

**New EMS Coordinator
arrives in Petersburg**

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**Vikings host
Metlakatla Chiefs**

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**Kinder Skog launches
Trash for Cash fundraiser**

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petersburg pilot

PETERSBURG, ALASKA



February 19, 2026
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12 Pages
\$2

Holmlund named to Alaska's Top 40 Under 40



Katie Holmlund carries daughter Thea across a muddy bog during a Kinder Skog mud day.

Submitted photo

By **ORIN PIERSON**
Pilot writer

Katie Holmlund didn't quite believe it at first.

"When they called about this 40 Under 40 thing, I was like, that seems like a trick," she said with a laugh, recalling a piece of junk mail she'd received months earlier promising similar honors. "I'm like, this isn't real."

But it was. Holmlund, Petersburg Medical Center's Youth Programs Development and Advocacy Coordinator, has been named to the Alaska Journal of Commerce's 2026 Top Forty Under 40, a statewide honor recognizing professionals under 40 who have demonstrated excellence in their field and a commitment to their communities. She will be recognized alongside the Class of 2026 in a

commemorative magazine and at an awards gala in Anchorage in April.

Even accepting the honor, Holmlund was quick to redirect the credit.

"This recognition feels less like an individual achievement and more like a reflection of the extraordinary community I have the privilege to work alongside every day," she said. "Showing up for kids and investing in our community should be the expectation, not the exception."

Holmlund is the co-founder and leader of the Kinder Skog outdoor youth program, which she launched in 2018 and has grown steadily since. After transitioning the program to PMC in 2022, she led her team in more than doubling its capacity while also developing a second initia-

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Board of Game votes to expand bow hunting area on Mitkof Island

By **OLIVIA ROSE**
KFSK Radio

The Alaska Board of Game has approved a change expanding where archers can hunt on Petersburg's Mitkof Island.

The change opens bow hunting in an area that has been closed to harvesting big game, except for wolves, since 1962. It eliminates a closed area south of town around the Petersburg road system, which served as a quarter-mile corridor for decades, and adds it to a larger management area.

The Board approved the change with a 4-3 vote at a late January meeting in Wrangell.

Board Member Jake Garner, of Anchorage, voted against it.

"I'm in favor of the quarter-mile corridor," he said in discussing the proposal. "The archers can go and then partici-

pate in the hunt there after a quarter-mile off of the road. So, not looking to change something that's been in place and working for quite a while."

The area restricted hunters from taking big game, except for wolves, within a quarter-mile from each side of Mitkof Highway. The area runs from Petersburg's municipal limits at mile marker 8.75, toward the Crystal Lake Hatchery at mile marker 17.22.

The stretch of land is now part of the Petersburg Management Area, which covers the town proper. That management area was created around 2002 to reduce deer numbers in residential Petersburg, and is open to hunting game by bow and arrow only.

The change opens up opportunity for certified bow hunters to harvest deer, moose, and black and brown bear in the area south of town, and it restricts the harvest of wolves there to archery-only. Hunting wolves by firearm used to be allowed within that corridor, but becoming part of the Petersburg Management Area means hunters can only take big game by bow and arrow.

Continued on page 3

Hydroponic gardens bring fresh greens, hands-on learning to Petersburg schools

By **JAKE CLEMENS**
Pilot writer

Two softly humming glass cabinets, brightly lit from within, cause students and grown-ups to pause and peer on their way through the Petersburg High School commons. They are hydroponic gardens, complete with lights for growing greens and flowers year-round. This provides Petersburg students not only with quality food, but a nice splash of greenery and light in the commons, and a brilliant hands-on learning opportunity.

Hydroponic gardens have been a big goal for Alex Helms, Farm to School Coordinator, and Carlee Johnson McIntosh, Food Services Director for Petersburg City School District. The idea has been planted since the school won a grant to fund Helms' position in May 2024. Now it has come to fruition, by piecemealing a total of six grants together: SCALES (Supporting Community Agriculture and Local Education Systems), Petersburg Community Foundation, Alaska Micro-Grant for



JAKE CLEMENS / Petersburg Pilot

Alex Helms shows the inner workings of the hydroponics cabinet in the Petersburg High School commons.

Food Security, Petersburg Mental Health Services, Whole Kids, along with an in-kind donation of the shipping cost by Alaska Marine Lines.

Helms' duties for the project include maintaining the school's growing equipment and educating others about it.

Continued on page 7



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

February 19, 1926 - The Pioneer Hotel and the St. George Hotel at Ketchikan, housing the Poodle Dog Restaurant, Pioneer Store, Pioneer Restaurant and the Lotus Confectionery and Cigar Store, were destroyed by fire early last Friday morning. For a time the fire threatened to spread to the new Ingersoll Hotel and the Alaska Steamship Company docks and offices. However, the fire was gotten under control without damage to adjacent buildings.

February 16, 1951 - Lady Luck was in the car with two visiting Wrangell boys early Sunday morning when the car in which they were riding plunged off the south end of the power house bridge and into Hammer's Slough. Olaf Hanson and Fred Angerman, here for the Wrangell-Petersburg basketball game, were in the car with Angerman driving. The car belonged to Roald Norheim but he was not in it when the accident occurred. Coming at what authorities estimate must have been quite a fast clip, the two boys didn't see the sharp bend onto the bridge in time to make the turn and the car soared out over the slough, landing about 18 feet from shore. Luckily the tide was out at the time and neither boy was injured. The car is a complete wreck.

February 18, 1976 - Rotary Club took a stand last week in backing police and court efforts to control dogs in Petersburg following a presentation by police chief Robert Harrington and District Court magistrate Kristen Billings. The problems of dog defecation on city streets and loose dogs running in packs was discussed. A Rotary committee is drafting a proposed ordinance for tougher dog controls. Paul Merifield told this incident to dramatize the danger of dogs running at large: "I was bringing my daughter to the elementary school the other morning when I noticed a large group of dogs congregated at the school and in one big dog fight. Those dogs didn't seem to know or care what they were biting at - kids or other dogs or what. And some of the kids standing there watching stand no higher than some of those big dogs. I think if you took those dogs individually," said Merifield, "they're probably all nice family dogs, but congregated like that, they turn into something else." Police chief

Harrington seemed to agree. "People may not care what you do with their kids," he said, "but mess with their dogs and you've got a fight on your hands." District Court magistrate Billings bears that out. "I've had more emotion shown in cases involving dogs than anything else," she said. Billings said that her policy for handling dog offenders is to suspend a fine for the first offense since the owner will still have to pay for the impoundment of the delinquent dog and a license fee, "and they're embarrassed enough," she added. The city pound, a small caged kennel behind the police station which encloses an inner shed made of wood that houses four broken cages. The wooden shed is in poor repair and has a "new" door that is already half eaten and clawed through by anxious canines in impound. Public safety officer Gregg Olson manages to use three of the individual cages inside the shed, but mostly dogs are leashed to the metal fence surrounding it - but there are only three leashes. The ideal long-

range solution said city manager H.D. Scougal, might be to found a Humane Society here. Meanwhile, the city is gathering estimates to shore up the existing pound for the next group of pooches.

February 22, 2001 - Tuesday Petersburg voters said yes to a proposed expansion of Mountain View Manor elderly housing expansion project. While only 15 percent of registered voters showed up for the special election, support was resounding for the Manor expansion. In unofficial results, the yes votes numbered 344 with only 39 votes against borrowing over \$2 million for the project. "Assisted living is coming to Petersburg, I guess that's the big headline," said the city's project manager David Poulson. "This is when the rubber

meets the road," he said. It's time to get going - we have a lot of work to do." The expansion project will add 20 new apartment units to the existing 23 units. Half of the new apartments will feature assisted living; the other 10 would be independent housing like the existing apartments. "Once we've got a reasonable budget and a reasonable design we can go ahead and create the final construction documents," Poulson said. Like many projects in Petersburg, the final cost of the manor expansion will depend on its foundation, which will depend on the depth and stability of the muskeg in between the existing facility and 13th Street. Poulson said engineers have done some probing to test the muskeg and the city may have to dig out the muskeg to build a concrete foundation.

PETERSBURG HAPPENINGS

Brought to you by: 

THURSDAY, February 19

Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention: 10:00am, Mitkof Dance Studio
Borough Assembly Tidal Network Work Session: 12:00pm, Assembly Chambers and Zoom
PSG Friends and Neighbors Meeting and Potluck: 5:30pm, Public Library
Free Dinner Get Together: 5:30pm, Lutheran Church Holy Cross House
PHS Drama The Matchmaker: 7:00pm, Wright Auditorium

FRIDAY, February 20

Al-Anon Support Group: 12:00pm, Episcopal Church
PHS Cheer Camp: 2:30pm, PHS Gym
Family Game Night: 6:30pm, Parks and Rec Gym
PHS Drama The Matchmaker: 7:00pm, Wright Auditorium
AA Candlelight Meeting: 7:00pm, Episcopal Church

SATURDAY, February 21

PHS Cheer Camp: 10:00am, PHS Gym
Baby Raven Reads: 11:00am, Public Library
Free Soup and Bread Meal: 12:00 pm, St. Catherine's Catholic Church
PHS Drama The Matchmaker: 2:00pm, Wright Auditorium
Mama-to-Mama Milk Meetup with RN: 2:00pm, Public Library
PHS Drama The Matchmaker: 7:00pm, Wright Auditorium

SUNDAY, February 22

Devil's Thumb Shooters: 2:00 pm, Gun Range
Knitting Group - All Welcome: 2:00pm, Mt. View Manor Social Hall

MONDAY, February 23

SHARE Coalition Meeting: 12:00pm, Dorothy Ingle Room PMC
Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall
Burger Night: 5:30pm, Moose Lodge
AA Women's Meeting: 7:00 pm, Presbyterian Church
Volleyball: 7:30pm, Parks and Rec Gym

TUESDAY, February 24

Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention: 10:00am, Mitkof Dance Studio
PIA Community Meal: 5:00pm, John Hanson Sr Hall
Taco Tuesday: 5:30pm, Moose Lodge
The American Legion Post #14 Meeting: 6:30pm, Upstairs Elks Lodge
AA 12x12 Meeting: 7:00pm, Holy Cross Classroom
MMS Winter Blues Concert: 7:00pm, Wright Auditorium

WEDNESDAY, February 25

Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall
Nurturing Parenting Class: 5:00pm, WAVE
Free Dinner For All: 6:00pm, First Baptist Church
Petersburg Science Series "The Value of Hedges": 6:30pm, Public Library

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WEATHER

	High	Low	Precip	Snow
2/11	44	35	0.96	0.0
2/12	42	38	1.97	T
2/13	39	32	T	0.0
2/14	39	31	0.04	0.0
2/15	36	31	0.35	T
2/16	32	23	0.00	0.0
2/17	28	15	0.00	0.0

This Week's Precipitation: 3.32"
 This Week's Snow: 0.0"
 This weather service is provided by the FAA weather observation station at the James A. Johnson Airport.

DAYLIGHT HOURS

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Feb 19	7:13a	5:00p	9:47hrs
Feb 20	7:10a	5:02p	9:52hrs
Feb 21	7:08a	5:05p	9:56hrs
Feb 22	7:05a	5:07p	10:01hrs
Feb 23	7:03a	5:09p	10:06hrs
Feb 24	7:00a	5:11p	10:11hrs
Feb 25	6:58a	5:14p	10:15hrs



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MON 3/2	KENNICOTT	01:00 A.M.	MON 3/2	HUBBARD	12:15 P.M.
TUE 3/3	HUBBARD	10:30 A.M.	WED 3/4	KENNICOTT	02:45 A.M.
SUN 3/8	KENNICOTT	08:45 P.M.	SUN 3/8	HUBBARD	12:45 P.M.
MON 3/9	HUBBARD	02:30 P.M.	WED 3/11	KENNICOTT	02:45 A.M.

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PETERSBURG TIDE TABLE

FEBRUARY 2026

	HIGH TIDES				LOW TIDES			
	A.M.		P.M.		A.M.		P.M.	
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
19 Thu	2:15	17.2	2:16	17.4	8:20	0.3	8:32	-1.2
20 Fri	2:45	17.6	2:56	16.6	8:58	-0.1	9:05	-0.3
21 Sat	3:18	17.7	3:39	15.5	9:40	-0.1	9:40	1.0
22 Sun	3:53	17.4	4:28	14.0	10:27	0.3	10:19	2.5
23 Mon	4:35	16.7	5:28	12.5	11:24	1.0	11:07	4.1
24 Tue	5:27	15.8	6:50	11.3	12:36	1.6
25 Wed	6:40	15.0	8:35	11.2	0:13	5.6	2:05	1.8

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Assembly funds engineering restart for water treatment upgrade

By **ORIN PIERSON**
Pilot writer

The Petersburg Borough Assembly voted unanimously Monday to hire an Anchorage engineering firm to revive a water treatment plant upgrade that stalled more than a decade ago — replacing a rusting open-top tank that has outlived its useful life.

The assembly approved spending up to \$200,600 to retain GV Jones & Associates Inc.

for design and technical services on the clearwell tank replacement project.

The clearwell is a storage tank in the water treatment system, holding fully treated water before it enters the distribution system and allowing disinfectants adequate time to inactivate any remaining pathogens. Petersburg has never had a proper clearwell. The existing open-top tank, which Rummel believes dates to the early 1970s, has long served as a makeshift

substitute, and has been repeatedly patched over the years as rust and leaks have worsened to the point where, Rummel told the assembly, the tank is nearly 'beyond patching.'

GV Jones & Associates designed a replacement clearwell as part of a broader Phase 3 water treatment plant rebuild in 2012, but the borough lacked funds to build the tank at that time. The EPA has since signaled it will allow the borough to reuse those 2012 engineering drawings, meaning GV Jones can update cost estimates and move the project forward without starting the design from scratch — a significant time and money savings, Rummel said.

The borough recently received a \$1.6 million EPA grant to fund the construction. Rummel said updated cost estimates from the engineers are required to satisfy grant paperwork, and he said he hopes construction can begin as early as September.

The new tank will be a covered steel structure roughly 63 feet in diameter and capable of holding approximately 250,000 gallons, installed on the existing tank's footprint. Workers will set up a temporary system while the old tank is demolished and the new one built from the ground up, foundation and all.

Petersburg's drinking water comes primarily from the City Creek reservoir, with Cabin Creek as a secondary source. Water flows through filtration and treatment processes — including chlorination for disinfection and soda ash for pH balance — before reaching the clearwell. From there, only fluoride addition remains before the water enters the distribution system. Rummel noted that the open-top tank's exposure to the elements, while rarely causing problems, is not ideal for water that is one step away from delivery to residents.

"Having an open top tank introduces the potential for debris," he said.

The \$200,600 contract is not for the actual construction of the new tank, but, rather, covers GV Jones's services through the end of construction, including design submittals at 35, 65, 95 and 100 percent completion, bidding support, and construction administration. Structural engineering is being provided

by PND Engineers of Juneau, and Guideline Estimating LLC of Anchorage will handle cost estimating.

"This is securing this engineering firm from the time of approval to the end of project," Rummel confirmed. "They'll be with us all the way through the construction process."

Archery regulations

Continued from page 1

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game had a neutral stance on the change. And Petersburg's Fish and Game Advisory Committee's vote on whether to recommend it to the Board was split three ways: 4 members in favor, 4 against, and 4 abstained from voting.

Kaleb Baird, a member of the Petersburg committee and a bow hunter, personally proposed the change. Testifying to the Board of Game in Wrangell about the proposal, he stressed that the area around the road was not truly closed anyway.

"An unrestricted weapons wolf hunt, small game hunting and waterfowl hunting may all take place within this stretch of Mitkof Island, all of which may be done concurrently outside of this closed area," he said. "This discussion is a matter of opportunity. Does it make more sense to keep it a wolf, waterfowl, small game corridor where firearms are allowed near the highway — or greatly expand the amount of area certified bow hunters have to fill their freezers on an island with an extremely short and restrictive general deer season otherwise?"

The affected area includes popular recreational sites, such as the swan observatory and Blind River Rapids boardwalk trail, and there were some concerns about potential conflicts between hunting and recreational user groups if the change were approved.

The Board also questioned concerns about proximity to homes and private land. But there is a buffer in Petersburg Management Area regulation that prohibits hunting within 100 yards of roads or dwellings.

"The concerns that were raised are the same issues that potentially could have happened in the Petersburg Management Area — we haven't seen that," Board Member Allen Barrett, of Fairbanks, said before voting in favor of the change. "You would spread out some of the archery effort from the Petersburg Management Area out to the road system, and you're going to provide this additional opportunity for people that want to participate in archery."

Federal lands in the area will remain closed to hunting under regulations.

After approving this change, the Board of Game unanimously voted against a different proposal to repeal another closed area south of town around Blind Slough. From mile marker 15.1 to mile 18.4, the area remains closed to all hunting in the waters of Blind Slough, and within a quarter-mile from each side of Blind Slough.

This story was first published at kfsk.org and is reprinted here with permission.

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- Challenge yourself with exciting and rewarding experiences.



Honoring Elizabeth Peratrovich

Around two dozen tribal citizens and friends and neighbors gathered in downtown Petersburg over the weekend in observance of Elizabeth Peratrovich Day. The statewide holiday celebrates the impactful civil rights contributions of Petersburg-born Peratrovich



Photo courtesy of Jalyn Pomrenke

GUEST EDITORIAL

New Juneau ferry terminal far and away far-out bad idea

By **LARRY PERSILY**
Wrangell Sentinel publisher

Spending more than \$125 million to build a new state ferry terminal 42 road miles north of downtown Juneau, 39 miles from the hospital and 34 miles from the airport and shopping makes about as much sense as arriving at 8 a.m. to drive aboard a 6 a.m. ferry. You'd be left at the dock, which is exactly what should happen to the proposal for a new terminal.

The Dunleavy administration has been pushing for a terminal at Cascade Point ever since he took office in 2019. That doesn't mean it's a good idea that's been waiting for smooth sailing. It's a wasteful idea that should be sunk.

The governor and his Department of Transportation argue that by building a terminal 28 miles closer to Haines and Skagway than the existing Juneau terminal at Auke Bay, state ferries would save time and fuel on their shuttle runs in Lynn Canal.

Geographically, that is correct. Shorten the sailing distance and cut costs. But that comes at some very heavy costs to the state and traveling public.

The department last year issued a \$28.5 million contract for engineering and environmental permitting, a bridge over Cascade Creek, site preparation, retaining wall construction and a gate at the site. The state would lease the land from Goldbelt Inc., Juneau's Native corporation.

But it would cost an estimated \$90 million more to make it a functioning terminal, with a

dock and mooring dolphins, a transfer bridge to shore, vehicle staging area and parking, utilities, and more site work.

Most of the funding would come from the federal government, but that's no reason to waste money.

In an effort to convince the public, and legislators, that the Cascade Point terminal is a good idea, the state last year commissioned an economic analysis of the plan.

Ignore for a moment that the Dunleavy administration awarded the no-bid, \$250-an-hour contract to a former employee of the governor's office. Rather, pay attention to the math in the report.

The analysis says efficiency gains and fuel savings from the shorter sailing distance from Cascade Point to Haines and Skagway — after deducting for the additional costs of operating a second terminal in Juneau — would net out for a ferry system a savings of about \$500,000 a year.

Checking the math again, that is a \$500,000 annual budget savings from spending more than \$125 million to build the terminal.

Rather than benefiting the traveling public or the state treasury, the terminal would benefit the landowner and a proposed mine in the area that could use Cascade Point for its own transportation needs.

The consultant's proposal to the Department of Transportation said the goal of his analysis was to "ensure that public dollars are efficiently spent."

If that's true, shut down the project.

TO THE EDITOR

The American experiment relies on an ethical standard

To the Editor:

Near the end of his second term as President, George Washington was aware that the foundation of our nation was still being laid and that the government of the new country was an experiment in popular government that most established powers of that time gave little chance of success. Detractors emphasize that our Constitution was created out of a series of compromises negotiated by white male property owners, many of whom owned slaves, and that the document essentially ignored any consideration for indigenous peoples who had inhabited these lands for countless generations before the immigration of European colonists. The existence of women was scarcely acknowledged. The document failed to address many critical issues. However, to their credit, the members of the Constitutional Convention had the foresight to create a system of government designed to engage history, to recognize the necessity for that system to evolve, so that we could begin to forge an inclusiveness that is in keeping with the spirit of our Declaration of Independence from monarchy.

In 1796, Washington published his Farewell Address, a letter to the nation's people which was disseminated through the cutting-edge mass media of its time, the free press. Washington expresses his vision for this country's future, when the Constitution, and its first ten amendments, had only been

ratified seven years prior. If we read the Address today, once we get around the antiquated language, the message is remarkably straightforward and almost prophetic of our time here and now, generations later. He advocates a foreign policy that is independent, neither isolationist nor entangled in alliances. We can speculate how the commander of the Continental Army, bearing muzzle-loading muskets and firing brass cannons that lobbed iron balls, would comprehend this age of interconnection, rapid transport, and near-instant communication.

He also warns us to carefully tend the balance of power between the branches of government, and he is particularly wary of political parties which he suggests ultimately focus on exacting revenge on each other rather than finding a common path for the well-being of all constituents. Today, neither major party has the integrity we should all expect. Throughout Washington's letter runs the theme that our American experiment relies on the faith of its people in an ethical standard. We the people must transcend the divisive rhetoric, slogans, stereotypes, mythologies, and outright lies, and call politicians to account, and in doing so we call ourselves to account.

Wally McDonald

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New EMS Coordinator brings recent experience and adventurous spirit to Petersburg Fire Department

By **ORIN PIERSON**
Pilot writer

Ryan Gilkey arrived in Petersburg via the ferry on Super Bowl Sunday with his two dogs and about 1,700 emergency calls worth of experience under his belt. The 35-year-old says he has spent years methodically working his way toward Alaska for a job like this.

Gilkey is Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department's new EMS Coordinator, a full-time administrative and training position that serves as the department's primary point of contact for all things emergency medical services.

"The job is an admin position within the fire department ... [Gilkey is now] the lead training officer for the EMS branch ... also [he will] make sure that we're in compliance with the state EMS regulatory framework," said PVFD Director Aaron Hankins. The role involves responding to EMS calls, as well as ambulance supply management, billing and training materials.

Over the decades, the position has belonged to Doug Cronlund, Sandy Dixon, Josh Rathmann, and Coby Holder. Gilkey is the latest to take it on, and Hankins said he had actually been on the department's radar since before the opening arose.

"He found an old listing from before Coby Holder was hired and essentially said, 'Hey, I just want to put my name down,'"

Hankins said. When the position came open again, Gilkey was already in the file.

Gilkey grew up in western Washington, played basketball at Whitman College in Walla Walla, then spent a decade in financial software, most of it in Idaho and Utah. He was still in software when he first took an EMT course in Utah — not out of career ambition, he said, but out of a practical interest in wilderness safety.

"I spend a lot of time outdoors, done a lot of backpacking, and a lot of that ends up being solo," he said. "At some point I realized it'd be good to know how to fix people and get out of bad situations."

COVID disrupted the national certification testing before he could complete the process, and Gilkey largely set it aside. But when he wrapped up a major software project a couple years later, he felt a clean break was possible. He went back, retook the EMT course, passed his certifications and went looking for a primary 911 agency where he could learn the craft for real.

He found one in Wenatchee, Washington, where he spent roughly two and a half years running calls in a rural valley with two-lane highways and agricultural sprawl that generated a steady stream of trauma calls alongside the more routine medical responses. By his own tally, he ran approximately 1,700 calls, gaining a broad base of practical EMS experience.

In Wenatchee, Gilkey also pursued an Advanced EMT certification — one step below paramedic.

That training turns out to be a significant asset for Petersburg. Hankins said the department is working to get Gilkey tested and Alaska-certified as an Advanced EMT within the coming month. "What that allows him to do is to be able to train EMT-2s, which we currently cannot do in the department," Hankins said. "I'm excited for that."

Gilkey arrived with no Alaska experience and not much of a preconceived notion about what to expect. Within days, he had dropped a borrowed crab pot, dug clams at low tide and watched his two dogs — a spaniel and a hound-terrier mix — run freely on the beach. He says he already realizes what a hit it would be to their quality of life to ever go back down South.

His impressions of the department itself have been similarly warm. Hankins has nurtured a culture where volunteers use the station's gym, bring their dogs to run the muskeg behind the building and even use the fire hall's kitchen — small perks that Gilkey thinks matter more than they might appear to.

For all the enthusiasm of his first week, Gilkey has also encountered one of Petersburg's



Ryan Gilkey, PVFD EMS Coordinator

most persistent problems: housing.

For now, he is renting a room at the Narrows Inn while he gets his bearings, describing it as comfortable but temporary — no oven, no real kitchen set-up. He sees the housing situation as genuinely consequential, not just for himself but for the kind of community Petersburg can be going forward.

"If the town is going to be able to attract and keep people, you have to have a place for them to live," he said. "My ability to stay here long-term [is] tied to the city's ability to make that possible for others too."

Overall, Hankins believes

Gilkey's instincts about community are well-suited to what Petersburg needs from this position.

"He seems like a pretty outgoing, self-paced individual," the director said. "I don't think he's going to find any shortage of adventure around Petersburg, both at work and for pleasure. We're glad to have him."

Gilkey, for his part, plans to introduce himself the old-fashioned way.

"I'm six-foot-eight with red hair, so if you see me walking around, come say hi," he said. "The door is open."

Police report

February 11 - Officers provided a courtesy transport.

Christopher Haerling, 34, was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear.

February 12 - A driver on Mitkof Hwy was issued a warning for lighting requirements.

Officers assisted a family with a non-criminal issue.

An officer responded to a report of suspicious behavior on Chief John Lott St.

A driver on Nordic Dr was issued a warning for headlight requirements.

Nathaniel Eacman, 48, was cited for selling or giving

nicotine to a minor.

February 13 - A driver on S Nordic Dr was issued a warning for headlight requirements.

Officers attempted a welfare check and found the person is believed to no longer live in Petersburg.

Officers provided a courtesy transport to Petersburg Medical Center (PMC).

An officer conducted extra patrols.

Joshua Lichtenberger, 33, was arrested for alleged DUI on Sandy Beach Rd.

A deer struck by a vehicle on Mitkof Hwy was salvaged.

An officer assisted a citizen on Hungerford Hill Rd.

Papers were served on N 12th St.

An officer assisted a citizen on Charles W St.

A report of a disturbance on S 3rd St was unfounded.

February 14 - A disturbance on S 2nd St was reported.

There were two different parking complaints reported on Charles W St.

Water Wastewater (W/WW) was notified and responded to a water leak reported on Hunderford Hill Rd.

Officers removed an individual from a property on Skylark Way after receiving a report of an unwelcome visitor.

There was a report of suspicious behavior at the South Harbor.

February 15 - An officer discussed a citizen's concerns about their grandchild.

The owner of an abandoned

vehicle was contacted and agreed to have it towed.

A lost wallet was reported.

There was a report of a strange smell on Ira II St.

An officer provided a courtesy transport.

February 16 - Casper Hollingstad, 61, was arrested for alleged DUI on Haugen Dr.

There was a report of an unwelcome person at a residence on Skylark Way.

Officers assisted with a family issue on Birch St.

A lost dog was reported.

Martin Johnson, 64, was issued a citation for failure to carry liability insurance.

A driver on Odin St was issued a warning for tail light requirements.

A driver on Haugen Dr was issued a warning for tail light requirements.

A driver on Fram St was issued a warning for failure to stop at a stop sign.

Officers provided a courtesy transport to a minor out past curfew.

February 17 - Papers were served.

A driver on Sandy Beach Rd was issued a warning for speed.

Melissa Moore, 47, was cited for an expired registration.

A driver on 4th St was issued a warning for an expired registration.

There was a false alarm at a business downtown.

Julee Glaspey, 61, was cited at South Harbor for driving with a revoked license.

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Reps. seek rule change for fishermen on Boards of Fish, Game

By ANNA LAFFREY
Sitka Sentinel Staff Writer

During his 20 years as a member of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, Petersburg commercial fisherman John Jensen relied on a lifetime of experience harvesting salmon, crab and other shellfish as he voted on statewide fishery regulations.

But he couldn't always weigh in with his wisdom, and a Kodiak legislator is looking to change that this year.

When the Board of Fisheries held its 2018 Southeast regulatory meeting in Sitka, Jensen had to sit on the sidelines for about a third of the meeting. He couldn't participate in the board's deliberations on state management of fisheries in which he'd declared a conflict of interest.

"I can't begin to explain how frustrating it was to sit on the board when you have 150 proposals and you're out of the discussion for 50 of them," Jensen said during a call with the Sentinel on Tuesday.

A bill pending in the Alaska Legislature would allow fishermen who serve on the Board of Fisheries to take part in board deliberations on regulations that may affect their fishing operations.

The bill would allow those members, as well as Alaska Board of Game members, to deliberate, but not vote, on proposals that could affect them personally or financially.

Members would continue to be prohibited from voting on proposals in which they have declared a conflict of interest, which would be a personal decision based on each board member's financial or family interests.

Lawmakers supporting the

bill say it would encourage more meaningful, informed participation by members of both the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game.

The measure, House Bill 33, won approval in the House of Representatives last year on a 28-12 vote and now is awaiting action by its final committee in the Senate.

A version of the bill has existed since 2008. It came after the Legislature in 2007 passed a law prohibiting all public officers – including Board of Fisheries and Board of Game members – from giving "advice, participation or assistance" in instances when they have a conflict of interest.

Both boards consist of seven Alaskans appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Legislature. Each meets about five times a year to consider regulatory changes and make allocative decisions meant to develop and sustain Alaska's fish and wildlife populations.

Jensen served on the Board of Fisheries from 2003 to 2023.

He recalls that in his first few years on the board he could ask questions about proposals to change regulations for fisheries he participated in, and could share his ideas about those proposals. He would voluntarily abstain from voting in those instances.

"Now you just have to sit on your thumb during the meeting," Jensen said of the changes that came after 2007.

For most of his time on the board, Jensen was the only member from Southeast. He said the other Alaska members may have benefited from his informed opinions.

"They'd be confused, asking questions of (Alaska Department of Fish and Game) staff,

and I'd just be sitting there, not allowed to say anything," Jensen said. "It was horrible. ... It went away from what the board book says, to provide your expertise."

Rep. Louise Stutes, who sponsored HB33, said during a Senate committee hearing Tuesday that HB33 would allow board members to best utilize their expertise in developing fishing and hunting regulations.

Stutes introduced the bill in the Alaska House last year; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot of Sitka co-sponsored the bill.

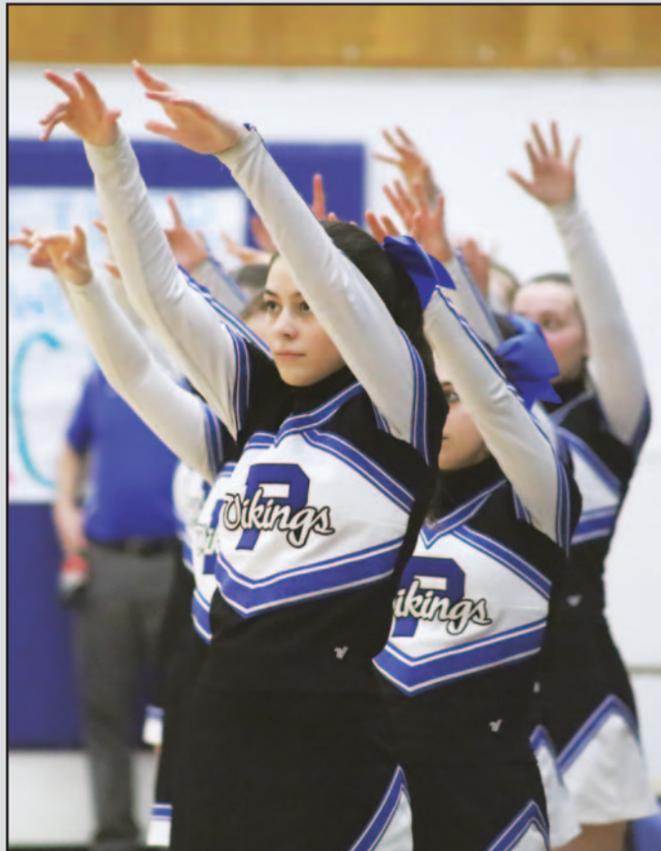
Sponsors believe "that allowing members with the expertise to deliberate will make the boards more informed, lead to stronger resource management statewide and align the process with intent, as far as the boards benefiting from the members' knowledge and diversity of viewpoints," Stutes said Tuesday.

"It will also encourage more qualified applicants to put their name forward (for board appointment) if they know they can contribute in conversation and not be conflicted out," Stutes said.

Jensen noted that in recent years fewer commercial fishermen have served on the Board of Fisheries.

"When I first got on there, there were three commercial, three sport fishermen, and one from a mixed background," Jensen said. "They don't have the broad representation anymore."

Sportfishing organizations, including the Kenai River Sportfishing Association and the Chitina Dipnetters Association, are the main opponents of the bill that's been kicking around the Legislature for almost 20 years.



AIDEN LUHR / Petersburg Pilot

Cheer for the home team

Petersburg's Maddie Dreisbach and her cheerleaders perform "spirit fingers" during a Viking free throw attempt on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026, in Petersburg. The 5th Annual Cheer Camp, presented by the High School Cheer team will be Feb. 20 and 21st.

Cheer Camp times:

PreK-1st grade: (20th) 2:30-3:30, (21st) 10:00-11:00am

2nd-5th grade: (20th) 4-5pm, (21st) 12:00-2:00pm

6th-8th grade: (20th) 6-8pm, (21st) 2:30-4:30pm

*All held in PHS Gym

Opponents note that board members with a conflict of interest may testify as members of the public during the board's "committee of the whole" proceedings on those proposals.

Stutes said Tuesday that the bill would level the playing field, as the restriction on participation has the greatest impact on commercial users who serve on the Board of Fisheries.

The bill passed out of the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee on Tuesday,

and will move on to the Senate Resources Committee. A vote by the full Senate could come next.

After Tuesday's committee meeting, Stutes said "it's so far, so good."

"We've gotten it further this year than we've ever gotten it, so there's potential," Stutes said.

Sentinel Staff Writer Anna Laffrey is reporting from the Alaska Capitol as part of the Alaska Center for Excellence in Journalism's Legislative Reporting Exchange program.

New Wrangell ordinance sets strict standards for inactive boats

By JONATHON DAWE
Wrangell Sentinel

Boat owners in Wrangell now have some new rules to follow if they plan on keeping inactive vessels tied up in any of the harbors.

At the Feb. 10 borough assembly meeting, members unanimously passed a new law designed to crack down on inactive boats taking up moorage space in the harbors. The provisions, which went into effect immediately, come after years of talks between Harbormaster Steve Miller, the port commission and borough leaders.

No one from the public offered any comments about the ordinance at the meeting.

The goal isn't just about paperwork, it's about safety and making room for people who actually use their boats. According to Miller, there are between 25 and 30 boats on a waitlist for a permanent moorage.

"This is an effort to develop a code section targeting that and running some preventative measures so that we're not dealing with sunken vessels and all that comes along with it," Miller explained at the Jan. 27 assembly meeting.

Under the new rules, a boat is officially considered inactive if it doesn't leave its stall under its own power at least once a year. To stay in the clear, owners will have to take their vessels out of the harbor for at least 24 hours straight. Owners of smaller boats under 32 feet have it a bit easier, as they can spread out those 24 hours over the course of the year.

To keep track of who is coming and going, har-

bor staff will perform daily inventories. Miller noted that the ordinance "gives us the tools to help manage the harbors a little bit better," while still being fair to boat owners.

However, letting a boat sit idle will quickly become expensive. Once a vessel has been stationary for 12 months, the borough will charge a storage fee that basically doubles the monthly cost of moorage.

The requirements get even tougher the longer a boat stays put. After two years of inactivity, owners must pay for a professional inspection from an accredited marine surveyor. If that surveyor finds any safety risks, the owner has two months to fix them.

In cases where a boat is an immediate danger to the harbor, the harbormaster can step in and demand repairs right away to keep the vessel from being labeled as "derelict."

By the three-year mark, owners of inactive boats must carry \$500,000 in liability and pollution insurance, naming the borough as an insured party.

To make sure everyone understands the rules, the harbor is introducing a new moorage agreement that every boater must sign.

"There's not going to be any mistakes or 'I didn't know,' because we're going to have this piece of paper that's signed," Miller said.

If a boat is flagged as inactive, the Harbor Department will mail a notice to the owner's last known address. Anyone who thinks their boat was flagged unfairly will have 14 days to file a written appeal.

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Hydroponic school garden

Continued from page 1

Though the grant that pays for her position will soon be ending, she plans to make a smooth hand-off to staff and students to continue the work, possibly even with an assigned teacher's assistant position for a student to do the bi-weekly maintenance.

The hydroponic gardens require tending to only two times a week, to replace the water that circulates through the plants' roots. It's an ebb and flow system, so the water is only pumped up to the trays to saturate the roots for 30 minutes at a time, ten times a day. The rest of the time, the roots are exposed to the air. "When I first saw the water trays were empty, I thought there was something wrong," said Helms. But she learned it was intentional because air exposure provides more oxygen absorption, accelerating growth.

Another advantage of hydroponics is what's in the water. By carefully amending the water with nutrients, Helms provides the plants' preferred pH (acidity) and EC (electroconductivity, a result of dissolved salt content).

It's easier to control these variables in hydroponics versus regular gardens, even in greenhouses, which often require heating costs as well as costs to replace soil. But hydroponics is not fully hands-off. Twice a

week, the water must be dumped and replaced, calling for a bit of bucket-hauling to and from the cafeteria. It's inconvenient, Helms admits, to not have a closer source of water, "It's kind of repetitive, but sort of soothing, like a lot of the work in gardening," she says.

This extra work does bear extra fruit, so to speak. Helms and McIntosh began the first crop in October, and the current crop, planted on January 5th will be ready for harvest by the end of the month. This is their first crop of flowers, which take a little more time. Helms said she had "hoped the flowers would be ready by Valentine's Day, but they aren't growing quite as fast as we'd expected. Now we're aiming to time it at the same time as the greens for some beautiful salads."

One hydroponic cabinet contains sprouting flowers, including stock, sweet Williams, and dwarf marigolds. These will be included in salads, for their excellent nutritional value but especially for their vibrant colors.

The second cabinet, right alongside, contains shelves of romaine lettuce, bok choy — which is particularly flourishing, and butter head lettuce. The cabinets are enclosed in glass partly to reduce dust on the plants, and to keep them more sanitary, but largely to prevent grazing by growing high



JAKE CLEMENS / Petersburg Pilot

Each crop of greens from the hydroponic cabinets provides around nine pounds of greens for the cafeteria.

schoolers. While Helms tends the plants in the cabinets, students often stop by, "wanting to get their hands in it," and Ms. Helms often repays their curiosity with a pinched off leaf to nibble on. "Kids ask to try it, and their expressions are priceless as they experience it... I'm really surprised that it's 'high school cool.'" These greens are unlike what many of us in Petersburg are used to, being both fresher and softer texture than most of what's found in grocery stores, owing to being grown inside

without wind which forces plants to toughen up.

When harvested, each cabinet of 90 plants can provide nine pounds of greens, a week's worth of salad for the cafeteria, offsetting about \$120 worth of store-bought lettuce. It's not a huge bite of the cafeteria budget, but for the tighter budget of Ms. Ward's culinary science class, the added greens will be a great benefit. Especially if they begin growing herbs with the hydroponic system, which are typically fast

growing but particularly expensive at the store. The culinary class has already used part of the garden space behind the school for their herb garden, and the outdoor vegetable garden and greenhouse serve the summer school food program.

Students in the Garden Sprouts club got to plant seeds in the spring and were rewarded for returning to school in the fall with a whole carrot. "Kids love to eat a whole carrot," Helms says, and about collaboration with the culinary class, she adds, "when kids prepare food themselves, they have more appreciation for it, and openness to try new things." And by giving kids more opportunities to grow the ingredients, Helms is maximizing that involvement in food preparation.

High school involvement is going beyond the taste buds though, with support from Mr. Painter's Mac tech class. The hydroponic systems do contain some technical components, but that's not where they're applying their computer knowledge. Mr. Painter and student Cedar Helms have mounted a GoPro camera to take a photo of the plants once per minute, for the entire 45-day growing cycle. The resulting time-lapse video will be over an hour long, and displayed on a screen mounted in the high school commons, to inspire all the budding minds passing by.

It's often said that getting your own firewood warms you three times: when you cut it, split it and burn it. Well, the hydroponic garden in the high school brightens students' lives three times: when they walk by the brightly-lit plants, when they see the colorful salad on their plate, and when they learn about growing their own food.

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Vikings suffer first conference defeat, split rematch with Metlakatla Chiefs

By AIDEN LUHR
Pilot writer

The Petersburg High School Boys basketball team looked to continue their undefeated conference season so far, welcoming the 8-7 Metlakatla Chiefs into town. The Vikings quickly got down 12-0, powered by four Chiefs three pointers.

"We were not in tune to how we wanted to play defense in the halfcourt. [The Chiefs] have very good shooters and I think that we didn't understand that well enough," head coach Rick Brock said. "I thought Metlakatla was playing well at that point but we were helping them by not really defending."

After scoring 12 in the first four minutes, the Chiefs only scored four more points the rest of the quarter as they took a 16-6 lead heading into the second quarter.

The Vikings were able to go on a 10-5 run to trail 21-16 at halftime. In the third quarter, the Vikings doubled up the Chiefs, scoring 16 points to take a 32-29 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The Vikings had opportunities to put the game away but turnovers towards the end of the regulation sent the game into overtime, knotted at 36 apiece.

"We tried to run a set and didn't do it [correctly]. We had opportunities to put the ball in the basket and [were] in a little bit of a hurry," Brock said.

In overtime, the Vikings were held to only three points but the Chiefs only scored one more, able to come away with a 40-39 victory and hand the Vikings their first conference loss of the season.

"We were not playing well on both sides [on defense and offense]. We didn't match their intensity and we had a pretty poor performance overall," senior forward Logan Tow said, who had nine points in the loss to the Chiefs.

The Vikings have played in some close games this season such as 2A games against Juneau-Douglas and Monroe Catholic. This was the first game of the season where the team had to find ways to execute in overtime.

"Good experiences to have going into [regionals]," Brock said regarding close games.

Looking to rebound the following night, the Vikings trailed 10-5 after the first quarter and 17-16 at halftime. The Chiefs hit a three to take a 22-20 lead and then the Vikings had a turnover, prompting Brock to call a timeout with about five minutes left in the third.

"When we called that timeout, it was 'Ok, now we're in a rhythm. Now we really need to go,'" Brock said.

The Vikings went on a 13-3 run to end the third quarter, to take a 33-35 lead. Petersburg freshman Camden Johnson scored eight of his 13 points in the third.

"Getting the ball into our post where they can kick out, Logan and Aiden are really good at that so I've been able to get really good looks that way," Johnson said. "My role is when I have the ball, make the right plays - oftentimes getting to the rim. I get to the free throw line that way as well."

The Vikings closed out the game on a 27-9 run (from 5:00 mark in third) to win 47-31.



Photo courtesy of Katie Holmlund

Petersburg senior guard Noah Pawuk delivers a bounce pass against the Metlakatla Chiefs defense on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026, in Petersburg. Pawuk scored six points and the Vikings defeated the Chiefs 47-31.

"[Coach Brock] knew that if we kept playing good defense and getting good looks, [shots] would start dropping and they did," Johnson said.

In addition to Johnson's 13, Tow also chipped in 11 points of his own.

"Staying strong, grounded, being athletic, it's important. A lot of teams have big guys and we're not a very big team but us being able to post really

hard and cut off of that, finding each other, it's important," Tow said.

The Vikings improved to 11-3 overall and 11-1 in conference.

Up next, a rematch with the Haines Glacier Bears, from Feb. 20-21, in Haines.

"We want to keep getting better every day. Easy to say, hard to do, but that's our goal," said Brock.

Lady Vikings swept by Metlakatla Miss Chiefs in rematch last weekend

By AIDEN LUHR
Pilot writer

The Petersburg High School Girls Basketball team looked to continue their momentum at home last weekend with a rematch against the Metlakatla Miss Chiefs.

In game one, the Lady Vikings held a 8-4 lead after the first quarter and then a 17-13 lead at halftime.

"We were doing a good job

of moving the basketball. Getting the defense to shift and [be] out of position, I think we did a really good job of that, particularly in the first half," head coach Matt Pawuk said.

While the offense was flowing, the defense had its struggles in the second half, notably in the third quarter where the Miss Chiefs went on a 16-9 run to take a 29-26 lead heading into the fourth

quarter. "Saahida Buffalo, she had five threes against us Friday night. She was shooting the ball really well and I think we were just a little bit slow

Continued on page 9

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Lunch

Tater Tot Hot Dish and
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Tuesday, Feb 24

Breakfast

WG Low Sugar Cereal

Lunch

WG Pulled Pork Sandwich

Wednesday, Feb 25

Breakfast

WG Muffin

Lunch

Alaskan Fish Sticks with
Brown Rice

Thursday, Feb 26

Breakfast

Blueberry Parfait with
WG Granola

Lunch

Broccoli Cheese Soup with
WG Sandwich

Friday, Feb 27

Breakfast

WG Breakfast Burrito

Lunch

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Lady Vikings



AIDEN LUHR / Petersburg Pilot

Petersburg sophomore guard Cadence Flint drives down the court on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026, in Petersburg. The Lady Vikings fell to 3-9 after their 36-25 loss against the Metlakatla Miss Chiefs.

Continued from page 8

getting to our close out positions," Pawuk said. "When you have somebody shooting the ball that well, if you're a half step late, it's going to put you in a tough spot."

Despite the defense, the Lady Vikings still had opportunities down the stretch to at least, send the game into overtime. The Lady Vikings were unable to do so and fell to the Miss Chiefs 35-33.

Despite the loss, the Lady Vikings remained confident.

"I think we took away that we can play with one of the best teams in the region and I think that helped our confidence on the offensive and defensive end," said sophomore guard Cadence Flint, who had three points in game one.

The Lady Vikings looked to rebound the following day but trailed 12-9 at the end of the first quarter and 14-13 at halftime.

The Lady Vikings held a 24-22 entering the fourth quarter. But then the Miss Chiefs went on a 13-2 run.

"When you're in games that close, you cut down three turnovers and three offensive boards that you give up, you win the game," Pawuk said. It's something we have to put together for 32 minutes from start to finish where we don't have lapses like that."

The 13-2 run was enough to seal the game, with the Lady Vikings losing 35-26. The Lady Vikings fell to 3-9 overall and in conference.

With Haines and Wrangell as their remaining matchups before regionals, the Lady Vikings know they will have to clean up the turnovers and opponents' offensive rebounds.

"Haines and Wrangell play differently than Metlakatla - different defense so we're probably gonna change our offense and defense," senior center Aurora Wolf said.

The Lady Vikings will look to fine tune their offense and defense with regionals on the horizon.

"As long as we can sharpen a few edges between now and then, we're gonna be competitive at regionals for sure," Pawuk said.

The Lady Vikings will travel to Haines to face the Lady Glacier Bears on Feb. 20 and 21st.

"These Haines games are gonna help us tune up our press and work on rotating back more strongly and being more aggressive on the defensive end," said Flint.

School News

Meghan O'Soup, Daughter of Kelly and Derrick O'Soup, was named to the Fall 2025 President's List of the Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida, where she is majoring in Illustration with an emphasis on visual development.



Artifact Archive

Indigenous artist Mary Goddard (Kaa.laa) grew up in Yakutat, Alaska, and is a Kaagwaantaan, Eagle from the Bear House. A Contemporary jeweler, filmmaker, artist and culture bearer, Goddard currently lives and works in Sitka. Her work is inspired by nature and infused with Tlingit culture.

This three-inch wide men's cuff-style bracelet was hand hammered from copper and then engraved with a formline design featuring the face of a wolf surrounded by local flora. In the Tlingit culture copper holds high value and with these creations, Goddard carries the tradition forward.

This piece of cultural art was purchased by the Clausen Museum in the spring of 2017 with funding from the Rasmuson Art Acquisition Fund.

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

HEALTH FAIR BLOOD DRAWS



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- Week 2:** Feb 24-26
- Week 3:** March 3-5

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Monday, February 23

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Tuesday, February 24

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad, Fruit Cup, Cookie

Wednesday, February 25

Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Mixed Vegetables, Brownie

Thursday, February 26

Beef Stew, Dinner Roll, Cucumber Salad, Yogurt, Muffin

Friday, February 27

Chicken Caesar Wrap, Chips, Orange, Pudding Cup, Cookie

The community dining room is open to eligible diners (60+ and their spouses, or disabled individuals living in an assisted living facility). Dinner is served at 5 p.m. All meals are suggested donation only. Please call Mountain View Food Service at 772-4331 before noon for reservations.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

Those celebrating birthdays this week are: **February 20:** Brittany Christensen, Hunter Conn. **February 21:** Greg Birchell, Jena Knight, Jim Edgars. **February 22:** Lindsey Rogers, Skye Walters, Thomas Olsen Jr., Tracy Welch. **February 23:** Craig Thorsteinson, Jenna Wilson-Ashby, Mary Midkiff, Samantha Medalen. **February 24:** Donna Ewing. **February 25:** Amy Bradley, Tracy Erickson. **February 26:** Dave Berg, Delfin Evenson, Fred Beltran, Hellen Jackson, Justin Haley, Kevin Thompson.

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

Public Notices

Read the
• BE AN INFORMED CITIZEN • PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY
• EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA AT PETERSBURG

In the Matter of the Estate of:)
)
Carl Edward Humphrey)
Person Who Died (Decedent))
DOB: 08/06/1967)
) Case No. 1PE-26-00002PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

You are notified that the court appointed Stephanie Payne 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 02/09/2026
Stephanie Payne
PO Box 665, Petersburg, AK 99833
907-650-7830, s.payne.ak@gmail.com

Published: February 12, 19 and 26, 2026

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA AT PETERSBURG

In the Matter of the Estate of:)
)
Lee Roy Newton)
Person Who Died (Decedent))
DOB: 06/17/1938)
) Case No. 1PE-26-00003PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

You are notified that the court appointed Curtis Lee Newton 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 02/11/2026
Curtis Lee Newton
2010 West Avenue K, PMB 383
Lancaster, CA 93536
510-725-5070, swarfrats@gmail.com

Published: February 19, 26 and March 5, 2026

Obituary: Scott Morrison Welsh

December 24, 1956- January 14, 2026

Scott Morrison Welsh was born to William (Bill) and Gretchen Welsh on December 24, 1956, in Bellingham, Washington. A sister, Kelly (Welsh) Peterson, rounded out the family.

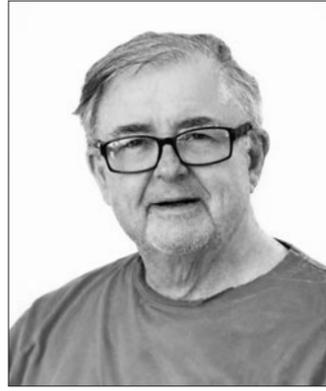
Scott was a talker from an early age on, a trait that carried him through life. At an early age, nuns from the "Nunnery" (as we called it) would let Scott walk around a 2 block radius with the little guy, hands in pockets, big glasses, and conversation flowing.

Having a morning paper route also took lots of time for collecting subscription fees, usually with extra tips and cookies.

Another trait he possessed was being an animal whisperer of sorts- from summer fun at a pony farm, and as an adult, having a steady flow of stray cats come into his home and help themselves from supplied food dishes, along with the occasional raccoon and once a skunk.

In high school, Scott was very involved in Sea Scouts, which had a ship they would take out in the San Juans and explore at sea. He made many life-long friends and learned much about the maritime industry. They even had a Christmas cruise taking Santa and gifts to remote islands nearby.

Scott set store by cool cars- he used his paper route earnings to buy fancy model cars, and when he was old enough, got the



Scott Morrison Welsh

life-sized renditions. A 1930s Model A, a 1950s Oldsmobile with suicide doors, and a 1964 Chevy Corvair were the real-life toys.

It only stood to reason that Scott would combine his love of conversation with driving- thereby, he started his own cab company, Sierra Taxi. It worked for a while until it didn't, at which time he started working for Ron Willing of Yellow Cab in Bellingham. He brought with him a sizable list of trusted patrons, who enjoyed Scott's company while he transported them.

There were many taxi stories of which he was recognized for doing good, the right thing, timing being perfect. He helped facilitate the capture of a bank robber. He called in and stayed with a hit-and-run victim until help came. He called in a suspicious person with a gun that led to a shootout and apprehension by the police.

The biggest highlight of Scott's life was his daughter, Aileen. He taught her some

of the finer things in life, like being a part of family reunions, driving a go-kart, taking a road trip or two, and going to beaches and parks. She, just being herself, taught him the finer things in life- being a dad.

In 2013, Scott sold his home and moved to Petersburg, Alaska. He wasn't able to work due to medical difficulties, so he came to live at Mountain View Manor. He began to thrive again and became the unofficial door greeter. He made good friends there and made even more when he had to move to the assisted living end. He made friends with tenants and caregivers alike and continued to thrive. More medical issues brought a move to long-term care. They gave him outstanding care until he succumbed to his issues and was finally at peace- with no more pain, discomfort, or immobility.

Scott was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Gretchen Welsh, brother-in-law Dave, nephew Matthew, and niece Jessica Peterson. He is survived by his daughter Aileen Sparks (Fiancee Charlie Bullock), grandchildren Emery and Logan Bullock, sister Kelly, Nieces Grace (and Eric) Wolf, Marie (and Bert) Dersham, a great nephew, many great nieces, and oodles of cousins.

Rest in Peace, Scott.

Public Notices

Read the
• BE AN INFORMED CITIZEN • PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY
• EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

PUBLIC NOTICE

SSRAA Announces New General Manager

The Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) is pleased to announce the hiring of its **new General Manager, Tessa Frost, effective January 1.**

Frost has served on SSRAA's senior management team since 2018 and brings extensive institutional knowledge and leadership experience to the position.

"Tessa has been a key member of our senior management team, and her promotion ensures a seamless transition and continuity for SSRAA," said outgoing General Manager Susan Doherty.

Frost holds a master's degree in Fisheries Science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and becomes the sixth General Manager since SSRAA's establishment in 1976.

"I am honored to step into this role and continue working alongside the dedicated staff, board, and fishing communities that support SSRAA's mission," said Frost.

"SSRAA plays a vital role in providing sustainable salmon resources in southern Southeast Alaska, and I look forward to building on the strong foundation already in place while supporting the long-term health of our fisheries and communities."

SSRAA operates seven hatcheries throughout southern Southeast Alaska, along with six remote release sites across the region. Each year, SSRAA produces up to 235 million juvenile salmon for release. These operations are funded through a three percent salmon enhancement tax on commercial salmon harvests



Published: February 19, 2026

ANCHOR PROPERTIES

Check out our listings across Southeast Alaska



www.apalaska.com

Rules of the Road

US Coast Guard



QUESTION & ANSWER

QUESTION:

Which vessel would exhibit sidelights when underway and not making way?

- a. A vessel engaged in fishing
- b. A vessel not under command
- c. A vessel engaged in dredging
- d. A power-driven vessel

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

ANSWER D. A power-driven vessel

ANSWER D.

**FACILITY MAINTENANCE
JOB OPENING**



Applicants to apply online at silverbayseafoods.com or call (907) 772-4294 for more information.

Silver Bay Seafoods, Petersburg
P.O. Box 1147 • Petersburg, Alaska 99833
Telephone: 907-772-4294

JOB

Now hiring in Petersburg, Alaska Executive Director for Working Against Violence for Everyone - WAVE. We are seeking an energetic, passionate, trauma informed leader for our mission driven 501(c)(3) organization. At WAVE, we work on preventing root causes of violence and provide advocacy for survivors of power-based, personal violence. Responsibilities include fiscal and budget management including grant writing and reporting, program and staff development and management, community engagement and support to the Board of Directors. Position open until filled. petersburgwave.org/careers4x2-26b80

in fast-paced environments and enjoy building relationships, this is the job for you! Salary DOE, minimum starting wage \$24 per hour. Please call 907-772-3858 or text 907-802-5366 for more information or visit www.p-wins.com/job-posting to apply.tfn5-15b84
Wanted: boat/crew to harvest outside southeast black cod. 907-738-1439
.....tfn5-1b9

CLASSES

Vest Making Class. Join us with Kathleen Laa.éi John for a free youth vest making class. March 2nd-8th 3pm-5pm through March 9th & 10th 9am-5pm!
An Adult button vest making class. March 2nd-8th 5:30pm-8:30pm through March 9th & 10th 9am-5pm. Cost for Adult Class is \$125 and PIA has SCHOLARSHIPS for any adult interested in taking the class! Classes will be held in the PIA Art Room at the Halvingstad-Peratrovich Building. To register, call PIA at 907-772-3636 or find the registration link on our website.2x2-26b85

KEN'S PAINTING:
Interior/Exterior Painting & Power Washing
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772-2010 or 772-2028

MISCELLANEOUS

Newsprint Roll Ends - good for packing, table coverings, artwork. Pay by the pound. Available at Petersburg Pilot, 207 N. Nordic Drive.1x2-19dh

ALASKA FIBRE INC.
2.74 Mile Mitkof Hwy.
772-2173

Become a Subscriber - Call 772-9393 to have the Petersburg Pilot delivered to your mailbox each Thursday.1x2-19dh

NOTICES

Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255

Bearing Song and Gifts

907-978-6365
Musical Equipment & Lessons
Accepting used instruments for consignment & purchase.
223 S. Nordic Dr.

First Bank is looking for a Customer Service Representative/Teller for the Petersburg Branch. If you like to work with customers, enjoy problem solving, are dependable, and you are interested in the position, stop by the branch and let's talk about it. Previous experience is not required. Application can be found online at www.FirstBankAK.com or at the branch. We offer competitive salaries, health insurance, paid holidays, vacation, 401 (k) retirement plans, employees stock ownership plans and educational opportunities.tfn11-13b77

The Salty Pantry is looking for enthusiastic full-time and part-time people to join our team. Contact Mindy at 907-518-0571 or stop in the Salty Pantry at 14 Harbor Way.tfn10-30b29

Join the PW Insurance Team! We are hiring a customer service representative with the opportunity to transition to an insurance producer if desired. The ideal candidate is enthusiastic, detail-oriented, and willing to learn. We are looking for someone with customer service experience and strong communication skills. If you thrive



Job Openings

The Petersburg Borough is accepting applications for the following positions:

- **Resident Assistants at Mountain View Manor: \$20.67/hour**
On Call & Swing shifts available, Training Provided!
Bonus of \$900 after probation/\$900 at one year.
- **Library Clerk: \$19.42/hour**, 12-14 hours per week
- **Finance Clerk 1 - Customer Service: \$23.06/hour**, 15 hours per week, Monday - Friday from 8:00am to 1:00pm
- **Assisted Living Supervisor at Mountain View Manor: \$29.77/hour**
40 hours per week, Monday through Thursday

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Health Insurance • Dental Insurance
- Life Insurance • Retirement • Paid Time Off

Full job descriptions and employment applications can be obtained from the Borough's website at <https://www.petersburgak.gov>.

Applications will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough office, 12 S. Nordic Street; or via email at tiffany.glass@petersburgak.gov Call Tiffany at 907-772-5404 for more information.



SCAN THE QR CODE for more information!



There are exciting career opportunities available at
PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER

COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

Petersburg Medical Center is accepting applications for:

- **ADULT DAY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM COORDINATOR**
 - Activities and programs - for the Cedar Social Club
 - Starting wage \$27 per hour, dependent on experience
 - Full time, with benefits, 40 hours, Monday - Friday
- **TOBACCO PREVENTION COORDINATOR**
 - Implements strategies for tobacco use treatment
 - Starting wage \$26.75 per hour, dependent on experience
 - Part time, with benefits, up to 25 hours per week

Benefits:

- Health Insurance • Enrollment in State of AK PERS
 - PTO (Vacation & Holidays) + Sick Leave
 - Wellness Program, Community Gym Discount



SCAN CODE to view position descriptions & to apply online. Additional career opportunities are listed at pmcak.org



Honoring our Employees' Years of Service

Thanks to:
Jackie, Belinda, Julie H, Julie S, Tammy, Sarah & Matt

Choose from many FULL-TIME & PART-TIME, benefited positions

Additional information on PMC, our mission / values and job opportunities is available at www.pmcak.org. Questions contact Cindy at (907) 772-5719 or cnewman@pmc-health.org.

New Kinder Skog program is hauling in Trash for Cash

By **JAKE CLEMENS**
Pilot writer

At the ballfield on last Thursday's stupendously stormy day, a pack of elementary schoolers in Kinder Skog did their best with wet numb fingers to pick up trash and put it in plastic bags billowing in the wind.

All spring, Kinder Skog will be raising money by collecting trash as they spend time outside at their regular spots around town. Each skoggy is asking for personal sponsors, which can be individuals or businesses, with a suggested donation of \$20 per bag.

"We are asking sponsors to sponsor per number of bags, but since we are asking for money up front, [we're] having people say 'I will sponsor the group to collect 5 bags at \$20 per bag for a total of \$100.' We do have a running total of bags collected going to keep folks updated as well," explained Katie Holmlund, Petersburg Medical Center Youth Programs Development and Advocacy Coordinator. The skoggy who gets the most sponsors will win a Litter Getter Prize, and there will be a grant match donation to double what the kids are able to raise. "Litter collected by Skog families outside of Skog time is totaled separately, but fun to keep track of. I don't think we will have an issue hitting our goal of 50 bags by the end of May." The money will go towards reducing Kinder Skog tuition. "Reducing barriers to enrollment is a top priority," said Holmlund. After a couple outings, the skoggies had already collected five bags of trash.

"No one else is going to do it," said Toni Norwich, one of the newer mentors on the Kinder Skog staff. She was the one to toss in the idea for the fundraiser. Since it's something skoggies have been doing for years, she thought why not get paid to do it. "Seeing little things



Photo courtesy of Katie Holmlund

Skoggies and mentors proudly display the litter they collected in the rain last Thursday.

and reaching into crannies is kids' specialty," she said.

"Some kids just want to pick up trash all day every day," Holmlund added.

Another thing that is a specialty of kids is finding dog poop, often with their boots. Last Thursday, Holmlund counted forty piles of Fido's fertilizer along the nature trail between the end of the boardwalk and 8th street. And she was just counting on one side. They do not ask the kids to pick that up. The kids do wear rubber gloves and use litter getters (mechanical grabbers), which are great for picking up cigarette butts and candy wrappers, but aren't designed for poop, especially since, "Most of it was partly melted," according to Holmlund.

Upon reaching the ballfield, mentors handed out jerseys to create litter getting teams. "Wanna rally back in half an hour or so and compare trash?" Holmlund asked.

"That seems like a long time," said Norwich.

When asked about the most interesting things they've found, kids seemed to be most intrigued by the most disgusting things. One had a core memory

of a diaper, bulging with rain-water, that "Still had some stuff in it." Another had come across a partial set of human teeth, which turned out to be an old set of dentures.

One remembered, "The day we found a big metal thing at Grandma Jean's beach and brought it back to the den." When asked what it was, they said they didn't know.

Other kids were less interested in what exactly they found as much as just feeling good about what they're doing. "I think it's good for the planet," said one.

"Every piece we get helps the planet, and it's pretty fun," said another.

For another, picking up trash was the norm, saying, "My mom always picks up litter when we're out walking.

Minutes later, one skoggy, hugging a skeletal blueberry bush, reported that they were, "Just trying to not get blown away like a leaf."

"Look, how interesting this rock is!" yelled another over the wind.

"I found a part of a shoe!" replied another.

Kaili Watkins, seasoned

recalled an instance when she, "saw some trash and went to pick up, and it was obviously something a dog had eaten."

After very nearly half an hour of litter getting, the skoggies regrouped at the Alderwoods, the howling wind and rain helping to cover a few sobs and tears. Watkins announced, "You're all the best skoggies today. You might get some 'smile through a rainy day' pins." Norwich handed out stainless mugs of orange spice tea. Another newer mentor, Alyssa Eden, hugged and consoled the skoggies who were down in the dumps.

Glancing around, Holmlund asked, "Who would like to go to the den?" to muffled cheers. They marched back down the trail with buckets and bags of trash. It was hard to tell in the rain and fading light, but the place was definitely a little cleaner.

To become a Trash for Cash sponsor, talk to a skoggy or contact kholmlund@pmc-health.org

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Peace Health

peacehealth.org/ketchikan-childbirth



Top 40 under 40



Katie Holmlund

Continued from page 1

tive, ORCA Camps — Outdoor, Recreation, Creation, and Adventure — a suite of specialized day camps for older youth focused on athletics, arts, and outdoor skills. Together, the two programs served more than half of Petersburg's elementary students last year, along with a growing number of middle and high schoolers.

"She is an exceptional leader whose vision, integrity and impact extend well beyond Petersburg," PMC CEO Phil Hofstetter said. "The innovative youth programs she leads promote youth mental health, physical wellness, social-emotional development, family stability, and so much more."

Holmlund also volunteers in the community, coaching softball and serving on local boards. She was recently recognized by the American Camps Association with a Golden Lens honorable mention award for excellence in capturing the camp experience through photography.

She said she hopes the recognition shines a light on something bigger than herself.

"The youth we serve, our Skoggies, are the ones who inspire this work," she said. "Their resilience, curiosity, humor, and growth are what drive our programs forward. If this award represents anything, I hope it highlights the importance of investing in kids and the power of a community that chooses to show up for them."