

Evergreen teachers want doors locked during school hours

By SAM PAUSMAN
Sentinel senior reporter

Evergreen Elementary teachers want the school district office to lock its doors for security. So far, their fight has been an uphill battle.

The entire teaching staff of Evergreen Elementary signed a letter last month exploring the school board to make several safety changes. The teachers want to better protect students and staff against hostile intruders and potential school shooters.

The teachers requested that the district office doors, which provide entry to the classroom area, remain locked during school hours. They also requested a buzzer system to regulate school visitors.

The teachers also claimed that they have made “repeated requests to Superintendent Bill Burr” — as well as to the rotating cast of principals that have administered the elementary school over the past several years. In their letter, which

was presented to the school board at its Oct. 7 meeting, the teachers said their concerns “have not been adequately addressed.”

According to the teachers, school administrators informed them that installation of a buzzer system would be too costly. Administrators told the teachers they approached borough officials on this matter, the teachers said.

The Sentinel reached out to Mayor Patty Gilbert, Borough Manager Mason Villarma and previous Borough Manager Jeff Good who served from 2021 to fall 2023. All three denied that school administrators ever approached them to explore the economic feasibility of a buzzer system. Good even said it was the other way around.

“We were actually the ones that brought it up with them,” he said. “We approached the school to see how we could help with student safety.”

The borough owns the school building,

but the school district is responsible for all operations.

Elementary school teachers said what spurred their letter to the school board was a safety recommendation by a Wrangell police officer last school year.

“We did a walkthrough with a police officer and his suggestion was that the district office doors be locked,” one teacher said. This teacher also noted that the superintendent was present for that recommendation, “and yet the doors remain unlocked.”

Despite only starting the job in July, Police Chief Gene Meek has already made a similar observation.

“It’s obvious there needs to be increased security at the schools,” Meek said. “School shootings happen. Sadly, they aren’t ifs but whens.”

The district office connects directly to the classrooms, cafeteria and offices of Evergreen Elementary, so anyone who walks in those doors gains access to the

entire school. Though administrators have not changed the door-lock policy, there has been recent forward momentum on the student safety front.

On Oct. 14, Meek led a two-hour hostile intruder training for the elementary school teachers. While he said the allocated two hours were far too short a time, he wants to meet one-on-one with every teacher to identify effective strategies to protect against school shooters. Strategically, Meek is meeting the teachers in their respective classrooms, so he can provide each teacher with specific recommendations according to their classroom space.

In 2019, the school district received a grant from the National Rifle Association for two steel doors. For the past five years, those doors have been left uninstalled. However, the school district’s maintenance director, Kevin McCallister, wants to install those doors as soon as possible.

The recent letter is not the first time the

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Clans permanently remove Three-Frog Totem from Shakes Island

By SAM PAUSMAN
Sentinel senior reporter

Wrangell’s famed Three-Frog Totem on Shakes Island is no more. The clans involved in the pole’s history decided its purpose had long since passed. It was taken down in a ceremony on Sept. 6.

Kiks.adi clan mother Katherine Geroge-Byrd said the pole’s origins date back to the 19th century. A Naanyaa.aayí chief’s three sons were slated to wed Kiks.adi women in a series of arranged marriages. Instead, the three women instead fell in love with — and ran away with — slaves. For the Naanyaa.aayí chief, the Kiks.adi owed him a debt.

The clan erected a totem pole adorned with three frogs to represent the unpaid debt. Keeping in line with the tradition of shame totems, when the pole eventually fell down, the debt was to be forgotten and forgiven.

However, that is not how the totem’s story ended.

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PHOTO BY SAM PAUSMAN / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Participants at the ceremony taking down the Three-Frog Totem on Shakes Island held cedar branches to dispel negativity as the Naanyaa.aayí and Kiks.adi took turns singing songs and thanking each other.

Borough wants to move senior services to community center multipurpose room

By SAM PAUSMAN
Sentinel senior reporter

The borough is planning to move the senior center from its longtime but aging location at Church and McKinnon streets to the community center’s multipurpose room.

The new space, directly across the hallway from the community gym, will receive several upgrades to accommodate its new use, including a full kitchen remodel and new furniture, according to Borough Manager Mason Villarma.

The borough also plans on reserving parking at the community center for the senior center bus, which is used for taking seniors to medical appointments, the post office or to grocery

stores.

Open four days a week, the senior center provides meals — both in person and delivery — to about three dozen Wrangell senior citizens each day. It requests a \$5 donation but never denies a meal to anyone. The center is open for those age 60 or older.

The borough owns the senior center building, which it provides rent free to Catholic Community Service. The Juneau-based nonprofit hires staff and operates the center, the same as it does for nine other senior centers around Southeast.

Villarma said the borough intends to sell the Church Street building and reinvest those funds

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Even kids’ teddy bears will get checked at annual wellness fair

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

SEARCHC has organized its annual wellness fair for Saturday morning, Oct. 19, and medical care will not be limited to just people.

The Teddy Bear Clinic will be open for children to bring in their favorite plush animals. Health care professionals will guide kids to check out their own animals, using a stethoscope to listen to the heartbeat and breathing, a blood pressure cuff and thermometer.

It’s an opportunity to get children familiar with checkup procedures and instruments, getting them to feel more comfortable for when they are the patient, explained Carly Allen, hospital administrator at the Wrangell Medical Center.

“The Teddy Bear Clinic is a classic for us,” she said last week.

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Senior Center Menu

Open for in-person dining.

Thursday, Oct. 17

Chicken rice casserole, mixed vegetables, cauliflower broccoli toss

Friday, Oct. 18

Closed for Alaska Day

Monday, Oct. 21

No meal service on Mondays

Tuesday, Oct. 22

Chicken California, peas, Texas coleslaw, rice, fruit

Wednesday, Oct. 23

Honey-glazed ham, sweet potatoes, Sukiyaki salad, roll, fruit

Call the senior center at 907-874-2066 24 hours in advance to reserve a seat at lunch or to request delivery.

The senior van is available to take seniors to medical appointments, errands such as collecting mail, getting prescriptions or other essential items.



ALASKA AIRLINES CLUB 49 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

COMMUNITY CHORALE REHEARSALS 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at the high school music room for the Christmas concert. Use the back entrance. All singers are welcome. Regular rehearsals will be on Mondays starting the following week. Contact Bonnie at 907-796-9632 or bonniede@aptalaska.net for more information.

FALL STORYTIME for children 10 to 11 a.m. Fridays at the Irene Ingle Public Library. Stories, crafts and snacks. This week's theme is Alaska Day, the anniversary of the transfer of the territory of Alaska from Russia to the United States on Oct. 18, 1867.

STATE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE will be in Wrangell on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18-19, and will see clients in the clinic and conduct hearing and vision screenings at Head Start and the elementary school on Friday and at the SEARHC Wellness Fair on Saturday. Immunizations, birth control and STD screening, well-child exams for kids up to age 7, TB screening and medication, Narcan kits and medication disposal bags will be offered. The Public Health Center is in the Kadin Building, 215 Front St. Call 907-723-4611 to make an appointment in advance so the nurse knows what immunizations to bring.

SEARHC WELLNESS FAIR 7 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Nolan Center. Free. Health and wellness education booths, teddy bear clinic, flu shots available. Also comprehensive blood-test packages \$150; pay at time of service. Register for blood test at searhc.org/wellness-fair-registration.

WINTER GEAR SWAP and SELL 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Oct. 19, at St. Philip's Episcopal Church parish hall. Bring outdoor clothing and gear to sell or trade. Kids and adults gear welcome.

ALASKA DAY FUN RUN starts at 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, at Muskeg Meadows, hosted by Parks and Recreation. \$10 fee; pay at the event. All ages welcome for 1-mile dash, 5K run/walk, 10K, half-marathon at various start times. Check for routes and times at wrangellrec.com.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER retro-movie "Practical Magic" rated PG-13, 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20. The comedy fantasy drama film runs 1 hour and 44 minutes; tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

KSTK HALLOWEEN BASH 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, Oct. 25, upstairs at the Elks Lodge. Live music, appetizers, full bar and more. 21 years or older. \$25 entry fee.

PUMPKIN PATCH/KIDS CARNIVAL/FOOD from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Nolan Center. Pumpkins for sale, games, chili by St. Frances Animal Shelter, and cotton candy and popcorn by Head Start. Hosted by the chamber of commerce and sponsored by Alaska Marine Lines, City Market and Wrangell IGA.

U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE blessing and celebration 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Nolan Center.

HARVEST CELEBRATION LIVE CONCERT 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday Oct. 26, at the Nolan Center. Music with Matt Henson and his music friends from Arizona, Idaho and Colorado.

RAYME'S HALLOWEEN BASH 9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 26, at Rayme's bar with live music. Costume judging at midnight. 21 years or older.

ADVENTURERS CLUB 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Come learn about the Bible, pick up valuable skills and earn badges. Register and learn more at <https://bit.ly/3TBw0fI>. A \$10 fee covers the school year.

CHILDREN'S CLASS 2:30 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays at the elementary school music room for kindergarten to fifth grade. The focus of the program is for spiritual growth to learn to apply virtues through stories, devotions, music, games and art. All are welcome. No charge. For more information call Kay Larson, 907-209-9117.

WRANGELL KIDS CLUB 2:30 to 5 p.m. Mondays at the community center for open gym, board games and coloring; 2:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays at the Irene Ingle Public Library for STEM activities and crafts; 2:30 to 5 p.m. Fridays at the Nolan Center for a movie in the theater. For ages 7 to 13 years old. Runs through Dec. 16. Free.

WRANGELL PARKS and RECREATION is offering multiple activities to get your body moving. For more information on any of the activities visit www.wrangellrec.com or call 907-874-2444.

- **DEAD HANG CHALLENGE** through Oct. 31, at the community gym. Each day you dead hang, you'll be entered into the drawing. The longest dead hang wins a six-month Parks and Recreation pass. Sign in at the front desk. Day rates apply.
- **INDOOR SOCCER CAMP**, Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Tuesday, Oct. 22. Sessions are 4 to 5 p.m. for kids in grades K-2 and 5 to 6 p.m. for kids in grades 3-5. \$40 registration fee. Coaches are needed to teach the fundamentals of soccer.

Ferry Schedule

Northbound

Sunday, Oct. 20

Kennicott, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 27

Kennicott, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 3

Kennicott, 9:45 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 10

Kennicott, 3:45 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, Oct. 23

Kennicott, 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 30

Kennicott, 5:45 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 6

Kennicott, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 13

Kennicott, 3:45 a.m.

Listings are scheduled departure times. Call the terminal at 907-874-2021 for information or 907-874-3711 for recorded information.

Tides

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Oct. 16	00:18	17.3	12:36	18.8	06:18	-1.0	06:47	-2.5
Oct. 17	01:06	17.8	01:14	19.6	06:58	-1.0	07:30	-3.7
Oct. 18	01:52	17.8	01:53	19.9	07:37	-0.4	08:12	-4.2
Oct. 19	02:38	17.2	02:32	19.6	08:16	0.5	08:55	-3.8
Oct. 20	03:25	16.2	03:12	18.7	08:56	1.8	09:41	-2.8
Oct. 21	04:13	14.8	03:56	17.3	09:38	3.2	10:31	-1.3
Oct. 22	05:08	13.4	04:45	15.7	10:27	4.6	11:28	0.3

The Way We Were In the Sentinel 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.

Oct. 9, 1924

W. A. Eberly was in town the first of the week from his fox ranch at Pat's Creek. Mr. Eberly has recently added a muskrat division to his fur farm. He has secured 80 of these little fur bearers and placed them on his farm. He expects that the natural increase from this initial allotment will produce a profitable harvest within less than five years.

Oct. 14, 1949

The high school freshman class is undergoing the tortures and ignominy of being a freshman this week as the

sophomores are enthusiastically initiating them into the ninth grade. The annual custom, featuring weird facial paint jobs, occurs about a month after school starts each year. A party was held this morning for the frosh, with boys coming in girls clothes and girls wearing boys clothes -- inside out. Those being initiated are Dolly Villarma, Elaine Simmons, Caroline Lewis, Daisy Lewis, Patricia Lewis, Kenneth Mason, Eddie Bradley, Harvey Churchill, Alvin Kaer, Jeane Watkins Betty Tonne, Lynn Schwartz, Harriet Miyasato and Dolores Metz.

Oct. 16, 1974

Wrangell shooters swept the Southeast Alaska Trap Tournament held in Sitka Oct. 5-6. Thirty-eight competitors from Juneau, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka and Wrangell competed in the event, which was held in rainy weather. Wrangellite Larry Balloy, a spokesman for the Wrangell Rod and Gun Club, said seven events held over the two-day weekend consisted of 100 targets at 16 yards, 100 targets at handicap, and 25 pairs of doubles each day. The five men and one woman from Wrangell competing in the contest were Bill Erlanger, Orden

Phillips, John Gaudio, Allen Lee, Ballot and Terri Balloy, his wife. Wrangell took nine trophies and more than \$1,200 in prize money.

Oct. 14, 1999

The Wrangell Wolves volleyball team went to Juneau this past weekend for an invitational tournament open to schools from all over Alaska. Playing games against Ketchikan, Haines, Sitka, Juneau and even Anchorage, Wrangell was up against some tough competition. On Friday, they had a round-robin tournament. Wrangell beat Haines. The next day they did not come away

victorious, but they did walk away with a second place standing overall. Wrangell has proved to be a team to be reckoned with. Some girls who deserve a little more recognition are those named to the academic team. These students with outstanding GPAs are Letitia Churchill, Valerie Strasburger, Dani Gross, Nicole Jamieson, Kaelne Wilson, Jennifer Davies, Sarah Schmidt, Camilla Owens, Celeste Montoy and Nicki Nikodym. These girls are involved with volleyball among other things and still manage to keep up good grades.

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WEEKLY FARE SALES



FREIGHT FOR LESS

Borough explores attracting data center to town

By SAM PAUSMAN
Sentinel senior reporter

The borough wants a data center to plug into Wrangell. Better yet, it could even move into the unused formal hospital property.

Data centers are large hosting sites for multiple servers that provide computing power and storage for cloud-based service providers.

While at Southeast Conference, held in Ketchikan last month, borough representatives spoke with Sam Enoka, founder and CEO of Greensparc — a San Francisco-based technology company that specializes in setting up modular, small-scale data centers for cloud computing.

Enoka grew up around Fairbanks before leaving Alaska for graduate school. The company has Alaska-based investors.

Borough Manager Mason Villarma said many of the discussions at Southeast Conference

were often about Southeast's problems, so talking with Enoka to try and spur some economic growth was especially refreshing.

Enoka and other members of the Greensparc team are scheduled to travel to Wrangell for an Oct. 22 public workshop between the company and the borough assembly. Villarma said he hopes the workshop will help determine if the company is a good fit for the borough and vice versa.

The old hospital property is not the only facility Greensparc may consider for its data center, as it seeks large, shop-style buildings with high ceilings. Such facilities would also need to be capable of accommodating high-power usage.

The borough has been trying to sell the hospital property since SEARHC ended its lease and moved into its new medical center in 2021.

Villarma said he and Greensparc discussed — in addition to the old hospital property — the borough-owned cold storage facility that is mostly unused by Trident Seafoods or even renovating the covered outdoor basketball court by Evergreen Elementary School. The latter location has also been identified as a possible location for an expansion of the school district's technical education programs.

While Villarma acknowledged that the arrival of a data center might not spur massive job growth in town, it would not be without its benefits.

"It's about a \$50 million investment for 1,000 square feet of servers," Villarma said. "We would be able to make a more efficient power system and drop

the price of power sales for consumers."

He also noted the borough would see a "notable" increase in property tax revenue if a facility as substantial as a data center is on the tax rolls.

Another positive about bringing Greensparc, specifically, to town is "they are really into engaging with the school kids and trying to provide opportunities for a career in AI, IT and server maintenance," the borough manager said.

This would not be Greensparc's first Alaska-based data center. Earlier this year the company installed a center in Cordova, running entirely on hydroelectric power. The company has designated the majority of Southeast as an "opportunity

zone" and sees the entire state as a viable place to grow its network of data centers.

According to a May study by Goldman Sachs, the recent artificial intelligence boom has skyrocketed national demand for data centers. The investment bank says the amount of electricity data centers consume could quadruple by the end of the decade.

The availability of hydroelectric power in Wrangell — and in much of Southeast — could be attractive to data center developers.

The workshop between borough officials and Greensparc employees will take place Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 6 p.m. at City Hall. The event is open to the public.

Wellness fair

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The wellness fair, which SEARHC has run for several years after taking over the event from others, is scheduled for 7 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Nolan Center. The fair is free, though there is a charge for people who want to get blood tests.

SEARHC and several community organizations will have health and wellness information booths at the fair, including the health care provider's own team providing demonstrations on healthy and safe eating and food preparation, Allen said.

Flu shots will be available, but not COVID boosters. Anyone interested in a COVID vaccination shot needs to call the medical center to schedule an appointment, 907-874-7000.

Wellness fair attendees can sign up for a "Passport to Wellness" competition for a chance to win a bike — one for an adult and one for a child.

The cost for the blood test is \$150, payable at the fair by cash, check or credit card, and people need to fast for at least eight hours before the test — nothing but water or black coffee — Allen said. People can pre-register if they want their blood drawn between 7 and 10 a.m., or they can walk in without a reservation between 10 a.m. and noon.

Call 907-874-7000 to pre-register, or go to searhc.org/wellness-fair-registration.



PHOTO COURTESY HEATHER HOWE

Teenagers help seniors navigate IT

Haidyn Gadd (left) and Ellee Voltz (right) provide some IT support for Kay Larson. The two-hour event at the Irene Ingle Public Library on Oct. 12 allowed community members to receive technology assistance from high school students. The student volunteers solved problems ranging from storage issues to setting up internet accounts.



Join Us at the Wellness Fair

Let's unite for the collective well-being of Wrangell.

Wellness Fair Offerings:

- Blood Test Packages*
\$150 - payable by cash, check or card at the time of service.
- Flu Shot Clinic
- Health & Wellness Educational Booths
- Teddy Bear Clinic
Bring your teddy bear in for an annual check-up!

Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024
7 a.m. – noon
The Nolan Center
296 Campbell Drive

Enter to win!
Complete our "Passport to Wellness" for a chance to win a Diamondback Overdrive 27.5" Hardtail Mountain Bike (adult prize) or a kids' bicycle (youth prize)!

*Pre-registration is highly recommended. To pre-register for a blood test, call 907.874.7000 or scan the QR code below. Walk-in blood tests start at 10 a.m.



Pre-register here.
searhc.org/wellness-fair-registration

Health. For All.



FROM THE PUBLISHER

Unaffordable promises are a dishonest way to campaign

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

Supporters of Herbert Hoover’s 1928 campaign for president ran newspaper ads with the headline, “A Chicken for Every Pot.”

An impractical campaign pledge, though maybe it helped: Hoover won the election. But he then presided over the start of the Great Depression in 1929, when many could afford neither a chicken nor a pot.

Almost 100 years later, political campaigns are still promising a better life for voters, though the price tag has risen far above the cost of a chicken, or a pot, or even an entire new kitchen.

In rare cases, the country can afford such political bribery.

Such as the South American nation of Guyana, which has experienced the oil-wealth equivalent of going from 0 to 60 in record time. The nation of 800,000 people went from zero oil production to more than 600,000 barrels a day this fall, with plans to double that by 2027.

Guyana’s president, ahead of next year’s elections, last week promised free college tuition, a one-time cash payment of nearly \$1,000 for every household, cutting power bills by half and increasing the monthly minimum wage.

But the Guyana president is playing catch-up to former president Donald Trump, who started making similar rich promises to American voters months ago. The difference being, the South American oil powerhouse probably can afford to write the checks, while the U.S. Treasury would need to borrow trillions more dollars to cover Trump’s promises.

One of the latest buy-the-vote promises from the Republican candidate for president is to allow Americans to deduct the interest on car and truck loans from their federal income taxes. No surprise, he made the pro-car announcement in Detroit, home to the U.S. auto industry and the biggest city in one of the biggest swing

states in the election.

He also has promised no more federal income taxes on Social Security benefits, and no taxes on overtime or worker tips. Trump played the tax-free-tips card while campaigning in Nevada, another swing state that could help determine who wins the White House.

“To those hotel workers and people who get tips, you are going to be very happy, because when I get to office we are going to not charge taxes on tips, people making tips,” Trump said. “We’re going to do that right away, first thing in office.”

Forget the detail that a president cannot change tax law; Congress holds that power. Promises sound better if you ignore the details.

But details matter, especially when it comes to government spending — or lack of government revenue, it all adds up the same.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a respected nonpartisan think-tank which advocates for reduced federal deficits, added up all of Trump’s tax promises and pledges to increase spending and raise revenues with higher tariffs on imported goods. The total would increase the federal debt by \$7.5 trillion through 2035, about 20% more than it is today.

Giving equal time to equally pandering politics, Democratic candidate Vice President Kamala Harris mimicked Trump by promising to end taxation of tips, and certainly has her own list of tax changes and spending pledges. But she’s a low-cost promiser compared to the former president: The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimates the Harris plan would add \$3.5 trillion to the federal debt by 2035.

Maybe the U.S. government could earn airline mileage from putting trillions of dollars of new debt on a credit card. Trump could then promise free travel to win more votes. A chicken for every pot just isn’t good enough anymore.

EDITORIAL

Ranked-choice voting works well for Alaskans

Alaskans will be asked on the Nov. 5 statewide ballot if they want to vote yes and repeal the state’s ranked-choice election system. Opponents of ranked voting collected enough signatures to put the question on the ballot, though they violated state campaign finance laws to get there — a rank and dishonorable start.

Alaskans would be better served to vote no on Proposition No. 2.

Ranked-choice voting, adopted by Alaskans in 2020, ensures that the winning candidates in state and congressional races have the support of a majority of voters. Nothing confusing about that, although opponents say the ballot process is confusing.

Opponents who want Alaskans to vote yes on the repeal are saying lots of other things to mislead people, but the fact remains that ranked-choice elections are about determining which candidates have the broadest support among the most people, not which ones belong to which parties or which ones have taken which pledges of political loyalty.

Under the voting system, Alaskans rank candidates in order of preference. If a candidate receives a majority of the first-choice tally — 50% plus one — he or she wins. If no one takes 50% in the first round of counting, the bottom finishers are eliminated and the votes retabulated with those voters’ second or third choices until a winner emerges at 50% plus one.

No longer will Alaskans elect public officials who have the support of a minority of voters, which has happened many times when three candidates face off in the general election and the winner takes the prize with far less than half the votes.

It happened in 1994, when Democrat Tony Knowles, at 41.1%, beat Republican Jim Campbell, 40.8%, for governor by just 538 votes, while 13% of the vote went to Jack Coghill of the right-leaning Alaskan Independence Party. The tally showed that most Alaskans did not want Knowles to be governor. Had ranked-choice voting been in effect, it’s likely most of Coghill’s voters would have listed Campbell as their second choice, putting the Republican into the governor’s office with majority support.

Ranked-choice elections are about letting voters make the decisions, not the political parties that control primaries. It’s about healthy political competition in the middle, not shouting at the extremes. It’s about real majorities, not minority rule. It creates opportunities for independent and third-party candidates to get an equal shot in November.

It’s simply about letting voters make their own decisions.

In the interest of all of the above, Alaskans should vote no on Proposition No. 2 in November.

-Wrangell Sentinel

Totem

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In 1940, a U.S. Forest Service-led initiative produced a replica pole on Shakes Island. Despite the fact that the debt was supposed to have been long forgotten, a version of the pole stood for the past 80 years. In addition to the Forest Service project, a Wrangell Cooperative Association project produced another replica near the end of the 20th century.

At the Sept. 6 ceremony, both clans said the pole should never have been replicated, and taking the totem down was long overdue.

George-Byrd said she will leave the pole’s two large logs on the ground at Shakes Island. The three-frogs piece from atop the pole, however, will be cremated.

The ceremony’s participants held cedar branches to dispel negativity as the Naanyaa.aayí and Kiks.adi took turns singing songs and thanking each other. Onlookers watched as the pole was

pulled down by two ropes tied to the cross section atop the vertical totem. Cheers rang out when the pole crashed to the earth.

Richard Tashee Rinehart spoke on behalf of the Kiks.adi.

“Thank you for what you have done here. We very much appreciate everything you have done,” he told the Naanyaa.aayí.

The event was well attended, as many out-of-town visitors were already scheduled to be in Wrangell for the *ku.éex’* that was scheduled to take place on the Saturday and Sunday following the Friday take-down of the Three-Frog Totem.

A *ku.éex’* is a celebration that usually takes place a year after the death of a clan member. In this case, it was for two people: Hankie kaa Tsáas Hoyt and Chrstine Kahtle-et Jenkins. The multi-day festivities serve as a celebration of gratitude from one clan to the

other, thanking their opposites for helping them through the mourning process following a clan member’s passing.

This year’s celebration brought hundreds of visitors to town for the weekend, so organizers purposefully scheduled the totem removal to coincide with the *ku.éex’*.

After the pole came down, Lu Knapp, one of the ceremony’s leaders, spoke to the crowd.

“We will not speak of this again and the pole will not be put up again,” she said.

The Sentinel obtained the appropriate permissions to report on this event so as to not violate the clan’s wishes.

The Sentinel, which had used the totem in its masthead, website and logos since the 1970s, has removed the art from its logo and is in the process of reprinting envelopes, business cards and such to ensure that the Three-Frog Totem is never again used by the newspaper.

School doors

Continued from page 1

teachers have made safety improvement requests to the school board. In 2018, the Wrangell Teachers Association requested four changes: continued active shooter training; community, teacher and parent input into safety policies; access to non-lethal countermeasures for teachers; and frequent reports on the school district’s firearms policy.

According to the Center for Homeland Security, there have been 723 school shootings nationwide since 2018, the year the teachers union made their request. In that same time, Wrangell teachers lost their access to ALICE training (a hostile intruder response program), they have received no nonlethal countermeasures, and Evergreen staff believe their subsequent requests have fallen flat.

One reason teachers said they feel so frustrated by what they

see as a cycle of ignored requests is the simplicity of simply locking a door.

“In today’s world, where safety concerns are ever-present, it is essential that we take proactive measures to protect our school community. Locking the district office doors during school hours will provide an additional layer of security, helping to keep our students and staff safe,” the teachers wrote in their letter to the board.

“It’s incredibly insulting,” one teacher said. “We’re trying to meet them halfway. We provided a costless solution in the meantime, and to still not have anything done ... that is insulting.”

In response to the teachers letter, Board President Dave Wilson said at the school board meeting: “It’s been referred to the administration.”

Superintendent Bill Burr declined to comment for this story.

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School board, advisory committee settle their differences over policy

By SAM PAUSMAN
Sentinel senior reporter

The debate between the school board and the School Advisory Committee (SAC) ended how many bureaucratic disputes end: in a compromise.

On Oct. 7, the school board unanimously voted to adopt revisions to Board Policy 1220, which serves as the governing document for the secondary schools' advisory committee. This policy, which also dictates the committee's access to the school board, was the epicenter of a lingering dispute between the two parties.

According to committee members, their recommendations to the school board often went unanswered by Schools Superintendent Bill Burr or members of the board. However, Burr and board president Dave Wilson countered that the advisory committee was meant to advise the principal, and its recommendations fell outside the school board's purview.

After the school board requested its policy committee retool BP-1220 on Sept. 16, the policy committee worked with members of the SAC to find a compromise. In the end, both sides ceded ground, but were happy enough with the final product to send it back to the

school board for approval.

In the newly revised policy, proponents of limiting the committee's access to the board can point to language defining the SAC as advisory "to the principal" as a victory. This was a point of contention, as the previous version of the committee's bylaws stated that it was to make its recommendations through the principal "to the school board."

However, those who wanted the committee to have direct access to the board will claim a victory of their own: The committee's monthly meeting agenda will now appear in the meeting packets for the school board.

Additionally, the board agreed to invite committee members to participate in work sessions where "committee input could be heard and considered on topics related to the district."

The committee's bylaws will now be reviewed annually.

The SAC is the only school board committee whose members are not appointed directly by the board, with any member of the community eligible to join it. Outside of the persons-to-be-heard designated time slot at board meetings, the advisory committee serves

as a pathway for community members to address questions, concerns or opinions about the schools.

The revised policy comes amid a recent emphasis on transparency and community input at the board level. Last year, John DeRuyter ran on a platform emphasizing both these positions, while Dan Powers ran a similar successful campaign in this year's election.

At the Oct. 7 meeting, middle school teacher Laura Davies suggested another way the school board could improve its community involvement: She and several other teachers wish they could listen in on live-streamed board meetings from home.

"We read in the newspaper that the school board wants to engage the community more. This would actually be a way to do it," she said. Davies said busy schedules and family commitments often prevent in-person attendance, but the ability to live stream the meetings while she is making dinner could be a step in the direction of increased community engagement.

The borough pays KSTK to broadcast regular borough assembly meetings live on the radio.

Borough holds first 'Our Town, Our Future' session Friday morning

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

The coffee will be free and the borough wants the information and questions to flow just as freely at the first of its "Our Town, Our Future" informal community sessions.

The listening-and-sharing session is set for 9 a.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at the Stikine Inn. The borough has carved out two hours for the meeting, but people don't have to stay that long, explained Kate Thomas, the borough's economic development director.

The sessions will be held the third Friday of every month through March as part of the borough's effort to provide more information to the community, particularly focused on Wrangell's economy and promoting economic growth.

"Come one, come all," Thomas said of the coffee chats, hoping for a sizable turnout at the opening session.

"This first one is going to be broad and will share data from Southeast Alaska by the Numbers," she said. The annual report, which is prepared for Southeast municipalities, includes current data about population, jobs, wages, industries and also an annual business survey.

Thomas and staff will lead a discussion about Wrangell's economy: "Where we are currently" and how Wrangell fits within the overall Southeast economy.

One goal of the community sessions is to "reach people where they are rather than expect people to come to us," such as testifying at borough assembly meetings, she said.

Future topics will "depend on the richness of the conversations and the people at the table." The sessions will be informal, Thomas said.

Comments and suggestions from the meetings will be brought to the borough's economic development board, which has stepped up its efforts to look for ways to build the town's economy.

Wrangell businesses are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit new employees. The town has suffered through years of population decline, and the latest state forecast predicts the town could drop to 1,400 residents by 2050 from 2,000 now.

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Alaska's seafood industry revenue fell by \$1.8 billion over past two costly years

BY YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

A variety of market forces combined with weak fish returns in a rapidly changing environment caused Alaska's seafood industry revenues to drop by \$1.8 billion from 2022 to 2023, a new federal report said.

The array of economic and environmental challenges has devastated one of Alaska's main industries, said the report, issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. And the losses extend beyond economics, casting doubt on prospects for the future, the report said.

"For many Alaskans the decline of their seafood industry affects their pocketbooks, presents food security concerns, and impacts their way of life, sense of place, community, and identity. In the face of evolving climate-driven impacts to ecosystems and fisheries in the region, these recent market disruptions undermine the capacity of all segments of the seafood industry and associated fishing communities to be resilient and survive in fisheries now and in the future," the report said.

The losses also extend beyond Alaska.

Nationwide, Alaska's seafood industry woes caused the loss from 2022 to 2023 of more than 38,000 jobs and a \$4.3 billion decline in total U.S. output, the report said. There was also a loss of \$269 million in combined state and local tax revenues, the report said. The states most affected beyond Alaska were those on the West Coast.

The report breaks down the dollar losses.

For harvesters, lower dockside prices, higher costs and reduced catches resulted in a \$617 million decline from 2022 to 2023 in payments for fish delivered from their vessels, a payment known as "ex-vessel" value. For the sales level known as "first wholesale" — the first step beyond ex-vessel sales — the year-to-year drop in revenue was about \$1.2 billion, the report said. Added together, those year-over-year revenue declines totaled \$1.8 billion.

The factors causing the losses were numerous.

Among them: direct competition from massive Russian harvests, closure of processing plants, trade challenges created by a strong U.S. dollar and numerous tariffs, high fuel and labor costs, residual effects of the COVID-19 pan-

demic, and the lack of any kind of federal revenue insurance program for fishers similar to what available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for farmers.

Commercially important fish populations have been battered by successive marine heat waves in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea, affecting salmon and crab stocks, the report noted. Fishery collapses that led to harvest disruptions have been linked to climate change, the report said.

The Alaska seafood problems have exacerbated some social inequities and even contributed to physical health problems, the report said.

The burden is borne disproportionately by residents of small and mostly Native communities dependent on fishing income and on fish as a dietary staple and cultural touchstone, the report said.

Fishers have also admitted that they sometimes try to harvest in dangerous weather to make up for losses, thus putting their safety at risk, or neglect medical problems because they lack the money to pay for treatment, the report said.

There have been some government responses to the multifaceted Alaska seafood industry crisis.

One mentioned in the new NOAA report is a newly created Alaska legislative task force that is due to make policy recommendations by January.

The report also cites the numerous disaster-aid infusions tallied at \$385 million over recent years at the time the report was compiled, with more funding pending to come, from the Department of Commerce, which oversees NOAA.

However, none of the losses caused by global market forces are eligible for federal disaster aid, the report noted.

While much of the local and state-level debate over fisheries in Alaska has focused on the interception of salmon and other fish that are caught when other species are targeted, the report mentioned bycatch only once. If put more focus on economic forces affecting the seafood industry.

The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. Alaskabeacon.com.

Documentary tells story of Tahltans who protected their sacred headwaters

BY LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

An award-winning documentary film about the yearslong struggle of the Tahltan First Nation to protect their sacred headwaters in British Columbia will be shown at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at the Nolan Center.

The event is free. Several Tahltan elders from the region across the Coast Mountains from Southeast Alaska will be at the screening to answer questions and talk with audience members after the showing of "Klabona Keepers."

The movie, which was released in 2022, covers about 15 years of the Tahltans' opposition to industrial development in the headwaters of the Nass, Stikine, Iskut and Skeena rivers. Proposals included coal-bed methane production and an open-pit coal mine.

"Spanning 15 years of matriarch-led resistance, the film follows a small group of determined elders in the village of Iskut," according to the documentary's promotional materials.

"A group of Indigenous women, mainly aunties and grandchildren, decided to protest this mining development on their lands," said Guy Archibald, executive director of the Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission, which is active in the same battle against mining development in the watershed.

"The community of Wrangell faces a lot of upstream mining issues," similar to the Klabona, he said, citing the proposed Galore Creek copper mine, about halfway between Wrangell and the Upper Stikine River community of Telegraph Creek, British Columbia.

Archibald plans to attend the showing of the film, along with a group of about 14 First Nation youth and elders from the Klabona area, though he said their attendance is dependent on flying weather from Prince Rupert, British Columbia, to Ketchikan and then to Wrangell.

"Klabona Keepers," named for the Tahltan word for their sacred headwaters, "is a funny movie, it's a sad movie," he said.

The scene where officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police try to arrest elders is comical, Archibald explained.

"The film ended with a win" when the developers gave up and pulled their proposals, he said. The provincial government has since taken steps toward creating a protected area for the Klabona, which includes the small communities of Telegraph Creek, Iskut and Dease Lake.

The 69-minute movie tells the story of such a long struggle that some of the 5- and 7-year-olds seen at the start of the documentary are now in their 20s, Archibald added.

The film premiered in 2022 at the Toronto edition of the Human Rights Watch Film Festival. It won the Insight Audience Choice Award at the 2022 Vancouver International Film Festival.

The two non-Indigenous filmmakers who made the documentary "happened to stop at the Iskut gas station in 2013. What was meant to be a pit stop turned into a conversation, then an invitation and finally being asked by the community to film their actions," according to a 2023 report by the Yukon Territory Film Society.

The free showing in Wrangell is sponsored by the Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission, the SkeenaWild Conservation Trust and Story Money Impact, a Canadian nonprofit.

The film also is scheduled for showings in Craig, Kasaan and Ketchikan, Archibald said.

Early voting opens on Monday for statewide general election

SENTINEL STAFF

The state primary election is Tuesday, Nov. 5, but Wrangell voters who would rather cast their ballots early can come to City Hall between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays starting Monday, Oct. 21, through Monday, Nov. 4.

Just walk back to the assembly chambers and, if the state elections staff does not recognize you, present a drivers license, voter ID card or other form of identification to get a ballot.

On election day Nov. 5, the polling booths will be set up at the Nolan Center from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voters are reminded that state law prohibits any campaign signs at a polling place or within 200 feet. That includes signs or banners on vehicles, or wearing T-shirts or hats or but-

tons.

The state has offered early voting for years, making it easier for people who may be busy on election day or simply prefer to cast their ballot ahead of time. All of the ballots are tabulated and totals released after the polls close.

Anyone who is voting by mail needs to have their ballot postmarked no later than Nov. 5; late ballots will not be counted. More information on absentee voting and sample ballots is available at www.elections.alaska.gov.

In addition to the presidential race, Wrangell voters will choose among candidates for U.S. House and the state House.

In the congressional race, incumbent Democrat Rep. Mary Peltola is seeking reelection. Her main challenge is Republican Nick Begich, who is trying

a second time to win the state's lone U.S. House seat.

In the state House race for District 1, which covers Ketchikan, Wrangell and Metlakatla, three candidates are running to succeed Rep. Dan Ortiz, who is not seeking reelection: Jeremy Bynum, a registered Republican; Grant EcoHawk, non-partisan; and Agnes Moran, non-partisan.

All three candidates for the state House seat are from Ketchikan.

There are also two ballot measures Nov. 5, both put before voters by citizen's initiatives: No. 1, to raise Alaska's minimum wage and require employers provide paid sick leave; and No. 2, to repeal the state's ranked-choice voting system for candidates, replacing it with political party primaries.

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Volleyball team sweeps opponents in 3-day tournament

By SAM PAUSMAN

Sentinel senior reporter

Head coach Brian Herman has been confident about the girls volleyball team all season long — like, really, really confident. After this week, one thing is clear: Herman has every right to be.

The team won eight matches in half as many days, including a seven-match stretch at the Southeast seeding tournament where the Wolves did not drop a single set.

The seeding tournament was a three-day affair, with the first match on Oct. 10 before competition wrapped up on Saturday, Oct. 12. It was the first of two seeding tournaments the team will play in this season. The second will take place Nov. 7-9 in Petersburg. These tournaments dictate the rankings for the Southeast championship tournament Nov. 23.

However, before the Wolves arrived in Metlakatla for the seven-match round-robin, they played a full five-set match in Ketchikan on Oct. 9. Though Ketchikan High School has about eight times the number of students as Wrangell, the Wolves beat their southern rivals after extending the match to its deciding fifth set.

The match went back and forth all night long. Ketchikan won the first set, Wrangell the second. Ketchikan won a tight third. Wrangell beat them by 15 points in the fourth. Although the first-to-15 tiebreak was closer, Wrangell won by four

points.

That meant the Wolves finished the match winning two straight sets. The next day in Metlakatla they did the same thing against Petersburg, winning the best-of-three match 2-0. Then another 2-0 win against Haines. Then Metlakatla. Then Hoonah. Then Craig. Then Klawock. Then Skagway. All wins. All two-nil. If you're counting, that's 16 straight sets across four days.

Herman, unsurprisingly, was thrilled.

"We're playing in end-of-season form but it's only the start of the year," Herman said. "Across the board, everything was working. Almost 20% of our serves were aces. No team could run any offense against us if we were serving."

Herman added that one difference between this year's team compared to last year's team is the number of dangerous servers.

"Last year, we relied on just one or two servers," he admitted, "But this year, it doesn't matter who is serving."

Sophia Martinsen is a perfect example of this.

"Last year, she literally could not serve," Herman said.

Just a year later, the sophomore has become one of the team's best servers. Herman de-

scribed Martinsen's performance as "the tournament of her career," adding, "Everything she did was so good. She was our best server."

The monsoon of success that Wrangell rained down on their opponents puts the Wolves in unfamiliar territory.

"We are now the villain,"

Herman joked. "Last year we were underdogs. We won Southeast as underdogs. This year, it's a whole different situation."

Despite having a proverbial target on their backs, Herman said he and assistant coach Shelley Powers are going to keep focusing on what works for this

team: good habits, deadly serving and composed defense.

Next up, the Wolves will face Ketchikan on Thursday, Oct. 24, in the only home competition of the season. The best-of-five match will be the third time the out-of-conference rivals square off this season. Wrangell won both previous matchups.

State food safety inspections focus on highest-risk areas in kitchens

By LARRY PERSILY

Sentinel writer

A state food safety and sanitation inspector visited Wrangell last week as part of the program's ongoing efforts to conduct on-site inspections within its limited budget.

The inspector was in town for a routine check on a seafood processor that ships some of its products overseas. The U.S. Department of Commerce contracts with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation food safety and sanitation program to conduct inspections of seafood operations, explained Kimberly Stryker, program manager.

"We also did some retail food service work while we were in Wrangell to make the best use of our resources," she said last week.

The staffer visited four food service providers in Wrangell, Stryker said.

The program has just 14 full-time inspectors to cover the entire state except Anchorage, which

handles its own municipal food safety program. Those 14 staffers also review applications for food service permits, which cost \$400 a year for businesses with 25 or fewer seats and \$490 a year for seating up to 100.

In addition to reviewing new business permits and keeping track of existing food service establishments, those same inspectors are responsible for seafood processors, tattoo and body-piercing shops, public pools and spas.

"We're pretty behind," Stryker said. "We don't have the resources to inspect every site in every community."

Managing the workload means focusing on higher-risk areas in kitchens, food preparation and storage areas, she said. That includes, for example, restaurants that prepare soup or chili to serve one day and then cool and store it to serve the next day, and hospitals that serve at-risk patients.

"Cooking, cooling and then reheating is going

Continued on page 8

School board votes Wilson another term as president

SENTINEL STAFF

The school board on Oct. 7 re-elected Dave Wilson as president, defeating John DeRuyter in a 3-2 vote for the position.

DeRuyter was elected vice president after board member Liz Roundtree nominated him for the position.

Sophomore Kalee Herman will join the board as the student representative.

The meeting was the first with newcomer Dan Powers in attendance. He replaced Brittani Robbins, who lost her reelection bid in the Oct. 1 municipal election.

Along with Wilson, DeRuyter, Roundtree and Powers, the other school board member is Angela Allen, who was reelected Oct. 1.

NOTICE OF ABSENTEE VOTING GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Absentee In-Person voting for the November 5, 2024, General Election begins October 21, 2024. Ballots will be available in each Division of Elections regional elections offices as well as other locations throughout the state.

If you would like to vote by mail, your absentee by-mail ballot application must be received by the Division of Elections by Saturday, October 26, 2024.

If you would like to receive a ballot via electronic transmission, your electronic transmission ballot application must be received by the Division of Elections by Monday, November 4, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

For a list of absentee in-person voting locations, or to obtain an absentee ballot application, visit the Division of Elections Early and Absentee voting website at <https://AKVoteEarly.alaska.gov>

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Hobby shops now on the same street, offer different experiences

By MARK C. ROBINSON
Special to the Sentinel

On a rainy Sunday afternoon, a lively gaming session took place at the new location for AK Hobby R.A.W.K.S. in the Churchill Building at 321 Front St. At one table, a group of high schoolers played Dungeons and Dragons, while at two neighboring tables grade schoolers played Disney Lorcana, a popular trading card game released last fall.

Owner Wesley Seward said a weekly tournament will be held every Sunday, with the winner to receive a trove pack of the game that features card storage, a player's guide, booster packs and original artwork for collectors.

"If they don't win, they also get something anyway just for being here, being part of the

community," Seward added.

Just a couple of blocks away David Jellum operates Laughing Star Hobbies, where he recently added arcade machines for customers, such as NBA Jam, Gauntlet and Double Dragon, which he got from Jerry Massin, the former proprietor of Jerry's Arcade, which closed almost a decade ago.

"I didn't know they were available. I was just talking to Jerry one day when I was walking by," Jellum said. "I've got three or four more video games that are going to be coming in."

In addition to trading cards and role-playing games, Jellum also sells other merchandise like art supplies, locally made items and materials for crafters like his wife Ellen who is into knitting and needlepoint.



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

AK Hobby R.A.W.K.S. owner Wesley Seward (behind everyone in the center) and his wife Alisha Seward (on the far left) welcomed a crowd to the shop for tournaments of the Disney Lorcana trading card game and Dungeons and Dragons on Oct. 6.



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Laughing Star Hobbies owner David Jellum stands with two of his recent arcade machine acquisitions, NBA Jams and Gauntlet, which are now available for customers to play.

"I'm probably more on the niche hobbies," Jellum said, adding that he's also considering model ships, paintball equipment and offering arts and crafts classes. "I'm into what people are into. I want to bring their hobbies into the store."

"I'm doing my dream," Seward said of his focus on tabletop, trading card and board games. "(Jellum) is doing his."

"When you look at it, just about every business in Wrangell has multiples," Jellum said. "There're two hardware stores, there're two grocery stores, there're multiple gift shops. ... Everyone else seems to do fine."

"I don't see any reason why we shouldn't," he said of the two game businesses.

When the gift shop River's Mouth Trading Co. closed last month, Seward took the opening to move his business from his home on Second Avenue to the location which offered a Front Street view and a chance for potential customers to window shop.

Seward said his business has always been youth oriented. "They're the future," he said. He offers discounts — with parental permission — to students who get good grades in school.

The first Saturday of every month from 6 to 8 p.m. will be Pokémon Trade Night, he said, for collectors to show off their favorite cards, trade and expand their collections.

"We play D&D three times a

week here," he said, adding that Fridays are scheduled for youth D&D which can accommodate eight to 13 kids.

Ryan Howe came to AK Hobby to participate in the Disney Lorcana game with his four children. "It's nice for the kids that have something to do. ... The kids will come on their own now. It's pretty awesome. ... They feel welcome. It's a heck of a cool thing."

Wesley Seward's wife, Alisha Seward, who is the state wildlife trooper in town and a gamer herself, is glad to support her husband's business where people can hang out and have a good time. "That's really what it's all about," she said. "We're just here for the community."

Food inspections

Continued from page 7

to be a higher risk than cook and serve," she explained. "The major emphasis of our food establishment inspections is to focus attention on risk factors that have been shown to be directly linked with the causes of foodborne illnesses."

The program tries to visit higher-risk food service and retail operations once every three years, while low-risk businesses may never see an on-site inspector, Stryker said. "We also factor in complaints, facility history, length of time between inspections and risk."

Virtual visits are something new, using online video walk-throughs. "We've been able to use technology in good ways."

Statewide, the top four food handling

mistakes seen by inspectors are improper temperature control, contaminated surfaces, poor personal hygiene (working while sick, a lack of handwashing, not wearing sanitary gloves when handling food that is going to the customer), and cooking temperatures.

In Wrangell, during 21 routine site visits from January 2020 to present, inspectors found inadequate hand washing facilities in almost half the cases. Other common problems were improperly cleaned and sanitized food-contact surfaces, not having a state-certified staffer assigned to managing food safety, improper cooling times and temperatures, and improper storage of toxic substances at the business.

"When we see practices that indicate a gap in food safety, we do two things," Stryker said. "First, we work with the operator to correct the problem while we are there, then we work with them to find a way to control the practices after we leave so they can prepare and serve safe food to their customers every day," she said.

"Your consumer expects that the food they eat isn't going to hurt them."

In addition to rules for operations at restaurants, food trucks, temporary food stands and other providers, state law limits where businesses can get the food they serve. "There are some exceptions, one example is raw agricultural products," Stryker said.

Meats have to come from a U.S. De-

partment of Agriculture-approved slaughterhouse and processing facility. Seafood has to come from a commercial processor, though a restaurant can apply for a variance so that they can buy up to 500 pounds of seafood a week directly from fishermen.

The rules are different for homemade foods.

State law allows homemade food to be sold without a permit or inspection, such as baked goods, eggs, produce, jams and jellies and honey sold directly to consumers. "There are no requirements regarding the kitchen being used, as long as it belongs to the producer or is leased by them," according to the program's website.



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Peltola, Begich differ on federal spending, abortion and also minimum wage

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

Alaska's two leading U.S. House candidates are offering significantly different views on the role of federal spending, a cornerstone of Alaska's economy.

Speaking to members of the Alaska Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 10 in Fairbanks, incumbent Democratic Rep. Mary Peltola promoted her support of big federal infrastructure bills that have brought billions of dollars to Alaska.

Republican challenger Nick Begich criticized that legislation and voiced concerns about the size of the federal deficit, implying that if elected he would seek to reduce federal spending.

That would be a significant change for Alaska: Federal money pays for almost half of Alaska's state budget for public services and construction; the federal government directly employs more than 16,000 people here; and many communities, including Wrangell, are constantly asking for federal funds for local projects.

Begich has received financial support from members of the Freedom Caucus, a group of hardline Republicans in the U.S. House who have occasionally driven the federal government to the brink of a shutdown as a negotiating technique in their pursuit of budget cuts.

Later in the Fairbanks debate, Begich added: "I think it's important for us to call time out once in a while and say, 'Hey, does the spending that we're incurring make sense? Should we put this on the national credit card? Should we make future generations pay for the decisions of today?'"

Begich said he doesn't believe the government should shut down, and after the debate, said he isn't sure whether he would join the Freedom Caucus, if elected.

The debate in Fairbanks was the second of three last week between the two top candidates for Alaska's U.S. House seat.

The election is one of a few toss-up races in the 435-seat House of Representatives. With the House closely divided between Republicans and Democrats, the winner of Alaska's race is seen as important to control of the House.

According to Federal Elections Commission filings, third-party groups have spent more than \$11.6 million on Alaska's U.S. House race so far, the fifth highest among all House races nationwide.

The two candidates differ on Ballot Measure 1, a statewide initiative on the Nov. 5 ballot that would mandate paid sick leave, raise the minimum wage and ban employers from requiring employees to attend religious or political lectures.

Begich said he doesn't think the measure is necessary because most wages in the state are already above what Ballot Measure 1 calls for.

Continued on page 10

Alaskans asked whether to repeal or retain ranked-candidate voting

By CLAIRE STREMPLE
Alaska Beacon

Alaska was the second state to adopt ranked-choice voting in federal and statewide elections, but it may be the first to abandon it.

A citizen's initiative ballot measure that would repeal the state's open primary and ranked-choice voting system made it to the November ballot after legal challenges. As a result, Alaskans will be asked in Ballot Measure 2 to decide if they would like to repeal or keep the state's open primary and top-four voting system.

If the repeal is successful, Alaska would revert to primaries that are controlled by the political parties and general elections where voters pick only their top candidate.

The repeal effort centers its argument around the ranked-choice aspect of the state's voting system, while supporters of the system have dug in to fight for open primaries.

The 2020 ballot measure to institute ranked choice-voting succeeded with 51% of the vote. Efforts to roll it back ramped up after the system's debut in the 2022 election.

The 2022 results showed the range of possibilities in statewide elections under the election system: conservative Republican Mike Dunleavy was reelected governor, moderate Republican Lisa Murkowski was reelected as a U.S. senator, and Democrat Mary Peltola was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Alaska's open primary means that every voter is eligible to vote for any candidate, regardless of political affiliation, in the primary election. The top four vote-getters move on to the general election.

The general election is decided by ranked-choice voting, which means that voters get to rank the four candidates in order of preference. If one candidate gets more than 50% of the votes, they win. If the votes are more evenly split, the candidate with the least first-preference votes is eliminated. Voters who selected the eliminated

candidate as their first choice now have their second choice counted, so their vote still counts even if their preferred candidate is eliminated. If the vote redistribution results in a majority, that decides the election. If not, the third-place candidate is eliminated.

"I believe that there was a large percentage of the people, not just in Alaska, but anywhere that ranked-choice voting is being implemented, that don't understand ranked choice voting, and it complicates their voting so much to the point where they just stop voting," said Phillip Izon II, the man behind the initiative to repeal the voting system.

He pointed to a low general election turnout in 2022 — the lowest in decades.

Prominent Republicans have backed Ballot Measure 2. Former Gov. Sarah Palin, who lost to Peltola in 2022, supports the repeal initiative.

But the repeal opposition campaign, called No on 2, is chaired by a Republican, former state Sen. Lesil McGuire. The group has collected millions in donations from national non-partisan organizations.

State elections officials estimate it would cost \$2.5 million to repeal ranked-choice voting.

But Juli Lucky, campaign manager for No on 2, said there are other costs to an Alaska without open primaries and ranked-choice voting, that come in the form of political gridlock. She argues that before open primaries and ranked voting, the state's Legislature was more polarized, and that was expensive.

"The Legislature was not getting organized on time. There was a lot of partisan fighting. We were seeing delays of about 30 days where the Legislature wasn't actually getting to work, and then we saw a lot of special sessions where there was a lot of arguments and not a lot of solving problems," she said.

The Legislature called four special sessions in 2021, the year before open primaries and ranked-choice voting, costing nearly \$2 million.

For the past two decades, Alaska's primary has been partially closed. The Republican Party limited its primary to registered Republicans and those without a party, while exclud-

ing Democrats and third-party voters. The other parties, including the Democratic, Libertarian and Alaskan Independence parties, have shared a primary ballot.

In 2022, with the advent of open primaries, there was only one ballot and all the candidates in each race were on it.

Advocates of the open primary say that it benefits the majority of Alaskans because most are not registered with a major political party and do not vote a "straight ticket" — they vote for candidates from multiple political parties in different races. For example, a voter might choose a Republican to represent them as state senator, but a Democrat to represent them in the state House.

"Right now, we have a system where every Alaskan can vote for any candidate at every election, regardless of the party," Lucky said. "What's at stake is taking power away from voters to choose the candidate they like at every election."

But what looks like a benefit to Lucky, is considered a flaw by those who would like to see the end of the open primary.

Michael Tavoliero, a contributor to conservative Alaska news site Must Read Alaska, wrote in an August post that open primaries and ranked-choice voting "blur the lines between political parties ... and erode both party integrity and conservative values."

The multiplicity of choice that open primary proponents value is, in his view, a threat to party ideology.

Scott Kendall, an Alaska attorney who helped write the citizen's initiative that led to open primaries and opposes its repeal, countered that diluting the influence of the parties may be more consistent with representing the will of the majority of Alaska's electorate that are not affiliated with either major political party.

"We would be going back to a system where over 80% of the races are decided in the (party) primary by a much more partisan, much smaller group of voters. And I think that's a huge loss," Kendall said of the repeal campaign.

The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. Alaskabeacon.com.

Police report

Monday, Oct. 7
 Traffic stop: Citation issued for speeding.
 Agency assist: Hospital. Civil issue.
 Warrant arrest.
 Deer complaint.
 Domestic violence assault.

Tuesday, Oct. 8
 Civil paperwork.
 Suspicious activity.

Wednesday, Oct. 9
 Citizen assist.

Thursday, Oct. 10
 Agency assist: State troopers.

Friday, Oct. 11
 Welfare check.

Agency assist: State Department of Transportation.
 Citizen assist.
 Animal complaint.

Saturday, Oct. 12
 Traffic stop.
 Traffic stop: Citation issued for no proof of insurance.
 Traffic stop.

Sunday, Oct. 13
 Parking violation: Citation issued.
 Warrant arrest.
 Deer complaint.
 Theft.

During this reporting period, there were three assists for ambulance calls.

House debates

Continued from page 9

Peltola disagreed. "The policies that are at the core of this ballot measure are policies that I fundamentally support," she said.

During a statewide televised debate Oct. 10, Peltola declined to say whether she will vote for her party's presidential candidate, Vice President Kamala Harris. Begich questioned the legitimacy of President Joe Biden's 2020 electoral win.

The debate was conducted by Alaska Public Media and Anchorage station KTUU-TV.

Biden definitively won the 2020 presidential election, but Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and vice presidential candidate J.D. Vance have repeatedly echoed conspiracy theories about the result.

Moderators Lori Townsend and Rebecca Palsha asked Begich whether Biden legitimately won.

"He was elected president. The techniques that were used in order to get him elected, I don't think they're legitimate," Begich said.

He alleged that Google was censoring search results and "last-minute (elections) changes under the guise of the COVID emergency" could have affected the result.

Peltola faced a similarly direct question about her support for her party's presidential nominee. She was the lone member of Alaska's Democratic delegation to not vote for Harris at the party's convention this past summer.

During a July news conference, she said she wasn't sure whether she would vote for Harris in November. In the Oct. 10 debate, she was asked directly whether she will vote for Harris. She did not answer with a yes or no.

"It's a secret ballot," she said. "I think both candidates are flawed, and I don't know why I would use up any of my gas on a race I don't have any control over."

The televised debate was the first time since the August primary that Peltola and Begich were asked on a debate stage about whether they would support a federal ban on abortion.

"I absolutely do not support a ban, and I do believe in women's reproductive rights," Peltola said. "I trust women and I trust their doctors. I don't think politicians have any business being in this discussion."

She said she opposes bans at the state and federal level.

Begich said he would not support a national ban and prefers to leave the issue up to individual states. "I believe in local control, and this is something that we decide locally."

That contradicts an answer he gave in a preprimary questionnaire submitted by an anti-abortion group. In that questionnaire, Begich said he would support a national ban on abortions after the 12th week of pregnancy.

In a prerecorded video broadcast during the debate, Anchorage's Steller Secondary School student Amelia Brooks asked the candidates how they would protect schools from school shootings while also protecting Second Amendment gun rights.

Neither Begich nor Peltola advocated restrictions on firearms or ammunition.

A two-hour debate on Alaska fisheries issues was held Oct. 8 in Kodiak.

When asked how Congress should deal with climate change's effects on Alaska fisheries, Peltola discussed her support for renewable energy and Begich talked about programs to deal with eroding shorelines.

Begich and Peltola each advocated measures to reduce bycatch, the unwanted fish caught while fishing vessels target another species.

The state of Alaska has repeatedly closed or limited subsistence and sport salmon fisheries due to low salmon returns, but commercial fishing trawlers are permitted to catch significant numbers of salmon as bycatch in federally regulated fisheries, an issue that has caused conflict between fishing communities.

In September, two Kodiak trawlers accidentally caught 2,000 king salmon, hitting a federally mandated limit and closing a valuable groundfish season.

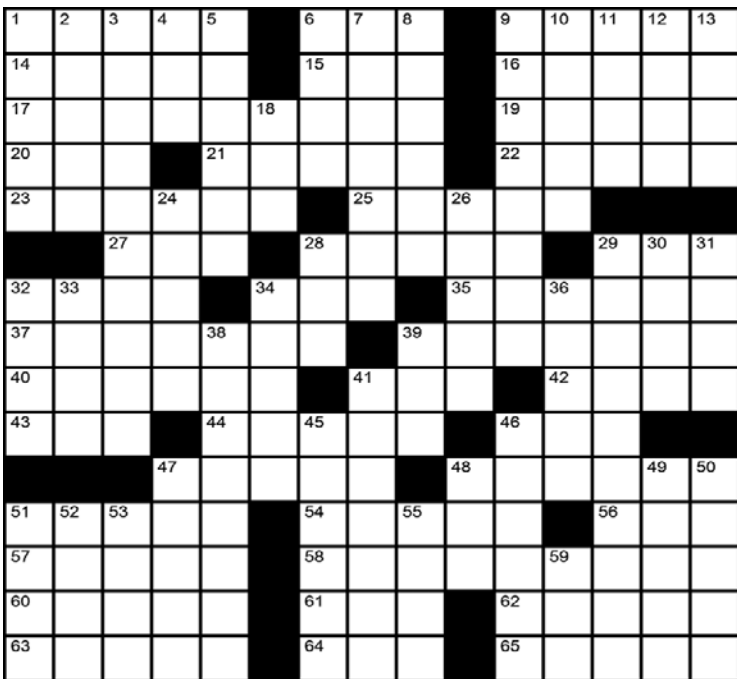
Peltola and Begich each said they support additional research and technology development to limit bycatch. While bycatch has become a target for criticism in the state, scientific research has not yet settled on it as a primary cause of Alaska's low salmon returns.

Peltola said she would support the creation of a reserved seat on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council — which regulates federal fisheries offshore — for a member of an Indigenous tribe. Begich opposes the idea.

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Crossword

Answers on page 11



CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Distant
- 6 Apex
- 9 Jobs
- 14 "ER" actress --- Tierney
- 15 "--- Believer", Monkees hit
- 16 Start playing!
- 17 Tap
- 19 "Fear of Flying" author --- Jong
- 20 Snow runner
- 21 Less common
- 22 Buoyant
- 23 Old-fashioned cab
- 25 Lightweight tropical hats
- 27 Elite group
- 28 Gene Pitney was only 24hrs from here
- 29 Downloadable program
- 32 Small lake
- 34 Natter
- 35 Tenor --- Bocelli
- 37 Sidestepped
- 39 Splendors
- 40 Demeanor
- 41 Total
- 42 Capital of Norway
- 43 Source of formic acid
- 44 Jambalaya ingredient
- 46 Little one
- 47 "Band of Gold" singer Freda ---
- 48 Miscreants
- 51 Economizer
- 54 Succeed
- 56 One of New York's finest, perhaps
- 57 Nautical fastener
- 58 To
- 60 Carroll's rabbit-hole explorer
- 61 Wyo. neighbor
- 62 Extended area of land
- 63 Waterproofed as many showers are
- 64 Affirmative vote
- 65 Solemn promises

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Pennsylvania Mennonites
- 2 Sri ---, formerly Ceylon
- 3 Ahead of the field
- 4 Mineral source
- 5 Litter of pigs
- 6 Bracket
- 7 Stimulus
- 8 Security detachment
- 9 Anna Paquin won an Oscar for this film, aged 11
- 10 Spanish winds
- 11 The pen
- 12 Recoil
- 13 Remain
- 18 Rotating engine part
- 24 Welcome
- 26 Old Testament song
- 28 Sliver
- 29 Nobleman
- 30 Rind
- 31 --- doble (dance)
- 32 One of the Three Bears
- 33 "--- Almighty", in which Morgan Freeman played God
- 34 Nixon's successor, informally
- 36 Drivel
- 38 At peace
- 39 Rev up
- 41 --- Todd, barber
- 45 Chest pain
- 46 Am disposed
- 47 Serenity
- 48 Pro
- 49 Gun handle nick
- 50 Notices
- 51 Get outta here!
- 52 "--- want is a room somewhere..." ("My Fair Lady")
- 53 Bridal wear
- 55 Start of a Hamlet soliloquy
- 59 Geological time composed of periods

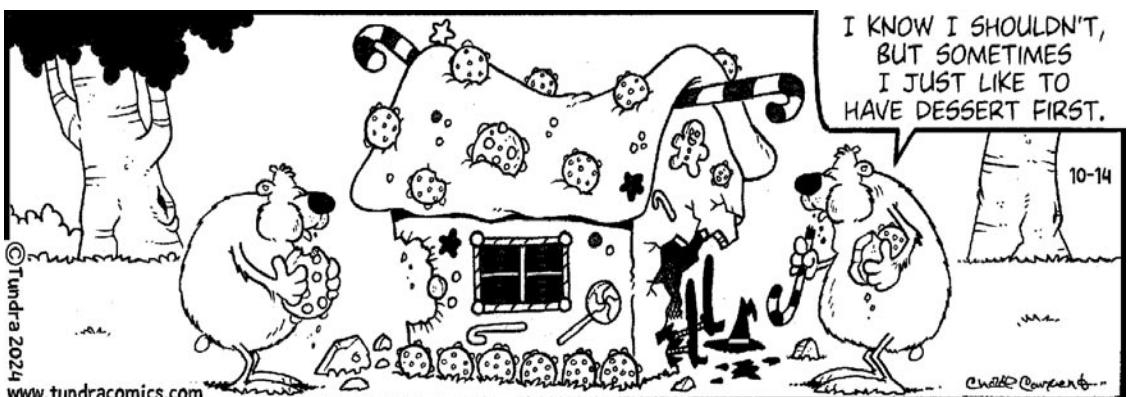
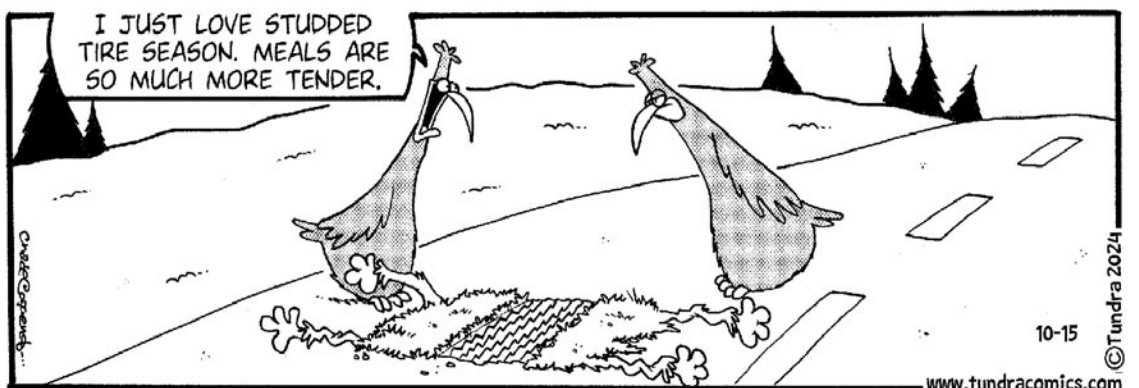
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



CLASSIFIED

LOOKING FOR

Looking for the whereabouts of Nola Wilcox and Cindy White Feather. Contact Rosemary at 609-492-2474 or PO Box 1342, Wrangell, AK 99929.

HELP WANTED

Johnson's Building Supply is accepting applications for the following position: Customer

Service. Duties include counter sales, freight handling, customer deliveries, stocking and inventory. Full-time position; will require working Saturdays. Valid Alaska driver's license, must be able to lift 50 lbs., forklift experience a plus, starting pay is DOE. Stop by Johnson's for an application.

FREE

Free metal bookshelf in fair condition. 34½ inches wide, 47 inches tall, and 12½ inches deep. Stop by the Sentinel to pick up.

FREE

Recycled newspapers. Stop by the Sentinel to pick up.

FREE ADS

Do you have something to sell? Having a garage sale? Looking to buy something? Classified ads for individuals and community groups are free in the Sentinel. Contact Amber at 907-874-2301 or email wrgsent@gmail.com.

**Raincountry Contractors
Septic tank pump
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**WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION
REQUEST for PROPOSALS**

Wrangell Cooperative Association TI'at̄k | Earth Branch is soliciting lump-sum proposals from qualified professionals for a professional environmental planner(s) to assist in the creation of a new climate change adaptation plan.

For more information and to request a copy of the RFP, please contact Kim Wickman at 907-874-4304 ext. 104, or email igapcoord.wca@gmail.com. A copy of the RFP can be picked up at 1002 Zimovia Hwy., Wrangell, AK 99929. Office hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please leave a message if we miss your phone call.

Deadline for proposals: 4 p.m. (AKST), Friday, Nov. 1, 2024.

Publish Oct. 9 and 16, 2024

**Notice of Joint Agency and Public Meeting
Tye Lake Project (FERC Project No. 3015)**

Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA), licensee for the Tye Lake Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 3015), proposes to file an Application for a Capacity-Related Amendment to License (Amendment Application) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to enable SEAPA to install an additional 10 megawatt (MW) hydroelectric Pelton-style turbine-generator (Proposed Project) in the existing empty bay in the powerhouse. On October 8, 2024, SEAPA filed an Initial Consultation Document in the form of the Draft Amendment Application (DAA) pursuant to the content requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 18 Section § 4.38.

NOTICE is hereby given that SEAPA is hosting a joint agency and public meeting in accordance with the FERC requirements at 18 CFR § 4.38(b)(3). Two sessions will be held on November 14, 2024, both of which are open to the public. A morning agency session will be held virtually from 9:30 a.m. to approximately 11:30 a.m. The evening public session will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and may be attended virtually or in-person. The evening session will be held at the SEAPA office located at:

55 Don Finney Lane
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

The purpose of the meeting is to review the Proposed Project plans, discuss the FERC regulatory process, address questions on the DAA, and receive stakeholder feedback. The final meeting agenda, developed in consultation with meeting participants, will be available November 7, 2024 on SEAPA's website at: <https://www.seapahydro.org/tyee-license>. Please notify SEAPA by November 1, 2024 if you plan on attending the meeting virtually by contacting Betsy McGregor, Senior Scientist and Regulatory Consultant to SEAPA, at Betsy.McGregor@KleinschmidtGroup.com or by telephone at 907-885-3418.

The DAA is available online on the FERC E-Library website (<https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search>) under Project No. P-3015 or on SEAPA's website. SEAPA respectfully requests written comments on the DAA be submitted within 60 days, or by December 9, 2024.

Publish: October 16 and 30, 2024



**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
LEGAL NOTICE**

Pursuant to the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, Borough Charter, Sec. 4, public notice is hereby given that the following ordinance listed by title only has been adopted by the Borough Assembly. Such ordinances are currently on file in the office of the Borough Clerk and may be inspected upon request.

- a. **ORDINANCE No. 1066** of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, Amending Section 3.52.045 – Regular Meetings, in Chapter 3.52 – Parks and Recreation Board, to amend the meeting requirements, in the Wrangell Municipal Code.

Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk
City and Borough of Wrangell

Publish Oct. 16, 2024

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
PUBLIC HEARING
PUBLIC NOTICE**

During the Regular Assembly Meeting of Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, starting at 6 p.m. in the Wrangell Borough Assembly Chambers at 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska, there will be a PUBLIC HEARING on the following item(s):

- a. **RESOLUTION No. 10-24-1882** of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, Amending the Combined Fee and Rate Schedule for the Harbor and Port Facilities (Launch Fees).

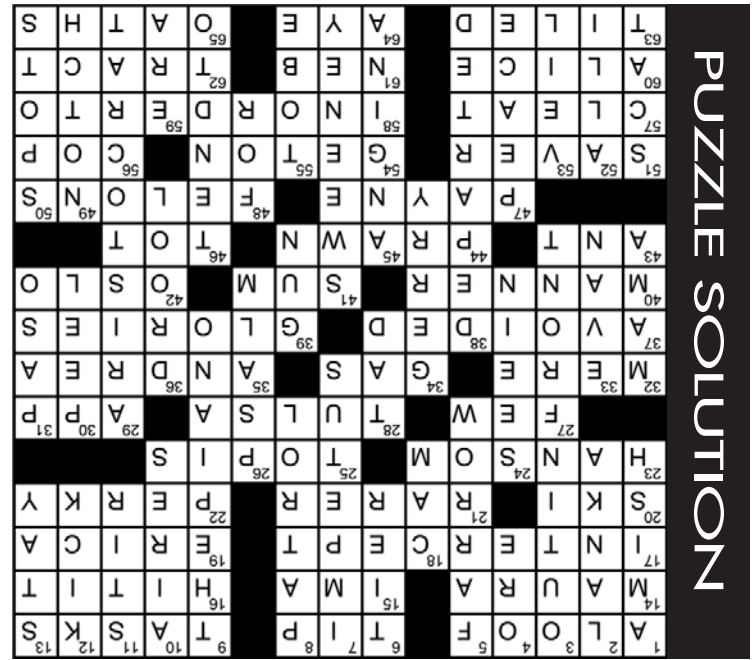
Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk
City and Borough of Wrangell

Publish Oct. 16, 2024



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will hold a Special Board Meeting on Oct. 25, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. AKDT at SEAPA's Headquarters, 55 Don Finney Lane, in Ketchikan, Alaska. The purpose of the meeting is to consider contracts, and hold a Workshop to discuss solar, a policy, and financial plan. One or more resolutions may also be considered. During the meeting an executive session may also be conducted to discuss an employee and an attorney, which discussions may involve subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of a person. For additional information, please call 907-228-2281.

Publish Oct. 16, 2024



ATTENTION SALMON FISHERS

The Board of Directors of the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc. seeks nominations for the following three (3) year seats:

- Seine - 1 Seat
- Gillnet - 2 Seats
- Power Troll - 1 Seat



Nominations must be in writing and include the permit holder's name, address, vessel name, phone number and a brief statement. Nominees must be "active" Southern Southeast Commercial Salmon permit holders. Permit holders should nominate person from their own gear groups.

**SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO:
SSRAA, 14 BORCH STREET
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901
Or email: summerp@ssraa.org
For further information call (907) 225-9605
Deadline: 10/18/24**

Senior center

Continued from page 1

back into the center at its new location.

He estimates the borough could receive around \$200,000 for the center's current building.

"We will probably use that money to form some sort of endowment for the senior center," he said. "That \$200,000 sale could now contribute toward senior center upgrades, and I think that's a much more sustainable strategy."

He said the decision for the center's transition is merely practical, and that the borough does "not have the funds to keep (the current building) around." Instead, selling the decades-old building would allow the borough to consolidate the senior center into a building it is already maintaining.

The borough manager added that the new location would be a larger space that might open the door to more grant opportunities due to the recreation center also serving as a location for afterschool activities thanks to the new Wrangell Kids Club, which Parks and Recreation cofounded alongside the Irene Ingle Public Library and Nolan Center.

Currently, the multipurpose room in the community center's kitchen is rather small and not suited to the needs of the senior center. Villaroma said the borough will be sure to upgrade the facility before the senior

meals program moves in, which he hopes for this winter.

The senior center's relocation to the community center comes as Catholic Community Service is dealing with a tightening budget. Federal funding covers about a third of the program's budget, and federal pandemic relief aid has expired. In addition, the borough assembly this year stopped contributing to the center's operations — it

was \$13,500 last year — though the borough does donate utilities for the building.

Staff at Catholic Community Service, the nonprofit that operates the senior center, could not be reached for comment.

Villaroma said the borough has talked with Catholic Community Service Executive Director Erin Walker-Tolles about the opening stages of the center's migration to new quarters.

Johnson's Building Supply Help wanted!

Customer Service full-time position
Valid Alaska driver's license required.
Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Pay DOE.
Stop by Johnson's for an application.

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE
WRANGELL HARVEST CELEBRATION

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

**WRANGELL, ALASKA
OCTOBER 25-27
TREE CEREMONY: 10/26
FULL SCHEDULE
AVAILABLE NOW**

Our commitment to collaborative partnerships.

From care closer to home to a stronger Tribal health system.

Our mission is to optimize health and well-being through collaborative partnerships and services.

Through partnership with patients, Tribal partners, employees, government agencies, and nonprofit partners, ANTHC provides wrap-around, high-quality statewide services.

- We are a non-profit, statewide Tribal Health Organization designed to meet the unique health needs of Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Alaska.
- We serve all 229 federally recognized Tribes in Alaska.
- We are governed by representatives of all 13 regional Tribal Health Organizations and two representatives of the eleven Unaffiliated Tribes.

