

**VSC Marohl shatters
1000 freestyle record**

see page 8

**Obituary:
Linda Reid Bell**

see page 9

**Obituary:
Mary Lou Benitz**

see page 10

petersburg pilot

PETERSBURG, ALASKA



March 19, 2026
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12 Pages
\$2

Forest Service staffing in Southeast down 30% from a year ago

By ANNA LAFFREY
Daily Sitka Sentinel

U.S. Forest Service leadership is in flux as the agency takes sweeping actions in managing the 17-million-acre Tongass National Forest and making

regulatory and administrative changes at all levels, Alaska-based officials reported last week.

At the beginning of a four-day federal subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting in Juneau on March 10, Tongass Supervisor Monique Nelson spoke about shifts in the agency since President Don-

ald Trump took office in January 2025.

Nelson said staffing on the Tongass is down 30% from this time last year. In the wake of federal workforce reductions by the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency, 270 Forest Service employees are currently working in Southeast Alaska.

Nelson, who has worked for the Forest Service in Alaska for several years, stepped into the Tongass supervisor role last spring.

"Since the changes in the administration, we have shifted our work from the focus on the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy to other agency priorities that include active forest management, disaster recovery, minerals and energy and access to outdoor recreation," she said.

Forest Service personnel are currently working through planning processes for logging, mining and energy projects, Nelson said.

The largest of the planned logging sales are South Revilla east of Ketchikan and the Twin Mountain II on eastern Prince of Wales Island, both of which include old-growth timber harvest, she said.

"For both of those projects, we did find a significant likelihood of impacts to subsistence resources," Nelson told the subsistence council members.

Among its energy projects, the Forest Service is continuing to work on the Angoon-area Thayer Creek hydropower project.

The service is preparing for tourist season by hiring seasonal staff to take care of Tongass National Forest day-use sites, bear viewing areas, campgrounds and visitor centers.

Following Nelson's presentation, council member Ted Sandhofer remarked on the size and scope of current Forest Service projects on the Tongass.

Sandhofer worked for the agency for about 35 years, starting in 1987 as a forester based in Hoonah, and retiring in 2021 as the head of the Petersburg Ranger District.

He said that the current project list is "a big workload, as big as I've seen on the Tongass."

"I know that there's a reduction in (workforce), so

Continued on page 12



Photo courtesy of Katie Holmlund

Racing on snowy City Creek Trail

Joe Viechnicki kicksleds across the finish line at the XTRA tough Run hosted by Petersburg Medical Center to support accessibility for PMC Youth Programs. Despite the snowy weather about 50 participants showed up to run/walk/stroll/and kicksled their way down the snowy City Creek Trail.

Petersburg assembly formally opposes statewide hatchery restriction proposals

By ORIN PIERSON
Pilot writer

The Petersburg Borough Assembly voted unanimously Monday to formally oppose three proposals before the

Alaska Board of Fisheries that would impose broad restrictions on Alaska's private nonprofit salmon hatchery system — measures that Assembly Member Bob Martin, who brought the resolution for-

ward, called the latest iteration of proposals that fisheries stakeholders across the region have consistently fought off.

Resolution 2026-06 directs opposition to Board of Fisheries Proposals 170, 171 and

172, which are scheduled for consideration at the board's 2026 Statewide Finfish Meeting.

Proposal 170 would mandate a 25% reduction in permitted egg-take levels for pink and

chum salmon across all 30 Alaska hatcheries statewide, affecting 27 private nonprofit facilities, two state-operated hatcheries and one operated by the Metlakatla Indian Community. Proposal 171 would impose region-specific restrictions on Prince William Sound pink salmon programs, tying future hatchery production to stray-rate thresholds the resolution describes as unde-

Continued on page 3

Petersburg Borough to rewrite zoning code for extension beyond town limits

By OLIVIA ROSE
KFSK Radio

The Petersburg Borough Assembly directed Borough staff on March 2 to start rewriting part of its zoning code to be implemented beyond municipal limits. The move follows months of work and deliberation over potentially updating Petersburg's zoning code as the Borough navigates emerging concerns about constructing new communications towers in the community.

Zoning determines how property can and cannot be used. Different types of zoning allow for different uses, and some require landowners to get permission from the municipality for certain projects.

Title 19 is the legal anchor for how the Petersburg Borough enforces zoning, and currently, it only applies within the Borough's municipal limits of Service Area One, which ends roughly nine miles south of town.

Past that, the Borough doesn't have any zoning authority.

"We can't use the powers of Title 19 zoning where there is actually no zoning and there's no conditional use permits and there's no enforcement of zoning," Community Development Director Liz Cabrera told Assembly members on March 2.

A portion of Petersburg residents live outside of the Borough's zoning area. Over the past several months, a number of them have testified to the Assembly expressing concerns that a planned communications tower is

Continued on page 6



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

1926 - There are no issues in the archive until May 19, 1926. Thank you for your patience.

March 16, 1951 - A parade of hats such as has never been seen in the Easter Parade marked the style show at the Emblem Club social meeting on Tuesday evening. There were hats of every description, made of everything from kitchen utensils to baby bottles, created by club members. In addition there was a style show in which spring suits, dresses, coats and hats from the Lillian Shop were displayed by the same models who took part in the style show Saturday afternoon to which the public was invited. The prize for the most becoming hat in the contest went to Betty Ohmer for a truly fetching creation which featured a crab shell with veil that looked pretty enough to wear on the street. The most original was Anne Leekley's chapeau with a wild mink perched jauntily atop its green base and a mouse trap for interest. Most unique was Helmi Jensen's reproduction of the boat Symphony. Honorable mention was given to Isabel Roundtree for her garbage can bonnet, but the way we heard it, Claude should get a lot of the credit for

that dainty creation.

March 17, 1976 - The Police report only one traffic citation and one curfew violation this week. Orville Totend from Kasaan Bay was transferred by helicopter to Petersburg General Hospital complaining of a broken shoulder suffered during a 20-foot fall from a roof. A K Street resident reported individuals throwing garbage cans around in yards making a mess at 3:40 a.m. An unusual crime involving "theft of electrical power," was reported by a man who found a culprit plugged into the power box outlet on his private dock. Police investigated a report of a suspicious man who sailed up the Narrows and beached his skiff to run up to a residence to ask for a match. Juveniles were reported throwing snowballs at motorcycles on Main Street. The hospital requested police assistance putting a patient to bed who wished to stay up a little longer. A can of gasoline was set on fire and placed in the middle of the road on H Street by a prankster and extinguished by an officer.

March 15, 2001 - It was standing-room only as a crowd of 40 people packed Petersburg City Council Chambers for the March 8 kick-off to the Alaska Marine Conservation Council's (AMCC) Southeast Alaska recruitment campaign. AMCC Outreach Coordinator Eric Jordan of Sitka was joined by

Paula Terrel in highlighting the group's accomplishments and promoting the Council's stated mission: "People throughout Alaska working to protect the health and diversity of our marine ecosystem." In doing so, both Jordan and Terrel praised Petersburg for spearheading Alaska's marine conservation effort. "Our group has its roots in Petersburg. Nevette Bowen was really the founding mother of our group," stated Jordan, as he recognized Nevette's father Paul Bowen, who was in the audience. "Her idea was that there was a need for a statewide fisherman's conservation group," continued Jordan. "In fact, in Alaska, fishermen have carried the marine conservation effort in our waters and a lot of that leadership came from right here in Petersburg." The sentiment was echoed by Nevette Bowen who acknowledged the other marine conservationists who were instrumental in AMCC's formation. Among those to whom Bowen paid tribute were Petersburg residents Eldor Lee, whom she said was "one of the council's first members; Gordon Jensen, who provided inspiration for AMCC; and Kris Norosz, another founding member. Jordan believes AMCC-member fishermen will be instrumental in helping protect habitat and marine life. One who concurs is Petersburg

Vessel Owners President Arne Fuglvog, who supports AMCC's visionary approach. "I've been really happy with what AMCC has done and their involvement with the fisheries. The fishing

community here in Petersburg has also viewed itself as very conservation minded. I think it's just in our nature to be that way. So, a group that has that same goal in mind we're going to be very compatible with."



Petersburg Indian Association

Junk Vehicle Removal 2026

PIA will be removing 10 vehicles. Sign-ups will be on a first come, first serve basis and begin on April 1st, 2026 on our website at piatribal.org

ELIGIBILITY

- Must have title in hand
- Must have all tires
- Must NOT have any garbage inside of vehicle
- Must be accessible for a tow truck

Published: March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 2026

Northern Nights Theater

No Movie This Week
Check our Facebook page and sign up for the latest updates for showings

Coming this April
Hoppers
Project Hail Mary
The Pout-Pout Fish

Concessions available.
Credit cards accepted.

650-7626

WEATHER

	High	Low	Precip	Snow
3/11	34	27	T	T
3/12	34	22	T	T
3/13	33	26	T	T
3/14	35	24	T	0.2
3/15	34	24	0.44	4.4
3/16	40	34	0.59	T
3/17	37	31	0.16	1.3

This Week's Precipitation: 1.59"
This Week's Snow: 5.9"
This weather service is provided by the FAA weather observation station at the James A. Johnson Airport.

DAYLIGHT HOURS

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Mar 19	7:00a	7:01p	12:01hrs
Mar 20	6:57a	7:03p	12:06hrs
Mar 21	6:54a	7:05p	12:11hrs
Mar 22	6:51a	7:07p	12:16hrs
Mar 23	6:49a	7:10p	12:20hrs
Mar 24	6:46a	7:12p	12:25hrs
Mar 25	6:43a	7:14p	12:30hrs

PETERSBURG HAPPENINGS

Brought to you by:

THURSDAY, March 19

Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention: 10:00 am, Mitkof Dance Studio
Darkness to Light Training - Identifying and Preventing Child Abuse: 5:30 pm, WAVE Office
Science Series - Landslide Hazard Mapping of Mitkof Island: 6:30 pm, Public Library

FRIDAY, March 20

Al-Anon Support Group: 12:00 pm, Episcopal Church
Family Game Night: 6:30 pm, Parks and Rec Gym
AA Candlelight Meeting: 7:00 pm, Episcopal Church

SATURDAY, March 21

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

SUNDAY, March 22

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

MONDAY, March 23

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

TUESDAY, March 24

Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention: 10:00 am, Mitkof Dance Studio
Family Game Night: 6:30 pm, Parks and Rec Gym
AA 12x12 Meeting: 7:00 pm, Holy Cross Classroom

WEDNESDAY, March 25

Tai Chi: 7:00 am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall
Rotary Mtg: 12:00 pm, Salvation Army Hall
PIA Community Meal: 5:00pm, John Hanson Sr Hall
Nurturing Parent Class: 5:00 pm, WAVE
Free Dinner For All: 6:00 pm, 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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For more information on available cats and dogs, give PHA a call at 907-518-1091 and leave a message. Follow Petersburg Humane Association on Facebook!

www.petersburghumane.org
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FERRY SCHEDULE

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

NORTHBOUND DEPARTURES

SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURES

SUN 3/22	KENNICOTT	07:15 P.M.	MON 3/24	KENNICOTT	06:45 P.M.
MON 3/30	KENNICOTT	01:00 A.M.	WED 4/1	KENNICOTT	02:00 A.M.
SUN 4/5	KENNICOTT	07:15 P.M.	WED 4/8	KENNICOTT	01:00 A.M.
SUN 4/12	KENNICOTT	10:45 P.M.	WED 4/15	KENNICOTT	01:15 A.M.
SUN 5/10	COLUMBIA	08:30 P.M.	SUN 5/13	COLUMBIA	12:00 A.M.

PRESENTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY:



PETERSBURG

TIDE TABLE

MARCH 2026

	HIGH TIDES				LOW TIDES			
	A.M.		P.M.		A.M.		P.M.	
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
19 Thu	2:07	17.5	2:21	17.4	8:20	-1.0	8:30	-1.0
20 Fri	2:39	18.2	3:02	17.2	8:58	-1.8	9:04	-0.4
21 Sat	3:11	18.6	3:44	16.5	9:38	-2.1	9:40	0.6
22 Sun	3:47	18.4	4:30	15.4	10:22	-1.8	10:18	1.8
23 Mon	4:26	17.8	5:21	13.9	11:11	-1.0	11:02	3.3
24 Tue	5:12	16.7	6:24	12.5	12:08	0.1	11:56	4.8
25 Wed	6:10	15.4	7:48	11.6	1:21	1.1

PRESENTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY:



772-4234 • 800-950-4265

Borough extends Republic Services waste contract as regional study continues

By **ORIN PIERSON**
Pilot writer

The Petersburg Borough Assembly voted unanimously Monday to extend the borough's municipal solid waste transportation and disposal contract with Republic Services for one more year, buying time while a regional study examines longer-term alternatives for Southeast Alaska communities.

Petersburg's garbage is baled at the local baler facility and shipped via container to the Roosevelt Regional Landfill in Washington state, with Republic Services handling transportation and disposal.

The contract extension runs from September 1, 2026 through the end of August 2027, at a rate of \$207.40 per ton, with the total contract value estimated between \$510,000 and \$550,000. That compares to the borough's previous one-year extension, approved in January 2025, which set the rate at \$192.40 per ton, with costs estimated between \$425,000 and \$475,000.

The current contract traces back to a two-year agreement the assembly approved in the summer of 2023, which was itself 34% more expensive than the borough's prior contract.

Public Works Director Aaron Marohl recommended renewing the contract partly because finding a lower price is unlikely, and partly because comprehensive information about managing solid waste may be on the horizon. The Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority, known as SEASWA, is conducting a regional study of waste management options expected to conclude in late 2026, which could open the door to alternative solutions for member communities across the region.

During Monday's meeting, the assembly also appointed As-

sistant Public Works Director Thomas Rummel as the borough's alternate representative to SEASWA, to serve as a backup for Marohl.

In other assembly business: The assembly voted 6-0 to approve a \$301,327 sole-source purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus equipment for the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department. The purchase covers 30 SCBA packs, 70 air tanks and 46 face masks from Municipal Emergency Services, the sole authorized regional provider of equipment compatible with the department's existing gear. Of the total, \$225,000 is covered by a congressionally directed spending grant secured through Sen. Lisa Murkowski's office, with the remaining \$76,327 drawn from general fund reserves. Emergency Services Director Aaron Hankins has said the department's current SCBA tanks — purchased in 2012 when Station 1 was built — expire in February 2027, and some have already been pulled from service due to degradation.

Board of Fish resolution

Continued from page 1
terminated, despite existing data the resolution says show low stray rates and no demonstrated ecological harm in Lower Cook Inlet. Proposal 172 would establish a statewide moratorium blocking any increases in pink and chum salmon production beyond 2025 levels, effectively freezing hatchery capacity indefinitely and bypassing the Regional Planning Team science-based review process established under state regulation.

Martin said similar anti-hatchery proposals were brought forward in the Southeast Alaska Board of Fish cycle last year and were soundly de-

feated. "It's hard to find anyone in this region who thinks this is a good idea," Martin said. "I'll be voting strongly for [this resolution]."

The resolution argues all three proposals represent "broad, preemptive regulatory actions lacking scientific evidence" connecting hatchery production to the conservation concerns cited. It notes that similar proposals have been repeatedly rejected by the Board of Fisheries in prior cycles for the same reason.

Alaska's private nonprofit hatchery system was established under the 1974 Alaska Hatchery Act to supplement

depleted salmon stocks without harming natural populations. The resolution states that if enacted, the proposals would reduce juvenile fish releases and adult returns, destabilize commercial and subsistence fisheries, decrease revenue streams supporting hatchery operations, and harm working

families, seafood processors and community-based aquaculture programs across coastal Alaska.

The resolution calls on the Board of Fisheries to reject all three proposals and maintain Alaska's existing science-based, adaptive hatchery management framework.



Photo courtesy of Beth Richards

March for Life

Undeterred by the heavy snow, around 50 community members took part in Petersburg's March for Life rally and prayer vigil on Sunday, March 15.

2026
Petersburg Chamber Banquet
 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
 & DESSERT AUCTION
Saturday, April 4th
 Venue: SONS - Catered: THE LITTLE SHED
 5:30pm SOCIAL / 6:30pm DINNER

GUEST SPEAKER
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
 ticket sales open to the general public start March 11th.

FULL table purchase for reserved seating is \$480- and seats 8
 general seating is \$60 per ticket

Plate 1: Tri-tip - Plate 2: chicken

NO KINGS

Standing indivisible, we the people
 are coming together to
SAVE DEMOCRACY
PROTECT THE CONSTITUTION and
CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Join us Saturday, March 28
12-1pm in the Borough Parking Lot
 as we say
NO Tyrants • NO Corruption • NO Kings

Contact: 907-518-0590

COMMENTARY

Our Voices Shape the Future — Speak Up Now

By Heather Bauscher

I've spent years working alongside fishermen in coastal communities throughout the Tongass National Forest — and one thing has never changed: the people who depend on this forest for their livelihoods are the ones who understand it the best.

That's why I'm urging every Petersburg resident to submit comments on the Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan Revision before the deadline Friday night.

The Forest Service has opened a 30-day public comment period on its notice of intent to revise the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan in order to prepare an environmental impact

statement — essentially, a zoning map that will shape how this 16.7-million-acre forest is managed for the next 30 years. The current plan was last revised nearly 30 years ago. The decisions made in this revision will affect timber, tourism, recreation, subsistence, and commercial fisheries for at least a generation or more.

I support multi-use land management as a guiding principle of the management philosophy of our national forests, but feel we need to make sure all uses are accounted for and the priorities of local people are at the forefront.

Petersburg knows better than most communities that forest health and the health of our fish

and wildlife populations are inseparable. The old-growth forests of the Tongass aren't just trees — they are the infrastructure breathing life into our best salmon producing watersheds. Massive root systems hold stream banks together, fallen logs add complexity to the systems, creating refugia for salmon especially as the summers get hotter and stream temperatures continue to climb.

When forests are degraded, the streams suffer, and so do the fish — and so do we.

That doesn't mean forests shouldn't be managed or harvested. Smart, sustainable forestry that focuses on our second growth resources, the selective harvest of old growth trees for locally produced, value added products—while protecting riparian buffers and prioritizing watershed health can support local jobs and our community's economy while still allowing for the continuation of our way of life and our sustained reliance on salmon for generations to come.

Petersburg needs working forests — we want to support our local mills and wisely utilize our local resources. What we can't afford is a plan that treats old-growth timber and our diverse forest resources as a short-term commodity without accounting for the long-term economic engine that is wild Alaska salmon and the people that depend on them.

Wild Tongass salmon are

extraordinary. They are a product of one of the last intact temperate rainforest systems on Earth — something no hatchery can replicate and no other region of the world can claim. One of the last, if not the only collection of systems that still supports sustainable commercial fishing opportunities. That story has market value. It has cultural and traditional value. It has the kind of enduring collection of values that outlasts the economic value of any individual timber sale.

As I work in fisheries spaces across the state, I hear perspectives of the fishermen, processors, and community members who want a future for this place — not just extraction from it.

We need to encourage the Forest Service to recognize this greater collection of values — uplift them — and manage the outcomes of this policy process with the goal of prioritizing local needs. There are ways to build a

better plan together but only if we all speak up and tell them what we actually want to see happen on the Tongass.

Online comments can be submitted at cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=64039

Tell the Forest Service that any changes to the plan need to prioritize salmon along with subsistence, commercial and recreational uses. Tell them what you see as opportunities for the Tongass going forward and identify the places that are the most important to you.

Tell them about the way of life you want future generations to be able to live — Our community and the future of communities across the region depend on it!

Heather Bauscher is a Petersburg resident, Fisheries Community Engagement Specialist for the Sitka Conservation Society, and member of the Petersburg Fish & Game Advisory Committee

To the Editor Community Volleyball Tournament March 2026

To the Editor:

Thank you to all the volunteers; we truly couldn't have done it without you! Thank you, Grace Wolf, for taking time out of your day to capture the special memories of our very first community event. Thank you to the AAU basketball players who ran concessions and helped on the court. Thank you to the high schoolers who volunteered to line judge and keep score. Thank you, Jaime and Bev, for your amazing job up reffing. Thank you to everyone who came to cheer us on! And thank you to all the players for making it such a fun event.

We can't wait until the next one!
Courtney Thynes
Petersburg Volleyball League

The Petersburg Community Foundation annual grant cycle is underway!

The Petersburg Community Foundation is seeking grant applications from local nonprofits and charitable organizations.

Grants may support community needs, including but not limited to health and wellness, education, the great outdoors, arts and culture, and community development. We seek projects that have the potential to impact a broad range of residents and show collaboration with other organizations. The deadline to apply is March 30th at 5pm. Details and link to apply at petersburgcf.org/grants.

Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



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

petersburg pilot
PETERSBURG, ALASKA

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MADE IN ALASKA

Borough Assembly approves 10-year agreement for police gear

By OLIVIA ROSE
KFSK Radio

The Petersburg Borough Assembly authorized an agreement with Axon Enterprise Inc., earlier this month, which provides the equipment and services that Petersburg's Police Department uses. Under the agreement, the Borough would pay a \$378,897.58 quote gradually over the next decade.

Police Chief Jim Kerr said Monday that they typically do shorter contracts with the company. But this extended version that AXON offered includes some perks, especially for routine equipment replacement.

"If they have a new technology

that comes out, since we have the technology refresh as part of this, we get that new technology," Kerr told the Assembly. "I think this 10-year contract is in the Borough's best interest to lock in pricing so we're not subject to future increases."

The quote covers a public safety equipment and services bundle package that includes tasers, body cameras, car camera systems, software and digital evidence management. It also includes what Kerr called "AI-assisted report writing" that pulls information from video. He said his department can add more or less controls on the tech, that officers are still required to add original writing, and that the AI helps "remove

human error" from their reports.

Sitka's Assembly decided last week to contract with the same company for body cameras.

The Petersburg Borough will need to budget for the funds each year. The annual payments could be about \$37,889. If the Borough chooses not to budget the funds in a given year, the agreement with AXON could be terminated.

The company's quote for the Borough notes discount savings of about \$18,964.59 per year, with total savings amounting to \$189,645.90 under the agreement.

"I think it's a very good value over the 10 years," said Vice Mayor J Leigh Stanton Gregor. "There's many pieces I like to it. I think the increased use of both camera and body cam technology is excellent. It protects our officers

and civilians alike. It is great for accountability."

Stanton Gregor moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Assembly Member James Valentine. The resolution passed unanimously with a 7-0 vote on March 2.

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

Police report

March 11 - An officer assisted a citizen.

An officer spoke with an individual on S 2nd St. regarding a non-criminal issue.

An officer spoke with a complainant regarding a civil issue.

There was a report of lost property.

Dispatch provided a citizen with assistance.

An officer spoke with an individual on 12th St. regarding a non-criminal issue.

Officers spoke with individuals operating snow machines on the airport access road without authorization.

There was a report of lost property.

March 12 - After speaking with a vehicle owner on Haugen Dr. an officer determined a parking complaint was unfounded.

Officers assisted Emergency Medical Services (EMS) with a fall on the reservoir road.

Found property was turned in to the police Department (PD).

An officer spoke to a complainant with concerns about a dog on 3rd St.

An officer assisted EMS on Skylark Way.

Suspicious behavior reported on Skylark Way was determined to be non-criminal.

March 13 - An alarm activated at Pump Station #4. Water Wastewater (W/WW) was notified and responded.

The owner of a vehicle parked illegally on S 2nd St. moved it at the direction of an officer.

There was a report of a dog in the roadway on S 2nd St.

March 14 - An officer conducted foot patrols downtown.

There was a post-event complaint of illegal parking on S 2nd St.

An officer assisted a citizen.

An officer provided lockout assistance on S 2nd St.

A driver on Mitkof Hwy. was issued warnings for inoperable headlights and an expired registration.

A driver on Marian St. was issued a warning for an inoperable tail light.

A driver on Surf St. was issued a warning for an inoperable headlight.

Individuals trespassing on S 2nd St. left at the direction of an officer.

A runaway dog was reported on King's Row then found by its owner.

March 15 - There was a report of a runaway dog on Mitkof Highway.

The owner of a vehicle illegally parked in a handicapped space on S 2nd St was issued a warning and told they will be cited if it occurs again.

An officer spoke with a complainant.

A vehicle reportedly impeding traffic on Mitkof Hwy. was gone when responding officers arrived.

An officer helped a motorist remove their car from a ditch on Hungerford Hill Road.

March 16 - There was a report of lost property.

An officer conducted a welfare check on 4th St.

There was a report of lost property.

An officer assisted EMS on 4.5 St.

An officer assisted a citizen.

An officer conducted additional patrols on 12th St.

An officer conducted a welfare check on Mitkof Hwy.

March 17 - An officer responded to a report of individuals illegally cutting down firewood on Frederick Point Drive and determined the report was unfounded.

An officer conducted a welfare check on Exel St.

There was a parking complaint.

An officer assisted a citizen.

A protective order was served.

Suspicious behavior was reported on Skylark Way.

Alesa Williams was arrested for alleged DUI, reckless endangerment and driving without a valid license on S 3rd St.

There was a report of lost property.



St. Paddy's Day parade

Petersburg's Irish descendants and their friends continued the annual Saint Patrick's Day tradition with a parade through downtown on Tuesday.

(Pictured right) Colorfully dressed and full of holiday cheer, Colleen Schwartz and grandson Roman Roman marched in the parade.



OLA RICHARDS / Petersburg Pilot



TONGASS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Membership has its benefits.

Member-Owner voting rights plus quarterly dividends	Pair qualifying checking with an eligible loan and get paid back 0.25% of your loan rate each month- a simple way to put money back in your pocket.	Early direct deposit option
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Circus: After Hours

Mitkof Dance Troupe hosted their circus themed fundraiser party on Saturday, March 14 in the Sons of Norway Hall, complete with a costume contest, vendor booths, carnival games, and circus-themed entertainment. Proceeds from the fundraiser went to support the dance troupe's purchase of the building which houses their dance studio.



Photo courtesy of Abbey Hardie

Petersburg cold storage lease renewed, seafood processing restrictions officially lifted

By **ORIN PIERSON**
Pilot writer

The Petersburg Borough Assembly voted unanimously Monday to extend the Petersburg Economic Development Council's lease on the community cold storage facility for another five years, while also removing language from the lease that had prohibited seafood processing at the site.

The lease extension runs through January 31, 2031, and maintains the \$1-per-year rental rate that the assembly has held steady since the original agreement between PEDC and what was then the city of Petersburg was signed in February 2006. At each five-year interval since, the assembly has kept that rate in place, citing fluctuating demand for blast-freezing services.

The more significant change approved Monday is to the lease's permitted uses. Previous language prohibited primary seafood processing on the premises. The assembly replaced that prohibition with language authorizing "processing by direct-marketers, value-added and custom processors."

The resolution explains the shift as a response to structural changes in the local seafood industry. The Community Cold Storage previously partnered with a high-volume processor for blast-freezing services; the resolution states, that is no longer a viable option, leaving the facility needing a new economic anchor to remain open for its smaller-scale users — including direct marketers, restaurants, sport fishermen, hunters and residents who use the facility for secure freezer space and ice.

Coastal Cold Storage — owned by Tom Westhoff and provider of custom processing for direct marketers and the public — stepped in last year to be the new anchor tenant.

Coastal will be starting their second processing season in the facility soon, and Westhoff told the Pilot things have worked well so far. He says the roughly "100K I paid in rent should be a significant help to balancing the budget and allowing the facility to continue its mission."

He noted that as their business grows their value to the facility will increase, "We pay by the pound so as we grow so does our rent."

Coastal provided processing for at least seven local fishermen who then direct-market their catch. Westhoff added that the cold storage facility providing ice and the ability to store bait supports independent fishermen in the local fleet.

"It was Ocean Beauty and Trident that made the place solvent for years ... processing [perhaps] in violation of the lease as written," Westhoff told the Pilot. "But now they are gone and it's actually starting to function as one might have hoped — allowing some ability for the small scale fishermen to be independent."

The cold storage is a community facility open to the public by payment of fees, and has operated as such since it was built under the original 2006 lease.

Borough to rewrite zoning

Continued from page 1

legally allowed to be built next to homes in their neighborhood. Those concerns kick-started the conversation about updating Petersburg's zoning code.

The Borough's Planning Commission is drafting an ordinance to change how Petersburg's zoning code regulates Wireless Communication Facilities, like towers, borough-wide. When Petersburg became a Borough in 2013, it incorporated 3,829 square miles of land from Mitkof and Kupreanof Islands up toward Juneau; that means the borough-wide area spans much further than Petersburg's town proper. However, the Assembly hasn't successfully extended Title 19 zoning outside of Service Area One. So the Borough would not be able to enforce those potential updated regulations outside of its municipal limits because Title 19 doesn't reach that far.

But that could change. The Borough is starting the process for extending zoning regulations borough-wide — exempting the City of Kupreanof — by rewriting Title 19.

Borough Manager Steve Giesbrecht told assembly members that the Commission's anticipated ordinance would only affect the town proper, until the Borough rewrites Title 19 so it can have a way to enforce the specific zoning rules that residents outside of town have been asking for.

"People outside service area one are saying they want the Borough to do something. Well, this is a way for the Borough to do something going forward," Giesbrecht said.

Rewriting Title 19 is a multi-faceted project that takes several years. But a borough-wide ordinance about regulating communication towers will roll out as part of the process. And during that transition, property outside of Service Area One, except for the City of Kupreanof, will be placed in a "holding district." It's temporary, and the Assembly emphasized that all uses will still be allowed in those areas, except for towers — those will require a conditional use permit.

Any official changes to Title 19 will go before the Assembly for approval.

This story was first published at <http://www.kfsk.org> and is reprinted here with permission.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

Those celebrating birthdays this week are: **March 20:** Beth Loesch, Deanna Vick, Eric Schwartz, Leann Collins. **March 21:** Don Schmit, Valori Enge. **March 22:** Lauren Rabago. **March 25:** Carrie Enge, Martha Trautman. **March 26:** Amzie Sokol, Fred Hisaw, Kenny Berkley.

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1

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2

COVER

Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze with your elbow or tissue.



3

DON'T TOUCH

Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth! These are the areas where a virus can enter your body.



4

AVOID

Avoid close contact with those who are sick. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after.



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Petersburg High School poets recite on KTOO for the Alaska state finals of the Poetry Out Loud competition

By **JAKE CLEMENS**
Pilot writer

Two Petersburg poets took the stage at KTOO studios in Juneau earlier this month, as state finalists in the Poetry Out Loud recitation competition. Freya Tucker and Mette Miller had both memorized and recited poems in front of their high school English class as a required assignment from their teacher Tim Shumway, then for extra credit they performed in front of the entire school. Then they submitted recordings of their recitations to the statewide competition. "We were thinking, it would maybe just be one of us, but it was so cool that it was both of us. It was really nice to go together and get to know each other better," said Freya Tucker.

The week before the state final competition in Juneau, both Tucker and Miller competed in basketball regionals, so they just stayed a few extra days for the poetry competition. Miller and Tucker said it was hard to find the time to practice their poems at the basketball tournament, so they used every chance they had. Grinning, Miller recalled, "Reciting poems for my teammates in the locker room after a game, my teammates were like, 'Mette, this is not the time.'"

While both students have travelled across the state for sports, neither had travelled for artistic endeavors, and they were pleasantly surprised by the camaraderie with the other poets. "It was really kind and supportive," said Tucker. "It felt less like a competition and more like every-

one was trying to help each other do their best."

And doing their best was a lot, considering they had to memorize three poems, none of which were very short. First, they had to memorize one to perform for their class, and then their school. Then they had to submit recordings of their recitations of two poems to be considered for the state finals. Upon being notified that they'd made it into the finals, they had one week to memorize their third poem, before their live recitations on KTOO.

In the days leading up to the final competition, the Alaska poets had a chance to meet one another, and to get some last-minute coaching from experienced adult poets. "I didn't actually agree with the advice my coach gave me," Tucker said. "They said that for 'Suppose,' it should be softer, more tender. I thought it should be stronger, more commanding. But I wound up going with what they said."

About her coach, Miller said, "My coach used a lot of confusing poetry words." Asked if that helped her performance at all, she said, "Yeah, it did, learning about the volta—the turning point of the poem—knowing where that was in my poem, where it went from a person narrating it to the point of view of the statue, it helped me to know how to change my delivery there." That poem was "The New Colossus," by Emma Lazarus, written about the Statue of Liberty welcoming immigrants to America.

At the finals, they chose the order to recite their poems, one poem in each of three rounds. The first two rounds included everyone, then based on their scores, three poets were scored in the third round. All the poets still got to recite their third poem, even those not among the finalists.

The finals were held at KTOO studio in Juneau, and broadcast on the KTOO statewide TV channel. On being on TV, Mette said, "It was a little weird, knowing that someone could pause on my face when I'm in the middle

of a word." But she and Tucker agreed that it was less stressful than performing in front of their own school.

"At school we were on the stage up above the audience," Tucker said. "The KTOO stage was a smaller, and the room was nice and colorful and cozy... Even though there were giant TV cameras constantly panning and zooming in on your face."

For the Poetry Out Loud competition, there is a list of poems to choose from, about 300 poems for 2026. And since this year is America's 250th anniversary, there is a "focus on poems that celebrate the rich tapestry of American history and culture," according to the Poetry Out Loud website.

Mette Miller recited "Militants to Certain Other Women" by Katharine Rolston Fisher, "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus, and "Home, Sweet Home" by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper.

Freya Tucker recited "Suppose" by Phoebe Cary, "To a Young Dancing Girl" by Elsa Gidlow, and "Songs for the People" by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper.

Miller's favorite part was performing the poems, "Really internalizing the passion of the poem, and conveying that to the audience, especially since it's such a culturally relevant subject."

Asked what the highlight of the event was for her, Tucker

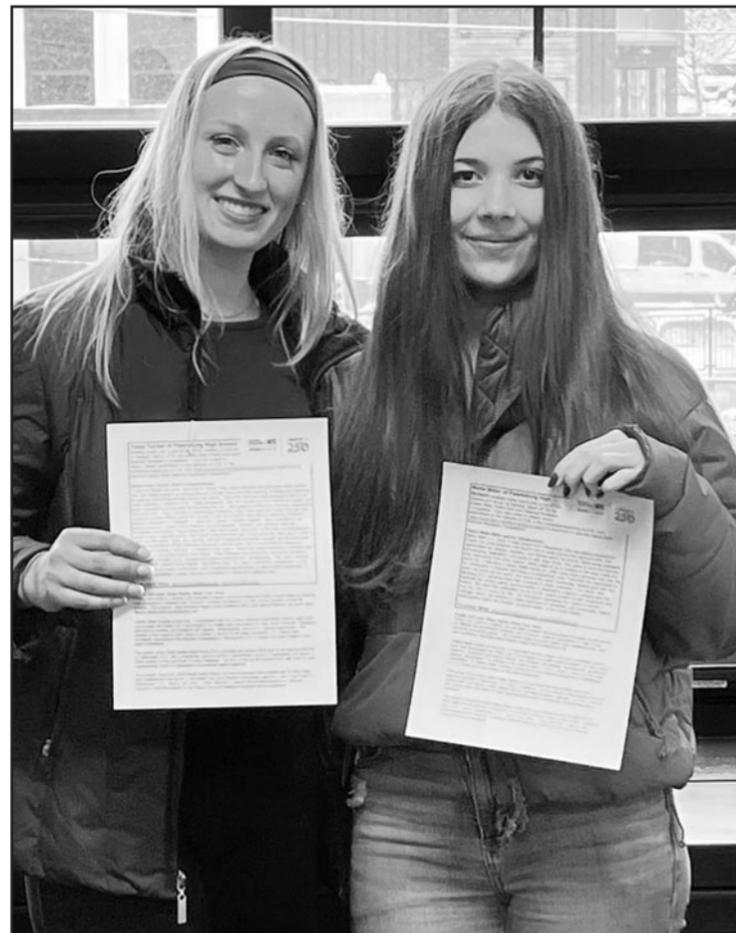


Photo courtesy of Freya Tucker
Freya Tucker and Mette Miller in Juneau last week, state finalists in the Poetry Out Loud competition.

said, "It was really cool to meet other passionate people."

A panel of six judges scored the poets on delivery, perceived understanding, and accuracy of their recitations. While they didn't qualify for scoring in the final round, and won't be going to the national competition, both Tucker and Miller seemed delighted by the new to them experience of memorizing and performing poetry.

Tucker's advice to any students interested in Poetry Out Loud would be, "Just go for it. Pick a poem you connect to, something valuable to you, or

with patterns of wording that you really like, and that makes it a lot easier and more rewarding to practice it."

Miller said, "Be confident. If you go up there and your legs are shaking, people are going to think, 'I guess that's not really a great poem,' But if you stand up straight and push your shoulders back, people will pay attention."

And they did. See their performances for yourself at <https://www.ktoo.org/video/poetry-out-loud-2026/>, and look out for the national Poetry Out Loud semifinals and finals April 27-29, 2026.

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Petersburg MEDICAL CENTER

Community's first adult volleyball tournament



OLA RICHARDS / Petersburg Pilot

Team Block and Blue were the winners of last weekend's Community Volleyball Tournament organized by the new adult volleyball league in Petersburg. Pictured left to right are Olivier Christensen, LeeAnna Lucas, Rebecca Thynes, Brian Richards, Dm Harry, Kim Harry and Callie Bell.



Photo courtesy of Grace Wolf

Allie Skeek, of team Net Ninjas, clashes at the net against Isaiah Bowen-Karlynn and Jessica Grone of team Notorious D.I.G. A total of five teams participated in the new league's inaugural tourney.

VSC swimmer Trygve Marohl shatters 1000 freestyle record during time trials Several swimmers set club and individual records

By AIDEN LUHR
Pilot writer

Viking Swim Club continued to set more individual records during their last time trial of the season. VSC swimmer Trygve Marohl crushed the 10 and under 1000 freestyle (previous) record by 43 seconds at 13 minutes and 88 seconds.

"It was a very impressive performance. It was cool to see. The whole crowd got into it. It was cool to hear the crowd cheer for him," head coach Derek Gibb said.

Marohl surprised himself with his marquee performance.

"I thought that I was going to break the record but I didn't know I was going to break it by that much," Marohl said. "I was happy and at the same time, I didn't know I could do it."

It was a very exciting moment for everyone involved after Marohl shattered the record.

"I had tears in my eyes because it's always exciting when kids work towards a goal and they achieve that goal and that's exactly what Trygve had done and seeing

how proud he was of himself, I think he surprised himself that he swam that fast," assistant coach Ginger Evens said.

Marohl was able to set a new record due to his consistency.

"He was pretty close at like 40, 41 and he just kept doing that. If he fell back a little bit, he got going again and he was responsive and was so steady for the whole 1000," Evens said.

With one record down, Marohl has more records he would like to break before the seasons end.

"Maybe the 100 freestyle," Marohl said.

Marohl wasn't the only swimmer that broke records. Cyrus Hulebak continues to break records, breaking the 200 breaststroke record at 2:16.49.

"He's just progressing all the time. He's super technical and he loves the process," Gibb said. "It's cool to see him figure out his strokes. He seems to be doing it all by himself and we're just basically guiding him."

Other than club records, there were also new individual records as well. Julian Pallissard and Connor Cummins had best times in the 50 freestyle. Pallissard also set a new best time in the 100 breaststroke.

Lucy Peterson dropped 2.5 seconds in her 50 backstroke.

"That was a big swim for her," Gibb said. She dropped sixth tenths in her 50 breaststroke so that's another state [qualifying] time."

Jackson Zweifel dropped three seconds in his 100 backstroke.

Tori Miller dropped half a second in her 50 butterfly.

"She's almost close to the state record. She's one tenth away. I anticipate her getting that [record] at state, if not down south," Gibb said.

During these time trials, swimmers are competing against themselves which can be harder

to do compared to competing against other swimmers in the same heat as you.

"I'm a big fan of swimming against others in competition. It pushes you that much more. To see these kids race against themselves and go fast, I think it says a lot about what they are as athletes and swimmers," Gibb said.

Above all else, coach Gibb and Evens have created an environment where swimmers can have fun doing something they want to do.

"I like [swimming] a lot and I think I'll do it for a few years," Marohl said.

With time trials over, several VSC swimmers will depart for upcoming meets.

Weather permitting, Marohl, Zweifel, Audrey Boggs and Ryder Diehl will travel to Mountain West Age Groups, in Boise, Idaho.

Hulebak will travel to Western Senior Zones in Mesa, Arizona.

Miller will travel to Northwest Age Groups in Federal Way, Washington.

All meets will be March 19-22.

For the rest of the team, the focus is on preparing for the upcoming southeast championship and state meet.

"These kids are working towards that and achieving goals for personal bests - we're really trying to take as big a team as we can to state and southeast champs," said Evens.

Notable Times:

- Boys:**
- Trygve Marohl 10 and Under 1000 Freestyle (13:14.88)
- Cyrus Hulebak 200 Breaststroke (2:16.49)
- Julian Pallissard 50 Freestyle (26.84)
- 100 Breaststroke (1:16.03)
- Connor Cummins

- 50 Freestyle (26.63)
- Jackson Zweifel 100 Backstroke (1:11.27)
- Girls:**
- Lucy Peterson Mixed 11-12 50 Backstroke (33.73)
- 11-12 Breaststroke (38.62)

- Tori Miller 50 Butterfly (27.59)
- Audrey Boggs Mixed 11-12 100 IM (1:12.36)
- Kendyl Lachapelle 100 Breaststroke (1:16.18)

Senior Meals

Monday, March 23

Pot Roast, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Vegetables, Yogurt, Cake

Tuesday, March 24

Goulash, Dinner Roll, Cheese Stick, S'mores Bar

Wednesday, March 25

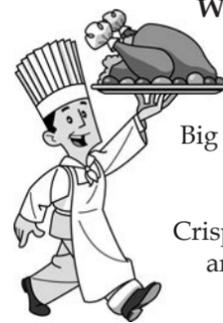
Pork Gravy over Rice, Orange, Dinner Roll, Brownie, Milk

Thursday, March 26

Big Mac Wrap, Chips, Fruit Cup, Cheese Stick, Cookie

Friday, March 27

Crispy Baked Cod, Buttered Noodles, Pea and Cheese Salad, Orange, Pudding



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.



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Petersburg School District Is Seeking Quotes For Services

The Petersburg School District is seeking quotes from licensed providers for itinerant special education-related services in the following areas: **Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Educational Psychology.** These services include screening, evaluation, direct service contact, collaboration, and training for the 2026-2027 school year. **Contract specifications are posted on the school district website at www.pcsd.us** and are available at the School District Office, 201 Charles W. Street, Petersburg, AK 99833. Submit quotes to Mara Lutomski at exec@pcsd.us or (877) 526-7656 ext 100 for additional information. **Quotes are due by 4:00 pm on Monday, April 6th, 2026.**
Published: March 19, 26, and April 2, 2026

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA AT PETERSBURG

In the Matter of the Estate of:)
)
Annette Carol Olson)
 Person Who Died (Decedent))
 DOB: 10/27/1944)
) Case No. 1PE-26-00007PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

You are notified that the court appointed Helmer William Olson 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 02/22/2026
 Helmer William Olson
 PO Box 814, Petersburg, AK 99833
 907-772-4810, tthynes@gmail.com

Published: March 5, 12 and 19, 2026

Obituary: Linda Caroline Reid Bell August 21, 1952 - February 20, 2026

Linda Caroline Reid Bell was born to Alex and Mary (Hungerford) Reid on August 21, 1952 at Petersburg General Hospital. Being the first girl after 5 boys, she was adored. Her sister was soon to follow, completing the family.



Linda Caroline Reid Bell

Growing up in Scow Bay, she made wonderful friends and would laugh about riding the school bus with 17 other Reid kids. Summers were spent at "camp," usually Thomas Bay, living in the school house (on a float!). Linda was proud to be from a logging family and a lifelong Alaskan. Her parents moved to Ketchikan her senior year of high school. Luckily, her boyfriend worked for Reid Timber, so he made the move too. Merlin and Linda were married on June 13, 1970 and were married for over 55 years.

The next ten years were spent living in logging camps around Southeast and Kodiak. Chad was born in 1973 and Holly in 1977. These years were full of float plane and boat trips to town, beach picnics and caring for her family. In 1981, the family of four settled back in Petersburg, moving back to the property that she grew up on. She kept a welcoming home, always ready to feed extra kids or make a cup of tea for friends.

Linda always made birthdays special and had a knack for giving thoughtful gifts and cooking the perfect meal. Lots of time was spent outdoors; dog walking, bird watching, berry picking, foraging and going for skiff rides, usually with a thermos of coffee and a little picnic packed. The river was one of her favorite places. She enjoyed her years in the office at Reid Brothers, getting to "boss her brothers around" and opening Emily's

Bakery with her family was a happy time. She liked her early morning shift, baking and feeding people. One of Linda's greatest joys was having her sweet Tula growing up next door. They spent many hours baking, reading and doing crafts.

As Linda's dementia and hip both took a turn, she lived at Long Term Care her last few years. We would like to say a special thank you to the entire staff there-you are exceptional and so appreciated.

We miss her kind heart, quick wit, long hugs, sweet notes, nagoon berry jelly and twinkly eyes, yet know we are lucky to have been loved by her.

A Celebration of Life will be held on May 9th.

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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	\$(700)	\$590.10
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)	\$0
PEAK ENGINEERING LLC	02182045	LOT 13	PLAT # 96-1	\$212.94	\$21.29	\$48.59	\$150.00	\$(432.82)	\$0
PEAK ENGINEERING LLC	02182050	LOT 14	PLAT # 96-1	\$252.42	\$25.24	\$57.59	\$150.00	\$(485.25)	\$0
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 A. Tow
 Jody Tow
 Finance Director
 Petersburg Borough

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

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



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

Obituary Mary Lou Benitz, 81

Mary Lou McKibben was born on August 7, 1944, in Wrangell, Alaska, to Lena (Ellis) and Al McKibben. The youngest of three children, she especially looked up to her big brother Skip. She grew up working with her parents on their power troller *Mrs. Mac*, and spending time at the family homestead on Farm Island up the Stikine River. Her family moved to Petersburg when she was in high school and, while she grew to love it, she was very proud of her Wrangell heritage and would always remember her tearful move to Petersburg.

After graduating from Petersburg High School she met the love of her life while working at Petersburg Fisheries – she in the egg room and Earl Nelson Benitz in the cold storage. They were married in St. Andrew’s Church on August 29, 1964 and after a honeymoon trip to Mt. McKinley went to Fairbanks where Earl earned a teaching degree to complement his masters in physics.

After two years teaching in Cordova, they were thrilled when a teaching position opened at Petersburg High for a science teacher. They came home with their two young sons, Alan and David, to raise them surrounded



Mary Lou Benitz

by family. Her boys were the pride and joy of Mary’s life. During the summers the family spent as much time as possible hunting, fishing, camping and exploring the beauty that surrounds Petersburg.

A creative artist, she loved making things and rarely sat idle. If not creating in her ceramics studio, she was knitting or crafting something for the next Octoberfest. For years she and her best friend, Dorothy Ingle, had a shop in Mary’s basement where they sold their crafts. She coordinated local artisans interested in sending their creations to compete at the State Fair in Haines and was an active member of the Clausen Museum, even serving as its director and curator.

Mary was a devoted wife, a

loving mother, and a dear friend who faithfully wrote beautiful letters and thoughtful cards to penpals all over the world. Small treasures, the warmth and sincerity of her handwritten notes reflected her caring heart and her desire to stay connected with those she loved.

After retirement, Mary and Earl sold their house on Front Street and bought Mary’s family homestead on Farm Island, up the Stikine River, a place that was always more than a home to her – it was her sanctuary. She loved being surrounded by nature and the quiet rhythms of the river, but was always happy to have family visits as she and Earl loved being grandparents and great-grandparents. She was especially grateful to spend some of her final summers in the place that meant so much to her and Earl.

During her time in long-term care, Mary continued to find joy and comfort in her life-long friends. Her love of reading and puzzle-solving kept her creative hands busy. She will be remembered for her gentle spirit, her deep devotion to family and her genuine love for others. Though she will be deeply missed, her legacy lives on in the strong family she nurtured

and the many lives she touched with kindness and grace.

Mary passed away peacefully in Petersburg on February 14, 2026, Valentine’s Day, a fitting day for someone whose life was defined by love. She was preceded in death by her husband, Earl Benitz; sister, Marlene Summerfield; and brother, Skip McKibben.

She is survived by her two sons and their families.

A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

Rules of the Road US Coast Guard QUESTION & ANSWER



QUESTION:

Which day-shape should a vessel being towed exhibit if the tow EXCEEDS 200 meters?

- a. A cone, apex downward
- b. A cone, apex upward
- c. A diamond
- d. A ball

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

ANSWER C.
c. A diamond

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA AT PETERSBURG

In the Matter of the Estate of:)
)
Sandra Elaine Edgars)
Person Who Died (Decedent))
DOB: 11/24/1940)
) Case No. 1PE-26-00008PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

You are notified that the court appointed DeAnn Elaine Minnilo 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 3/10/2026

DeAnn E. Minnilo

PO Box 19241, Thorne Bay, AK 99919

907-201-1046, akharleybabe@gmail.com

Published: March 12, 19 and 26, 2026

Public Notices

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

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Trust Land Office

Notice under 11 AAC 99.050 of

Decision to Dispose of Trust Parcels in Statewide Land Sale Programs – Statewide FY 2027 – 2032

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the provisions of AS 38.05.801 and 11 AAC 99, the Executive Director of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office (TLO) has determined that it is in the best interest of the Alaska Mental Health Trust and its beneficiaries to select and offer a number of Trust parcels annually from a pool of approximately 20 parcels until sold, but primarily between the fiscal years 2027 and 2032 through the TLO’s Statewide Land Sale Programs. The basis for this determination is explained in a written best interest decision prepared by the Executive Director pursuant to 11 AAC 99.040.

The Trust land affected by the decision is adjacent or near to the following communities: Fairbanks, Petersburg, Seward, Sitka, and Wrangell. Further descriptions of the parcels may be found in the written best interest decision.

Persons who believe that the written decision should be altered because it is not in the best interest of the Trust or its beneficiaries, or because the decision is inconsistent with Trust management principles set out in 11 AAC 99.020, or any other provision of 11 AAC 99, must provide written comments on or before 4:30 PM, April 20, 2026. Comments should be submitted to the TLO at 2600 Cordova Street, Suite 201, Anchorage, AK 99503, or by fax (907) 269-8905 or email mhtlo@alaska.gov. Following the comment deadline, the Executive Director will consider timely comments that question the decision on the basis of the best interest of the Alaska Mental Health Trust and its beneficiaries or inconsistency with 11 AAC 99, and the best interest decision may be changed in response to such written comments or other information. Commenting parties will be provided a copy of the final best interest decision after the end of the notice period.

To be eligible to file for reconsideration of the best interest decision, or to file a subsequent appeal to the Superior Court, a person must have submitted written comments during the notice period. Eligible persons will have twenty (20) calendar days after published notice of or receipt of the final written decision to request that the Executive Director reconsider the decision under 11 AAC 99.060(b).

Copies of the written decision are available at the Trust Land Office, or at <https://alaskamenthalhealthtrust.org/trust-land-office/>. If you have any questions concerning this action, please contact the Trust Land Office at (907) 269-8658.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Alaska Mental Health Trust is prepared to accommodate individuals with disabilities. Please contact the Trust Land Office at (907) 269-8658 for assistance. Requests for assistance must be received at least 96 hours prior to the comment deadline in order to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

The Executive Director of the TLO reserves the right to waive technical defects in this notice or to amend, postpone, or vacate the best interest decision.

/s/
Jeffrey Green, Deputy Director
For Jusdi Warner
Executive Director

March 10, 2026

Published: March 19, 2026

PSA Property Tax Assessments & BOE

2026 Property Assessments have been mailed. If you have not received your assessment, or if you have received one in error, please contact the Borough Finance Office as soon as possible.

Please pay close attention to your assessment and the information on the back. Appeal deadline is **March 31, 2026 by 4:30pm**. Assessment and Appeal information can be found on the borough website or can be emailed or mailed to you at your request. If your appeal cannot be resolved with the assessor, the Board of Equalization will meet **April 14, 2026 at noon in the Assembly Chambers**. The burden of proof lies with the petitioner, and not with the Assessor. For assistance, please call 907-772-5409 or email acaulum@petersburgak.gov



www.petersburgak.gov/finance/page/property-tax
Published: March 12 & 19, 2026

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA AT PETERSBURG

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE)
OF:)
HOMER HOSEA SARBER,)
DOB: 04/11/1939)
Deceased.)
) Case No. 1PE-25-00019PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that SABRINA M.SARBER has been appointed as Personal Representative of the Estate of HOMER HOSEA SARBER. All persons having claims against the Deceased are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the Personal Representative at her address, as follows:

SABRINA M. SARBER
4938 BARAT CIRCLE
ANCHORAGE AK 99508
Phone: (907) 964-2271
E-Mail: aksummitdog@gmail.com

Published: March 19, 26, and April 2, 2026

**FACILITY MAINTENANCE
JOB OPENING**



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

Silver Bay Seafoods, Petersburg
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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 and support to the Board of Directors. Position open until filled.
petersburgwave.org/careers
..... tfn3-5b80

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 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
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..... tfn5-1b9

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 - Engineer I: 2-5 years' experience; Alaska trade license required.
 - Engineer II: 5+ years' experience with healthcare facility and regulatory knowledge preferred.
 - **COOK I / II / III**
 - Starting wage \$21.20 per hour for a Cook I - dependent on experience
 - Higher wages available for Cook II and Cook III based on qualifications
 - Differentials: Weekend shift \$2.50 per hour, Evening shift \$1.25 per hour
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SCAN CODE to view position descriptions & to apply online. Additional career opportunities are listed at pmcak.org



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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.



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.
- **Assisted Living Supervisor at Mountain View Manor: \$29.77/hour**, 40 hours per week, Monday through Thursday
- **Parks and Rec Part-Time Custodian: \$19.49/hour**, Monday 8:00pm - 1:00am, Tuesday and Thursday 8pm - 12:30am
Shift Differential: Swing Shift = \$0.75/hour and Grave shift = \$1.25/hour.
- **Assisted Living Cook at Mountain View Manor: \$20.67/hour**, 40 hours per week, Saturday through Tuesday

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!

Forest service staffing

Continued from page 1

it seems like you're going to be doing more with less. ... Do you have enough people?" Sandhofer asked.

Nelson told him the agency currently is working through "interim operations" while adjusting to staffing reductions.

"We in Alaska are now working as part of a larger Pacific team with California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii, overseen by a (Pacific Northwest) regional forester on their executive leadership team."

Acting regional forester for Alaska, Jerry Ingersoll, started in the role in October. He previously worked with the agency in Ketchikan and Juneau for about seven years. Introducing himself at the council meeting, Ingersoll said he'll be retiring at the end of April.

The permanent regional forester for the Pacific Northwest, Jacque Buchanan, spoke to the transition in Forest Service leadership for Alaska.

"When Jerry steps out, I'm going to step fully into it," Buchanan said. "This is the interim space. ... I think we will probably be in this space for the next six to eight months. And so what the future is exactly going to look like, we don't know."

"I have pretty high assurance that, especially here in Alaska, there will remain a state-level leadership," Buchanan said "It may be called something different, you know, it's probably, it's not going to be (an Alaska) regional forester, but it would be a state leadership at the same level."

With reduced staffing levels, Nelson said, "a lot of the local projects will be harder to address, and the emphasis on partnerships is really what's

going to make a difference for us to be able to make sure that we're attending to those very local needs."

She said partnerships remain a priority for the Forest Service. "Just recently, we entered into a shared stewardship agreement with the state of Alaska, and that agreement is focused on providing wood to the wood products industry and pairing that with restoration actions on the forest."

Nelson said the Trump

administration is prioritizing "deregulation and organizational efficiency, and then also an emphasis on partnerships as part of the deregulation agenda."

Forest Service personnel in Washington, D.C., are working through the process to repeal the 2001 Roadless Rule, which could open the Tongass to more logging. A draft environmental impact statement is expected this spring.

Read the **Public Notices**

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will hold a regular board meeting on **March 26, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at SEAPA's Headquarters, 55 Don Finney Lane, in Ketchikan, Alaska. During the meeting, the Board may enter into an executive session for discussions related to an employee and strategic initiatives. Potential action following the executive session may also be taken.



**For additional information, please call 907.228.2281.
Published: March 19, 2026**

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