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candidate questionnaire**
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hosts mushroom expert**
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petersburg
PETERSBURG, ALASKA

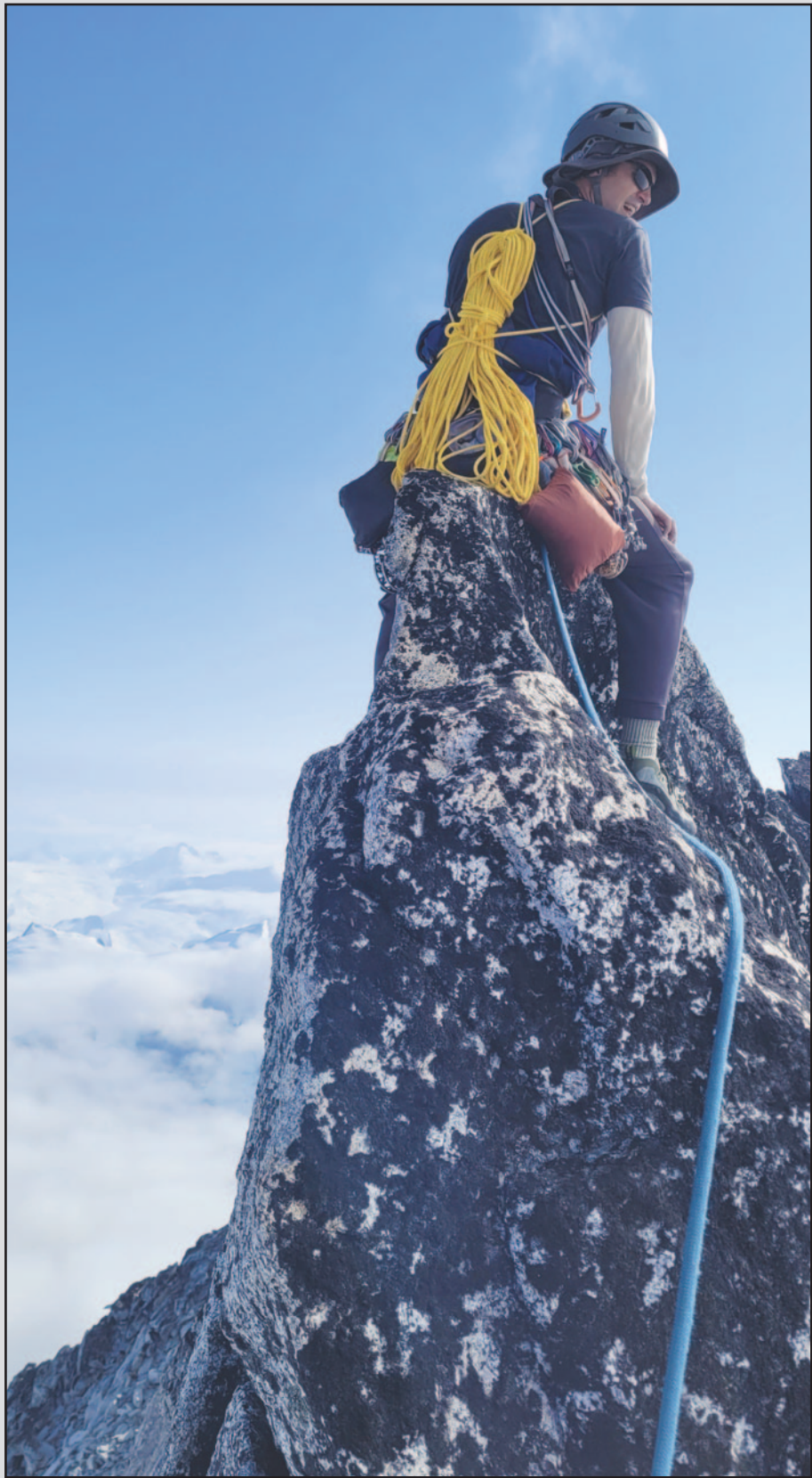


pilot

September 14, 2023
Vol. 49, No. 37

www.petersburgpilot.com

16 Pages
\$1.50



Kyle Knight perches on the summit of Devil's Thumb. Photo courtesy of Kyle Knight

The Devil you know

Kyle Knight first born and raised in Petersburg to climb Devil's Thumb

By **JAKE CLEMENS**
Pilot writer

Of all the people born and raised in Petersburg, those who have grown up with the sight of Devil's Thumb like the exclamation point on a sunny day, none had ever reached its summit before this summer.

The peak of Devil's Thumb hangs at 9,077 feet, arguably the most striking of the border peaks along the Coast Range.

All Petersburg locals have seen it, and many have wondered at least once what it would be like to be on the top, one foot dangling into Alaska, the other into Canada. Now Kyle Knight knows for sure.

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Moose hunting pre-season check-in on antler regulations

By **OLIVIA ROSE**
Pilot writer

Moose hunting aims to begin on September 15. For this hunt, Alaska Wildlife Troopers Sgt. Cody Litster says hunters should acquire a RM038 permit, verse themselves thoroughly on what distinguishes legal game, submit their hunting reports and report their mistakes without hesitation.

As far as antler configuration goes, Sgt. Litster says "it's the same as it has been."

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), antler restrictions protect a portion of the bull population by allowing hunters to select younger and older bulls — allowing for maximum hunt participation while protecting enough bulls for breeding.

There are several different "theories" hunters can use to determine whether or not a moose is legal to harvest.

"One of the theories is, the moose is a spike. Another theory would be that it's a forked horn. A third theory is that it's over 50 inches in width," Sgt. Litster said.

A single, unbroken point on either side of the moose's head is considered a spike; a moose with two projections and no other points coming off of an antler on at least one side is a forked horn moose.

A spike or a fork antlered moose are yearlings and are considered legal.

If the overall width of a moose's antlers measures in at 50 inches or more, then that moose is legal, regardless of any other points — though, Sgt. Litster noted that a moose with a rack of over 50 inches is "relatively rare."

"A fourth possibility that would allow it to be legal is if the moose has three brow tines or more on one side. Or the last and final theory," Sgt. Litster says, "is if it's got two brow tines on both sides of its antler — so two brow tines on the right, two brow tines on the left."

In other words, according to ADF&G, a legal animal would be one bull moose with a spike or forked antler, or a 50-inch or greater antler spread, or three or more brow tines on one antler, or two brow tines on both antlers.

"We live in marginal moose habitat, it's almost universally recognized that this is not like where your typical Alaska moose lives," said Sgt. Litster. "The moose that are here typically have more fragile antlers than they do up north, and so we have a high incidence of breaking..."

This atypical quality is one

Continued on page 3

Reconnecting Petersburg, one volunteer at a time

By **OLIVIA ROSE**
Pilot writer

"Looking for ways to meet new people while also making a difference in Petersburg?"

On September 22, 15 local organizations and nonprofits will gather at Sons of Norway Hall for a volunteer fair — Reconnect Petersburg — from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in learning more about what is happening in the Petersburg community is invited to join that Friday for free appetizers, door prizes, and a community gathering where they can discover specific ways to become more involved.

While the volunteer fair offers food, fun, and a variety of opportunities for community involvement, it also extends a chance for the people of Petersburg and the local nonprofits to connect over what work is going on in

the community.

"There are so many nonprofits that are really doing a lot of work that goes unseen and untalked about," said Ashley Kawashima, a member of the committee organizing the event. Reconnect Petersburg will provide a space where volunteers and board members "can really highlight the good work that they're doing" and can discuss what specific opportunities they have for more folks to get involved.

"Our hope is that it [attracts] some

Continued on page 3



Yesterday's News

News from 25-50-75-100 years ago

September 14, 1923 - Abe Brackney is in the Petersburg Hospital suffering from a fractured skull and is hovering between life and death, Paul Lund has a badly disfigured face and is wearing his head in bandages, and Emil Meldall is in the Petersburg jail being held on a charge of assault until such time as Brackney's condition is definitely determined - all the result of a fight which occurred between the three men on Tuesday morning. According to evidence adduced at the preliminary hearing held on Wednesday night before Commissioner T.J. McBride, Meldall had secured three bottles of Scotch whiskey from a boat which was passing through. He got exceedingly drunk and early in the morning went to the house of one of the girls up the creek. For some reason he became enraged and started in to wreck the house. Brackney and Lund, hearing the disturbance, went to investigate and tried to stop Meldall, becoming engaged in a fist fight with the man. The fight continued for nearly two hours during which the house in which it occurred was completely wrecked. Lund got two black eyes and several cuts about the head and in some manner undetermined Brackney suffered a fractured skull. He was taken to the hospital where he was very low for several hours, but following an operation which relieved the pressure on his brain, has been slowly recovering. Meldall is being held on a charge of assault and the hearing has been continued for one week, or until Brackney either recovers enough to testify or passes out. In the latter event the charge will likely be changed to manslaughter. Meldall refused to make any statement but claims that he does not remember anything which occurred.

September 10, 1948 - Firemen were called to the city float on Wednesday morning where they found an overheated stove in the troller Hazel F, belonging to Herb Reid, local troller. The oil supply was quickly shut off as firemen stood by. No damage was evident, other than a smoke filled cabin. Herb said he turned the stove on that morning to warm up the boat and expected it to be nice and warm upon his return. It was!

September 13, 1973 - The senseless shooting of a black bear at the garbage dump last week has angered many of the citizens of Petersburg. Some have even indicated a willingness to offer a reward for the arrest of the persons involved in the killing. Trooper Norm Carson is investigating the shooting. Carson said the bear was killed with a high-powered rifle and left at the dump late Friday night or early Saturday morning. Bears at the dump have provided

entertainment for residents and visitors alike and have been unmolested for years. Hundreds of persons have made nocturnal visits to watch the antics of as many as ten or eleven bears as they scrounge the dump for food. Even sows and cubs have been seen around the dump. Although not tame, the bears have become accustomed to humans and have gone about their business while 25 or 30 people watch them. Trooper Carson has requested assistance in his investigation. He would particularly like to talk to persons who were in the area Friday night who might recall who else was there at the time. Carson can be contacted at his office or by calling 3100.

September 10, 1998 - The Petersburg Lutheran Church's new 2,200 square foot fellowship hall should be completed by the end of October thanks to a donation from an anonymous church goer who mortgaged their home to extend the church's credit line by \$150,000 and cover the cost of completion of the project. The hall will be

able to hold about 150-200 people for sit down meals. On the first floor of the new building are four single classrooms and one double

classroom, several bathrooms and a shower space.

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SUN	09/24	COLUMBIA	06:00 P.M.
FRI	10/06	COLUMBIA	08:30 P.M.
SAT	10/14	COLUMBIA	12:15 A.M.
FRI	10/20	COLUMBIA	07:00 P.M.

SOUTHBOUND DEPARTURES

WED	09/20	COLUMBIA	01:00 A.M.
TUE	09/26	COLUMBIA	11:15 P.M.
MON	10/09	COLUMBIA	12:15 A.M.
MON	10/16	COLUMBIA	04:00 A.M.
SUN	10/22	COLUMBIA	10:00 P.M.

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WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Precip
Sep 06	58	39	0.02
Sep 07	59	50	0.08
Sep 08	63	52	0.04
Sep 09	64	50	T
Sep 10	74	47	T
Sep 11	60	51	0.60
Sep 12	57	52	0.55

This Week's Precipitation: 1.29"
This weather service is provided by the FAA weather observation station at the James A. Johnson Airport.

DAYLIGHT HOURS

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Sep 14	6:17a	7:15p	12:58hrs
Sep 15	6:19a	7:12p	12:53hrs
Sep 16	6:21a	7:09p	12:48hrs
Sep 17	6:23a	7:06p	12:43hrs
Sep 18	6:25a	7:04p	12:39hrs
Sep 19	6:27a	7:01p	12:34hrs
Sep 20	6:29a	6:58p	12:29hrs

PETERSBURG HAPPENINGS

Brought to you by:

THURSDAY, September 14

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance: 10:00am, Mitkof Dance Studio

Stories In Motion: 11:00am, Public Library

Booth Sign up for Oktoberfest: 11:00am, in front of Rexall

USCG Auxiliary Meeting: 6:00pm, The Moorings at 107 Doc Street

Rainforest Festival Mushroom Expert Presentation: 6:30pm, Library

FRIDAY, September 15

Stories In Motion: 11:00am, Public Library

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

Mushroom Walk with Expert: 4:30pm, Sandy Beach Trailhead

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

AA Candlelight Meeting: 7:00pm, Episcopal Church

SATURDAY, September 16

Mushroom Walk with Expert: 9:00am, Raven's Roost Trailhead

Kids Can Code: 1:00pm, Public Library

MONDAY, September 18

Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall

Hospital Guild Meeting: 1:30pm, Dorothy Ingle Conference Room

Burger Night: 5:30pm, Moose Lodge

Borough Assembly Meeting: 6:00pm, Assembly chambers

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

TUESDAY, September 19

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance: 10:00am, Mitkof Dance Studio

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

WEDNESDAY, September 20

Tai Chi: 7:00am, Mountain View Manor Social Hall

PSG Rotary Lunch and Fellowship: 12:00pm, Salvation Army Hall

Hospital Board Candidates Forum: 6:00pm, Assembly Chambers

Free Supper: 6:00pm, First Baptist Church

ANB/ANS Monthly Business Meeting: 7:00pm, John Hansen Sr. bldg

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

PETERSBURG
TIDE TABLE
SEPTEMBER 2023

		HIGH TIDES		LOW TIDES					
		A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.				
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	
14 Thu	1:27	15.8	1:57	15.5	7:50	-0.6	8:01	1.2	
15 Fri	2:00	16.1	2:22	16.0	8:17	-0.6	8:31	0.5	
16 Sat	2:31	16.0	2:48	16.3	8:43	-0.3	9:01	0.1	
17 Sun	3:03	15.7	3:13	16.5	9:10	0.3	9:32	0.0	
18 Mon	3:36	15.1	3:39	16.4	9:37	1.2	10:05	0.1	
19 Tue	4:12	14.3	4:08	16.1	10:06	2.2	10:42	0.5	
20 Wed	4:52	13.3	4:42	15.6	10:39	3.4	11:27	1.1	

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ALASKA MARINE LINES

Moose

Continued from page 1
of several factors that people must keep in mind when hunting and reporting.
Considering the presence of “unscrupulous people” in the history of this hunt, who “have actually broken antlers on purpose to try and make them look like spikes and forks” consistent with legal game, the maintained regulation says a broken, altered, or damaged antler — natural or manmade — cannot be considered a spiker report, according to Sgt. Litster.
“Our hunt here is unique throughout the state, and so we need hunters who hunt this hunt to pick up their particular permit and not just a general moose season permit.”
RM038 is the Department of Fish and Game permit code number for this particular hunt.
The mountainous and tree-filled landscape makes it “very difficult to survey” the area;

however, gathering information related to the moose season is essential to continue harvests in the years to come.
Sgt. Litster says this registration hunt is basically the survey.
“Anytime that you pick up this moose permit, you agree to inform Fish and Game of what you saw during the moose season ... Hunter information is crucial for this hunt to be done every year, so make sure you turn in your moose hunting report, and/or report online to Fish and Game — even if you’re not successful in the moose hunt — because hunter information ... and knowing what’s out there, based on what hunters see, allows this hunt to go forward year after year,” he said.
The Department of Fish and Game issues the moose tags, the hunting licenses, and “they prosecute this hunt, and make

sure that it’s possible and feasible biologically,” said Litster.
The Troopers enforce the regulations.
“There’s lots of ways to make a moose legal. And there’s lots of ways to make a moose illegal. We just ask that hunters do their best,” said Sgt. Litster. “Watch the video that’s required in the registration. Talk with other hunters. And when in doubt, don’t.”
He says mistakes happen, and when they do, a hunter should call it in. “We try not to make it too scary, but if someone is bent on taking [an illegal] moose home or outright poaching [an illegal] moose, they’ll be held to a lot higher standard than someone who turns themselves in.” A hunter who reports their mistake will be fined in court, but still permitted to keep their hunting privileges. The moose, however, “stays in the community and gets do-

nated to local charities through several different processes... [It’s] unfortunate for the hunters but very fortunate for the communities, and it makes the most of a bad situation.”
Facilitated through the Rotary Club, when an illegal moose is seized, the meat is held with the community cold storage, then processed through Tonka Seafoods and Hammer and Wikan butchers, and distributed through donations to the local community by volunteers with the Rotary Club or the Burger Bank. Plus, if the butchers determine that a moose will cost \$300 to break down, the hunter can apply that cost towards their judgment in court if they pay that processing fee — in other words, paying the fine through covering the cost of the donated meat— according to Sgt.

Litster.
Sgt. Litster told the Pilot that a violation to any hunting regulation in the state of Alaska, “actually starts out as a misdemeanor, which is a criminal offense ... So there’s no guarantee what the fine is going to be. But if you call Fish and Game, or if you call the Troopers and say, ‘Hey, I made a mistake,’ ... before anyone else does or before we find you ... then it becomes a violation, and with a max fine of no more than \$500.”
“We have these crazy antlered moose that don’t grow typical normal antlers, and weird things happen with them — whether it’s breaks or deformations— and we don’t want to make a criminal out of anyone over these moose,” Sgt. Litster stressed.
The moose hunting season ends on October 15.

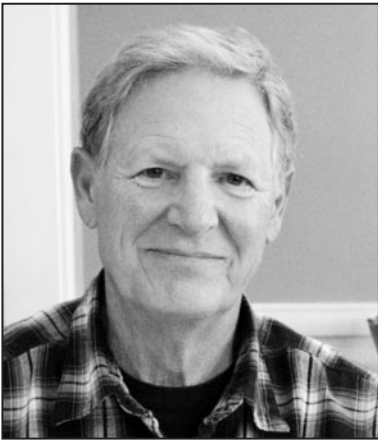
Volunteers

Continued from page 1
people that haven’t really been a part of the conversation even, as far as volunteering and things like that go, because a lot of times ... we are all tapping into the same pools of volunteers,” Kawashima said.
“That can be a lot for people: to feel like they have to be in multiple places at once ... carrying all that load.”
Part of the goal for this volunteer fair is to ultimately help spread out the work and strengthen the volunteer forces of the community by bringing about better balance with more participants. Kawashima says she hopes Reconnect Petersburg can “tap into people’s different interests in a way that maybe we haven’t been able to achieve yet,” and draw a few new faces to the groups.
“These nonprofits work so hard to make things happen for the community, and so any extra additional help that they can get is just like such a huge thing, to just help them ... keep sustaining whatever programs they’re doing.”
Reconnect Petersburg attendees will be able to gather at the event site and have free food made by FIRE catering — Hawaiian Kalua Pork, Greek Mediterranean salad, Vietnamese noodle salad, gluten free options, and more— thanks to the cost covered by the Rotary Club, WAVE, and the Petersburg

Volunteer Fire Department, which are three of the 15 orgs set to attend. Plus, “a lot of local businesses offered to do some really great prizes.”
The door prizes are donations from local businesses. Attendees will get three punches in their Reconnect Petersburg cards just for talking to a nonprofit there; once they talk to three orgs, they can exchange their punch card for one raffle ticket. Better yet, if an attendee signs up for an org, they will get three tickets to enter in the raffle. “We’re pretty excited about it.”
Another push behind Reconnect Petersburg is to show “people who have made donations to nonprofits locally in the past ... where their donations are going to and what ... they’re helping us achieve.”
“Yes, our nonprofits are looking for volunteers, and we wanted to give them a space for that. But also [this event is for] anyone who’s just interested in, you know, learning more about what’s going on in their community.”
Everyone interested in learning more about opportunities for volunteering in Petersburg is welcome to join the gathering at Sons of Norway Hall on the 22 and reconnect with the Petersburg community.
“Even if, you know, just a few people sign up to volunteer,” Kawashima says, “I think that will be a huge success.”

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Traveling the Alaska way — *by U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski*

The night before my team and I were scheduled to fly from Juneau to Haines on Sea-planes with the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, I did something I’ve never done before when traveling in Southeast.

I wished for rain and wind. I secretly hoped our flights would be grounded so the secretary would get a real taste of transportation in our state, where we often have to pivot to

Plans B and C to get where we’re going.

As luck and weather would have it, my prayers were quickly answered when we got the updated forecast at 4:30 a.m. that next morning. And instead of flying, we quickly mobilized our teams and scrambled to make the 7:00 a.m. ferry.

Our carefully orchestrated travel plans now a wreck, the secretary and his team waited in line at the terminal in Auke

Bay to buy their tickets. We walked onto the loading ramp in the rain, grabbed breakfast in the cafeteria of the M/V Hubbard, pulled up a circle of chairs, and held a meeting in the hallway over coffee as other passengers walked past us.

Throughout our negotiations on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), one of my highest priorities was gaining support for our ferries. I told my colleagues that if they

were asking me to support funding for Amtrak, or for sub-way upgrades in New York, they would have to support Alaska’s Marine Highway, because when it comes to Alaska, our highways are our waterways.

It’s also why I’ve been so insistent that Secretary Buttigieg, and other federal officials, come to Alaska and see how and why our infrastructure is so unique and why federal investment is so necessary to keep Alaska moving and growing. When the all-too-routine inclement weather hit Juneau and canceled our air travel, he got a firsthand glimpse at how essential transportation redundancy is to our coastal communities in the form of a reliable ferry system.

It’s true the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) faces workforce shortages, seesaw funding, and challenges associated with the overall vision from its leadership. But never before have the stars aligned so well to not only fix, but transform Alaska’s Marine Highway System.

In January, the AMHS received a sizable \$285 million federal investment from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Thanks to the programs enacted under the IIJA, the AMHS is poised to receive additional federal investment each of the next three years. We also have people at the highest level of the President’s administration who have seen the system with their own eyes, better understand the challenges we face, and who are ready to work with us to tackle those challenges head on.

With this unique window of opportunity in front of us, now

is the time to make sure we are wisely utilizing the five years of supplemental federal funding to build and scope a sustainable system and fleet for the next 50 – 100 years. We should not be afraid to reimagine the system that operates for the good of all Alaskans who rely on it. I understand that progress is being made, especially with regard to replacing the Tustumena; however, we must leverage every federal dollar available by providing matching state funds to rebuild our aging fleet and address the structural challenges facing the system, instead of supplementing our state costs.

A revitalized marine highway system will help coastal Alaska flourish. A consistent, year-round schedule would link up our communities and villages, connect our economies, open up health care travel, put groceries and essential goods on store shelves in a timely manner, and facilitate greater outreach for public safety officers.

This is our lifeline to rebuild a vital piece of infrastructure that can serve Alaskans for the next 75 years as reliably as it has the last 75. The tools are laid out, just waiting for us to pick them up and put in the work.

Are we ready?

GUEST EDITORIAL

Hallucinations are not good for AI or Alaska

By **LARRY PERSILY**
Wrangell Sentinel writer

When I was much younger, hallucinations were an affliction of college students who figured drug-assisted education was the answer to life — or at least worth a try. Not me (honest). I found it more entertaining to stay sober and watch everyone else act stupid, and then tell them the stories the next day and at reunions for years to come.

I had figured that self-inflicted hallucinations were in the past, an unhealthy phase of life, much like eating four hot dogs, with fries, in one sitting. It was my favorite weekend meal with high school friends as we drove around the neighborhood, wiping the mustard from our faces and thinking no one would notice our raw-onion breath.

But now, hallucinations are back. And, like drugs, they are man-made.

They come from artificial intelligence, which goes by the name AI and which I confuse with A.I., though the steak sauce is a lot cheaper and easier to digest.

When AI gets an answer wrong, really wrong, like totally made-up wrong, it’s called a hallucination. I wish I had that excuse handy in college calculus or organic chemistry.

“I don’t think that there’s any (AI) model today that doesn’t suffer from some hallucination,” Daniela Amodei, co-founder and president of Anthropic, maker of the chatbot Claude 2, told The Associated Press last month.

A Wall Street Journal columnist this spring wrote how he had asked an AI chatbot about “argumentative diphthongization,” a completely nonsensical phrase he made up. The chatbot spit out five paragraphs of “information,” adding that the term was “first coined by the linguist Hans Jakobsen in 1922.”

You guessed it: Hans never existed. Maybe the chatterbox brains of the chatbot stole the

name from a Danish gymnast who competed in the 1920 Olympics, at least that’s what the columnist thought.

The nonexistent 1922 linguist is what AI researchers call a hallucination. As businesses, students, scientists, writers and many more professions are trying out AI to make their jobs easier or replace workers on the job, the possibility that some chatbot could make up an answer from the bits and bytes equivalent of thin air is troubling. Not so much that a chatbot could spew out a falsehood that some student unknowingly turns in as homework, but troubling in that what if elected officials turn to AI to make decisions.

“Hallucination” comes from the Latin word “alucinari,” which can mean “to dream” or “to be deceived.” I got that from a written text, not AI. Starting in the mid-17th century, hallucination referred to seeing an object when nothing was there. A mirage.

Judging from those definitions, it seems like too many elected officials in Alaska already are infected with hallucinations. They see the potential of billions of dollars from developing oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, ignoring the reality that the industry stayed away from the 2021 lease sale and only the state of Alaska saw the mirage of oil wealth and paid millions of dollars for worthless leases.

They imagine a North Slope natural gas pipeline in the future, selling the fuel to Japan and South Korea, missing the reality that liquefied natural gas consumption is in decline in both countries and that every competing gas project in the world is less expensive than Alaska.

And some, including the governor, hallucinate that the state can pay out billions of dollars in Permanent Fund dividends and not overdraw the state’s bank accounts.

Maybe, after researchers work out the bugs of AI hallucinations, they can do the same with Alaska’s self-deceived leaders.

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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:
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Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Police report

September 6 – Petersburg Police Department (PPD) received a parking complaint.

PPD received a report of possible fraud.

A vehicle that was illegally parked on North 2nd Street was moved and its owner was issued a warning.

Found property was turned in to the PPD.

September 7 – An officer responding to a complaint of excessive barking on Skylark Way found the dog gone upon their arrival.

A trespass notice was served.

An officer responded to the sound of a possible explosion on Mitkof Highway.

An officer responding to a report of parked vehicles limiting visibility on North Nordic and Haugen Drives resolved the issue.

Officers responding to a report of a possible DUI on Excel Street determined the report was unfounded.

An officer conducted a welfare check on Sing Lee Alley.

An officer responded to a report of nuisance barking on South 2nd Street and spoke with the dog’s owner.

September 8 – An officer responding to a report of a vehicle parked for an extended period on Howkan Street advised the owner to move it.

PPD received a report of a domestic cat struck by a vehicle at Haugen Drive at 2nd Street fleeing the scene.

An officer conducted extra patrols downtown.

A driver on Mitkof Highway was issued a warning for speed.

September 9 – An officer conducted extra patrols downtown.

An officer conducted extra patrols at Sandy Beach Park.

An officer assisted a citizen that had fallen on Gjoa Street.

PPD received a report of stolen property found on Mitkof Highway.

An officer responding to a report of a dangerous driver on South Nordic Drive at Marion Street was unable to locate the described vehicle.

An officer responding to a re-

port of a minor dispute found the parties had separated prior to their arrival.

An officer responded to a possible burglary on Skylark Way.

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

An officer assisted with a vehicle lockout on South Nordic Drive.

An officer conducted extra patrols downtown.

September 10 – Found property was turned in to the PPD.

PPD received a report of an open window at a business on South Nordic Drive and notified the responsible party.

PPD received a report of a dangerous driver on Mitkof Highway. Alaska Wildlife Trooper (AWT) assisted and

found everything was okay.

PPD received a report of individuals speeding on a private roadway. Responding officers advised the group to slow down.

September 11 – An officer responded to a report of possible harassment.

An officer responding to a parking complaint on South Nordic Drive advised the owner to move the offending vehicle.

An officer responded to a report of suspicious activity on South Nordic Drive.

An officer conducted a welfare check on South Nordic Drive and found all okay.

An officer responded to a disturbance on North Nordic Drive.

An officer spoke with an individual about a civil issue.

September 12 – An officer conducted a civil stand-by on

Excel Street.

PPD received a report of a fawn struck by a vehicle on Somerset Drive.

An officer responded to a report of an individual behaving in an erratic and unusual manner on North Nordic Drive.

An officer assisted an individual on Chief John Lott Street.

An officer responded to a report of an individual acting suspiciously on North Nordic Drive.

Paperwork was served by PPD.

Brittany Martin was charged with domestic violence assault in the third degree on Excel Street.

An officer conducted a welfare check on Sandy Beach Road and found all okay.

An officer responded to a report of suspicious activity on South 2nd Street.

Kake public safety officer fired following off-duty assault arrest

By MARK SABBATINI
Juneau Empire

A village public safety officer in Kake has been fired following his arrest in late August after he reportedly assaulted a woman and possessed a weapon while intoxicated off-duty.

Austin Brady, 28, was arrested on charges of felony sec-

ond- and third-degree assault, misdemeanor fourth-degree criminal mischief, and fourth-degree misconduct involving a weapon, according to the state court system. Brady is out on a \$2,500 bail posted Tuesday.

Brady was terminated from his position by his employer, the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska following his arrest and

charges, according to Tlingit and Haida Communications Coordinator Raeanne Holmes. Brady was employed by Tlingit and Haida after he graduated from law enforcement training in Sitka in November 2022.

“Brady’s employment was terminated following his arrest and criminal charges filed by the Alaska Department of Public Safety,” she wrote in an email response. “Tlingit and Haida terminated Mr. Brady the same day he was charged.”

Brady’s arrest on Aug. 29 came after troopers received the report of the assault of a woman in Kake at about 8:12 a.m., according to the dispatch. However, poor weather prevented troopers from landing their flight to the village by a char-

tered plane.

Later, with assistance from the Petersburg Police Department, troopers were able to respond via the police department’s patrol vessel at about 2:30 p.m. that afternoon, where they contacted Brady, according to the dispatch.

“Further investigation revealed that Brady had assaulted the female and possessed a firearm while intoxicated,” the dispatch states.

Since Brady’s arrest, Holmes said two VPSOs have been dispatched to Kake to provide coverage. Brady has since appeared at the Petersburg Courthouse for a first appearance, arraignment and bail hearing. A preliminary hearing scheduled for Sept. 18 was vacated.

Pasture Raised Meat Sale Also Taking Orders In Petersburg Sept. 1 - 24 Contact Justina 970-948-8275 www.PotterFarms.net Potter Farms - Farming the way it should be

Rick Perkins for Borough Assembly



GET TO KNOW RICK PERKINS

I am running for a seat on the Borough Assembly to make a difference in our Community. I have lived in Petersburg for over 23 years and I have been a blue-collar worker my entire life. I am an outdoors enthusiast and I love to fish. I have prior work experience in water public works; I have been a part of 3 water plant projects including one here in Petersburg. I have also

worked as a die maker for Boeing, owned my own business in logging and dirt work, along with building seven of my own homes. I am hoping my life experiences can help bridge the gap concerning building and repairing existing Community buildings and roads. I am in favor of fiscal responsibility and I am not in favor of spending money without a true return. I am in favor of expanding the services offered at the hospital to improve the quality of life for our residents. I believe at some point in life individuals should give back to their community, whether it is through knowledge, volunteering or running for an elected board position.

Paid for by Rick Perkins, PO Box 1558, Petersburg, AK 99833

Heavy rains, floods, landslides advisory Petersburg Emergency Response Director Aaron Hankins reports the National Weather Service’s Juneau Forecast Team has issued a weather advisory. They are forecasting multiple systems through this weekend will bring heavy rain and strong winds to southeast Alaska. Landslides are possible. The first system is expected to arrive Wednesday evening, followed by a more potent storm on Friday night and into Saturday. Heavy rainfall, with 24-hour rain totals approaching 2 - 4 inches, prompted a Flood Watch for Thursday. Periods of gale force winds (sustained 34-47 knots) are possible near ocean entrances.

Community Emergency Response Team training postponed The Community Emergency Response Team training scheduled for September 14 - 17 has been postponed due to instructor injury. This class will be rescheduled at a later date. If participants are interested in saving time by taking an optional 12-hour on-line course before the in person training, please contact Aaron Hankins. CERT volunteers will make the ultimate difference in the event of a large-scale disaster. Please contact Aaron Hankins at AHankins@Petersburgak.gov if you are interested in joining CERT.

Hospital Board Candidates Questionnaire

Jerod Cook

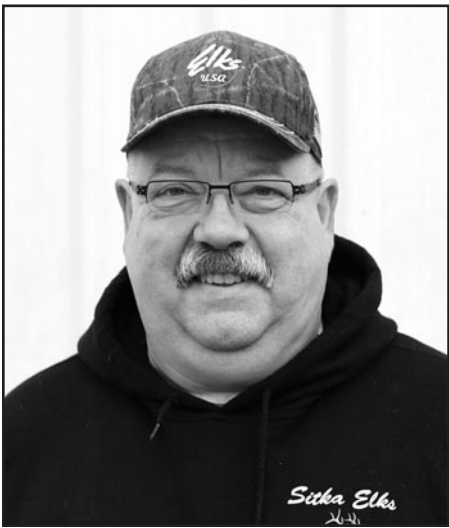
What is your age?
I am 54 years old

Why have you chosen to run for Hospital Board at this time?
I have been on the hospital board for a number of years, and because we are in the middle of the process of getting a new facility built, I feel I need to help finish the project I was involved with starting. I feel it is important to make sure the future health care needs of the community are met and continue at the level they are, or better, going into the future.

What experience do you have that prepares you for this role?
When I first got on the board the decision had already been made to move toward a new facility. Having had experience with building new facilities in Petersburg, being on the Parks and

Rec board when the decision was made to build the pool, and being the Fire Chief when we built the fire station. I felt I might be able to help PMC through the process of getting into a new facility. I have been selected by the board to be the board president for the last several years.

Do you fully support the phased construction of a new PMC facility, why or why not?
I do fully support the phased construction of a new PMC facility. This community simply cannot afford to build a new facility on its own. The best way to get a new facility is through outside funding. If I can help, bring 80 million to 100 million worth of infrastructure to Petersburg from outside funding, why wouldn't I try. The phased construction is probably the best way to do this. It allows us to get



Jerod Cook

funding from different sources for different parts of the project. If we are unable to get funding for a new facility we will be forced to come to the commu-

nity to fund the major upgrades needed to upgrade the present building on a continuing bases even though experts have advised us that the building has major issues that need to be addressed and is at the end of its life cycle.

What is something you feel the Petersburg Medical Center does well, and what is something you would like to see be done differently?
PMC employs a large number of people in Petersburg. These employees provide quality health care for the community. They work all hours to insure people can count on some form of care at any time. Many new health care services have been added over the last few years to better care for members of the community. I would like to see these services continue into the future.

Marlene Cushing



Marlene Cushing

What is your age?
71

Why have you chosen to run for Hospital Board at this time?
I want to see the momentum continue towards delivering health and wellness care that meets the changing needs and desires of our community, now and in the future. The challenges from finances, regulations and personnel shortages effect us as well as everywhere else in the country. One critical piece for Petersburg is getting a new facility.

What experience do you have that prepares you for this role?
I have been on the PMC Board for 9 years. I was privileged to be the Public Health Nurse for Petersburg from 1978 to 2008.

Do you fully support the phased construction of a new PMC facility, why or why not?
Absolutely. The current facility could have a catastrophic failure anytime.

What is something you feel the

Petersburg Medical Center does well, and what is something you would like to see be done differently?
What is outstanding is the level of care offered, and the deep commitment from staff to patients and the community. I think an area that still needs work is two way communication with town folks and patients. This includes letting people know about programs and services that are available, setting up appointments and referrals, reaching care providers, getting test results, as well as the planning for the new facility.

Mika Hasbrouck

What is your age?
I've called Petersburg home since I was born in this hospital 38 years ago. I've lived in Petersburg through my work with the Ferry System all over Alaska and during the time I've been "Outside" for schooling.

Why have you chosen to run for Hospital Board at this time?
Medical care, health and well-being are critical to life, period...and serving on the Hospital Board will give me the opportunity to serve our community in new ways as we address the many needs and wants related to Petersburg's next decisions for the future.

What experience do you have that prepares you for this role?
I've learned to navigate a lot of complex situations in my 17 years with the state Ferry System, weathering the ups and downs associated with budgets and the changing ad-

ministrations, along with my direct working knowledge and experiences when it comes to the realities of maintaining public infrastructure, specifically the impacts of deferred maintenance and the realistic costs of facilities/ships. I'm also a small business owner, home owner, landlord, community volunteer, and soon-to-be parent.

Do you fully support the phased construction of a new PMC facility, why or why not?
There is still a lot to know about the costs, the construction, and operation of a new PMC facility or hospital. From what I've deduced so far, the community-at-large has not had much a voice in the current plan and lots of questions remain. At this time I do not support the phased construction of a new hospital. With more information, such as life cost analysis and more community involvement, I will be better able to help make



Mika Hasbrouck

decisions in the best interest of our town.

What is something you feel the Petersburg Medical Center does well, and what is something you would like to see be done differently?

I have been impressed with and very grateful for the Home Health and Wound Care Programs from PMC, I would like to see them flourish to serve even more of our growing aging population and others. I think meeting people where they are and being more personal in the home setting is beneficial to care providers and patients alike.

I would like to see more access to alternative treatments such as acupuncture, IV therapies and naturopathic and complimentary approaches. It would be nice to have MRI available so people didn't have to travel as much for critical testing. However, as the economy continues to struggle we have to work on balancing our critical needs and our means. I can be an asset to working through our challenges as I make up a different demographic and perspective than those running for and currently serving on the hospital board.

Join us for the Petersburg Hospital Board Candidates Forum

Wednesday, September 20th, 6 - 8 pm in Borough Assembly Chambers

The candidates will respond to questions from the newsrooms of KFSK and the Petersburg Pilot. Suggest a question for the reporters by email to pilotpub@gmail.com.

Candidates will also respond to questions from members of the public who attend the forum.

Hospital Board Candidates Questionnaire

Don Koenigs

What is your age?

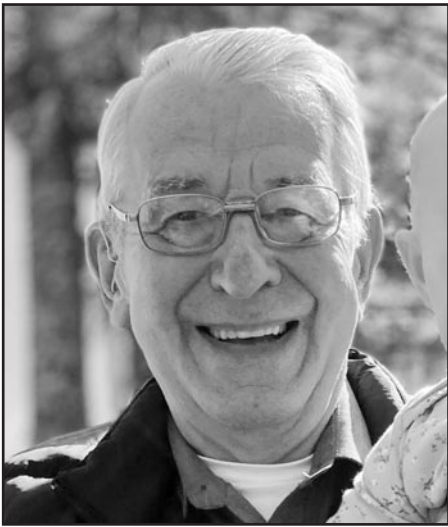
Old enough to know that the proposed construction of a new Borough Hospital requires a business plan to provide public confidence that it can be operated and maintained within the Borough's fiscal means. 84 years.

Why have you chosen to run for Hospital Board at this time?

The Borough Assembly and the Hospital Board have not yet not provided a business plan that indicates the construction of a \$90 + million dollar facility is feasible for the community to own and operate.

What experience do you have that prepares you for this role?

Served the community as Mayor during the construction of the Hospital, Middle School renovation, and the Assisted Living Facility in the early



Don Koenigs

1980's. Served the community as interim City Manager in 1994/1995. State of Alaska Workers Comp Board, 2 years; Logging engineer for

Ketchikan Pulp Co, 17 years; Logging superintendent of Valentine Logging Company, 2 years; K-nigs Consulting, 2 years; Constructech Inc. providing survey service to the Tyee Hydro Electric Project, 2 years; Greens Creek Mine Company Project providing design, survey and construction management of the access road, 8 years; K-nigs Construction commercial and residential construction, 11 years; Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Manager 2 years.

Do you fully support the phased construction of a new PMC facility, why or why not?

There is currently insufficient funding and information to garner public trust that the Borough can complete the project. This project should be brought to the vote of the public. They will bear the life cycle costs of the

project. I do not support the Borough's phased development of a new hospital at this time.

What is something you feel the Petersburg Medical Center does well, and what is something you would like to see be done differently?

My experience is that the Hospital provides medical care to all who come to the facility.

However, maintenance has been deferred in favor of wages and benefits, and operational equipment. One small example: The water fountain at the emergency entrance has been inoperable for 15 years, so a person waiting for a blood draw cannot get a drink of water to remain hydrated while waiting for the service.

Jim Roberts

What is your age?

78

Why have you chosen to run for Hospital Board at this time?

I care deeply about our community, and I have a great deal of experience and skills from my working life that I can offer: financial management, large project management, commercial construction, and regulatory compliance. I have served on Petersburg's Hospital Board for over 4 years already, and I know I can continue to add value.

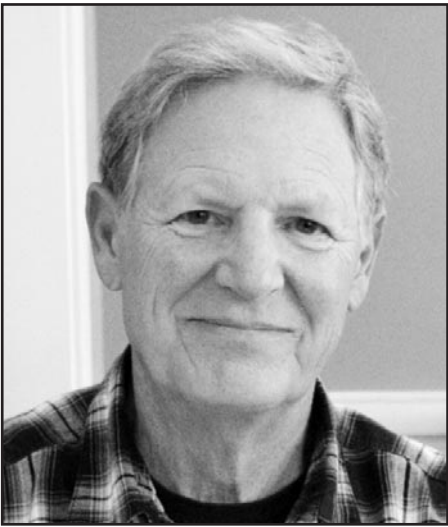
What experience do you have that prepares you for this role?

I was a Senior Program Manager, leading multi-million dollar Federal technology development programs. This included writing proposals, managing contracts, developing schedules, insuring that projects stayed on budget, managing regulatory requirements, and ultimately provide the results the customer wanted.

Do you fully support the phased construction of a new PMC facility, why or why not?

Petersburg has a great hospital that is a vital part of our community, serving both young and older, healthy and those dealing with illnesses, as well as making Petersburg attractive for larger employers such as the Forest Service and the Coast Guard. But, the hospital needs a new building. There are many serious issues with the current facility: plumbing, electric, air handling, etc. When you have to kick people out of a patient's room and rearrange the furniture in order to bring in a "crash cart" for a cardiac emergency, the facility is not meeting our patient's needs! Current building codes demand larger patient rooms for this and other reasons, and our current facility could be shut down to meet code at any time.

Phased construction is the way to get our new hospital funded by grants and other outside funding sources.



Jim Roberts

Aside from Borough-provided land, none of the costs to build the new hospital building have been paid by the community to date, and none will be. But that requires us to position ourselves with a "shovel-ready" project plan (which we are in the midst of doing), so we can be at the top of the

list as various funding opportunities become available.

What is something you feel the Petersburg Medical Center does well, and what is something you would like to see be done differently?

PMC continues to respond to community needs with new programs and offerings such as home health, adult day service program, health and fall prevention, a partnership with SEARHC to provide colonoscopies here, and updating the specialty clinic to better serve visiting specialists - I love that PMC is always looking for new ways to serve our population! I think PMC should look at working with outside specialists to do preliminary work-ups locally, before a patient has to travel for specialist care. Additionally, PMC should continue to look at opportunities for joint projects with other medical facilities, and continue to expand our tele-medicine offerings.

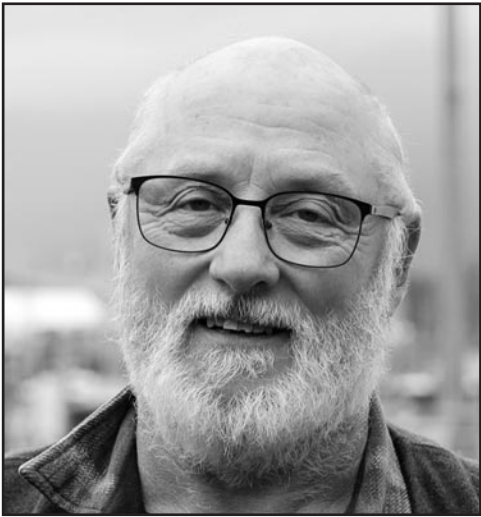
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Borough Assembly Candidates Questionnaire



Rick Perkins

What is your age? 69

Why have you chosen to run for Assembly at this time?
I have been asked to bring people and ideas together without a divisive tone in this capacity.

What experience do you have that prepares you for this role?
In working for the Boeing Company, I was able to bridge the gap from engineering to assembly, by building the tooling to do so regardless of paperwork or personalities. I have built 7 of my own homes, I have worked on 3 different water plant projects, and I have owned two businesses. I have a range of experiences and education, which I feel the community can benefit from.

What is your vision for the future of healthcare in Petersburg, and how would you use an Assembly seat to support that vision?
I hope to be a part of updating equipment, (EGR Equipment). Possibly being able to add new services like an MRI machine, an anesthesiologist and for new services to be offered to our community members.

What should the borough do to improve access to affordable housing in Petersburg?
Housing is not a taxpayer issue. Land development should be done by private companies and the Borough should be releasing lots to be sold.

Please provide a brief statement on any borough topic of interest to you?
Petersburg is too small of a community to be divided, as the rest of the country has become. Lets build responsibly!



Jeff Meucci

What is your age? I am 68 years old.

Why have you chosen to run for Assembly at this time?
I have several unfinished projects on the Borough Assembly that I would like to continue working on. Some of those projects are listed below. I am committed to working hard to keep Petersburg a great place to live and raise a family.

What experience do you have that prepares you for this role?
I have served on Parks and Recreation board, served as a city council member for 1990 thru 1995, served as city mayor from 1995 thru 1999, Borough Assembly member from 2017 to present.

What is your vision for the future of healthcare in Petersburg, and how would you use an Assembly seat to support that vision?
My vision for the future of healthcare in Petersburg is that I see a transition from a basic level of care facility to a critical access hospital that is providing essential specialized care while still providing services that the community has depended on for years. I am using my assembly seat to support the hospital board's vision of building a new facility, while continuing to ask questions about the cost of the new facility and making sure that the property owners and neighbors of the new facility are being listened to regarding their concerns.

What should the borough do to improve access to affordable housing in Petersburg?
Improving access to affordable housing in Petersburg: Sell more borough land, work with other agencies to assist them in property development. Work with private enterprise to help with affordable entry level housing. The borough should also be creative with property tax structures to encourage building.

Please provide a brief statement on any borough topic of interest to you?
Follow up on recommendations from the early childhood education task force and the housing task force. Follow up and implement the recommendations that the borough's insurance carrier (APEI) has suggested. The report looked at the Human Resources procedures and the safety procedures of the borough. Continue the discussions with the State of Alaska to take control of the Papkes Landing boat launch, docks and lands adjacent to it. Continue funding the school system so they can provide a quality education for our children. Make sure that we take care of our community members, especially the children and the elderly. Continue to explore ways to increase our volunteers in the Fire/EMS/SAR branches. Look at ways that the borough can offer incentives to attract new members.



Jeigh Stanton Gregor

What is your age? 46

Why have you chosen to run for Assembly at this time?
I chose to run for the Assembly because I believe our community deserves honest and dedicated leaders. I bring honesty and integrity to the job. I see our hospital, schools, harbors, housing and childcare, as top priorities in the coming years and I want to ensure all are supported by the Assembly. The hospital, schools, and harbors are CRITICAL pieces to our community being successful in the long term and I will do my best to advocate for them if I am elected to the Assembly. Without available/affordable housing and childcare it will be very challenging to keep working families in our community. I have always believed in transparency; I encourage anyone to go to the assembly archives and you will notice I always made it a point to explain my decision making process before I voted.

What experience do you have that prepares you for this role?
I served 8.5 years on the assembly; about half of which was in the role of Vice Mayor. I have worked well with both Senators Murkowski and Sullivan. I enjoy learning from people with different view points than my own, and I am willing to change my mind when presented with new information. Perhaps most importantly, I believe it is critical for any public servant to be patient, deliberate, and full of empathy for others...I try to do all of these things so that I may be a good role model for my children.

What is your vision for the future of healthcare in Petersburg, and how would you use an Assembly seat to support that vision?
Although I could elaborate at great length on this topic I will be brief here and anyone can contact me for a more nuanced answer: If elected, I will work as hard as I can to support our hospital board, our hospital CEO, and the hospital staff to move forward on the construction of a new facility as has been outlined by the hospital board. I think it is imperative to maintain local control of our healthcare facility in Petersburg. Without a thriving hospital many local jobs will be lost and we will not have a thriving community.

What should the borough do to improve access to affordable housing in Petersburg?
The continued sale of borough land for development is a good first step. Teaming up with agencies such as PIA for development opportunities is critical. As our local housing task force continues to seek solutions, it will be important to consider those recommendations as well.

Please provide a brief statement on any borough topic of interest to you?
There are many I feel are important but I will close by advocating for our schools. Our public school system is led by Superintendent Erica Kludt Painter, her leadership team, the teachers, paraprofessionals, and support staff. As an assembly person I will work to give necessary funding to the district so that those who educate our children can have the resources they need to do their jobs well and have a salary that allows them to raise their own kids in our community. I hope we can all agree on the importance of properly funding education in our community.

If anyone wants to discuss any borough issues with me before voting, feel free to call or text me at 406-202-0576 or email me at jeighgregor@hotmail.com.



Rob Schwartz

What is your age? I'm 57 years old.

Why have you chosen to run for Assembly at this time?
I've been asked to run by many people who believe I would represent them well. The older I get the less it's about me. We're facing many challenges, and we need to face them together. I'd like Petersburg to remain a special place for people to call home.

What experience do you have that prepares you for this role?
My family has been in Petersburg for over a century, and I've learned many lessons regarding what it takes survive and thrive in a remote Alaskan island town. Commercial fishing has been a way of life for me since I was three-weeks-old on my family's gillnet boat. At 12, I began working for other skippers and began running my own boat at 19. I'm still a fisherman. That experience has been challenging, but rewarding. I served the community as a public school teacher and wrestling coach in Petersburg for 26 years having the opportunity to work with young people, parents, a lot of great teachers and administrators. That experience gave me another valuable perspective and taught me many important life lessons. In January of 2020, my family started a tour business called Seek Alaska Tours, and I began learning what it takes to survive in that industry while, at the same time, realizing the importance of maintaining the small town culture that makes Petersburg unique. I'm not sure I am prepared for this role because I'm not a politician. However, I'm hoping a lifetime of "adapt and overcome" experiences in both the private and public sector, being a parent and grandparent, and sincerely caring about the future of our home town might help.

What is your vision for the future of healthcare in Petersburg, and how would you use an Assembly seat to support that vision?
This question reminds me of a slogan used a superintendent when I was teaching: "Imagine, believe, achieve." I responded to him: "I don't think you know how much I can imagine." Ultimately, there is what we can imagine and what we can realistically achieve. Our town is blessed to have well-trained volunteer First Responders, a clinic and hospital staff that does all they can to serve the health and well-being of our people, and a medivac system that can transport people to specialists when needed. My family currently ranges from grandkids under two years old to parents in their 80's; we all need Petersburg's Medical Center for a variety of reasons. The hospital's website reports they have completed a community needs assessment and is working to meet those needs. There is room for improvement in any system. I'd like to openly discuss, as a community, a long-term plan that meets our many needs along with a budget for costs, including operating and maintenance that can be sustained over time. The citizens of Petersburg should fully understand the long-term financial obligation to any of our community projects as we address our needs as we move forward. Additionally, since we're on the topic of health and wellness, let me address "the elephant in the room". There should be an open and honest community discussion regarding the mask and vaccines mandates enacted (some would say imposed) as a response to CoVid19. To many, it was the most divisive time in Petersburg history, and a review of this may help rebuild trust between the Borough Assembly, the Petersburg Medical Center, our school system and the residents of Petersburg.

What should the borough do to improve access to affordable housing in Petersburg?
Cooperation between our borough government and the private sector will continue to be important. For example, Sig and Ambre Burrell took a proposal to the borough this week that would open up 40 lots with roads, water, and sewer as well as options for manufactured homes. This will help solve some of our affordable land and housing needs for hard working, middle income people. To be successful, it will require some clear communication and cooperation. It will also require some patience from our fellow citizens. In addition, the "Local Lumber Use Exemption" bill was signed into law on August 30th allowing for personal use, locally milled lumber to be used to build a home. That lumber will be acceptable for home loans from banks. These are two examples of how the public and private sectors can work together toward the common goal of affordable housing for our friends and family members in Petersburg.

Please provide a brief statement on any borough topic of interest to you:
Living in a remote Alaskan island community is a unique experience and has a profound influence on our culture. Many of us in Petersburg had parents, grandparents and great grandparents who faced hardships and overcame challenges as they worked together to build this town. I can't imagine it was easy living through two world wars and an economic depression while, at the same time, trying to provide for a family. As we face new challenges, I hope we can treat each other respectfully, listen and hear each other's opinions and perspectives, and ultimately work toward achieving some common goals. I don't imagine it will be easy. Let's face our challenges with love and courage rather than fear and cowardice. God bless you and your families.

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PHS Cross Country keeps their momentum going in Wrangell

By LIAM DEMKO
Pilot writer

Hot on the heels of a dominant performance in Klawock last weekend, Petersburg High School’s cross country team had a lot to prove heading into their second meet in Wrangell this last Saturday.

With another set of strong placements from the girls and another overall third place finish from the boys amongst a set of even stronger competitors—including squads from Juneau and Sitka—the PHS squad continues to prove that they’re up to the challenge.

“I felt really good about the weekend and I’m excited about moving forward,” said head coach Casey Gates.

Coming off of a first-place finish last week, PHS freshman Maria Toth had another stellar race, coming in at third with a time of 21:55.

Kinley Lister and Gabriele Whitacre weren’t far behind either, coming in at fifth and twelfth respectively, both with times under 25 minutes.

In the boys race, the PHS team took third place once again, led by Alex Holmgrain who placed 10th with a time of 18:23.



Photo courtesy of Angela Denning

Gabriele Whitacre, Maria Toth, and Kinley Lister cheer on Alex Holmgrain in Wrangell last Saturday.

He was followed in 11th by Elias Ward with a time of 19:08 along with Ben Kandoll in 17th with a time of 19:36.

Calder Ratliff and Tyler Ward wrapped up Petersburg’s top five, both finishing in under 21 minutes.

Ethan Bertagnoli finished in 40th,

Adrian Ducat in 43rd, Waylon Jones in 45th, and Zander Jones in 47th.

Looking towards the future, the team plans to keep ramping up in preparation for regionals.

“We’re gonna crank up the intensity and volume from last week and try to take advantage of these last

two hard weeks of training,” said Gates.

“We’ll be pushing the pace a little bit more and increasing the overall mileage.”

With another race this weekend in Sitka, Gates hopes the team can keep building on their momentum.



Photo courtesy of Katie Holmlund

Skoggies helping Humanity

Kinder Skog kids filled 100 food bags for Humanity in Progress last week to distribute to food insecure community members. The Skoggies have been filling bags every couple weeks for HiP since 2021 thanks to grant funding from various sources including ARPA and the Rasmuson Foundation. Food bags are typically filled with a breakfast item, a protein snack, a dinner item, fruit item, and a treat. Sometimes the Skoggies also write cards or jokes to include in the bags. Encouraging our youth to serve their community is not only a powerful protective factor, it also shows kids it is okay to ask for help and where vital community resources are located. Community members interested in volunteering or donating to Humanity in Progress are invited to email psghumanity.org.

JEIGH STANTON GREGOR FOR PETERSBURG ASSEMBLY

Early voting has begun!

A healthy community includes **quality schools, hospital, childcare & affordable housing.**

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Rainforest festival events share art and mushy-love

By OLIVIA ROSE
Pilot writer

Anyone interested in the sudden surge of mushrooms or the bellowing cry of the Sand Hill Cranes passing over town can stoke their curiosity at the Petersburg Rainforest Festival events during the days to come.

The official goal of the rainforest festival is, “connecting people to the natural world through education, exploration, and the arts.”

Since 2008, this festival has typically taken place after Labor Day weekend. However, that changed a few years ago.

“For the last couple of years, we’ve scaled back that one weekend and spread events out over the whole year,” says Sunny Rice, an original founder of the Rainforest Festival. She says the festival committee is “still doing something, though, right in that vein” of facilitating events during this time in September.

The Annabelle Baker Memorial Art Show happens every year. Rice says Annabelle Baker, who has since passed away, helped found the Rainforest Festival and would coordinate this art show. This year, the art show runs at Clausen Memorial Museum from September 8 through 16. The theme is migration, “but artists [were] encouraged to take that in whatever direction they want to take it,” said Rice. “Migration could mean birds ... humans ... who knows what else?”

At the opening night artists’ reception, Rice and a number of fellow artists presented their in-

dividual artwork in a variety of mediums. Rice has a poem on display titled “The Cranes” (included above).

Chris Weiss, also a festival committee member, instructed a class this week at the Petersburg Public Library on how to build a Tensegrity Bird — a specific

construction craft that Weiss conceived herself.

“You use strings to create tension, and it pops it like up into a flying position. It’s really neat,” says Rice.

Some of the Tensegrity Birds are on display at the museum. Rice says the festival itinerary

typically uses ingredients inspired by nature to inspire learning. For example, crafting tensegrity birds prompts a person to look closely at a bird to decide how to decorate the artwork, and as a result, the craft helps the person learn more about bird identification.

mushroom walks, “We go out and kind of look for our own mushrooms ... I’m talking about some of the ecology and biology of fungi, and the different types that we might find around Southeast Alaska. And then, at the end of the walk, we come back and we’ve got our haul ... and we try to identify what we got.”

He says mushroom hunting can be a rewarding and eye-opening experience, especially for beginners.

“At first, it’s like ... I don’t see any. But then you take a closer look ... and you find a whole bunch,” he says. “It can be colorful, you know, this colorful array of different fungi. And it’s kind of an eye opener.”

After finding a handful of different edible mushrooms the first time he went mushroom hunting in his 20s, “it just resonated with me that you can go out, you can find, not only edible, but just like kind of interesting fungi,” Gregovich recalled. “I mean, we have so many different kinds here, including some colorful and kind of charismatic kinds.”

Gregovich told the Pilot that he is excited to be here; the specific geography and ecology “lends a certain kind of flavor to the specific fungi that you’ll find here.”

The mushroom events are geared toward “entry-level folks that want to know more about fungi,” he said. However, if someone already possesses some knowledge about mushrooms, Gregovich says he is “happy to field questions that are a little bit more advanced.”

“It’s gonna be a fun time,” said Gregovich. “I look forward to meeting everybody and sharing some of the mushy love.”

The Cranes

We all stop for them, mid-sentence even,
The sandhill cranes that clock our seasons.

When they cackle Spring in
Spiraling up and North with the thermals
We jump to it
All fervor and scurry, pup tents and out-the-road
Tipsy with vitamin D and no socks.

But come Fall
When their South-pointing arrows march over town like discordant slow-motion parades
We resist.
We wield our quilting and star-lights, potlucks and fund-drives
And pantries full of jars lined up like soldiers
Against the dark.

Until forced, finally, to exhale
And humble ourselves to Earth’s stubborn circle around the sun
We count the Summer’s blessings
And watch
As the cranes write Winter on the clouds.

Courtesy of Sunny Rice

This poem by Sunny Rice was included in the Annabelle Baker Memorial Art Show on display until Saturday at the Clausen Museum.



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• This program is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$549,327 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

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OLIVIA ROSE / Petersburg Pilot

Master carver refreshes Petersburg totem poles

Tlingit master carver Tommy Joseph / Naal xák'w, of Sitka, visited last week to clean the Eagle and Raven poles in downtown Petersburg. Joseph originally carved the two 35-foot red cedar totem poles in 2000.

He is pictured above on September 7, using a scraper and scrubbing tool to clean off the vegetation, and had a bucket full of lichen and moss.

He was there to “clean it, and then we’ll treat it, and cleaning it will brighten all the paint, so I shouldn’t have to touch up anything.”

“Normally, you just clean them up and it’ll brighten them up again,” he said. Joseph explained that the totem poles were already treated a couple of times, which means “it’d be hard to get paint to stick to it, unless I really stripped it all down and we’re not going to strip it down ... But I’m going to refresh it all and brighten it up by cleaning it.”

First, Joseph explained, he cleans with a mild detergent using “stuff like Orvis ... just to give an overall wash clean.”

After rinsing it, he comes back and treats it with borates to repel insects and prevent vegetation growth.

Then, the final step is to do a wood preservative with a UV water-repellent.

Joseph says the last time the totem poles were freshened up like this, he did it with his son maybe 7 or 8 years ago. When the Pilot spoke to him on his first day on the project, he said he expected both poles to take about five days to refresh. He had arrived in town the day before, prepared to hit the ground running only to learn that every machine lift had been rented out. Luckily, acquaintances in town helped him acquire a machine when there were no other ones left in town.

“It’s not my favorite thing to do, being up on a ladder.”

“I make these, I’m a woodcarver,” he says, “I do them laying down. And so this is not my favorite thing to do, but it’s ... my other job.”

Joseph says these totem poles are in really good condition, from what he could tell. However, the top of the right support pole was soft. “When I go back up, I’m going to grab some tools and do some probing and see what’s in there.”

He pointed out that he had just taken moss off the sea pigeon, “and I see a bunch of lichen on the back end of the frog up there. That’s where I’m headed.”

The lift began to rise, and Joseph got back to work.



OLIVIA ROSE / Petersburg Pilot

State challenges roadless rule for Tongass

By MARK SABBATINI
Juneau Empire

A legal challenge by the state to the Biden administration’s reinstatement of the roadless rule, banning logging and road building on more than nine million acres in the Tongass National Forest, was filed Friday, Sept. 8, in federal court.

The complaint continues more than two decades of battles over the roadless rule protections initially enacted in 2001 under a policy initiated by then-President Bill Clinton. In recent years then-President Donald Trump nullified the policy and opened the forest area to development, with the administration of President Joe Biden reimposing the policy in January of this year.

“The state of Alaska will continue this long-running fight to unburden the Tongass National Forest from the constraints of the roadless rule and to protect the economic and socioeconomic development of Southeast Alaska,” Alaska Attorney General Treg Taylor, who filed the complaint in U.S. District Court, said in a prepared statement Friday.

“The Tongass National Forest has robust environmental protections in place, and the roadless rule is both unnecessary and continues to cripple the future of Alaska communities.”

The press office for the Department of Agriculture, the parent agency of the U.S. Forest Service, said it does not comment on pending litigation.

The Forest Service issued a press release in January when the rule was reinstituted, stating that the action “restores longstanding roadless protections to 9.37 million acres of roadless areas that support the ecological, economic and cultural values of Southeastern Alaska.”

As a legal matter, the release noted “the forest is within the

traditional homelands of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian peoples,” and the decision “reflects the USDA’s and Forest Service’s commitment to strengthening nation-to-nation relationships.”

The state’s 40-page complaint asserts that the rule is “a national, one-size-fits-all regulation that unlawfully limits opportunities for Alaskans who live and work in Southeast Alaska, given the enormous footprint of the forest across the region,” according to the attorney general’s office.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

Those with birthdays this week are: **September 15:** Aldric Jackson, Amanda Katasse. **September 16:** Robin Enge. **September 17:** Cathy Churchill, Katie Trautman, Olivia Reid, Skip Hallingstad. **September 18:** Cora Hyer, Emily Baldwin, Janine Gibbons. **September 19:** Brandi Thynes, Chris Lindsay, Kyla Willis, William Golding. **September 20:** Barb Fish, Becky Ware, Brent Schrey, Cathryn Carroll, Jody Riihimaki. **September 21:** Darcy Caples, Jim Stromdahl, Rick Wikan.

Those with anniversaries this week are: **September 16:** Rocky and Sue Flint. **September 18:** Krista and Sean Griss.

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



Sasha is a neutered male estimated at 4-5 years old, polydactyl, friendly and loves petting and tummy rubs, but not yet a lap cat. A bit slower to warm up to people. He would likely be ok with another compatible cat.

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Wednesday: 6p - Outreach Fellowship Meal • **7p** - LIFE Group in Fellowship Hall

Thursday: 6p - Celebrate Recovery

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at Petersburg School District

Monday, Sept 18
WG Macaroni & Cheesese
WG Chicken Nuggets

Tuesday, Sept 19
Green Pork Chili
WG Corn Bread

Wednesday, Sept 20
WG Fish Tacos

Thursday, Sept 21
WG Sesame Chicken Noodles

Friday, Sept 22
WG Grilled Cheese Sandwich
Tomato Soup



BREAKFAST MENU -
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Carl E. Crome 08/26/1940 – 09/08/2023



Carl E. Crome

Carl Edward Crome passed away on September 8, 2023 at United General Medical Center in Sedro-Woolley, Washington. Officially, he died of complications from Alzheimer’s-related dementia and heart disease. But really, he died of a broken heart because he couldn’t fish anymore.

Carl is survived by his wife, Judy, his brother Donnie, his children Carl Hensen, James Hensen, Julie Bartholoma, Linda Jackson, Lara Stark, and Daniel Crome, as well as many, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Carl was born in Los Angeles, California on August 26, 1940 to Carl Anton and Adeline “Pat” Huber Crome. They lived in Alhambra, a suburb of Los Angeles. The family was soon joined by Carl’s younger brothers, Donnie and Kenny. The three boys grew up together in a Los Angeles that you wouldn’t recognize today. They hunted in the hills, rode their bikes everywhere, helped their dad with the family business, Crome Organ Company, which was eventually taken over by his younger brother Kenny. Carl loved to play baseball. He was drafted out of high school to play on a AAA team for the Dodgers and actually attended spring training with the Dodgers. Carl attended and graduated from Mark Keppel High School in Alhambra.

Carl met his first wife, Charlene Comment at Mark Keppel. They got married and lived in Montana before returning to the Los Angeles area. They had four children together, Carl, James, Julie, and Linda. They divorced in 1970.

Carl tried many things after he stopped playing baseball, he worked on ranches in Montana for a time, but while he was working construction as a cement finisher, he met someone who had been a commercial fisherman and he talked to him about it during the long work days there and Carl thought that sounded like the life for him.

He fished for tuna on the Santa Anita, the Kittihawk, and the Mary Carmen out of San Diego. These were bait boats and they fished tuna with poles. Eventually, he got jobs in the San Pedro fleet. One of the boats he worked on was the American Eagle. They fished tuna off the Galápagos Islands and all the way down to South America. Carl crossed the equator numerous times and got his head shaved the first time, as sailors do.

In 1970, after working on the tuna boats, Carl started working as a seine crewman in Southeast Alaska. He fished on the Miss Linda, the St. Janet, and the Blue Pacific. He fell in love with Southeast Alaska the minute he saw it and knew that he had to find a way to make a home there on his own boat. While fishing on the Blue Pacific, Carl and Gerry Holmstrom became close and remained friends

through the years. In 1971, during the off-season, Carl met his wife, Judy Vaughn in Bellingham, Washington. She was a student at Western Washington State College. They got married in 1972 and bought their first boat together, a small plywood boat that they named the Patricia Kay after his mother and Judy. They fished Dungeness crab and gillnetted in Puget Sound before setting off for Southeast Alaska.

Carl and Judy gillnetted, trolled and crabbed on the Patricia Kay but she was just too small and Carl wanted to expand his operation. They bought the 36-foot Cindy Jane. They trolled, gillnetted and crabbed off the Cindy Jane for 5 years. During this time, they had two children together, Lara and Daniel. They bought a trailer house in Petersburg, Alaska when Lara was about to be born. Carl and Judy made a home in Petersburg where they lived and raised their family while Carl continued to fish and raise his kids on the boat as well as at home.

In 1979 Carl and Judy bought the Harmony which was a 50-foot wooden seiner. They renamed it the Lara Lee and Carl began his dream job: skipper of a Southeast Alaska seine boat. He also crabbed and longlined for halibut and bottom fish from the Lara Lee. Carl also gillnetted for herring from the Bering Sea to San Francisco and saw that fishery from its beginnings until the modern fishery that it became. The University of Alaska actually hired him to teach the Alaska natives to fish for herring.

As the kids grew older, Carl stopped hiring crew from outside the family and ran a “family operation.” Daniel piled leads, Lara piled corks and cooked, and Judy was the skiffman. These were Carl’s favorite times. He loved being away from town with his family. When they weren’t seining, the family continued gillnetting from Carl’s aluminum herring skiff. Through the years the family fished crab, halibut, bottom fish, and salmon in all kinds of weather together.

When the kids were ready to be on their own, Carl continued gillnetting and seining, but eventually, he and Judy “retired” by turning the Lara Lee into a troller and spent their days slowly catching king and coho salmon wherever they could be found all over SE Alaska.

During his long commercial fishing career Carl suffered numerous broken ribs and other broken bones. He had surgery to repair damage to his neck, both shoulders, his right elbow, and eventually had four different knee replacements. When he traveled, he could never make it through a metal detector due to all the metal pins and rods the doctors inserted to keep him fishing. None of these ever slowed him down and he missed very little fishing because of them.

At age 77, Carl’s body finally couldn’t do the hard

work of fishing anymore and he left fishing against his will. He moved to Everett, Washington with Judy to be close to her family and Lara and Daniel who were also living most of the time in Washington. Carl and Judy spent their retirement years visiting family and taking road trips to Idaho, California, Nevada, Wyoming and other places all over the West. Carl always wished he could go back to Alaska to fish, but he was willing to do a bit of traveling. Carl also started writing a book about his life in the fishing business with help from his daughter, Lara.

In 2021 Carl suffered a heart attack and had to have two surgeries. He was already showing some signs of dementia. The anesthesia from the surgeries exacerbated the dementia and Carl was never the same again. He suffered from aphasia and this man who had always been a talker and a storyteller could no longer keep the stories straight. It angered and frustrated him because he still had so much more to say and a book to write. Judy and Carl moved into assisted living in Everett and later Bellingham. He hated the way he was forced to stay in one place and be around people who didn’t know anything about Alaska and commercial fishing. In June of 2023 the family was forced to move Carl into memory care in Burlington, Washington. They continued to visit him but this was his last home. Thankfully, he is no longer suffering from the limitations his body placed on his superhuman strength, self-reliance, determination, and love for and desire to provide for his family.

In his book, Carl wrote: “Everything I ever really needed to know I learned on a fishing boat. Love what you do and you will never work a day in your life. There will be high times. There will be low times. Family, always.”

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, September 21 at 10:30am at the Church of the Assumption followed by a graveside committal at Bayview Cemetery in Bellingham.

You may share memories at www.westfordfuneralhome.com.

Rules of the Road US Coast Guard



QUESTION & ANSWER

QUESTION:

Your vessel is aground in fog. In addition to the regular anchor signals, you will be sounding _____.
A. Three strokes of the gong before and after the rapid ringing of the gong
B. A blast on the whistle
C. Three strokes of the bell before and after the rapid ringing of the bell
D. No additional signals

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

ANSWER C. Three strokes of the bell before and after the rapid ringing of the bell

Library News



Fungi of the Coastal Southeast Alaska Rainforest with Dave Gregovich / Thursday, September 14 / 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.

Yoga with Karen Malcom / Saturdays, September 16 & 23 / 11 a.m. – noon / \$5

Homegrown Conversations is returning to KFSK! / Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. / tune in and hear community members share their

stories, or listen at your leisure at psglib.org

Stories In Motion! / Thursdays, 11 a.m. – noon / ages 0 – 3

GOAT Radio Show LIVE! on KFSK / Fridays, 2:30 – 4 p.m. / Tune in and listen to teen volunteers as they learn the ropes!

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Senior Meals

MONDAY, September 18

Fish Burger with Lettuce, Tomato and Onions, Tater Tots, Milk, Cupcake

TUESDAY, September 19

Salisbury Steak, Cucumber Salad, Cheese Stick, Cookie

WEDNESDAY, September 20

Enchilada, Rice, Green Salad, Ice Cream

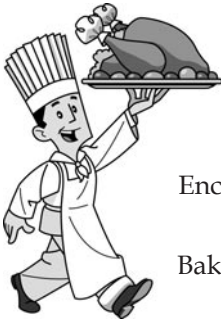
THURSDAY, September 21

Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Milk, Brownie

FRIDAY, September 22

Tater Tot Casserole, Green Salad, Mixed Vegetables, Orange Fluff

Please call Mountain View Food Service at 772-4331 before noon for reservations. 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 between 4 and 4:30 p.m. All meals are suggested donation only.



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JOB

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association, a non-profit organization that works on behalf of multi-gear and multi-species commercial fishermen, is seeking an Executive Director. Duties include tracking legislation, informing the board and membership of current issues, representing PVOA at various management forums, and building membership. Priorities identified by the membership guide PVOA's work and knowledge of the commercial fishing industry is preferred. The position is considered part-time with significant travel expected

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.....tfn9-07b92

The Petersburg Police Department has an opening for a permanent full-time Police Officer. Applicants must be available to work all shifts (day shift, swing shift, and graveyard shift), holidays and weekends and be able to attend out of town training. Starting wage is \$32.68 per hour. A complete job description and employment application can be obtained from the Borough's website at www.petersburgak.gov. Applications will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough office, 12 S. Nordic Drive, emailed to bregula@petersburgak.gov, or mailed to PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833, Attn: Human Resources, until position is filled.

.....tfn6-8b112

Petersburg Borough has an opening for a permanent full-time Motor Pool Equipment Mechanic. Starting wage for this po-

.....tfn8-31b98

Hammer & Wikan Convenience Store is hiring part-time and full-time cashiers! Positions available include morning, midday, and evening. Applications available at the Convenience Store Counter or outside the Business Office. If you have any questions, contact Todd @ 907-772-4811.

.....tfn8-24b39

Scandia House is hiring! Housekeepers, front desk clerks. Applications available at hotel front desk.

.....tfn8-10b14

The Petersburg Borough has an opening for the position of Journeyman Lineman. This is a regular full-time position, Lineman must be trained as an operator. Wage \$49.23/hr with operator premium (Tier 4) \$51.21/hr with operator premium (Tier 1-3) (IBEW Contract, July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024). Signing bonus of \$15,000 Up to \$15,000 reimbursable relocation expenses. A complete job description and employment application can be obtained from the Borough's website at www.petersburgak.gov. Applications will be accepted at the front desk of the Borough office at 12 S. Nordic Street in Petersburg; by mail to Human Resources, P.O. Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833; or via email to bregula@petersburgak.gov until position is filled.

.....tfn6-8b112

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Public Notices

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA AT PETERSBURG

In the Matter of the Estate of:)
)
Michael W. Davis)
Person Who Died (Decedent))
DOB: 10/10/1950)
)
) Case No. 1PE-23-16PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

You are notified that the court appointed Daniel R. Creson 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 08/25/2023
Daniel Creson
PO Box 1121
Petersburg, AK 99833

Published: August 31, September 7 and 14, 2023

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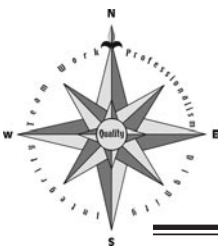
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For complete job descriptions or any questions, contact Human Resources Director
Cindy Newman at cnewman@pmc-health.org or call **907-772-5719**

.....tfn7-13b117
Petersburg Indian Association is hiring for a 638 Grant Director/ICWA Worker position. This position is part-time. Wage DOE. The 638 Grant Director position requires the management of Federal grant funds to run 10+ programs, including social service and welfare assistance, job training, higher education, tribal member assistance, and more. The ICWA Worker position requires working with families and children in case management. The right candidate should be eager to work with tribal members in times of need, take utmost care of confidentiality, and exhibit traits of organization, management, and policy protocol. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen (including marijuana) and a background check. Native preference applies. Applications are available at PIA or piatribal.org.

submit a completed Borough employment application and return to the front desk of the Borough office at 12 South Nordic Drive, mail to P.O. Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833, or email to bregula@petersburgak.gov. Go to www.petersburgak.gov for an application and complete job description or stop by the front desk of the Borough offices to pick up a copy.
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The Clausen Memorial Museum is seeking a Museum Director. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, overseeing collection management and exhibit curation, recruiting and supervising volunteers and staff, and managing the Museum's finances and the Museum's gift shop. Interested persons can call the Museum at 907-518-9053 for more information.

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The Petersburg Police Department has an opening for a Chief Dispatcher/Correction Officer. Must have two years of emergency dispatching experience. Join our team and enjoy great shifts with all the pay but half the days worked per month! You'll be working with a supportive team of professionals who are dedicated to keeping our community safe. Starting wage is \$27.85 per hour. Recruitment bonus after successful completion of training of \$1250 and \$1250 at 1 year of tenure. Benefits include generous paid time off, holiday pay, retirement plan, health insurance and life insurance. Applicants must be

available to work holidays and weekends. Swing and graveyard shifts receive additional shift differential pay. For the job description and applications go to: www.petersburgak.gov. For more information or to pick up an application, call Becky at (907) 772-5404.

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The Petersburg Police Department has an opening for two full time Dispatcher/Corrections Officers. Join our team and enjoy great shifts with all the pay but half the days worked per month! You'll be working with a supportive team of professionals who are dedicated to keeping our community safe. Training is provided. Starting wage is \$25.52 per hour. Swing and graveyard shifts receive additional shift differential pay. Recruitment bonus after successful completion of training of \$1250 and \$1250 at 1 year of tenure. Benefits include generous paid time off, holiday pay, retirement plan, health insurance and life insurance. Applicants must be available to work all shifts, holidays, and weekends, and be able to attend out of town training. If you'd like to join our team go to www.petersburgak.gov for a complete job description, employment application, and F3

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Climb

Continued from page 1

“I don’t want to be all braggy about it,” said Knight. But he felt some responsibility to share his story of the mountain, as others had done for him, most notably longtime local and Devil’s Thumb expert Dieter Klose. Knight said, “Hearing about it through Dieter and all — that’s kinda what got me into it.”

Knight’s partner — who preferred to not be named in this article — hoped to complete a less commonly climbed route, but there was only so much good weather between Knight’s commercial fishing commitments.

“[My partner] wanted to do the traverse, but Wally (the local helicopter pilot) didn’t want to drop us off there with the weather window we had ... in all honesty, we probably wouldn’t have made the summit if we’d tried the traverse.”

They settled for what has become the standard route, directly up the east ridge.

Until recently the standard route was the East Ridge/Southeast Face — the route of the first ascent by Fred Beckey in 1946.

But warmer temperatures have caused large sections of snow and ice to recede, exposing more loose rock, making the Beckey route more dangerous.

“It’s the first time those sections haven’t had snow in tens of thousands of years,” Knight said. His degree in geology lends detail to his observations in the mountains.

The route Knight followed involved some snow, but with “quite a bit of rock” compared to the old standard Beckey route.

The routes did join near the top, where the crux (the hardest part) of the climb was said to lie.

“I didn’t even know we’d passed it. It was supposed to be 5.7 but felt more like 5.5.” The numbers refer to a consensus-based grading system used in the climbing community to describe the difficulty level of climbs.

“[The crux] might have been harder for other people because in the past it’s always been wet with snowmelt from above, but now there’s no snowfield above it so it was dry,” Knight explained.

Instead, the hardest part wound up being at the start, the transition between the glacier and the base of the mountain where a large gap called a bergschrund guards the beginning of the route. A kind of crevasse, or crack in a glacier, bergschrunds are common between glaciers and mountains, but with more ice melting, the size of the gap can grow into a major obstacle, and an unstable

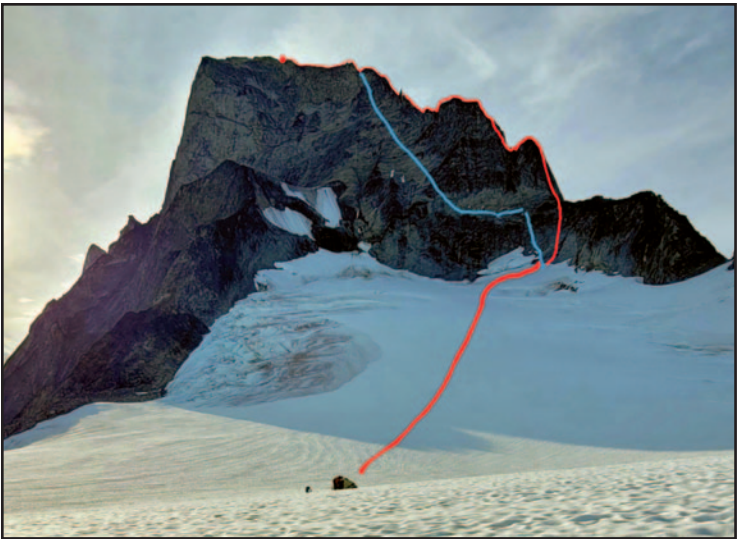


Photo courtesy of Kyle Knight

The path of Knight’s ascent is in red, descent in blue.

one at that.

Knight said, “Just getting on the rock was probably the crux. And the way we climbed the ridge, [my partner] and I agreed it was 5.9...”

On the ridge, Knight said, “The position and views were spectacular.”

They downclimbed some of the East ridge before rappelling lower angle slabs and gullies back to the glacier.

Knight is quick to put the climb into context. “It’s not like a super technically hard rock climb, or super hard mountaineering,” but, he says, “It is difficult logistically.”

“[Rock climbing] is not part of the general culture of Petersburg,” Knight says, and he is conscious of how risky it is perceived to be by those who don’t do it — not unlike commercial fishing.

But Knight highlights the small but dedicated climbing culture in town, long cultivated by Dieter Klose, who has been one of Knight’s mentors, especially in preparing for Devil’s Thumb.

Knight is aware that this climb may push him into the role of local climbing mentor, admitting he’s “a little nervous to be a role model ... I don’t want a bunch of angry parents saying I’m getting their kids

hurt ... but it would be fun to pass on the crag (the climbing cliff out the Road). It just has to be to the right kids. Don’t want a bunch of high school kids having a party out there and getting hurt or trashing the place ... It could use some more traffic to knock off the moss though.”

Side-stepping the spotlight again, Knight says, “What is incredible though, is that Alex and Tommy did the traverse in a day and freed the South Face.” He’s referring to the two most famous living climbers in the world, Alex Honnold and Tommy Caldwell, who traversed the skyline of Devil’s Thumb in a day, and free-climbed the South face, which had previously required some aid climbing. Aid climbing, unlike free climbing, requires equipment to ascend the pitch — hanging on hooks, for example, and climbing rope ladders where the holds are deemed too small for fingers.

The Honnold/Caldwell expedition launched soon after Knight’s return, with a National Geographic film crew documenting their every move. Knight was quick to offer his help, but it wasn’t to be.

Honnold and Caldwell had originally planned to kayak from Petersburg to Thomas Bay, with Knight driving a skiff as

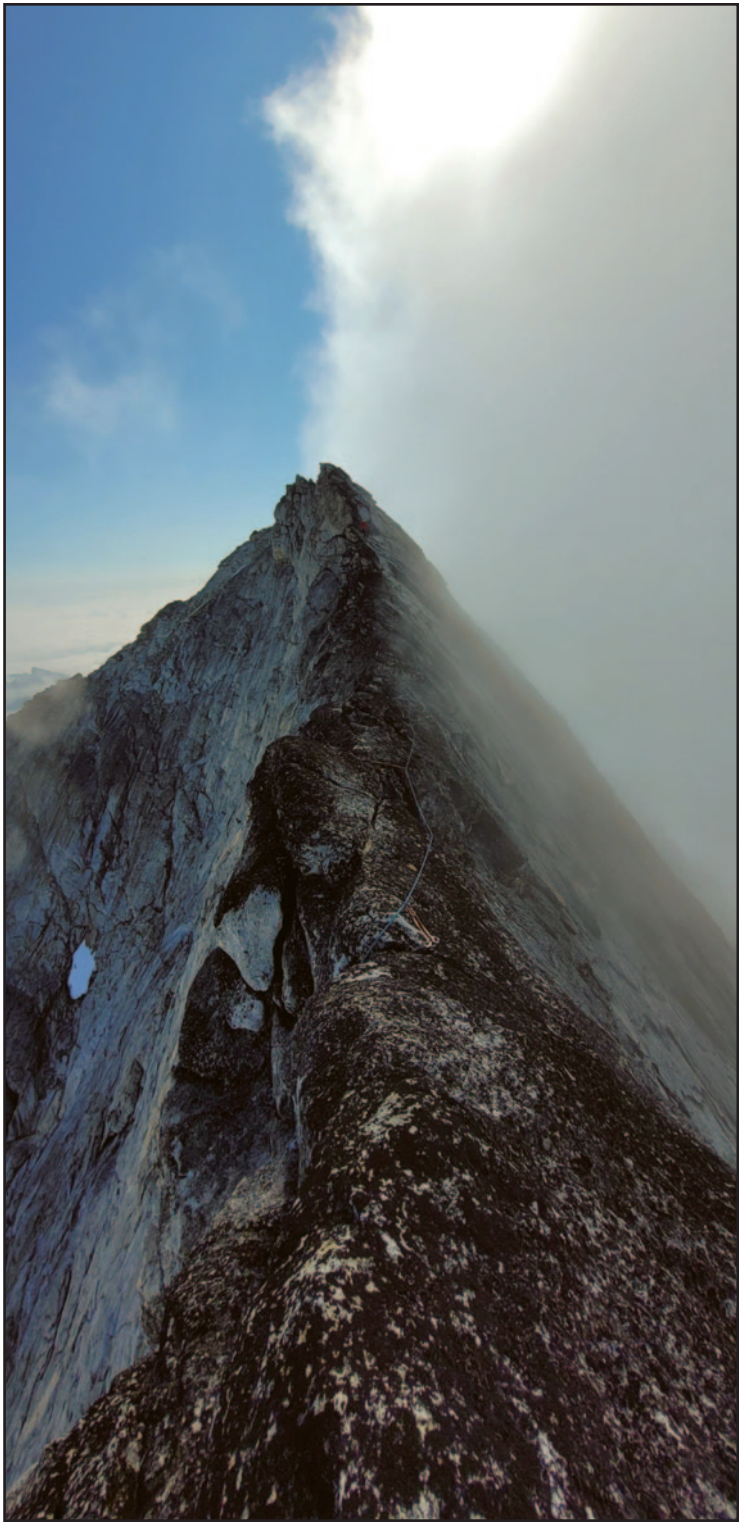


Photo courtesy of Kyle Knight

The views from along the sharp ridge are out of this world.

their safety backup, but they bailed on that plan when the water got choppy.

Though Knight never wound up meeting the climbers, their names and his are now scrawled in the same book — the journal that tallies the short

list of those who have climbed the thumb.

For Knight, turning to look toward Devil’s Thumb on a clear day, as Petersburg people often do, will never be the same.

“It’s cool to look at it now,” he said, “and know I did it.”

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