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Ferry system crew shortage continues

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Lady Vikings sweep Lady Glacier Bears

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petersburg pilot

PETERSBURG, ALASKA



February 26, 2026
Vol. 52, No. 9

www.petersburgpilot.com

12 Pages
\$2

Museum exhibit explores the life and murder mystery of Sing Lee

By **ORIN PIERSON**
Pilot writer

The murder of Sing Lee was never solved. The Petersburg merchant was found dead in his apartment in November 1930, and despite a community that demanded answers, the investigation went nowhere. Clausen Memorial Museum has spent months digging through the evidence and, on March 2, opens an exhibit on his life and death.



Photo courtesy of the Clausen Museum

The museum's exhibit, "The Sing Lee Mystery," will run throughout the month of March.

Clausen Museum Director Sarah Pederson says the exhibit doesn't solve the case, but works to make sure Lee's remarkable life, and the questions surrounding his death, are not lost to history.

"Most people know at least that he was a merchant, he had a store," Pederson said. "Most people know he was murdered

Continued on page 12



ORIN PIERSON / Petersburg Pilot

"The Matchmaker"

Last weekend in Wright Auditorium, PHS Drama presented their colorful farce, "The Matchmaker," written by Thornton Wilder. During Act 2, (pictured above) Klaire Sperl, as hat shop proprietress Irene Malloy, wallops Barnaby Tucker, played by Payton Driesbach, while Minnie Fay, played by Rebecca Midkiff, looks on in horror.

Viking Swim Club delivers elite performance at 2026 Age Group Championships

By **AIDEN LUHR**
Pilot writer

Viking Swim Club made a massive splash at the Age Group Championships recently in Kodiak, shattering records and racking up first place finishes against competition.

Petersburg's Cyrus Hulebak broke two new club records: the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1

minute and 14 seconds (previously held by Todd Haltner since 1984) and the 200 backstroke, with a time of 2:05.30 (previously held by Derek Gibb since 1995).

"He's an up and coming, one of the great swimmers I think that's going to be around the state," head coach Derek Gibb said.

Hulebak also broke two state records for 14 year olds: 50

breaststroke with a time of 28.55 and the 50 butterfly with a time of 24.37.

Hulebak also earned the High Point award for the boys 14 year old age group.

"You have to be serious but you also have to think about having a good attitude and still have fun because if you're nervous and scared, then you're not going to swim as well,"

Hulebak said.

Hulebak still wants more records.

"The 100 fly [record] would be pretty cool because I swam the 50 really fast so I think I can get that and then it would be crazy if I could get the 200 IM," Hulebak said.

Tori Miller also won all seven of her events, earning the High Point award for the girls 13 year old age group.

"Now I'm kinda back to where I was last year, around the same time," Miller said.

Miller finished first in the 50 backstroke, with a time of 29.77, first in the 100 IM at 1:05.51, first in the 100 butterfly at 1:03.47.

Miller's goals to end the season include setting a new record in the 50 butterfly.

"I've been trying to get under 26 [seconds] and it's been almost two years of trying to just get under and I've been stuck there but I know I will get there," Miller said.

Audrey Boggs has shown a lot of improvement this season, which was on display during this meet, especially in her 200 breaststroke.

"[Boggs] said something about

how she didn't feel very [confident] and I said - 'Why can't you win?'" Gibbs said.

Boggs won and dropped 5.59 seconds for a time of 2:53.20.

"I knew that if I gave it my all, I could win it. I just had to work really hard and put what I knew in my swim and go for it," Boggs said.

Boggs finished second in her 100 IM, 50 and 100 breaststrokes.

"On the first day, I knew I was going to do good but I knew I was going against tough competition. The [100 IM] was my first event and I was like 'That's a great start,'" Boggs said. "I just decided that's how it was going to be for the rest of the meet."

Kendyl Lachapelle continued her strong season which included a first place finish in the 100 breaststroke, at 1:17.85.

Continued on page 8

Public comment opens on new Tongass plan

By **ANNA LAFFREY**
Daily Sitka Sentinel

The U.S. Forest Service announced in the Federal Register Wednesday, Feb 18, that it is preparing to update the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan to align with executive orders that President Trump issued when he took office last year.

Also on Feb. 18, the Forest Service opened a 30-day public comment period on the planned update.

The current Tongass plan has been in place since 1979, and the last major revision of the management plan for the 16.7-million acre national forest was in 1997.

Amendments to the plan in 2016 emphasized a transition to young-growth logging.

The Forest Service initiated its current revision of the Tongass plan in 2023, when Joe Biden was president. In 2024, the Forest Service laid the groundwork for the plan revision by assessing ecological, social and economic data from across Southeast Alaska.

That 2024 assessment focused on the cultural significance of the Tongass for Alaska Native peoples, and the role of the Tongass in economic opportunity and social well-being, ecosystem functions, and carbon sequestration and carbon storage. The Forest Service engaged federally recognized tribes and community groups in its assessment.

In a press release last Tuesday, the Forest Service said it is now preparing to implement changes to the plan to "align with best available science, as well as laws and regulations," including President Trump's Executive Order 14225

Continued on page 6



Yesterday's News

News from 25-50-75-100 years ago

February 26, 1926 - There will not be an issue of the Herald next week, nor can we say at this writing whether or not there will be another issue. Henry Phillips, who has had charge of the mechanical end of this office is leaving for Skagway where he will dismantle the Skagway Daily Alaskan plant and ship it here. The Daily Alaskan, which was purchased by the Alaskan Native Brotherhood, will be set up and operated here in March giving news and job service to the local and outside business. Mr. Sidney Charles has assigned his interest in the Herald to several note holders who backed him in his venture here. Just what their plans will be for the future we cannot say as we know probably less about it than others on the street. However, there will not be another issue of this paper until another man capable of taking charge of the back end of the shop is secured.

March 2, 1951 - Postmaster Brennan reports, "It appears that the Post Office is beginning to have trouble again with children breaking into Post Office mailboxes. This will be a very serious matter for anyone caught in the act. It is extremely unfortunate for a community to be uncertain of receiving all mail addressed. It would be a considerable inconvenience for many of the Post Office patrons if it were to become necessary to lock the lobby at 5:00 p.m. We should try to avoid such uncertainty and inconvenience. It is fully as much a matter for the whole community as for the Post Office to contend with this condition, therefore the aid of all patrons is requested in requiring that all children under the age of 13 keep out of the Post Office lobby after 5:00

p.m. and on Sundays and holidays. Local police officers will eject and report to the Post Office any children under 13 seen in the lobby during said times and the general public will please advise children under 13 to leave the lobby after 5:00 p.m. and confidentially report to the Post Office - we would take no action in a manner to embarrass you. It is, of course, assumed and required that those under 13 will conduct themselves in an adult and orderly manner while in the Post Office lobby. With

reasonable cooperation this matter may be quickly eliminated and serious consequences avoided. But don't expect the other fellow to do it - YOU do it."

February 25, 1976 - Congratulations are in order for Nevette Bowen who has been selected by a committee of U.S. Jaycees staff officers in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to represent Alaska at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation Leadership Seminar in Washington, D.C. The first runnerup is from North Pole and the second

runnerup is from Anchorage. Nevette will participate in the seminar which is set for April 3 - 10 and will focus on the bicentennial. Nevette was chosen on the basis of emerging leadership ability, cooperation with fellow human beings, interest in community and desire to learn and to share knowledge and experience with others.

March 1, 2001 - Half-priced dump week, discounts for white goods, stronger enforcement and more education were a few of the ideas on the top of the pile for the Petersburg City Council Utility Advisory Board as the met in a work session this week to try and put a lid on the island's growing garbage problem. "The National Forest has seen a significant increase in the amount of dumping in the last year," U.S. law enforcement official John Burick told the council. Places on the Three Lakes Loop Road have appliances dumped into the woods off the side of the road and Twin Creek Road also gets its fair share of garbage. Burich said he has found boat and car batteries, water tanks and furniture decorating the Tongass National Forest. Garbage is showing up in ditches within the city limits as well. "People are commenting on the exorbitant cost of taking

stuff to the dump," Councilman Barry Bracken said. "That hasn't been my experience." City public works director Bruce Jones said it's a misconception that it costs more now to dispose of items at the landfill than it was before 1999 when there was a flat fee tied to the size of the vehicle carrying the load. As an example, he pointed out that hauling a drier to the landfill would have cost a flat fee of \$18 before 1999. Paid for by the pound, that drier would cost about \$4. The expensive items are those containing refrigerant, which include an additional \$30 fee for its removal. Councillors asked the board to review the cost of a half-price dump program and to continue working to educate the public on landfill fees and the benefits of recycling.

PETERSBURG HAPPENINGS

Brought to you by:



THURSDAY, February 26

Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention: 10:00am, Mitkof Dance Studio
Free Dinner Get Together: 5:30pm, Lutheran Church Holy Cross House
Borough/School Board Work Session: 6pm, Zoom Webinar
PIA Youth Beading Workshop - Ages 13-17: 5pm, Public Library
Fraud Awareness and Prevention Presentation by First Bank: 6pm Public Library

FRIDAY, February 27

Commodities Distribution: 9:00 am, Salvation Army
AI-Anon Support Group: 12:00pm, Episcopal Church
PIA Culture Club Program - All Students Welcome: 2:30pm, Elementary School Cafeteria
HS Basketball vs Wrangell - Boys JV: 3:00pm, PHS Gym
HS Basketball vs Wrangell - Girls JV: 4:30pm, PHS Gym
HS Basketball vs Wrangell - Boys V: 6:00pm, PHS Gym
HS Basketball vs Wrangell - Girls V: 7:30pm, PHS Gym
Family Game Night: 6:30pm, Parks and Rec Gym
AA Candlelight Meeting: 7:00pm, Episcopal Church

SATURDAY, February 28

Baby Raven Reads: 11:00am, Public Library
Free Soup and Bread Meal: 12:00 pm, St. Catherine's Catholic Church
HS Basketball vs Wrangell - Girls JV: 3:00pm, PHS Gym
HS Basketball vs Wrangell - Boys JV: 4:30pm, PHS Gym
HS Basketball vs Wrangell - Girls V: 6:00pm, PHS Gym
Homecoming Festivities: Immediately after Girls V game, PHS Gym
HS Basketball vs Wrangell - Boys V: 6:30pm, PHS Gym
HS Senior Recognition: Immediately after Boys V game, PHS Gym

SUNDAY, March 1

Devil's Thumb Shooters: 2:00 pm, Gun Range
Knitting Group - All Welcome: 2:00pm, Mt. View Manor Social Hall
Salvation Army Sunday Worship: 4:30p, Salvation Army Chapel

MONDAY, March 2

Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall
Borough Assembly Meeting: 12:00pm, Municipal Building
Youth Button Vest Making: 3:00pm, PIA Art Room Halingstad-Peratrovich Building
Tide Turners Leadership Group: 3:30pm, WAVE Community Space
Burger Night: 5:30pm, Moose Lodge
AA Women's Meeting: 7:00 pm, Presbyterian Church
Volleyball: 7:30pm, Parks and Rec Gym

TUESDAY, March 3

Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention: 10:00am, Mitkof Dance Studio
Youth Button Vest Making: 3:00pm, PIA Art Room Halingstad-Peratrovich Building
PIA Community Meal: 5:00pm, John Hanson Sr Hall
Taco Tuesday: 5:30pm, Moose Lodge
Family Game Night: 6:30pm, Parks and Rec Gym
AA 12x12 Meeting: 7:00pm, Holy Cross Classroom
Elks Lodge Meeting: 7:30 pm, Elks Lodge

WEDNESDAY, March 4

Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall
Rotary Mtg: 12:00 pm, Salvation Army Hall
Youth Button Vest Making: 3:00pm, PIA Art Room Halingstad-Peratrovich Building
Nurturing Parenting Class: 5:00pm, WAVE Sing Lee Alley Entrance
PIA Community Meal: 5:00pm, John Hanson Sr Hall
Women of The Moose Meeting: 6:00 pm, Moose Lodge
Free Dinner For All: 6:00pm, First Baptist Church

To add an event to the Happenings calendar call us at 772-9393 or email pilotpub@gmail.com

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NORTHBOUND DEPARTURES

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

SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURES

MON 3/2	HUBBARD	12:15 P.M.
WED 3/4	KENNICOTT	02:45 A.M.
SUN 3/8	HUBBARD	12:45 P.M.
WED 3/11	KENNICOTT	02:45 A.M.
WED 3/18	KENNICOTT	02:45 A.M.

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PETERSBURG

TIDE TABLE

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026

	HIGH TIDES				LOW TIDES			
	A.M.		P.M.		A.M.		P.M.	
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
26 Thu	8:13	14.7	10:04	12.1	1:51	6.4	3:31	1.1
27 Fri	9:39	15.3	11:04	13.5	3:33	5.8	4:38	0.1
28 Sat	10:45	16.3	11:49	14.9	4:46	4.5	5:30	-1.0
1 Sun	11:39	17.2	5:40	3.0	6:13	-1.7
2 Mon	0:28	16.1	12:25	17.7	6:25	1.6	6:51	-2.1
3 Tue	1:03	17.0	1:06	17.8	7:06	0.5	7:25	-1.9
4 Wed	1:36	17.5	1:45	17.5	7:43	-0.2	7:58	-1.3

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Island Refrigeration, LLC / ACE 907-772-3310 908 S. Nordic Dr.

WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Precip	Snow
2/18	29	11	0.00	0.0
2/19	25	16	0.21	2.5
2/20	34	24	0.09	1.1
2/21	36	21	0.00	0.0
2/22	32	12	0.00	0.0
2/23	30	18	0.00	0.0
2/24	32	24	0.34	3.5

This Week's Precipitation: 0.64"
 This Week's Snow: 7.1"
 This weather service is provided by the FAA weather observation station at the James A. Johnson Airport.

DAYLIGHT HOURS

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Feb 26	6:55a	5:16p	10:20hrs
Feb 27	6:53a	5:18p	10:25hrs
Feb 28	6:50a	5:20p	10:30hrs
Mar 1	6:48a	5:22p	10:34hrs
Mar 2	6:45a	5:25p	10:39hrs
Mar 3	6:42a	5:27p	10:44hrs
Mar 4	6:40a	5:29p	10:49hrs

CORRECTION:

A Pilot story published last week on Feb. 19 about the Petersburg Borough Assembly's approval of engineering services for the water treatment plant clearwell contained several errors.

The story incorrectly described the clearwell as holding fully treated water before it enters the distribution system. That is not correct. In fact, the clearwell is used solely for backwashing the filtration system and supplying operational water to the baler facility; water from it never enters the distribution system. That role belongs to a separate 2-million-gallon tank on the access road, which provides the disinfectant contact time required before water reaches residents.

The story also reversed Petersburg's primary and secondary drinking water sources. Cabin Creek Reservoir is the primary source; City Creek Reservoir is secondary.

The story should also have said the open-top tank which is being replaced poses a risk of contamination, not debris. The Pilot regrets these errors.

Ferry system crew shortage continues into its eighth year

By **LARRY PERSILY**
Wrangell Sentinel

The Alaska Marine Highway System has been struggling with less than full staffing since 2019, with last month's numbers showing the state ferries were short 59 workers to fill jobs as masters, mates, engineers, seaman and stewards.

The shortage grows by about three dozen crew when measured against what would be needed to cover for workers out on personal leave, or due to injury or illness, according to a presentation by the Marine Highway System Director.

"Attention to employee recruitment and retention strategies is core to this stabilization," Craig Tornga, ferry system director, said of the system's long-range plan.

Tornga presented on Feb. 12 to the Southeast Conference, a 68-year-old organization that advocates for the region's economy, including a dependable ferry system for coastal communities.

The ferries were short half a dozen masters, mates and pilots from full staffing as of Jan. 26, not counting the dozen or so additional workers that are needed to adequately cover temporary staffing shortages, Tornga reported.

The system, which is operating four vessels this winter and will go to six vessels starting May 1 for the busier summer travel season, was short 16 engineers, plus an additional dozen needed to cover for temporary gaps.

And the ferries were down 25 seaman, oilers, junior engineers and other entry-level li-

censed personnel as of Jan. 26, the director reported.

The system needs an additional 12 stewards to reach full staffing, according to an Alaska Department of Transportation spokesperson.

In total, it adds up to 59 vacancies short of "total needed," according to Tornga's presentation. The system employed 502 crew as of Jan. 26, but needed at least 561, not counting additional staff for fill-in assignments.

For all of 2025, the system lost 67 employees in licensed and unlicensed jobs aboard the ships and hired 64, for a net loss of three crew.

The problems in hiring and retaining onboard crew come down to money, he told the Southeast Conference event in Juneau.

"Current salaries for licensed and certified positions are not as competitive as other maritime jobs on the market," according to his presentation.

In addition, while the state of Alaska does not pay travel costs for crew to reach their assignments aboard ships, maritime employers that are competing for the same workers pay travel costs. "Travel costs reduce effective take-home pay."

Losing workers faster than it can hire new employees is not a new problem. "We're losing more (crew) than we're able to retain," Tornga said in a presentation to the Southeast Conference a year ago. In 2024, the system filled 31 positions but lost 45 workers to retirement and resignations.

The Department of Trans-

portation cites "strengthen recruitment and digital outreach to support workforce stabilization" in its budget request backup submitted to the Legislature this year.

"Persistent labor market shortages for qualified maritime crew and shoreside roles elevate schedule risk and training load," according to the budget request.

A section in the budget book, "Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in Fiscal Year 2027," provides no specific plans to "strengthen recruitment."

The Kennicott, the newest of the fleet's mainline vessels at 28 years old, will be held out of service this summer for the fourth year in a row due to a lack of a full crew to put the ship to work.

The gap between employee count and full staffing has shrunk since its worst days in 2021, when the ferry system reported it 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.

The Marine Highway System managed to operate with reduced staffing as it cut back operations coming out of the pandemic travel restrictions in 2021-2022, but the crew shortages presented more challenges as the system wanted to get its ships back to work.

The ferry system from 2019 through early 2022 lost 155 more employees than it hired, the department told legislators in 2022.



70 and still running the show.
Happy Birthday,
Theresa (AKA: Mom)!
With love from your Tribe, ConnVicks

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CORA CAMPBELL
PRESIDENT & CEO OF
SILVER BAY SEAFOODS

to Purchase Tickets email: pcoc@alaskan.com
subject line: banquet26

*Chamber Members Exclusive presale opens Feb. 26th
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FULL table purchase for reserved seating is \$480- and seats 8
general seating is \$60 per ticket

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To the Editor

Rules for thee, but not for me

To the Editor:

Following the recent Assembly work session, I remain deeply disturbed by the suggestion that the Assembly should interrupt a strictly private land transaction

simply because neighboring property owners disagree with its intended use. This appears to be a classic example of “rules for thee, but not for me,” as current owners who enjoyed the freedom

to develop their own land are now attempting to bar others from that same privilege.

I am further concerned that the Borough is suggesting and pushing for the exploration of other private land to house these towers without solicitation or the owners’ consent. Curiously, these alternative locations are also in close proximity to other residences, which contradicts the stated reason for moving the tower in the first place.

Most importantly, I am troubled that neighboring property owners are demanding

the Borough “ramrod” these suggestions through. This group may not have fully considered the implications of the powers they are asking the Borough to exercise, nor whether the Borough can legally do so.

While I understand that homeowners are concerned, their desperation to move these towers has led to requests for increasingly authoritarian measures. I would be remiss if I did not point out the overreach inherent in these demands.

Sincerely,
Aaron Hankins

GUEST EDITORIAL

Governor misses the boat on helping to fill ferry jobs

By **LARRY PERSILY**
Wrangell Sentinel publisher

If the governor really wanted to improve state ferry service for the 33 coastal communities that depend on the ships, he would get out of his office and go on a national recruiting tour to help find new hires to fill the crew vacancies that jeopardize service.

The crew shortage started during Gov. Mike Dunleavy’s first year in office, when he cut the Alaska Marine Highway System budget, driving workers to leave for other jobs or retire. The ferries have never fully recovered from the kick in the propeller end, though the state has closed the gap somewhat.

As of Jan. 26, the Marine Highway System still was short several dozen licensed and unlicensed crew from full staffing, plus a few dozen more when you add in the relief crew needed to cover for temporary staff absences.

The governor could use his stature and in-person presence to attract attention — and possible job applicants — by visiting high schools in Alaska and across the country, vocational colleges, and all six state maritime academies on the East, West and Gulf coasts.

The governor could go on Fox News to promote Alaska Marine Highway System jobs instead of promoting President Donald Trump’s agenda, which bounces around more than the

cross-gulf ferry to the Aleutians in rough seas.

He could stop at schools, job fairs and seafaring communities as he comes and goes to Washington, D.C., on his political voyages.

He could give up spending any more time on his ill-timed fiscal plan legislation, which came too late anyway in the 87th month of his 96-month tenure as Alaska governor.

He could ride the Washington State Ferries and hand out job applications.

Anything would be better than nothing.

As of January, the Alaska ferry system was short 59 crew members to reach full staffing for its fleet. For the 49th state, that means overtime for workers on the job, and it means scheduled sailings are at risk if a vessel cannot meet U.S. Coast Guard minimum staffing requirements.

The Marine Highway System is entering its eighth year of short staffing, treading water and keeping the Kennicott out of service for the fourth summer in a row due to a shortage of crew.

Better pay and a real pension plan would go a long way to restore the attractiveness of working for the state ferries. Neither of those appear likely under this governor, but maybe he would be willing to hand out job applications as he shakes hands.

It’s time to try the personal touch to confront a serious personnel shortage.

Ritter’s River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



2026 LITTLE NORWAY FESTIVAL LOGO CONTEST

OPENS JANUARY 6TH & SUBMISSIONS DUE MARCH 11TH AT 3:30



- Artwork requirements:**
1. Must incorporate the words: 2026 Little Norway Festival.
 2. Should reflect the spirit of the Little Norway Festival.
 3. Designs should be suitable for use on posters, merchandise, social media and other promotional material
 4. Can be any medium but no larger than 8.5x11
 5. Digital and hand-drawn artwork is welcomed

Winners Receive:

***\$500 Check!!**

*artwork professionally framed and matted
*artwork will be displayed on the homepage of the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce website and will be added to the Little Norway Logo Art Gallery

PLEASE NOTE:
*the winning logo becomes the EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE PETERSBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

to see a full list of rules, please visit www.petersburg.org. go to Events and click art contest to see the FULL LIST OF RULES

Drop off to the Chamber of Commerce / Visitors Center (on the back on a sticky note: include your name, address, and phone number on your entry.)

Submissions Due: March 11th by 3:30pm

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 AND EDITOR..... Orin Pierson	Single Copy\$2
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS	Local\$82
.....Aiden Luhr	Online Only\$82
.....Jake Clemens	Other Alaska\$94
.....Lizzie Thompson	
PRESS OPERATOR & PREPRESS	Lower 48\$104
.....Ola Richards	Snowbird\$94
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Police report

February 18 - Officers conducted extra patrols

An officer provided lockout service.

An odd smell was reported on 3rd St.

February 19 - There was a minor vehicle accident on Haugen Dr.

Papers were served.

A driver on Sing Lee Alley was issued a warning for headlight requirements.

A scream and a splash reported in South Harbor proved to be unfounded.

February 20 - An officer assisted a citizen with a trespass concern on Nordic Dr.

Officers were unable to locate a vehicle reported to be driving recklessly on Mitkof

Hwy. There was a minor vehicle accident on Nordic Dr.

An officer conducted a welfare check on Nordic Dr.

There was a report of a vehicle off the road on Frederick Dr.

Officers were unable to locate a vehicle reported to be driving recklessly on Mitkof Hwy.

There was a minor vehicle accident on Haugen Dr.

There was a report of fraud.

Extra patrols were requested on Mitkof Hwy due to suspicious behavior.

Officers were unable to locate a vehicle reported to be swerving on Nordic Dr.

February 21 - An officer

conducted extra patrols.

There was a report of a deer struck by a vehicle on Mitkof Hwy.

Officers assisted Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

February 22 - There was a report of suspicious behavior on S 2nd St.

An officer responded to a parking complaint on Haugen Dr.

A California driver's license was turned in to the Police Department (PD).

Items were reported missing from a home on Scow Bay.

There was a report of a vehicle off the road on Frederick Dr.

A driver on Mitkof Hwy was issued a warning for

headlight requirements.

A driver at Sandy Beach Park was issued a warning for tail light requirements.

A disturbance was reported on W Lansing St.

February 23 - An officer conducted extra patrols.

An officer responding to a trespass call was unable to locate the individual in question.

A citizen reported a civil matter concerning a neighbor.

An individual was trespassing on Harbor properties.

An officer assisted a citizen.

A driver on Sing Lee Alley was issued a warning for failure to stop at a stop sign.

The manager of a downtown business was

notified of a reported alarm sounding.

February 24 - An officer conducted extra patrols.

The manager of a downtown business was notified of a reported alarm sounding.

An officer assisted a citizen with concerns about their grandchild.

There was a report of a driver intentionally sliding through a stop sign at Haugen and Nordic.

An individual reported to be in the roadway and impeding traffic on Haugen Dr was gone upon an officer's arrival.

A lost purse was reported to the PD.

Officers were unable to locate the reported smell of diesel fuel on Sandy Beach.

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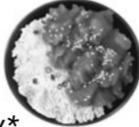
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Haines man recovering after collision with semi near Beaver Creek

Canadian truck driver credited with saving Seth Waldo's life encourages others to maintain first aid training

By RASHAH MCCHESNEY
Chilkat Valley News

A 25-year-old Haines man has been hospitalized in Fairbanks since a Feb. 13 collision with an 18-wheeler that left him with several broken bones and extensive internal injuries.

Seth Waldo was headed to Anchorage for a new job, his Toyota pickup crammed with his belongings, when he collided with a Lynden Transport truck about 15 minutes from the Beaver Creek border crossing. Troopers got a report of the collision just after 1:20 p.m.

His truck was demolished and, at first, it was assumed that Waldo had died. At least that's what was relayed to staff at the border crossing who warned Canadian truck driver Tristan Vogl about the accident as he was crossing through.

"One of the agents got a phone call while I was in there. They ran my paperwork and said I was good to go. Then the agent who was on the phone said 'hey, just so you know, about 8-10 miles up the highway from here, there's a fatal ac-



Photo courtesy of Kenny Waldo

Seth Waldo's truck after a collision on the Al-Can on Friday, Feb. 13, 2026, near the Beaver Creek crossing. Waldo was initially presumed dead but survived with severe injuries, due in part to a long-haul trucker who stopped to render aid.

cident."

Vogl, a long-haul trucker, said the agent told him to try and go around it if he could. Vogl got underway and eventually came around a corner to the accident, fully blocking the highway. He decided to back his truck up and around the corner so that no one else would hit him.

Then, he sat in his truck for a few minutes. Vogl, who said he has first aid, CPR and AED training through the Canadian Red Cross, had his first aid kit in the truck. He got into long-haul trucking after a six-year stint as a tow truck driver during which he said he saw a lot of dead bodies, and that's a big part of why he left that industry. He said he was apprehensive.

But eventually he made the decision to go see if anyone needed his help.

"I just wanted to make sure because I've heard where people are deemed dead and they're not," he said. "You never know until you see it for yourself, especially in that kind of remote area. Minutes are everything for people in those kinds of situations."

First he ran into a husband and wife team who were driving the 18-wheeler.

"The wife was driving when the accident happened. She was totally distraught. He was

shook up. They said they were fine but couldn't really give me any more information," he said. "I asked about whoever was in the truck, in the pickup. I said 'are they OK? And the truck driver basically said, no he wasn't. He twitched a bit but then died."

Vogl said no police or ambulance crews had arrived on scene yet, and he wondered how they could be certain that the person in the pickup truck was dead. As he describes it, the truck was too mangled to see anyone. But, he called into the cab and said 'are you ok?' and didn't get an answer. Then he asked "can you breathe?"

"That second question, I heard a faint, faint 'no,'" Vogl said.

Waldo was alive. But Vogl couldn't see him. The truck was crumpled, the driver's seat headrest embedded in the steering wheel.

"For me it was shocking. I was just like ... I don't know how this guy is alive," he said. "It was [-13 Fahrenheit]. I don't think he had much time."

Vogl borrowed a prybar from the nearby truck driver and pried the door open until he could see Waldo's hand. Then, he started moving things.

"He did have basically his entire life in the truck," Vogl said.

Continued on page 6

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Seth Waldo

Continued from page 5

"I started moving all the stuff out and then I could see his hair. He wasn't really able to move or speak. So I moved that metal bar again and I busted the driver's seat back and pried it back and I was able to shimmy him over into the seat."

Vogl said he did an initial assessment. There was a clear head injury. His leg was broken and maybe his arm as well. He also thought Waldo had serious internal injuries because he was spitting up blood.

"As far as medical, there was nothing any of us could really perform on the roadside there to make it any better," he said.

So, Vogl grabbed as many blankets and jackets as he could find and wrapped the man up before making a call back to 911 to report that the pickup driver was not dead and needed a life-flight to get him to the hospital.

Emergency response staff told him it would be awhile before anybody could get there, so Vogl settled in and for the next two hours stayed there with Waldo.

"He just wanted me to hold his hand. He wanted me to talk to him even though he was barely coherent and couldn't really answer questions. He basically just wanted me to stand there and talk to him and ask questions. He tried his best to answer them," Vogl said.

Vogl asked Waldo his name and age, though he couldn't remember the latter. Then, trying to keep it light, he looked



Photo courtesy of Kenny Waldo

Seth Waldo at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital after he collided with a semi truck mid-move to Anchorage.

around the truck and noticed a lot of fishing gear - so he started quizzing Waldo on his adventures.

"I asked him about the last time he went fishing and his hiking adventures. The last place he went hiking. Has he fished here or there? Any question I could think of. I didn't want to ask him questions about family, just kind of keep it light," Vogl said. "He was conscious but just not fully coherent."

Vogl said Waldo explained that the questioning was dis-

tracting him from his injuries.

"I would ask him questions and he'd have a spurt of pain and he'd kind of scream for a minute. He didn't want to be wrapped up. But then at a certain moment he was so cold. I had to fight him to keep the stuff on him. He'd try to wiggle his way out and get out of the truck," Vogl said. "I was just kind of there with him the entire time in case he didn't make it."

Close to two hours after Vogl got there, he said the first state trooper showed up. Did a quick

assessment and then started investigating the accident. Two agents, including a licensed medic, from the border showed up too. But they all came to the same conclusion about his injuries and backed off to wait for an ambulance and medevac.

Vogl said he stayed with Waldo as rescuers showed up and cut him out of the truck, then helped load him onto a stretcher and into an ambulance.

"At that point, I wasn't overly confident of his survival. But I knew he was in better hands. They were going to take him a couple of miles down the road to a fixed wing aircraft. Then fly him to Fairbanks," he said.

After that, Vogl said he climbed back into his truck and eventually decided to get some thoughts out and wrote it down. Then he decided to make a post on Facebook. In it, he pointed out how crucial it is to have first aid training.

Two days later, someone messaged to ask what kind of vehicle was involved in the accident. Then messages started pouring in from family and friends of Waldo's in Haines.

Waldo's sister reached out and said Seth couldn't remember what happened, so Vogl gave her all of the information he could and sent photos. She filled him in on the nature of Waldo's injuries. Then someone sent him a number and asked him to reach out to the man's father, Kenny Waldo.

"He thanked me for, essentially, saving his son's life," Vogl said. "He sure sounds like a tough guy on the phone and to hear him break down like that was very moving."

Kenny Waldo said Wednesday that his son is recovering slowly but his injuries are extensive. He said Seth had intestinal surgery the day after the accident. He has a fractured disc in his back. He's also got a titanium rod in his right leg as he broke his femur. His left arm was broken in three places, that surgery last Thursday put back together. He also had to have bladder surgery. Kenny Waldo said Seth was in facial surgery Wednesday and then would be flown to St. Elias specialty hospital in Anchorage to recuperate early next week.

He said his son does not remember the accident.

"I'm not supposed to talk to him about it," he said. "I think he was stressed out yesterday being cooped up for almost two weeks. He was really worried about all of his fishing stuff, you know?"

Kenny Waldo said he drove up to the Tok area to retrieve the truck and as many of his son's belongings as he could and was blown away by how much expensive fishing gear was packed into the truck.

Now, that truck is sitting down in his shop and he can't stop looking at it. He said Seth, who was between jobs, did not have health insurance. But, it's also not yet clear who caused the accident so anyone who wants to help needs to be patient while all that is sorted out, he said.

"Everybody asked, 'What can I do?'" he said. "I said get on Facebook and thank Tristan. I want his kids to know that their dad is a hero. If it wasn't for him, Seth wouldn't be here, you know?"

Tongass forest plan comments

Continued from page 1

"Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production," and his Executive Order 14153 "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential." The Alaska-specific executive order directs federal agencies to maximize timber harvest and mineral extraction.

In the notice in the Federal Register, the Forest Service addressed the Trump administration's ongoing effort to rescind the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. If it's rescinded, it would remove prohibitions on road construction and timber harvesting on 9.3 million acres of land currently inventoried as roadless areas in the Tongass.

The current revision of the Tongass land management plan will consider a future in which the Roadless Rule is rescinded, so "the revised plan can align with the outcome of the (Roadless) rulemaking process," the Forest Service stated in the notice.

The notice also outlined six "interrelated goals" for the updated plan. The six goals address land use designations; the Tongass as an economic driver; increased cruise ship visitation; collaboration between different groups; subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering needs; and Indigenous knowledge.

Speaking with the Sentinel last week, House District 2 Rep. Rebecca Himschoot of Sitka said that she's excited about the six points that the Forest Service listed as goals in updating the Tongass plan.

"The sixth point had to do with Tribal engagement, and I think we have a lot of room in our decision-making spaces for more Tribal voice," Himschoot said.

Himschoot said she'll be taking a closer look at last Wednesday's notice. She encouraged Southeast Alaskans to engage with the Tongass plan revision process.

"My entire district is in the Tongass," Himschoot said. "This plan revision is very important to us."

Sitka Conservation Society executive director

Andrew Thoms said during a phone interview that "the land management plan is basically a zoning plan for the Tongass," Thoms said. "The revision will affect everything from where we recreate, where we hunt, where timber harvest happens, permitted uses that happen, to how resources are protected or managed."

When the Forest Service conducted its 2024 assessment, "Southeast Alaskans talked about wanting to see their forest managed for restoration and old growth habitat conservation for winter deer habitat and salmon habitat," Thoms said.

The language in the Forest Service's announcement last Wednesday "indicates that the focus of the plan revision is on timber harvest operations and mining, rather than a lot of the priorities that Southeast Alaska, communities like Sitka, told the Forest Service that they wanted to see be the focus of this land management plan," Thoms said.

The proposed changes are "extremely important to our lifestyles and livelihoods and our home economics in Southeast Alaska," Thoms said.

"The comment period around that is a chance for Southeast Alaskans to give the input and get it on the record," Thoms said.

The Forest Service is accepting comments through the Federal Register website (docket number 2026-03197) or by mail to: Tongass National Forest, USDA Forest Service, 648 Mission Street, Suite 110, Federal Building, Ketchikan, AK 99901.

The Forest Service intends to prepare a preliminary plan and environmental impact statement by the fall of 2026, and finalize the plan update in 2027.

Forest Service officials told Southeast Alaska's federal subsistence Regional Advisory Council last year that the Forest Service will hold community workshops in April to reveal the agency's vision for the forest plan update.

This story was originally published by the Daily Sitka Sentinel

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Vikings split road series against Haines Glacier Bears

By AIDEN LUHR
Pilot writer

The Petersburg Boys Basketball team looked to continue their strong season on

the road against the Haines Glacier Bears.

Game one was a back and forth affair until the third quarter when the Glacier Bears seized the momentum.

"We weren't playing how we typically do. As poorly as we were playing, I kept looking at the score and we were within striking distance," head coach Rick Brock said. "[In] the third quarter, the pace of play caught up to us - and our floor balance wasn't very good so we kept giving up transition layups."

The Vikings were able to stop the bleeding a little bit in the fourth but the bad start at the beginning of the game was too much to overcome.

"We couldn't get any closer than that six points," Brock said.

The Glacier Bears defeated the Vikings 49-41.

In game two, the Vikings trailed 11-10 at the end of the first quarter but a 23-23 lead at halftime. With roughly three minutes left in the third quarter, senior forward Logan Tow got injured, with the Vikings trailing

34-26. The Vikings were able to remain in the game due to quick points and energy provided by Ben Kandoll and Mason Knudsen.

"He [M. Knudsen] was very active on both ends and rebounded well for us," Brock said. "Ben, Mason and Camden [Johnson], their energy level and play kinda kept us right there."

With about two seconds remaining and the Vikings trailing 47-44, Johnson hit a three to send the game into overtime.

"We ran a set and that's who we decided to run it for. We had gotten a couple of good looks earlier. [Johnson] was shooting well and the guys wanted him to take that shot," Brock said. "It's a big time shot."

With the game tied at 51 and roughly a few seconds left, senior Noah Pawuk stepped to the line and made one of two to give the Vikings a one point lead at 52-51.

"I'm really happy with our execution, poise [and] composure," Brock said. "Losing in overtime [in Metlakatla] and

then winning in overtime, hopefully that's good experience for us to build off of and if we're in that scenario again, we know how to react."

The Vikings won 52-51 and improved to 12-4 overall and 12-2 in conference.

Coach Brock hopes the Vikings can eliminate their slower starts with regionals on the horizon.

"You gotta be playing your best basketball at the end of the year. I can tell we're getting better in a lot of different aspects but we're experiencing some negative things we're doing but I hope we're learning from that and can say 'We can't start games this way and be successful,'" Brock said.

The Vikings will close out the regular season against rival Wrangell Wolves, during Homecoming weekend, from Feb. 27-28th, in Petersburg.

"As always, it'll be a good, hard fought series. We're going to have to play well and play our best at regions," said Brock.

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Lady Vikings dominate Lady Glacier Bears, claim season sweep

By AIDEN LUHR
Pilot writer

The Petersburg Lady Vikings looked to get back in the win column this past weekend against

the Haines Lady Glacier Bears.

They got off to a good start in game one as the Lady Vikings defense only allowed nine points the entire game against the Lady Glacier Bears.

"We did a good job of limiting [the Lady Bears] to only one shot, blocking out and rebounding. We just did the little things well I felt like," head coach Matt Pawuk said.

Offensively, the Lady Vikings put up 39 points against the Lady Glacier Bears defense.

"We started the season struggling against zone defenses - and we did a lot of zone offense work last week. I liked our ball movement. Any group of five I had on the floor, they knew what the assignment was and went out there and executed," Pawuk said.

The Lady Vikings beat the Lady Bears 39-9.

In game two, the Lady Vikings consistently pushed the tempo against the Lady Glacier Bears defense.

"I want to be a team that when we secure the ball, we look to run if we can because we're a fast team and I want teams to understand that they're gonna have to sprint back on defense because we're going to try and push the issue when we can," Pawuk said.

After a Lady Glacier Bears two pointer to make the score 8-3 in favor of the Lady Vikings, sophomore Lexie Tow got a steal and a bucket and then another two pointer, to help put the Lady Vikings up 12-3 at the end of the first quarter.

"She's starting to understand more and more the spots where to attack. [Tow] is tough to guard even though kids around Southeast understand that she's

left handed, it can be hard to put that in to play on the court and remember that I need to force this kid to go right because every other kid you're going to be guarding, you're trying to force them to their left," Pawuk said.

Not lost amongst the team and with a 22-6 halftime lead, the Lady Vikings were in prime position to get a season sweep of the Lady Glacier Bears.

"One of the things I mentioned at halftime - was that no matter what mix of kids were on the floor, you still need to play hard and the right way and finish the game out," Pawuk said.

With a 33-8 lead heading in the fourth, coach Pawuk was able to play his younger kids, getting them valuable experience.

"The ball movement of the offensive end, I really liked. It was nice to see good effort from the younger kids," Pawuk said.

The Lady Vikings won 38-14, completing the sweep and improving to 5-9 overall and in conference.

The Lady Vikings will end regular season play against rival Wrangell Lady Wolves during Homecoming weekend, from Feb. 27-28, in Petersburg. Due to travel issues, the team might only have two practices before they play but coach Pawuk doesn't anticipate that being an issue.

"Wrangell's a team we've seen a bunch over the years and kinda know what to expect with them and they know what to expect from us, so it's going to come down to who gets out there and executes their gameplan the best. We'll be ready," said Pawuk.

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VSC

Continued from page 1

"I had very tough competition, especially in the [100 breaststroke]," Lachapelle said. "There was this one girl ahead of me for the first 50 of the race but then I got ahead of her in the

end."

Lachapelle did get a little bit closer to qualifying for the Hawaii meet, which remains one of her main goals for the rest of the season.

"I didn't [qualify] in my 50 freestyle, that was my main goal but I think I got closer in the 100 breaststroke but I still didn't make it," Lachapelle said.

VSC finished fourth overall, with a total of 375 points, while earning the Highest Average Points Per Swimmer award.

Up next will be a time trial on March 13th and then Southeast Championships from April 10-12th, in Juneau.

Notable Performances:

Boys:

Cyrus Hulebak

- 1st in 50 Backstroke (25.71)
- 1st in 200 Backstroke (2:05.30)
- 1st in 50 Breaststroke (28.55)
- 2nd in 50 Freestyle (23.01)
- 1st in 50 Butterfly (24.37)
- 1st in 100 Breaststroke (1:02.43)
- 1st in 100 Backstroke (56.37)

Ryder Diehl

- 2nd in 100 IM (1:07.37)
- 4th in 100 Freestyle (1:00.06)
- 3rd in 50 Breaststroke (33.91)
- 4th in 50 Freestyle (26.96)
- 2nd in 50 Butterfly (28.73)
- 2nd in 100 Breaststroke (1:15.01)
- 3rd in 100 Backstroke (1:09.56)

Soren Eddy

- 3rd in 500 Freestyle (7:11.21)



Photo courtesy of Alice Hulebak

Viking Swim Club's Cyrus Hulebak cuts through the waters during one of his breaststroke events on Feb. 15, 2026, in Kodiak, Alaska. Hulebak finished first in six of his seven individual events.

- 6th in 100 Freestyle (1:14.30)
- 4th in 50 Backstroke (38.26)
- 7th in 50 Freestyle (33.07)
- 4th in 50 Breaststroke (46.27)
- 6th in 100 Backstroke (1:25.36)
- 4th in 200 Freestyle (2:35.65)

Trygve Marohl

- 1st in 500 Freestyle (6:33.44)
- 3rd in 50 Butterfly (36.76)
- Tied for 1st in 100 Freestyle (1:09.60)
- 1st in 200 IM (2:59.97)
- 2nd in 50 Freestyle (32.12)
- 1st in 200 Freestyle (2:33.08)
- 2nd in 100 Butterfly (1:25.11)

Torren Newman

- 13th in 100 Freestyle (1:19.40)
- 14th in 50 Backstroke (42.82)
- 13th in 50 Freestyle (36.38)
- 15th in 50 Breaststroke (52.88)
- 13th in 100 Backstroke (1:36.19)

Trygve Nielsen

- 5th in 50 Butterfly (39.78)
- 8th in 100 Freestyle (1:15.88)
- 3rd in 100 IM (1:24.80)
- 9th in 50 Freestyle (33.32)
- 2nd in 100 Breaststroke (1:34.76)
- 7th in 200 Freestyle (2:42.05)
- 2nd in 50 Breaststroke (43.98)

Jackson Zweifel

- 1st in 100 IM (1:08.39)
- 1st in 400 IM (5:27.62)
- 1st in 50 Breaststroke (33.87)
- 1st in 200 IM (2:31.82)

- 1st in 200 Breaststroke (2:47.67)
- 1st in 50 Butterfly (31.27)
- 1st in 100 Breaststroke (1:14.41)

Girls:

Tori Miller

- 1st in 50 Backstroke (29.77)
- 1st in 100 IM (1:05.51)
- 1st in 100 Butterfly (1:03.47)
- 1st in 200 IM (2:22.99)
- 1st in 50 Freestyle (26.51)
- 1st in 50 Butterfly (28.00)
- 1st in 100 Backstroke (1:04.78)

Kendyl Lachapelle

- 3rd in 100 Butterfly (1:10.34)
- 2nd in 100 Freestyle (1:01.14)
- 6th in 50 Breaststroke (36.95)
- 2nd in 200 Breaststroke (2:50.79)
- 4th in 50 Butterfly (30.78)
- 1st in 100 Breaststroke (1:17.85)
- Audrey Boggs
- 2nd in 100 IM (1:11.80)
- 3rd in 100 Freestyle (1:03.69)

- 2nd in 50 Breaststroke (36.38)
- 4th in 50 Freestyle (28.87)
- 1st in 200 Breaststroke (2:53.20)
- 3rd in 50 Butterfly (32.15)
- 2nd in 100 Breaststroke (1:19.93)

Jaycee Coil

- 4th in 50 Breaststroke (39.00)
- 6th in 50 Butterfly (37.32)

Lucy Peterson

- 3rd in 50 Backstroke (36.13)
- 5th in 100 IM (1:18.90)
- 2nd in 50 Breaststroke (39.28)
- 6th in 50 Freestyle (32.55)
- 3rd in 200 Breaststroke (3:11.26)
- 3rd in 100 Breaststroke (1:28.12)
- 5th in 100 Backstroke (1:20.57)

Maisy Zweifel

- 7th in 50 Butterfly (42.72)
- 12th in 100 IM (1:34.78)
- 21st in 50 Backstroke (45.46)



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BREAKFAST IS AVAILABLE
K-5 AT 7:45AM / 6-12 AT 8:50AM

Monday, Mar 2
Breakfast
WG Banana Bread
Lunch
WG Sub Sandwich

Tuesday, Mar 3
Breakfast
WG Low Sugar Cereal
Lunch
WG Tamales or Cheese Enchiladas

Wednesday, Mar 4
Breakfast
WG Muffin
Lunch
WG Beef and Sausage Penne with WG Roll

Thursday, Mar 5
Breakfast
Yogurt option with WG Granola
Lunch
WG Hot Dog

Friday, Mar 6
Breakfast
Chef's Choice
Lunch
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Here is your opportunity to join the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department

Class for new recruits starts on Saturday, March 7, 2026

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- Forcible entry & search and rescue

The class at the Fire Hall runs March 7 through April 18, 8 am to 5 pm.

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Why Volunteer with PVFD?

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 - Make a difference in the lives of your neighbors.
- Challenge yourself with exciting and rewarding experiences.



Public Notice

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

Those celebrating birthdays this week are: **February 27:** Bruce Beck, Theresa Vick. **February 28:** Berlyn Ward, Bridget Wittstock, Eloise Whitethorn, Tammy Rabago. **March 1:** Alisa Jestel, Frances Mathisen, Kirk Thorsteinson. **March 2:** Chris Clark, John Kelly, Leslie Schwartz, Natasha McDonald, Natasha Savina, Nick Johnston. **March 3:** Alan Cushing, Ben Johnson, Betty Schmidt, Leanne Beardslee, Margaret Agner. **March 4:** Anna Gamez, Brian Martens, Adanna Kvernvik. **March 5:** Jill Beardslee, Kaden Ritchie, Shaylin Dyne, Winter Reller.

Those celebrating anniversaries this week are: **February 28:** Sheri and John Wikan.

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

Senior Meals

Monday, March 2
Beef Taco Pasta, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit Cup, Pineapple Upside-Down Cake

Tuesday, March 3
French Dip, French Fries, Green Salad, Rice Krispy Treat

Wednesday, March 4
Mac & Cheese with Diced Ham, Broccoli, Yogurt, Banana Muffin

Thursday, March 5
Salmon Salad Sandwich, Chips, Cucumber Salad, Cookie, Milk

Friday, March 6
Chicken Adobo, Rice, Peas and Carrots, Apple, Cake

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.



Newman and Colburn to wed

Scott and Cindy Newman, together with Joe and Brandy Marr, joyfully announce the engagement of their children, Makayla Fusano Newman and Zachery Colburn. Makayla graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. She is currently a third-year law student at Rutgers Law School and will receive her Juris Doctor in May. Zachery enlisted in the United States Army following high school and proudly served for nine years. After completing his military service, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of North Carolina. He currently serves as an academic advisor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. The couple plan an October 10, 2027, wedding in Asheville, North Carolina.

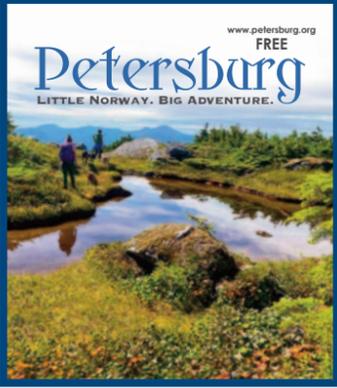
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Read the
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• EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

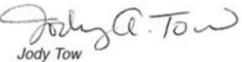
Petersburg Borough 2024 Foreclosure List

All Properties Located within the Petersburg Recording District

Property Owner	Parcel ID	Legal Description	Subdivision/Plat/Survey	2024 Tax Levy	Penalty	Interest thru 2/10/26	Foreclosure Fee	Payment	Total
BERKLEY, BENJAMIN	01006596	LOT 1 BLK 062	SOUTHEAST ADDITION PLAT # 69-202 US SURVEY 1252	\$870	\$87	\$183.1	\$150.00	\$(600)	\$690.10
FITTJE, DANIEL	01006924	24 TOWNE COURT	TRAILER ONLY	\$149.00	\$14.90	\$34.05	\$150.00		\$347.95
GOLDSTEIN, GRETCHEN DEC'D SBONEK, EZRA WILLIAM	02283115	LOT 10 BLK 2	WRANGELL NARROWS PLAT # 81-8	\$178.92	\$14.97	\$34.21	\$150.00	\$(29.26)	\$348.84
MARTINSEN, MARC K.	01056908	8 MITKOF COURT	TRAILER ONLY	\$231.99	\$23.20	\$52.98	\$150.00		\$458.17
PAHULU, KEHULU	01011910	6W ISLAND COURT	TRAILER ONLY	\$73.00	\$7.30	\$16.68	\$150.00		\$246.98
PEAK ENGINEERING LLC	02042500	LOT PTN NE 1/4	QUARRY SAWMILL PLAT # 2013-6	\$859.74	\$85.97	\$196.17	\$150.00		\$1,291.88
PEAK ENGINEERING LLC	02182045	LOT 13	PLAT # 96-1	\$212.94	\$21.29	\$48.59	\$150.00		\$432.82
PEAK ENGINEERING LLC	02182050	LOT 14	PLAT # 96-1	\$252.42	\$25.24	\$57.59	\$150.00		\$485.25
WALLEN, LISA J.	01010909	9 - 117 SKYLARK WAY	TRAILER ONLY	\$100.00	\$10.00	\$22.81	\$150.00		\$282.81

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that this is a true and correct record of the documents in my official custody as of this date. This foreclosure list has been presented to the proper court with a Petition for Judgment of Foreclosure, and is available for public inspection at the offices of the Borough Clerk or Borough Finance Department.

DATED this 19 day of February, 2026.

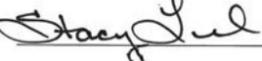


Jody Tow
Finance Director
Petersburg Borough



PETERSBURG
ALASKA

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 19th day of February, 2026.



NOTARY PUBLIC in and for Alaska
My Commission expires: 10/30/2029

Published: February 26, March 5, March 12 and March 19, 2026

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JOBS

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petersburgwave.org/careers

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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.

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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 Halingstad-Peratrovich Building. To register, call PIA at 907-772-3636 or find the registration link on our website.
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SCAN CODE to view position descriptions & to apply online. Additional career opportunities are listed at pmcak.org



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**, 25 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
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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!

Sing Lee

Continued from page 1

and it's unsolved. We decided to take sort of a deep dive and give it sort of a true crime twist."

Pederson and museum curator Anne Lee, with help from genealogy researcher Kathi Hammer, spent months combing through census records, steamship manifests, National Archives documents and editions of the Petersburg and Wrangell newspapers, assembling a timeline of his mysterious life.

To reconstruct their chronological report, Pederson said they had to discover and pull together many little bits of information. "In the newspapers, they would say so-and-so is traveling on the ship such-and-such going to Wrangell. There are all these little tiny tidbits of local information, and so we can kind of track his records and his movements that way."

Sing Lee was born around 1859 or 1863 — census records conflict — in either California or China, and likely followed the well-worn path of Chinese labor migration up the Pacific Coast, arriving first in Wrangell, most likely as a cannery fish cutter. How he made the leap from that kind of near-indentured work to successful merchant is one of the exhibit's unanswered questions.

"You can kind of just imagine how that might have happened," Pederson said. "Wrangell was a wild town during that gold rush era."

By the time Petersburg was taking shape in the early 1900s, Sing Lee had followed the boom north, opening a store on what would later become Sing Lee Alley — near where Kito's Kave stands today. He built a waterfront presence that included rental cabins for fishermen, miners and other transient workers. He invested in other people's ventures, ran what appears to have been a gambling room, and became, by most accounts, a beloved community figure.

The Christmas dinners he threw each year drew 30 or 40 guests. He gave gifts to children. He was, Pederson said, "kind of a renegade Santa Claus type fellow who was super generous, but also had these slightly darker dabbings."

The stories the research turned up are remarkable on

their own. Sing Lee was a key witness in the Edward Krause case — Krause was a Petersburg man and Alaska's first serial killer. Sing Lee traveled to Juneau to testify in the case — testimony Pederson said was influential in securing a conviction.

Lee went into a mining venture near Thomas Bay with Harry Culp, the man who would later write "Strangest Story Ever Told." And he adopted a white boy named Sammy, whose birth family relinquished custody in a Wrangell courtroom, then sent the boy to live with his family in China for nearly a decade around 1910 — an unusual story that generated national syndicated coverage at the time.

Sing Lee was killed in his apartment above his store. The autopsy report confirms injuries consistent with homicide. The working theory at the time was robbery, but his safe was untouched. No photographs were taken, no fingerprints collected, no witness accounts recorded.

"There's a story about the marshal at the time," Pederson said. "He was a shady fellow, and there was a whole article later on about all his shady dealings in Southeast Alaska, and he was the marshal at the time of the murder ... We don't know the details of that, but it seems as though they could have done more."

A group called the Friends of Sing Lee wrote to the paper and to authorities in Juneau seeking an investigation. Nothing came of it.

The exhibit will include a "crime wall" mapping out suspects and gathering what little evidence exists, along with a survey inviting visitors to weigh in on who they think killed Sing Lee. Pederson plans to display census pages so visitors can see the research process firsthand.

Through her research for the exhibit Pederson says she learned much about Chinese immigration history in Alaska — a chapter she said she knew little about before beginning the project.

Around the turn of the century, she noted, roughly half of Petersburg's population was Chinese immigrants working in the canneries. That changed dramatically around 1910, when automated fish-butcher machinery rendered that labor force obsolete.

"[After the arrival of automation] they really drastically reduced the number of Chinese immigrants in the whole Southeast Alaska region," Pederson said. "In some cases, they actually collected [the Chinese laborers] up and sent them back to Seattle."

Physical artifacts from Lee's life are scarce — his cash register is among the few items that survive. No letters, no journal, nothing written in his own hand has been found. But Pederson said the research has only deepened her team's determination to keep looking.

"There are questions that if we can find the answers, we've got to find them," she said.

The exhibit opens March 2 at Clausen Memorial Museum. Winter hours are 1 to 5 p.m.

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