January 30
AK Pollock Fish Sticks
WG Rice

Tuesday, January 31
Cherry Blossom Chicken
Egg Roll

Wednesday, February 1
WG Hamburger

Thursday, February 2
WG Cheesy Taco Bake (Pasta)

Friday, February 3
Viking Ramen Bowl -
assortment of toppings



BREAKFAST MENU -
Served With Milk & Choice of:
Fresh Fruit, Applesauce or
Dried Cranberries

Homemade Granola with Yogurt,
Smoothie and Granola, Fruit
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LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER APPLICATION

Island Voyages Inc. dba Alaska Sea Adventures located at **Alaskan Waters** is applying for transfer of a Common Carrier AS 04.11.180 liquor license to Alaska Sea Adventures LLC dba Alaska Sea Adventurers located at Alaska Waters. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.

Published: January 19, 26 and February 2, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE PETERSBURG BOROUGH

**Seeking Letters of Interest to Serve on Petersburg's Local
Emergency Planning Committee.**

The Petersburg Borough is seeking letters of interest from residents who wish to serve on the Local Emergency Planning Committee in one of the following positions:

- Member at Large
- Environmental Advisor

Appointees will serve a 3-year term (until December 31, 2025). Residents who wish to serve the community are encouraged to contact Fire/EMS/SAR Director and LEPC Chair Aaron Hankins by phone at (907) 772-3355, by email at ahankins@petersburgak.gov, or by stopping by Fire Station One located at 1200 Haugen Drive. The deadline to submit letters of interest is February 10, 2023.

Published: January 19 and 26, 2023



FBC Petersburg

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



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Petersburg Indian Association is accepting applications for a Full Charge Bookkeeper. Hours are negotiable. Pay DOE. A full job description and employment application can be

obtained at the PIA office located at 15 N 12th Street or online at piatribal.org. Position open until filled. Native Preference applies. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen. Applications will be accepted at the PIA office, emailed to tribaladmin@piatribal.org, or



Stork report

Jack Joseph Grone was born at 3:07 a.m. on December 17, 2022. His parents are Jason and Jessica Grone. Jack was 8 pounds 2 ounces and 20.5 inches.

Senior Meals

All meals will be delivery-only and delivery begins at 4:30 on weekdays.

MONDAY, January 30

Soft Taco Dinner,
Cottage Cheese with Peaches, Cake

TUESDAY, January 31

Chuck Roast, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Steamed Vegetables, Dinner Roll, Grapes

WEDNESDAY, February 1

Hot Beef Sandwich,
Garden Salad,
Green Beans, Chips,
Ice Cream

THURSDAY, February 2

Chicken Parmesan, Noodles,
Broccoli, Dinner Roll, Brownie

FRIDAY, February 3

Tater Tot Casserole, Carrots,
Fruit Salad,
String Cheese, Brownie



Please call Mountain View Food Service at 772-4331 before noon to place your order. Everyone age 60 and older and spouses are eligible for senior meals. The menu is subject to change without notice. NO MEALS WILL BE SERVED at MVM for the time being.

School News

Noah Sullivan, a student at Occidental College in Los Angeles, California, has been placed on the Dean's List for the 2022 Fall Semester. The Dean's List recognizes the academic excellence of students earning a grade point average of 3.5 or above while carrying a full academic schedule.

Brynn Lister, a student at Montana State University in Bozeman, has been placed on the Dean's List for the 2022 Fall Semester. The Dean's List recognizes the academic excellence of students earning a grade point average of 3.5 or above while carrying a full academic schedule.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA AT PETERSBURG

In the Matter of the Estate of:)
)
Patricia R. Hinde)
Person Who Died (Decedent))
DOB: 01/23/1938)
)
) Case No. 1PE-23-2PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

You are notified that the court appointed Ben S. Hinde as personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred.

Date 01/23/2023
Ben S. Hinde
PO Box 2099
Petersburg, AK 99833

Published: January 26, February 2 and February 9, 2023

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA AT PETERSBURG

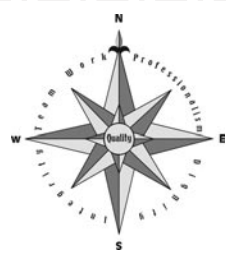
In the Matter of the Estate of:)
)
Sigrid Carol Medalen)
Person Who Died (Decedent))
DOB: 03/08/1931)
)
) Case No. 1PE-22-28PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

You are notified that the court appointed Harold Medalen as personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred.

Date 01/24/2023
Harold Medalen
PO Box 821
Petersburg, AK 99833

Published: January 26, February 2 and February 9, 2023



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pleted 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.
.....tfn1-19b100

The Petersburg Police Department has an opening for two full time Dispatcher/Corrections Officers. Starting wage is \$24.95 per hour at Step C. Benefits include generous paid time off, holiday pay, retirement

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CHRIS BASINGER / Petersburg Pilot

The grab dredger on the Stan Boice barge lowers material onto the Ken Clarke open hopper barge near C float on Monday.

South Harbor dredging

Continued from page 1

The project's priority areas are between D float and Middle Harbor, where they will dig to -19.25 feet mean lower low water, and the 400 row, where they will dig down to -10 feet.

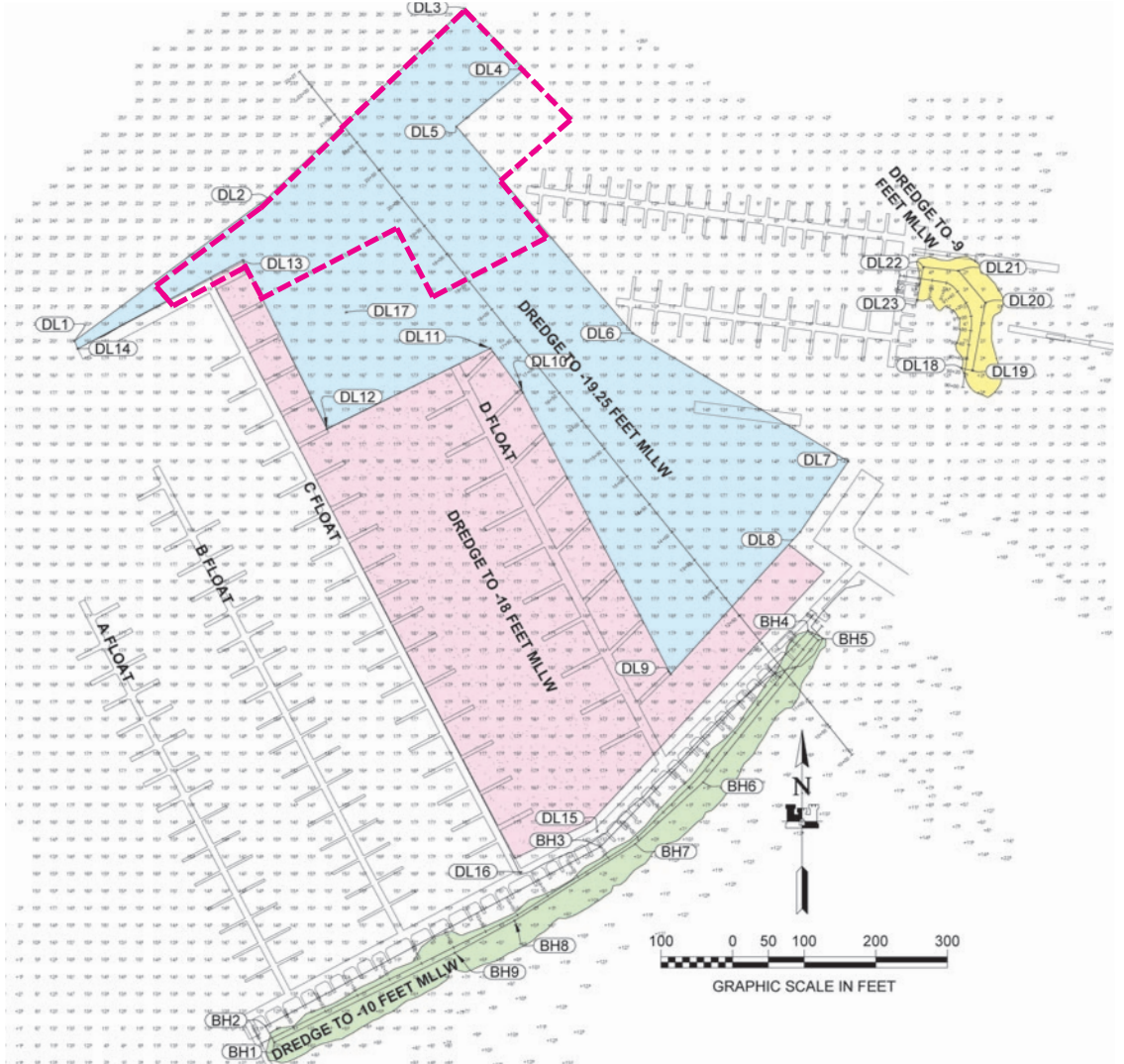
So far, eight boats have been moved during the project to make room for the barges to anchor.

Wollen expects that most of the boat shuffling will be done in February.

The plan is to berth boats in whatever spots are available as people take their boats south or to go out fishing or crabbing.

"On that end of it's been pretty smooth," Wollen said

Western Marine hopes to have the project completed by March 15, one month before environmental regulations kick in preventing in-water work.



This map outlines the areas that have been dredged so far.

Crime stats

Continued from page 1

having more of a hand in recently.

"If [defendants] know that they have an active pretrial officer and that the police department is going to help out the pretrial officer, they're going to commit less crimes, they're going to do what they should be doing," Kerr said.

He also added that if someone out on bail violates their conditions of release they are now charging it back to the main offense, which may also be contributing to the lower number of offenses charged.

2022 also saw a major increase in animal problem service calls, going from 66 in 2021 to 131 last year, mainly due to bear response.

After a flurry of calls early last fall, the bear issue dropped off after police started issuing citations for making no attempt to secure garbage.

Kerr also worked with Northwind Apartments and Public Works to switch out their large round garbage cans, which had been a hotbed for bear activity, with a large dumpster that had sliding doors and latches.

"Once we put that there, because that's a major food source, the bear problem just dove off and so that was really

nice to see," Kerr said.

The report also addresses the continued staffing challenges at the police department.

Officers are currently alternating between 36-hour and 48-hour work weeks, which allows them to cover the open dispatch positions when needed.

Kerr said that they are hoping to get back to a four days per week, 10 hours per day model but currently cannot due to staffing levels.

"As we get police officers out of there then we can start adjusting the schedules back and right now I mean we're just trying to plug holes where they need to be," Kerr said.

Capt. Randy Holmgrain has been filling in for dispatch for a while along with other police officers, but there are two dispatchers currently in training who will soon be offering relief to the department.

"The only thing I would do is thank the community for their support and their involvement with the police department over the past couple years because, I mean, if you're going to attribute anything to the reduction of crime, it's the police department and community working together, that's how you get it done," Kerr said.

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