



Wrangell, Alaska  
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# WRANGELL SENTINEL

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## Wrangell trollers criticize court ruling that could close king salmon fishery

By CAROLEINE JAMES  
Sentinel reporter

Like other trollers in the region, Wrangell fishermen are critical of a Seattle-based federal judge's ruling that could shut down the Southeast commercial king salmon fishery, which supports about 40 trollers in town.

Brian Merritt is a troller and a teacher at Evergreen Elementary. He estimates that 35% of his income comes from kings, but losing the fishery is more than just a financial loss. For him, kings are the smartest, biggest and the most engaging species of salmon to fish for.

"Dog salmon are dumber than a stump and anyone can catch them," he said. "Trolling is game of the mind where you're always trying to out-smart the fish. ... It's a wonderful victory if you find out what they're biting at that day."

Merritt thinks the ruling is "totally ridiculous" and "a knee-jerk reaction" from the Wild Fish Conservancy that lacks a strong scientific basis. He is not convinced that king salmon caught by Alaska trollers will be the make-or-break element in the diet of a southern resident killer whale, determining if it lives or dies.

"Their argument is that if we knock them (king salmon) off up here in Southeast Alaska, there will be less for the killer whales to eat when they come down there," he said. "That is true, but how much less?"

In 2020, the Wild Fish Conservancy, a Washington-based nonprofit organization, filed a lawsuit against the National Marine Fisheries Service. The conservancy claimed that an environmental analysis NMFS conducted in 2019 failed to allow enough chinook, or king salmon, to return to Puget Sound and feed an endangered population of killer whales.

On May 2, U.S. District Judge Richard Jones ordered NMFS to redo its environ-

mental analysis, effectively closing the fishery until a new analysis is complete or the judge's decision is put on hold pending appeal.

The state of Alaska has appealed the decision and asked that the ruling not go into effect until the appeal plays out.

It's unclear whether a new NMFS analysis will be released in time for the July 1 summer season or if the court will grant a hold on the ruling. In the meantime, trollers have been plunged into a state of uncertainty.

Merritt is concerned that the timing of the ruling — just over a month away from the opening of the fishery — will leave trollers scrambling, especially if they haven't diversified their fisheries.

For trollers thinking of switching to gillnetting this season, "there is not much room to shuffle their eggs," he explained. The switch takes time and lots of money for a gillnet permit, gear and possibly a new boat. New gillnetters also won't recoup nearly as much on that investment as experienced ones would. "They're not going to know their rear from a hot rock," he said.

He hopes the appeal will allow trollers to fish the upcoming season while NMFS develops a new biological opinion that would convince the judge to allow the Southeast fishery to continue. If the ruling is delayed, trollers could "sort of halfway prepare instead of this kick in the stomach," Merritt said.

His brother, Steve Merritt, started trolling in 1984 in Wrangell, though he is now based in Craig. King salmon make up 60% to 70% of his annual income and for trollers like him, the ruling could be "devastating."

"We're just kind of waiting and hoping the NMFS will

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## Legislators likely going to overtime, unable to decide PFD

By LARRY PERSILY  
Sentinel writer

Alaska lawmakers have been spending the final days of the 121-day legislative session disagreeing over the amount of this fall's Permanent Fund dividend.

As of Monday afternoon, the House and Senate appeared unable to agree on state spending for the fiscal year that starts July 1, likely pushing lawmakers into an overtime session. This would be the fourth year of extra session time since the cost of the dividend put a strain on tight state finances in 2017.

The Republican-controlled House wants a \$2,700 PFD this fall, and is willing to draw hundreds of millions of dollars from savings to balance the budget. The bipartisan Senate majority wants a \$1,300 dividend and has said it is unwilling to spend savings to

boost that number.

"Primarily, the issue is the dividend. They (the House) are demanding a dividend we cannot afford," Senate President Gary Stevens told the Alaska Beacon.

The budget reserve fund, currently around \$2 billion, has been depleted after years of deficit spending. A three-quarters majority vote of the House and the Senate is required to tap the fund — a high political hurdle unlikely to happen this year.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy, who has won two elections for governor while campaigning for a larger PFD, supports the House number.

In addition to arguing over the dividend, the House and Senate differ on their approach to increasing state funding for public schools. The House

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## SHARING HISTORY WITH TOURISTS



PHOTO BY CAROLEINE JAMES/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Brooke Leslie, the Wrangell Cooperative Association's new tourism coordinator, presented for visitors inside Chief Shakes House last Thursday.

## WCA prepares for tourism season, hires coordinator

By CAROLEINE JAMES  
Sentinel reporter

As the first cruise ship of the season arrived in town last Thursday, the Wrangell Cooperative Association's new tourism coordinator, Brooke Leslie, gave visitors an informative presentation inside the Chief Shakes House. After performing a song, she taught the group about matrilineal Tlingit family structure, construction of the house, traditional communal

living and canoe travel.

The Tlingit traveled long distances by canoe, she explained, but "how would you know that the people arriving are friendly?" When paddlers would visit another village, they would announce themselves through song. "We would know, without ever seeing you, which clan was here because of the songs that they were singing," she said.

As the WCA prepares for its

busiest summer tourism season in years, the tribe hired Leslie to share Wrangell's history and culture with visitors and ensure that tour companies work together smoothly with the tribe.

The new full-time position was announced in mid-March; Leslie's start date was May 8.

The community expects as many as 33,000 visitors this year — about 90% by cruise ship and

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## Toothbrushes and toilet seats are tools of the trade for a couple of greenhouse gardeners

By CAROLEINE JAMES  
Sentinel reporter

Southeast Alaska's near-constant blanket of clouds and its frequent rains that wash nutrients from the soil make gardening in the region notoriously difficult, even for people with the greenest of thumbs.

However, horticultural aficionados Lenny Peterson and Ginger Overton have learned to work around the weather to create a garden that is as abundant as it is beautiful.

As green shoots begin to peek out of their garden beds this month, the pair gave a tour of their greenhouse and shared advice about how they grow their crops.

The couple's garden is on a small plot of land on Howell Avenue surrounded by a wire fence. There are over 20 raised garden beds and countless smaller pots containing a wide array of edible and ornamental plants. From bok choy to raspberries, carrots to zucchinis, lettuce to ice plants — colorful flowers with bright white centers that are part of the marigold family — Peterson and Overton's garden provides for all their nutritional and aesthetic needs.

In the center of the plot is a greenhouse, decorated with American flags and flanked by two decorative toilets. Peterson uses them as planters for his petunias. The toilets "actually do pretty good" as planters, said Overton. "That's just Lenny for you."

He had the greenhouse built around 2018 when he was living in the Senior Apartments. Then, when he moved away, the greenhouse was moved to the Howell Avenue plot in February 2019, with permission from Todd White of White Enterprises, who owns the land.

The pair live in an apartment on Front Street.

Inside the greenhouse, a speaker plays golden oldies while Lenny runs an electric toothbrush over his tomato plants. The toothbrush works as a stand-in for a bumblebee, he explained, pollinating each plant so that it can produce fruit. The plants line the outer edge of the greenhouse floor and are arranged in a double ring in the center. Peterson refers to his tomatoes, collectively as "the girls."

There are around 55 varieties of "girls," with tantalizing names like "Big Rainbow," "Rose de Berne," "Celebrity," "Goliath," "Jubilee" and

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During the growing season, Ginger Overton spends three to four hours a day in the garden and greenhouse with Lenny Peterson, caring for the couple's plantings.



PHOTO BY CAROLEINE JAMES/WRANGELL SENTINEL



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

The Sentinel extends its best wishes to everyone listed in the chamber of commerce community birthday calendar.

**Wednesday, May 17:** Peighton Royster, Lovey Brock.

**Thursday, May 18:** None.

**Friday, May 19:** Kolin Shea Wallace, Jacob Werner.

**Saturday, May 20:** Lindsey McConachie; Anniversary: George and Ann Benson.

**Sunday, May 21:** Ian Chase, Madan Bay Covalt; Anniversaries: Dustin and Devyn Johnson, Don and Betsy McConachie.

**Monday, May 22:** Jamer Abbott, Charley Murray-Young.

**Tuesday, May 23:** Dennis Pavlina, Logan Scott.

## Senior Center Menu

Open for in-person dining. Must be fully vaccinated.

### Thursday, May 18

Chicken noodle soup, mixed vegetables, cabbage pear raisin salad

### Friday, May 19

Moose burgers, macaroni salad, fruit slaw

### Monday, May 22

Taco salad, spicy fruit cup, spanish rice

### Tuesday, May 23

Beef stew with vegetables, spicy fruit cup, roll

### Wednesday, May 24

Chinese fruited pork, green beans, waldorf salad, rice

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.

## Ferry Schedule

### Northbound

**Sunday, May 21**  
Columbia, 3:45 p.m.  
**Sunday, May 28**  
Columbia, 3:30 p.m.  
**Sunday, June 4**  
Columbia, 2:45 p.m.  
**Sunday, June 11**  
Columbia, 3:45 p.m.

### Southbound

**Wednesday, May 24**  
Columbia, 7:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday, May 31**  
Columbia, 4:15 a.m.  
**Wednesday, June 7**  
Columbia, 7:15 a.m.  
**Wednesday, June 14**  
Columbia, 4 a.m.

All times listed are scheduled departure times. Call the terminal at 907-874-2021 for information or call 907-874-3711 or 800-642-0066 for recorded information.

## Tides

### High Tides

### Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
May 17	....	...	12:20	15.6	06:06	-1.2	06:05	1.4
May 18	00:21	18.5	01:08	15.7	06:48	-2.2	06:46	1.8
May 19	01:00	18.5	01:53	15.6	07:28	-2.7	07:24	2.4
May 20	01:38	18.2	02:35	15.1	08:05	-2.6	08:00	3.1
May 21	02:14	17.5	03:16	14.5	08:41	-2.0	08:35	3.9
May 22	02:49	16.7	03:57	13.7	09:18	-1.2	09:10	4.7
May 23	03:24	15.7	04:39	13.0	09:56	-0.3	09:49	5.4

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

**IRENE INGLE PUBLIC LIBRARY** summer reading program now open for registration. Open to students entering kindergarten through ninth grade in the fall. Register at the library. The reading program runs June 1 through July 31. More than 100 prize drawings and a pool/pizza party for everyone who completes the program. Call 907-874-3535 for more information.

**NOLAN CENTER THEATER** presents the musical "Annie" at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 20, and 4 p.m. Sunday, May 21. Doors open 30 minutes before the show. Tickets are \$20 and available online at <https://www.nolancenter.org/annie.html> or in person at the Nolan Center or Sweet Tides.

**BASKETBALL SKILL CAMP** May 26-28 at the high school gym. Camp includes injury prevention, athlete development, fundamental skill development, team concepts, game application and 3-on-3 games. Camp price for all three days is \$50 for grades third through fifth; \$100 for grades sixth through eighth; \$120 for grades ninth through 12th. To register and for a full schedule with times visit: <https://jotform.com/231277450806052>.

**WRANGELL BLESSING OF THE FLEET** at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 28, at the Wrangell Mariners' Memorial. Everyone is invited to the annual event, and boat owners may bring their vessels to Heritage Harbor and drift in front of the memorial starting at 12:55 p.m.

**SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM** sign-up has started for those going into kindergarten through fifth grade. Monday-Thursday lunch can be picked up at The Salvation Army Wrangell Corps Community Center; Friday lunch will be at the community gym, with indoor play and activities. June 1 through July 30. Volunteers are needed for Monday-Friday. Drivers needed so food can be delivered to a new drop zone for those who live past 2-Mile. For more information and to sign up, contact The Salvation Army at 907-874-3753.

**LITTLE LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS** needed for coaching, umpiring, scorekeeping, concessions, pitching machine runners, field upkeep and more. Volunteer applications can be picked up at the chamber of commerce or filled out online at <https://bit.ly/3KO1ivZ>.

**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](http://www.wrangellrec.com) or call 907-874-2444.

- **WALK SOUTHEAST**, walk, run or hike and track your miles for a chance to win local prizes and two round-trip tickets on Alaska Airlines from now until Sept. 1. Registration required.
- **YOGA CLASS**, 8 to 9 a.m. Saturdays at the community center multi-purpose room until May 27. Open to adults, 18 years and older. \$5 drop-in fee. Bring a yoga mat and wear athletic clothing that bends and flexes. Registration required.
- **JIU JITSU**, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 10 to 11 a.m. Saturdays at the community center multi-purpose room. Open to 16 years and older. \$5 drop-in fee. Bring gym shoes, wear athletic clothing and keep nails trimmed. No registration required.
- **GIRLS OPEN GYM VOLLEYBALL**, 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday at the community center gymnasium until June 29. Open to grades 8-12, \$3 drop-in fee. Wear comfy clothing with flexibility for movement. No registration required.
- **PICKLEBALL**, at various times on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday at the community center gymnasium until May 30. Pickleball schedule can be found online at <https://bit.ly/42vcL9K>. No registration required.

Want more attendance at your meeting or event? Send information for Roundup to [wrgsent@gmail.com](mailto:wrgsent@gmail.com) or call 907-874-2301.

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

**May 17, 1923**  
Never before in the history of navigation on the Stikine has the first voyage of the season been such an eventful one as this year. The 25 mining men on the passenger list and the large quantity of mining machinery and other equipment which comprised the principal cargo of a barge and two riverboats which left Wrangell Wednesday is an unmistakable forecast of considerable mining activity in the Cassiar the coming season. More than 50 tons of the cargo for the first voyage was for the Pendleton Gold Mining Co., which is going to operate on McDames Creek. Capt. G. W. Pendleton, head of the company, arrived in Wrangell aboard the Princess Mary on Tuesday morning, accompanied by several other men whom he is taking into the Cassiar with him. On the whole it is an unusually heavy outfit to be taken in such an inaccessible region as McDames Creek.

**May 7, 1948**  
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service vessel Heron, captained by Curt Jensen, was in town last Saturday night and Sunday while in the area with a party making a survey of streams for the Fish and Wildlife Service. In charge of the party of scientists making the survey were Sam Hutchison, an aquatic biologist, and his assistant, Mark Morton. Two other researchers were on the boat and aboard a plane with an aerial photographer from Ketchikan. The survey is being conducted to determine what streams could be made possible salmon streams if cleared of log jams and other obstacles and then planted with salmon. The overall plan is to include surveying of all Southeast Alaska for additional streams which could be made into salmon streams.

**May 18, 1973**  
The proposed operating budget for the City of Wrangell for the coming year calls for maintaining the present property tax levy of 18 mills. Copies of the proposed city budget went to the members of the Wrangell

City Council late last week. In his budget message, City Manager Herb McNabb pointed out that the proposed operating budget calls for the expenditure of \$27,000 more than is anticipated to come from revenue sources. McNabb said he would ask the city council to set a work session on the budget when the council meets next Tuesday.

**May 14, 1998**  
Residents of the long-term care facility at the hospital were honored with a Mother's Day Silver Tea on Sunday afternoon. More than 54 people including friends and families attended the tea held in the hospital lobby. Janice Youra, Nathan Shoultz and Georgie Sansom entertained with music, while Kim and Rachel Coblentz and Janie Endicott served cake and punch. Corsages and boutonnières were given to each resident. Mrs. D. Neyman, Lurine McGee and Margaret Fletcher provided a silver tea service and china. Kathy Sandness was the chairwoman for the event.

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# Alaska's newest 737 takes Indigenous art to new heights

By SOPHIA CARLISLE  
*Alaska Beacon*

Alaska Airlines last week unveiled a new design that replaced the popular Salmon Thirty Salmon jet. The new art still features salmon, but this time from an Indigenous perspective.

Crystal Kaakeeyáa Rose Demientieff Worl, a Tlingit artist and business owner from Juneau, created the new design in the style of formline art.

Worl said she hopes that the plane will inspire non-Indigenous people to learn about the rich cultural history between Native Alaskans and salmon.

The plane is designed in Northwest Coast formline, a style that is characteristic of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people of Southeast Alaska. Formline art stands out for its unique use of positive and negative space and dramatic colors. These colors, including indigo, pink and white, can be seen gracing the new plane, called Xáat Kwáani, which can be translated from Tlingit to mean "salmon people" in English.

To come up with the title for the new plane design, Worl reached out to X'unei Lance Twitchell, a Tlingit language speaker and professor of Alaska Native languages at the University of Alaska Southeast, for advice on what the name should be.

"There must be a million different ways in our language that mean 'our relationship between salmon,'" Worl said. "He got back to me with some options, and we narrowed it down to Xáat Kwáani, 'salmon people,' because of its translation of how people are connected and relate and benefit from salmon."

"The meaning felt really beautiful," she added.

Xáat Kwáani made its first passenger flight last Friday. The Boeing 737-800 flew from Anchorage to Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan and Seattle.

Worl said that she felt the name and the salmon symbol bridged a cultural gap within the state of Alaska. "[It's] the symbol that I felt was connecting not just my identity and Alaska Native identity but Alaskan people. What do we all connect with? What brings us all together? And it's salmon."

The design on the plane features sockeye salmon, which Worl said was an homage to her clan, Lukaax.ádi clan, the salmon sockeye clan. She said that the art is imbued with meaning, from the pink line that loops around the nose of the aircraft — which Worl said she likes to think of as a lifeline — to the salmon on the tail and tip of the wings that feature salmon eggs.

She included salmon eggs in the design because she said it helped show the connection be-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALASKA AIRLINES

Juneau artist Crystal Kaakeeyáa Rose Demientieff Worl stands next to the Alaska Airlines 737-800 aircraft decorated with her latest work.

tween now and the future.

"I thought [it] was a really wonderful way of learning from the salmon about the next generation. What are we doing to take care of our environment and our animals and the land so that the next generations can benefit from them as well?" said Worl.

Her art pieces — some of which feature salmon designs — are popping up across Alaska and the rest of the country. From painting an enormous mural in downtown Anchorage to designing a U.S. Postal Service stamp, Worl has seen her art in places big and small.

But the big things she's still

getting used to.

"Big things are new for me." She said in reference to her art on a Boeing 737. Later adding: "I was thinking, did I do that? This is incredible."

She might have been overwhelmed by seeing her artwork on such a huge scale, but the piece itself, and specifically the piece on an Alaska Airlines plane, was a long time coming.

Marilyn Romano, regional vice president in the state for Alaska Airlines, said that she and Worl connected after Romano saw her on the cover of Alaska Business Monthly. Romano said that she knew the plane would soon be

a blank "canvas" and believed Worl could be the one to fit the bill. Little did she know that Worl was expecting her call.

In 2020, Worl posted on Instagram a photo of her artwork on a plane with the caption: "Are you ready for me Alaska Air?? I'm ready for you."

While Romano wasn't originally aware of Worl's dream to design an airplane exterior, the two connected and were able to make Worl's vision become a reality.

"We are just honored that we will take art and fly it around the country everywhere we fly," said Romano.

The salmon symbol permeates the art that Worl makes, from the design she paints to the clothing she wears. She said her art featuring the famous Alaska fish was created with the purpose to inspire others and teach and pass on valuable knowledge that was too often erased by Westernization.

"All Alaska Native people, our history with salmon has been for thousands of years and we've been fishing them sustainably for a very long time and watching them for a very long time," she said. "I think there's a lot of valuable knowledge in that that everyone can learn and benefit from."

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

# Board of Equalization settles final property assessment appeals

By CAROLINE JAMES  
*Sentinel reporter*

The borough completed its unprecedented mass review of all property values on the road system last week, with only seven of the initial 179 assessment appeals going to a formal hearing before the Board of Equalization.

All the other cases were resolved without a hearing. Most of the appeals succeeded in achieving some level of reduction in the appraised value — only 24 remained unchanged after appellants met with an assessor.

It had been years since the borough conducted such a comprehensive review, and the reexamination raised the overall assessed value of all buildings and land in the borough by 56% — the rate varied by individual properties. The substantial increase prompted the high number of appeals.

Of about 2,300 properties that

were reassessed this year, owners appealed about 7% of the valuations.

The valuations will determine property owners' tax bills after the borough assembly adopts a budget and sets the tax rate.

After the April 20 appeal deadline, assessors from the borough's contractor, Appraisal Company of Alaska, spent about two weeks contacting property owners, explaining the reasoning behind the new values and, in some cases, adjusting those values; 171 of the appeals were settled this way.

Assessors were unable to contact one owner and the remaining seven appeals went before the borough Board of Equalization on May 10. The board reduced two of these valuations.

In total, between the informal review and formal hearings, 155, or 86%, of the ap-

peals were reduced.

"The board was mandated to rule only on facts," said Mayor Patty Gilbert. "In other words, comparables like properties, like structures. Some (appeals) were denied, some were upheld to a certain extent."

"The assessors, in my opinion, did a very good job meeting with the public and the appellants several times and going out to the property and really trying to understand what the appellants' concerns were and how to explain that to them," she added.

That said, the hearings were still "a nerve-wracking process" for Gilbert. "We're all members of the community, we're all neighbors to one another, family members," she said. Ruling against appeals was "just heart-wrenching sometimes ... because the board is forced to follow state statutes. There are

only certain things we could consider. That sometimes is difficult for an appellant to hear."

Sharla Meyer was one such appellant. When she learned that the value of her land had jumped from \$97,500 to \$161,000, "it was a bit of a shock," she said. She decided to take her appeal before the board, but it was rejected.

The whole process was "an emotional hardship on the town," she explained. "We're just coming out of COVID, for heaven's sake. What a huge blow."

She also felt that navigating the appeals process with no prior knowledge about assessments or state standards for appeal evidence was extremely difficult. "I don't have experience, so I had to try to understand the rules and even that was really difficult with the short amount of time."

The borough held two public workshops on these topics prior to the board hearings.

Three property owners who submitted late appeals were permitted to state their cases before the board as well. These owners either lived out of town or were not aware of the specifics of the appeal cutoff time. "There was no time deadline for this appeal noted on the paper notice, only a date," appellant Dustin Wittwer wrote on his form.

The board denied all three late appeals.

The high volume of appeals and steep property value hikes in Wrangell were on par with what's taking place in communities across the state, said Mike Renfro, owner of the Appraisal Company of Alaska. His company also performs assessments on 10 other communities

## Correction

The Sentinel incorrectly reported in a story about the borough's new downtown restrooms on May 10 that Kate Thomas is director of the Parks and Recreation Department. That was her former job; she is now director of the Economic Development Department. Lucy Robinson is Parks and Recreation director.

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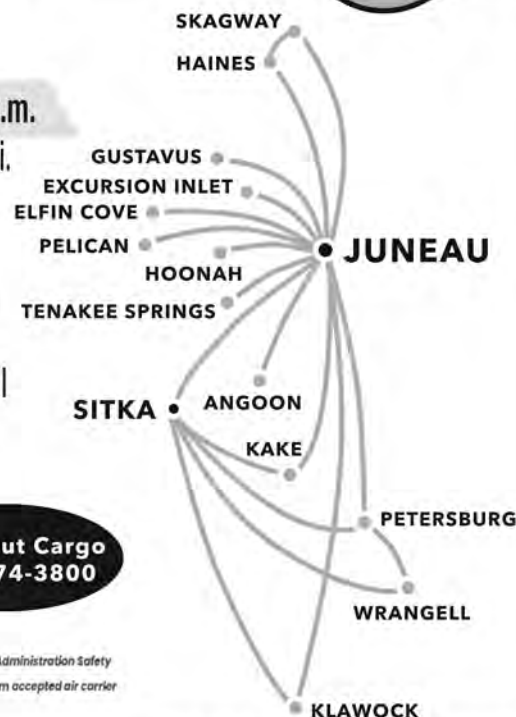
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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# Exaggerated claims don't help anyone

By LARRY PERSILY  
Publisher

Elected officials, ballot initiative supporters and opponents, campaign managers and anyone else who writes, texts or tweets outlandish claims and promises should be required to stay after the election and write on the blackboard (remember those) 100 times: "I will not make stuff up."

After they have a chance to rest their arm, they need to go back to the board — OK, a whiteboard and a Sharpie works, too — and write 100 more times: "I am sorry for promising too much."

It's gotten way too easy for anyone trying to win over the public to promise way more than they can deliver. They latch on to a short slogan and repeat it over and over, so much so that more and more people believe it and fewer and fewer people question its reality.

There have been some whoppers in recent years, particularly from Donald Trump, who wholeheartedly and dishonestly claimed that Mexico was going to pay to build a wall on the U.S. southern border. Trump won the 2016 presidential election; Mexico did not pay for a wall; and immigration is still an unresolved issue today.

President Joe Biden in 2021 told Americans that his infrastructure plan would create 19 million jobs. Not even close, but there were no consequences for over-promoting and over-selling the political pitch.

In Alaska, one of the more outlandish political claims of the past decade was when then-Gov. Sean Parnell campaigned in support of lower state taxes on the oil industry, which he achieved with legislation in 2013. The governor repeatedly told Alaskans that lower taxes would lead to more exploration and production, more jobs and more money — with the emphasis on more money for the state treasury to pay for services so

that Alaskans could continue living tax-free.

Parnell told Alaskans that with lower taxes, North Slope oil production could almost double to 1 million barrels a day.

Production was 600,000 barrels a day when he first raised the ante to 1 million. It's at about 485,000 barrels a day this week.

There are a lot of reasons why oil production went down, not up, even after Alaska reduced its taxes. The years 2015-2020 were generally a bad time for oil prices, pushing companies to scale back investments. Opposition to North Slope permits continued to slow down development plans. Companies make investment decisions in the interest of their shareholders, not to cover a governor's excessive campaign pledge.

**It's gotten way too easy for anyone trying to win over the public to promise way more than they can deliver.**

But it's just those sort of silly claims — 1 million barrels a day — that come back and bite. Such as earlier this month, when the Alaska State Senate Finance Committee was considering legislation to substantially raise

what oil producers pay in taxes. As an industry official was testifying against the tax increase, saying it could deter investment, a senator with a good memory scolded: What about that pledge of 1 million barrels a day by now?

The oil company exec said, essentially, it wasn't me. Someone else later said it wasn't a promise, merely an "aspirational goal" with a lot of assumptions about new exploration and production.

Call it an aspirational goal if it makes anyone feel better, but it was nothing but a simplistic campaign slogan lacking in reality and used to build support for lower oil taxes. Rather than deny it really wasn't a promise, everyone who repeated the million-barrel line should apologize. Then maybe the Legislature can decide on important oil tax legislation on the merits, not because someone made up an impossible number a decade ago.

EDITORIAL

# High school graduates show us the way

The honesty of the younger generation reminds us of what is important in life. It should prompt everyone to pay attention to what teenagers say. It will be their community and their world, so their opinions matter.

Wrangell High School seniors are certainly not unanimous in their favorite subjects, the value of homework or what they want to do next year. Yet, it's clear that a lot of them think about the weighty issues facing the nation and the world, judging from their answers to a Sentinel pre-graduation questionnaire.

Leroy Wynne wants to see lower international tensions. World peace is at the top of Brodie Gardner's wish list. Will Ashton would prefer an end to discord among nations.

Randy Churchill III wants people to better communicate with each other: "I feel most major conflicts are caused by misunderstandings and being too easily offended." No question about that — he's nailed a growing problem in society. Far too many people take offense too easily, and far too many take revenge.

Ethan Blatchley believes the world would be a better place if people back off from butting in "on stuff that doesn't involve them."

Kiara Harrison gave a similar answer to the question of what the graduates would most like to change about the world: "I would most like to change the world to view kindness and empathy as the standard."

Cassady Cowan wants to see the world do something about climate change. For Devlyn Campbell and Zeke Young, the issue is ending world hunger.

Inflation is the top worldly concern for Killian Booker.

Nikolai Bardin-Siekawitch answered that he would like the world "to shift its focus more on educating people about mental health."

That's a lot for teenagers to be thinking about.

But just so no one worries that this week's graduates are all about stress and adult-size subjects, the students also had solid, practical advice for the next students: Get your assignments done and don't procrastinate, or you could find yourself stuck at home making up the missed work.

That's good advice, as are their hopes for the future of the world.

— Wrangell Sentinel

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**State sales tax to cover a larger PFD is a bad idea and distracts from real needs**

The support from our governor and some legislators for levying a statewide sales tax on all Alaskans defies logic. Nor does it even make horse sense.

As the Legislature enters its final days, the governor says he supports a \$2,700 Permanent Fund dividend. Some in the Senate propose a \$1,300 dividend. If the \$2,700 dividend were to be approved by the Legislature it would create an estimated \$600 million budget deficit. That is about what the governor would need to raise from a sales tax to fund his higher dividend.

That tax would come from the pocket of every Alaskan on virtually every purchase he or she might make. If a larger dividend is funded even indirectly with a new tax, is the PFD really free money?

Clearly most Alaskans understand and oppose a sales tax and larger dividend because we would get a much bigger bang for the buck by investing in Alaska's future through increased funding for education. Further, the application of a sales tax traditionally belongs exclusively

to municipal governments, where the tax rate ranges from 2% to almost 8%.

To withhold adequate school funding and to add a state sales tax to fund the state budget shortfall caused by an overly generous dividend is certainly contrary to the intent of those who drafted the Permanent Fund's enabling legislation — which was to save non-recurring oil revenue to grow the Permanent Fund for the future needs of Alaskans. That remains the case — only a portion of the fund's earnings should be allocated to the dividend after state services are funded.

It is fair to say that our late-Gov. Jay Hammond would say of a state sales tax to cover a larger PFD: "It just doesn't make horse sense."

Frank H. Murkowski

**Most survey respondents favored scaling back the PFD to help pay for public services**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete my 2023 Legislative Budget Survey. It was a straightforward questionnaire: Do you support decreasing the Permanent Fund dividend to balance the state budget? If yes, by how much? If no, what cuts and new revenue

should we implement to cover the nearly \$600 million deficit?

A few weeks ago, House Minority Leader Calvin Schrage said, "If you were to ask legislators how you solve this, you'll get a different answer from each and every one of them." And that seems to ring true for District 1 as well. I received nearly 200 responses, and almost all of them were unique in their approach. I tried my best to summarize the results below.

A majority of respondents — 72% — said that they support decreasing the dividend in order to balance the budget. Of those, 58% favored a 75/25 split, with 75% of the percent-of-market-value annual draw on Permanent Fund earnings (our main source of revenue) going to public services and 25% going to the dividend; 18% favored an even 50/50 split; 10% favored a flat dividend amount, with suggested ranges from \$300 to \$1,800, and 11% preferred no dividend at all.

The other option — not to use the dividend to balance the budget — was preferred by 28% of respondents.

Survey respondents then provided how they would like the budget cut and what forms of revenue they would prefer to balance the budget. Budget cuts, in order of preference, were

education funding, the capital budget, the Department of Health, the Legislature and governor's office.

Revenue options, in order of preference, were a state lottery, oil and gas corporate tax changes, an income tax for high earners who make over \$250,000, a graduated income tax for earners over \$10,500, a sales tax exclud-

ing groceries, a corporate tax for highly digitized businesses, and a carbon offset program.

Once again, thank you all for the responses. It has been helpful during my decision-making in Juneau. You can contact me at Rep.Dan. Ortiz@AKLeg.gov or call my office at (907) 465-3824.

Rep. Dan Ortiz

# Trollers

Continued from page 1

get the biological opinion rewritten and submitted and we can go fishing before the end of July," he said. "If (the ruling) remains permanent, if it actually doesn't change at all, I don't see much future in me trolling anyway."

He hasn't made alternative plans for the summer in case the ruling remains in effect. "I can't even think about it being permanent," he said. "I've been doing this for 40 years. It's too tough to even think about."

For Chris Guggenbickler, of Wrangell's state Fish and Game advisory committee, the ruling doesn't present an immediate threat because his income is diversified across a wide variety of fisheries. Last year was the first year he trolled kings.

However, he is concerned that displaced king salmon trollers will put pressure on other fisheries that remain open.

"I fish chums as well," he said. "It's going to take a larger portion of the fleet and put them into the chum areas. So there's going to be more competition in those areas as well. ... There's a lot of people who have boats and families and need to support them. They're going to move where they can fish ... which will definitely congest the chum fisheries."

He feels that the ruling "is not looking at the whole picture."

"The amount of king salmon the troll fishery takes up here isn't the difference between whether the killer whale population is sustainable or not," he added.

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# Lack of child care remains problem for working parents in Wrangell

BY MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

Parents looking for someone to watch their children so they can earn a living may have to keep looking for the time being.

Efforts to find solutions to a lack of child care locally and statewide continue to move forward, but providing the service is taking more time than most people might like. The number of child care providers has dropped by 11% throughout the state since 2021.

In Wrangell, there have been some efforts to increase the number of child care options, though only one, through the Wrangell Cooperative Association, is moving forward for now.

Last month, the WCA conducted a survey to assess the child care needs in town. Fifty households responded to questions regarding the type of care parents or guardians currently use, how much they pay per month, how many children they need day

care for and what types of curriculum they would like to see in a child care facility, among other questions.

Parents were also asked how much they were willing to pay per month. WCA is still compiling the survey results.

"I think it's a huge challenge and there's a huge need not just in Wrangell but across the state," said Esther Aaltséen Reese, tribal administrator for WCA. "When we met with Sealaska (Corp.) and their board, they were hearing that in all the communities they've met with."

Reese said the survey found that out of the 50 respondents, 12.2% are stay-at-home moms, 22% have no child care that they use regularly, 48.8% use family or friends and 17.1% use an unlicensed facility or watch other children in addition to their own.

Wrangell has no state-licensed child care provider.

The WCA may be able to secure a space for child care services in an un-

used classroom at Evergreen Elementary School, but more work is needed to actually open a facility.

Reese said the next steps are difficult due to state licensing requirements, but the WCA is working with the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska to "see what would be required to move forward with a day care with all those (state) requirements."

Another possible location is the vacant Church of God building on the corner of Bennett and Reid streets. However, fixes needed for the space may be too costly.

Pastor Kem Haggard of Harbor Light Assembly of God said the Church of God building is otherwise well-suited for a child care program because it has space for recreation, classrooms and a kitchen. "It needed a lot of fixes," he said of the building, which also houses a roller-skating rink. "Nobody could step up for that."

Haggard's church on Zimovia Highway

had been suggested, but the building already hosts other programs.

"You're talking about a Monday through Friday (child care service), that takes out a lot of things we do for the week," he said, such as mission groups, basketball and other youth groups, plus providing lodging for different organizations like Girl Scouts leaders who come to town.

"It couldn't be here because it would change everything we do," Haggard said.

At the state level, legislators are considering a measure to allow businesses to receive tax credits for investments in child care services, and one that would provide additional financial assistance for child care for families who earn up to 300% of the poverty level.

Neither bill is likely to move forward this year; both could come up for consideration again next year.

## Tourism coordinator

Continued from page 1

tour boat — the most since 2005.

The WCA has had a tourism coordinator before, but only for a short time before the pandemic hit. "She just came briefly, to get tourism up and running," explained Tribal Administrator Esther Aaltséen Reese. The previous coordinator moved back to her home in Sitka and the tribe hasn't had one since.

Shakes House tours, dancing and storytelling presentations were paused during the pandemic seasons of 2020 and 2021. "The people who do the tours, we wanted to make sure that they were protected," said Reese. "It just wasn't worth the risk to

have them interacting with people in the early stages of COVID."

Then, in 2022, WCA cautiously opened up some tours at Shakes. "Last year, it was sort of just, 'we're going to do what we can to safely enter back into the tourism realm,'" said Reese. "And now this year, with increased numbers of ships and WCA staffing, we definitely needed a tourism coordinator to make tourism what it needs to be for our community and our visitors."

Leslie, with her extensive background in the Wrangell tourism industry, was a good fit for the role. She's worked as a cultural interpreter for Alaska Waters since 2004 and served on the WCA council in 2013. After taking a break during the pandem-

ic to spend time with her new baby, she's looking forward to contributing to the tribe and enhancing the experience people have in Wrangell, she said.

In her first season as coordinator, Leslie hopes to make the Shakes House more accessible to visitors. She'll also manage the tribe's contracts with tour companies, organize dancers, ensure that the Shakes House is cleaned regularly and develop a business plan to present to the tribal council.

"I really want to see the WCA get this to be an established and growing, sustainable program underneath them," she said.

Two kinds of shows — storytelling and dancing — will be available for visitors this year, though WCA is still in the process of

organizing its dance shows. "The WCA is happy to be able to share our culture, our storytelling and unique aspects of the Shtax'heen Kwáan with the visitors that come to Wrangell," said Reese.

The organization also plans to expand its tourism presence in the coming years. Though that expansion is still in the early stages, WCA plans to bring a master carver to town to train Wrangell's tribal members in the art of totem carving. Carving will be "a wonderful thing for our visitors and community to view," she added.

The WCA has not yet determined whether the Chief Shakes House will be open for regular hours. To schedule an appointment, call the WCA office at 907-874-4304.

## Greenhouse gardeners

Continued from page 1

"Chocolate Pear."

Each of the girls has a label attached to a piece of string that runs above all the plants. Later on in the growing season, the tomatoes will be tall enough to drape over the string, forming a green canopy inside the small wooden building. "If I didn't prune them, it would be a jungle

in here," said Peterson. "Some of these plants get up to the top of the ceiling."

He controls the temperature and nutrient blend of the plants' soil to ensure that they can thrive regardless of the weather. Some he grows hydroponically, with their roots in a water-based mineral solution. He also prunes them to direct their energy away from producing foliage and to-

ward producing fruit. During the growing seasons, the Overton and Peterson spend about three to four hours daily in the garden and greenhouse.

The couple doesn't usually sell their seasonal bounty. "I've been living in this town off and on for 50 years and I know a lot of people," said Peterson. "We can't eat it all, so we give it away. They give us fish once in a while, crab, seafood,

stuff like that."

Between their harvest and the food they can get through trading, the couple manages to avoid grocery stores for most of the year.

Peterson is a Navy veteran and Overton made airplane parts for the military when she lived in Tennessee. Both are now retired.

Overton used to garden in the Lower 48, but moving to Southeast presented a host of new challeng-

es. "Down South is different from Alaska so I didn't know anything after I got here," she said. "I grew tomatoes and zucchini squash and beans and flowers, but coming up here it's not the same at all."

If the success of the garden she shares with Peterson is any indication, she's adapted well to the changes in climate.

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# Budget impasse

Continued from page 1

approved a one-year boost, while the Senate favors a permanent increase in the state's per-student funding formula.

The numbers are the same — \$175 million a year for about a 14% increase in state funding — but districts strongly prefer the annual certainly of the Senate proposal.

Some House members have proposed reducing the boost in school funding in order to increase the dividend, but Stevens said that would be a difficult sell in the Senate.

"I'd find it hard to tell the public, 'OK, we're going to cut education funding to give you a bigger dividend,'" the Kodiak Republican told the Anchorage Daily News.

If lawmakers follow through with the school funding increase, Wrangell would receive about

\$425,000 in additional state aid for the 2023-2024 school year, a substantial boost to its general fund revenues of almost \$5.1 million. State money already covers about 60% of the district's operating budget.

The Legislature has not changed the funding formula since 2017.

The adjournment deadline is Wednesday night. If lawmakers are unable to pass a budget by then, they could call themselves back to work with a two-thirds majority vote or the governor could call them into special session.

The House was miffed that the Senate has been holding the budget, preparing to send it over for a take-it-or-leave-it vote by the House. That bypasses the joint conference committee of past years when members would negotiate on

individual budget items.

"We feel like we're being cut out of the process," Speaker of the House Cathy Tilton, a Wasilla Republican, told the Alaska Beacon on Saturday.

The two chambers also remained at odds over capital budget items — public works, construction and maintenance projects.

Alaska's budget dilemma goes back to the 1980s, said Gunnar Knapp, a former director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage, 2013-2016.

"More than 40 years ago, when Alaska was awash in oil revenues, we made two choices that set us up for the political impasse we face, now that oil revenues have dropped," said Knapp on Monday.

"We got rid of our income tax — which disproportionately helped

richer Alaskans. And we started paying out half of Permanent Fund earnings as dividends — which disproportionately helped poorer Alaskans," Knapp said.

"The fundamental problem we face now is that we no longer have enough money to pay for services Alaskans want and not pay taxes and pay half of Permanent Fund earnings as dividends. Something has to give — but we can't agree on what. And it didn't help that many legislators got elected by promising choices we can't afford or wouldn't accept."

Finding a sustainable solution to Alaska's fiscal challenge "is going to have to include some combination of paying taxes and/or cutting dividends," the economist said.

Gary Wilken, who served as a state senator from Fairbanks for a dozen years, including four years as co-chair of the Senate Finance

Committee, said the three-quarters majority vote to tap the budget reserve has led to political stalemates for years.

"A small group of legislators can emerge as the true budget arbiters because of the need for a super-super majority of 75%," Wilken said Monday.

Only a simple majority need is needed to access earnings of the Permanent Fund, he noted. "There are billions accessible with a simple majority vote, completely avoiding the brinkmanship and extortion of a few to the detriment of many," he said.

"Step back and look at Alaska's fiscal situation," Wilken said. "We have \$77 billion in the bank (the market value of the Permanent Fund) for the benefit of 735,000 residents. There are countries that would die (and some have) for such per-capita wealth."

## CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL FOR

Property No	Owner	Mailing Address	Lot	Block	Subdivision	Tax Year	Assessed	Exempt	Tax	Penalties & Interest	Amt Paid	Amt Owed
05-001-100	AHST 148 LLC	1420 ROCKY RIDGE RD STE 380 ROSEVILLE CA 95661	1A		DUNCANSON SUBD.	2022	120,600	-	482.40	62.70	-	545.10
05-001-120	AHST 148 LLC	1420 ROCKY RIDGE RD STE 380 ROSEVILLE CA 95661	1A		DUNCANSON SUBD.	2022	15,000	-	60.00	7.80	-	67.80
05-001-130	AHST 148 LLC	1420 ROCKY RIDGE RD STE 380 ROSEVILLE CA 95661	1A		DUNCANSON SUBD.	2022	15,000	-	60.00	7.80	-	67.80
72-340-2034	Aitken, Duke Wayne	PO BOX 2134 WRANGELL AK 99929	534		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	3,000	-	38.25	4.97	-	43.22
02-020-102	Alascom, Inc	PO BOX 7207 BEDMINSTER NJ 07921-7609	2	B	DEWEY HEIGHTS SUBD.	2022	191,400	-	2,440.35	317.24	-	2,757.59
08-140-010	Boettger, Patrick J	2410 INGRA ST ANCHORAGE AK 99808	1	4	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2022	17,700	-	70.80	9.21	-	80.01
71-530-1053	Brown Jr, Thomas E	PO Box 2065 Wrangell, AK 99929	553		EVERGREEN T.P.	2022	13,000	-	165.75	21.56	-	187.31
71-530-1053	Brown Jr, Thomas E	PO Box 2065 Wrangell, AK 99929	553		EVERGREEN T.P.	2021	13,000	-	165.75	23.46	(166.00)	29.21
03-006-305	Burrell C & Maria Ellena Byford	PO BOX 231 WRANGELL AK 99929	Y-D		BYFORD REPLAT	2022	4,800	-	61.20	7.95	-	69.15
73-150-3015	Butler, Perry	PO BOX 972 WRANGELL AK 99929	515		BLOOMS T.P.	2018	4,900	-	62.48	36.63	-	99.11
73-150-3015	Butler, Perry	PO BOX 972 WRANGELL AK 99929	515		BLOOMS T.P.	2021	4,900	-	62.48	15.55	-	78.03
73-150-3015	Butler, Perry	PO BOX 972 WRANGELL AK 99929	515		BLOOMS T.P.	2022	4,900	-	62.48	8.11	-	70.59
72-300-2030	Campbell-Wright, Jon Miller	PO BOX 1767 WRANGELL AK 99929	530		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	4,000	-	51.00	6.63	-	57.63
72-010-2001	Canó, Lorena M	PO Box 2023 Wrangell, AK 99929	51		PANHANDLE T.P.	2021	9,500	-	121.13	30.26	-	151.39
72-010-2001	Canó, Lorena M	PO Box 2023 Wrangell, AK 99929	51		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	9,500	-	121.13	15.74	-	136.87
03-009-404	Casey, Estate, Jess C	1821 MARK ALAN ST JUNEAU AK 99801	1B		USS 2589	2018	64,200	-	818.55	583.79	(91.81)	1,310.53
03-009-404	Casey, Estate, Jess C	1821 MARK ALAN ST JUNEAU AK 99801	1B		USS 2589	2019	64,200	-	818.55	384.89	-	1,203.44
03-009-404	Casey, Estate, Jess C	1821 MARK ALAN ST JUNEAU AK 99801	1B		USS 2589	2020	64,200	-	818.55	294.80	-	1,113.35
03-009-404	Casey, Estate, Jess C	1821 MARK ALAN ST JUNEAU AK 99801	1B		USS 2589	2021	64,200	-	818.55	204.71	-	1,023.26
03-009-404	Casey, Estate, Jess C	1821 MARK ALAN ST JUNEAU AK 99801	1B		USS 2589	2022	64,200	-	818.55	106.43	-	924.98
05-032-070	Charleton, Chuck	7015 164TH ST SE SNOHOMISH WA 98296	32H		T W SUBD. ISLAND H	2022	50,000	-	200.00	17.78	(66.68)	151.10
05-032-080	Charleton, Chuck	7015 164TH ST SE SNOHOMISH WA 98296	32H		T W SUBD. ISLAND H	2022	50,000	-	200.00	17.78	(66.68)	151.10
02-023-760	Christensen, Steven J (CTT MARINE)	PO BOX 92 WRANGELL AK 99929	6	BOA	WRANGELL MARINE SERVICE	2022	57,600	52,400.00	66.30	8.61	-	74.91
72-230-2023	Churchill, Linda Ann	PO BOX 2147 WRANGELL AK 99929	523		PANHANDLE T.P.	2021	1,000	-	12.75	3.23	-	15.98
72-230-2023	Churchill, Linda Ann	PO BOX 2147 WRANGELL AK 99929	523		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	1,000	-	12.75	1.67	-	14.42
02-010-402	Churchill, Richard B Tracy	PO BOX 2086 WRANGELL AK 99929	2	13	WRANGELL TOWNSITE	2022	-106,900	-	-1,362.98	-177.19	-	-1,540.17
09-050-100	Clark, Jason	PO BOX 612 WRANGELL AK 99929			ASLS 82-83	2019	-25,100	-	-100.40	-47.04	-	-147.44
09-050-100	Clark, Jason	PO BOX 612 WRANGELL AK 99929			ASLS 82-83	2020	-25,100	-	-100.40	-36.04	-	-136.44
09-050-100	Clark, Jason	PO BOX 612 WRANGELL AK 99929			ASLS 82-83	2021	-25,100	-	-100.40	-25.04	-	-125.44
09-050-100	Clark, Jason	PO BOX 612 WRANGELL AK 99929			ASLS 82-83	2022	-25,100	-	-100.40	-13.04	-	-113.44
09-050-100	Clark, Jason	PO BOX 612 WRANGELL AK 99929			ASLS 82-83	2018	-25,100	-	-100.40	-59.04	(50.00)	-109.44
01-004-654	Cool, Vern	3710 NE FLANDERS ST PORTLAND OR 97232	3	4	USS 2127	2022	34,600	-	441.15	57.35	-	498.50
01-004-654	Cool, Vern	3710 NE FLANDERS ST PORTLAND OR 97232	3	4	USS 2127	2019	18,000	-	229.50	108.05	-	337.55
01-004-654	Cool, Vern	3710 NE FLANDERS ST PORTLAND OR 97232	3	4	USS 2127	2020	18,000	-	229.50	82.75	-	312.25
01-004-654	Cool, Vern	3710 NE FLANDERS ST PORTLAND OR 97232	3	4	USS 2127	2021	18,000	-	229.50	57.45	-	286.95
01-004-654	Cool, Vern & Marquart, Kathleen	3710 NE FLANDERS ST PORTLAND OR 97232	3	4	USS 2127	2018	18,000	-	229.50	135.65	-	365.15
72-490-2050	David Newman & Elizabeth Cabot	PO BOX 2261 WRANGELL AK 99929	549		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	1,500	-	19.13	2.48	-	21.61
08-140-130	Diment, Brendon Gene	11410 NE 124TH ST # 327 KIRKLAND WA 98034	13	4	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2018	64,100	-	256.40	151.08	-	407.48
08-140-130	Diment, Brendon Gene	11410 NE 124TH ST # 327 KIRKLAND WA 98034	13	4	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2019	64,100	-	256.40	120.36	-	376.76
08-140-130	Diment, Brendon Gene	11410 NE 124TH ST # 327 KIRKLAND WA 98034	13	4	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2020	64,100	-	256.40	92.20	-	348.60
08-140-130	Diment, Brendon Gene	11410 NE 124TH ST # 327 KIRKLAND WA 98034	13	4	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2021	64,100	-	256.40	64.04	-	320.44
08-140-130	Diment, Brendon Gene	11410 NE 124TH ST # 327 KIRKLAND WA 98034	13	4	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2022	64,100	-	256.40	33.32	-	289.72
03-010-207	Duman, Michael & Martin, Brett	PO BOX 1976 SITKA AK 99835	13		USS 2589	2020	192,600	-	2,455.65	884.13	-	3,339.78
03-010-224	Duman, Michael & Martin, Brett	PO BOX 1976 SITKA AK 99835	2		USS 3534	2020	109,200	-	1,392.30	501.15	-	1,893.45
03-010-207	Duman, Michael & Martin, Brett	PO BOX 1976 SITKA AK 99835	13		USS 2589	2022	36,800	-	469.20	60.99	-	530.19
03-010-224	Duman, Michael & Martin, Brett	PO BOX 1976 SITKA AK 99835	2		USS 3534	2022	17,900	-	228.23	29.66	-	257.89
08-320-020	Duman, Michael & Martin, Brett	43166 THOMAS DR SCIO OR 97374	2	2	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2021	33,800	-	135.20	35.09	(14.85)	155.44
08-320-020	Duman, Michael & Martin, Brett	43166 THOMAS DR SCIO OR 97374	2	2	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2022	33,800	-	135.20	17.57	-	152.77
11-100-110	Ellis, David C	PO BOX 1349 PETERSBURG AK 99833	11		NORTHERN FARM ISL. SUBD.	2022	17,700	-	70.80	1.33	(60.80)	11.33
03-006-352	Everson, Merton E	PO BOX 1273 WRANGELL AK 99929		TRACT 23	ROAD HOUSE SUBD.	2022	45,000	-	573.75	74.60	-	648.35
03-006-353	Everson, Merton E	PO BOX 1273 WRANGELL AK 99929		TRACT 24	ROAD HOUSE SUBD.	2022	45,000	-	573.75	74.60	-	648.35
10-300-300	Fager, Galen D West, Justin	PO BOX 604 HALFWAY OR 97834		TRACT C	SERGIEF ISL. SUBD.	2021	18,700	-	74.80	18.73	-	93.53
10-300-300	Fager, Galen D West, Justin	PO BOX 604 HALFWAY OR 97834		TRACT C	SERGIEF ISL. SUBD.	2022	18,700	-	74.80	9.73	-	84.53
01-004-501	Gadd, Charles & Sara	PO BOX 2144 WRANGELL AK 99929	1	1	USS 2127	2022	4,500	-	57.38	7.45	-	64.83
01-004-503	Gadd, Charles & Sara	PO BOX 2144 WRANGELL AK 99929	2	1	USS 2127	2022	4,500	-	57.38	7.45	-	64.83
04-006-604	Gadd, Charles (Setleck) M	PO BOX 421 WRANGELL AK 99929	2	5	WRANGELL ISLAND EAST	2018	65,000	-	260.00	153.40	-	413.40
02-029-208	Gadd, Sara	PO BOX 2144 WRANGELL AK 99929	5	59B	INDUSTRIAL SUBDIVISION AMD.	2022	61,600	-	785.40	102.09	-	887.49
72-410-2042	Gerard, Steve	PO BOX 1764 WRANGELL AK 99929	541		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	2,500	-	31.88	4.15	-	36.03
06-010-130	Ghazal, Moustafa	14710 127th AVE SE SNOHOMISH WA 98290	7B		UNION BAY - ERNEST CLM	2022	46,000	-	184.00	23.92	(186.62)	41.30
03-009-308	Gillen, James C	PO BOX 791 WRANGELL AK 99929	4C	4	SOUTH WRANGELL SUBD	2019	-99,800	-	-1,272.45	-597.89	-	-1,870.34
01-004-551	Goodman, Robert E & Norma J	PO BOX 193 WRANGELL AK 99929	1	2	USS 2127	2022	16,900	-	215.48	28.00	-	243.48
02-029-101	Greuter, Silvia	PO BOX 23050 KETCHIKAN AK 99901	2	59A	INDUSTRIAL SUBDIVISION AMD.	2022	37,700	-	480.68	62.50	-	543.18
02-029-103	Greuter, Silvia	PO BOX 23050 KETCHIKAN AK 99901	2	59A	INDUSTRIAL SUBDIVISION AMD.	2022	97,800	-	1,246.95	162.11	-	1,409.06
71-470-1047	Haley, Clara	PO BOX 1642 WRANGELL AK 99929	547		EVERGREEN T.P.	2018	5,200	-	66.30	38.97	-	105.27
05-032-030	Hall, Peter & Reck, Jennifer	2203 HUMBLE RD MISSOULA MT 59804	32C		T W SUBD. - ISLAND H	2022	50,000	-	200.00	17.78	(66.68)	151.10
74-060-4006	Harding, Devan	PO BOX 986 WRANGELL AK 99929	56		NUGGET T.P.	2021	10,300	-	131.33	32.78	-	164.11
05-032-040	Hergenreder, James & Theresa	PO BOX 986 SAND POINT ID 83864	32D		T W SUBD. - ISLAND H	2022	50,000	-	200.00	26.00	-	226.00
01-005-301	Hunt, Timothy C	PO BOX 2355 WRANGELL AK 99929	1									



# EPA focused on new wastewater discharge requirements throughout Southeast

By YERETH ROSEN  
Alaska Beacon

Alaska's coastal communities are home to more than a third of the U.S. wastewater plants still allowed to treat their sewage at the lowest and most basic level. But six cities in Southeast Alaska, including Wrangell, may soon have to invest in improvements to better clean their wastewater before discharging it into the ocean.

That is the message from draft permits that have been released or are to be released by the Environmental Protection Agency, which has determined that too much bacteria is going from the communities into marine waters.

The agency the first week of May issued a draft permit for the Haines Borough's wastewater plant that calls for disinfection of bacteria in the treated discharge. As of now, there is no disinfection at the Haines plant, and its discharges contain high levels of fecal coliform and enterococcus bacteria, common pollutants in sewage, the EPA said. To meet state water-quality standards, the plant relies on a large "mixing zone" in

Portage Cove.

Mixing zones are defined by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation as areas "where a permitted wastewater discharge undergoes initial dilution," and where pollutant levels may exceed water-quality standards.

According to EPA's analysis, the mixing zone used in Haines is no longer adequate. Wrangell discharges its wastewater into Zimovia Strait, where it is mixed and diluted by the strong flows.

A similar disinfection requirement is contained in a new draft permit issued in October for the wastewater treatment plant at Wrangell. The borough recently received a new cost estimate for adding a chlorine disinfection process to its wastewater discharge — about \$12.5 million for construction, plus ongoing operating costs.

"This is considerably more than what we were planning on," Borough Manager Jeff Good said last month.

Under the draft permit, Wrangell would have five years to meet the higher standards for its water discharge.

Yet to come, EPA said, are new drafts for Skagway, Sitka, Petersburg and Ketchikan. All six Southeast sites are operating on permits that were issued more than 20 years ago and have been periodically extended.

The six communities, all discharging into fast-moving marine waters, are among a select few in the nation that have municipal wastewater plants allowed to use mere primary treatment on the wastes they process, according to EPA. Primary treatment screens out solids, and all six plants rely on large mixing zones in their discharge areas.

The vast majority of publicly operated wastewater plants in the nation are required to do at least a second level of treatment, said Suzanne Skadowski, a spokeswoman for EPA's Seattle-based Region 10 office. Secondary treatment employs bacterial and additional physical separation to remove about 85% of contaminants; it is now standard practice at most plants. Some plants use a third level of treatment, which uses more advanced methods to remove contaminants.

In all, 24 plants around the nation are

exempted from the secondary-treatment requirement, and nine are in Alaska — Pelican, Whittier and Anchorage, plus the six in Southeast that could soon face new permit requirements.

Of the nine Alaska plants with waivers, the biggest by far is the wastewater treatment facility operated by the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility. The plant, which serves most residents of the state's largest city, discharges into the silty and swift-moving waters of Cook Inlet. Unlike the six Southeast Alaska sites, the plant uses disinfectant — chlorine — as part of the treatment before wastewater is discharged into the inlet.

The plant is operating with a permit issued in 2000 and continued through administrative action, Skadowski said, adding that the federal agency is working with the state and Anchorage to update data on the facility's operation and its water quality.

*The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. The Sentinel contributed reporting to this story.*

## RECLOSURE LIST, TAX YEARS 2017 - 2022

Property No	Owner	Mailing Address	Lot	Block	Subdivision	Tax Year	Assessed	Exempt	Tax	Penalties & Interest	Amt Paid	Amt Owed
02-031-214	Kadin Corporation	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	1	49	WRANGELL TOWNSITE	2022	17,000	-	216.75	28.19	-	244.94
02-031-216	Kadin Corporation	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	1	49	WRANGELL TOWNSITE	2022	17,000	-	216.75	28.19	-	244.94
71-170-1017	Keith, Paula	PO BOX 2154 WRANGELL AK 99929	517		EVERGREEN T.P.	2021	11,300	-	144.08	36.01	-	180.09
71-170-1017	Keith, Paula	PO BOX 2154 WRANGELL AK 99929	517		EVERGREEN T.P.	2022	11,300	-	144.08	18.73	-	162.81
04-006-654	Krall, Joe	PO BOX 672207 CHUGIAK AK 99567	3	6	WRANGELL ISLAND EAST	2022	41,900	-	167.60	21.80	-	189.40
08-310-070	Laura & Matthew Barker, Purchaser	1575 ELM ST UKIAH CA 95482	7 TRACT UN-3	1	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2018	24,100	-	96.40	56.68	-	153.08
08-310-070	Laura & Matthew Barker, Purchaser	1575 ELM ST UKIAH CA 95482	7 TRACT UN-3	1	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2019	24,100	-	96.40	45.16	-	141.56
08-310-070	Laura & Matthew Barker, Purchaser	1575 ELM ST UKIAH CA 95482	7 TRACT UN-3	1	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2020	24,100	-	96.40	34.60	-	131.00
08-310-070	Laura & Matthew Barker, Purchaser	1575 ELM ST UKIAH CA 95482	7 TRACT UN-3	1	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2021	24,100	-	96.40	24.04	-	120.44
08-310-070	Laura & Matthew Barker, Purchaser	1575 ELM ST UKIAH CA 95482	7 TRACT UN-3	1	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2022	24,100	-	96.40	12.52	-	108.92
71-250-1025	Macias, Robert	PO BOX 908 WRANGELL AK 99929	525		EVERGREEN T.P.	2018	7,100	-	90.53	53.64	-	144.17
71-250-1025	Macias, Robert	PO BOX 908 WRANGELL AK 99929	525		EVERGREEN T.P.	2019	7,100	-	90.53	42.72	-	133.25
71-250-1025	Macias, Robert	PO BOX 908 WRANGELL AK 99929	525		EVERGREEN T.P.	2020	7,100	-	90.53	32.71	-	123.24
71-250-1025	Macias, Robert	PO BOX 908 WRANGELL AK 99929	525		EVERGREEN T.P.	2021	7,100	-	90.53	22.70	-	113.23
71-250-1025	Macias, Robert	PO BOX 908 WRANGELL AK 99929	525		EVERGREEN T.P.	2022	7,100	-	90.53	11.78	-	102.31
72-160-2016	Martinsen, Kelsey J	PO BOX 110 WRANGELL AK 99929	516		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	14,200	-	181.05	23.54	-	204.59
02-031-406	Massin, Contract Purchase, Bernard A	PO BOX 1349 WRANGELL AK 99929	4A	22	WRANGELL TOWNSITE	2019	106,100	-	1,352.78	328.05	(1,488.06)	192.77
04-007-713	McGregor, George L & Katherine M	23159 S KINGSTON RD NE KINGSTON WA 98346	7	7	WRANGELL ISLAND EAST	2022	34,700	-	138.80	18.05	-	156.85
74-100-4010	McLaughlin, Adrienne Elizabeth	PO BOX 693 WRANGELL AK 99929	510		NUCKET T.P.	2022	3,000	-	38.25	4.97	-	43.22
02-032-101	McMurren, Douglas & Ruby	PO BOX 2174 WRANGELL AK 99929	1A		PINE SUBD.	2018	173,100	-	2,207.03	1,302.13	-	3,509.16
02-032-101	McMurren, Douglas & Ruby	PO BOX 2174 WRANGELL AK 99929	1A		PINE SUBD.	2019	173,100	-	2,207.03	1,037.29	-	3,244.32
02-032-101	McMurren, Douglas & Ruby	PO BOX 2174 WRANGELL AK 99929	1A		PINE SUBD.	2020	173,100	-	2,207.03	794.52	-	3,001.55
02-032-101	McMurren, Douglas & Ruby	PO BOX 2174 WRANGELL AK 99929	1A		PINE SUBD.	2022	173,100	-	2,207.03	286.91	-	2,493.94
02-032-586	McMurren, Patrick & Patricia	PO BOX 12 WRANGELL AK 99929	7	2	CITY SUBD.	2021	33,000	-	420.75	81.07	(250.00)	251.82
02-023-740	Metal Head Marine LLC, Leasee	PO BOX 2158 WRANGELL AK 99929	5	BOA	WRANGELL MARINE SERVICE	2022	93,100	29,100.00	816.00	106.08	-	922.08
05-032-050	Murphy, Reid & Anne	3205 ROGUE RIVER RD EAGLE POINT OR 97524	32E		T W SUBD. - ISLAND H	2022	50,000	-	200.00	15.56	(83.35)	132.21
05-032-060	Murphy, Reid & Anne	3205 ROGUE RIVER DR EAGLE POINT OR 97524	32F		T W SUBD. - ISLAND H	2022	50,000	-	200.00	15.56	(83.35)	132.21
04-007-715	Murray, Tim	1275 RIVERSIDE DR ASPEN CO 81611	8	7	WRANGELL ISLAND EAST	2022	28,600	-	114.40	14.86	(29.26)	100.00
02-028-109	North Star Construction	2716 ELLIOTT AVE APT 804 SEATTLE WA 98121-3511	6	66	WRANGELL INDUSTRIAL PARK	2022	47,700	-	608.18	79.06	-	687.24
05-032-090	O'Brien, Elizabeth & Reynolds, Christoph	421 WOODWARD AVE ATLANTA GA 30312	32I		T W SUBD. - ISLAND H	2022	40,000	-	160.00	20.80	-	180.80
05-032-100	O'Brien, Elizabeth & Reynolds, Christoph	421 WOODWARD AVE ATLANTA GA 30312	32J		T W SUBD. - ISLAND H	2022	40,000	-	160.00	20.80	-	180.80
71-330-1000	Padgett, Caleb	PO BOX 1211 WRANGELL AK 99929	533		EVERGREEN T.P.	2021	18,200	-	232.05	58.01	-	290.06
71-330-1000	Padgett, Caleb	PO BOX 1211 WRANGELL AK 99929	533		EVERGREEN T.P.	2022	18,200	-	232.05	30.17	-	262.22
71-330-1000	Padgett, Caleb	PO BOX 1211 WRANGELL AK 99929	533		EVERGREEN T.P.	2017	8,400	-	107.10	77.05	-	184.15
71-330-1000	Padgett, Caleb	PO BOX 1211 WRANGELL AK 99929	533		EVERGREEN T.P.	2018	8,500	-	108.38	63.76	-	172.14
71-330-1000	Padgett, Caleb	PO BOX 1211 WRANGELL AK 99929	533		EVERGREEN T.P.	2019	8,500	-	108.38	50.80	-	159.18
02-023-226	Ramsey, Susan	PO BOX 247 WRANGELL AK 99929	13	7A	WRANGELL TOWNSITE	2022	9,100	3,900.00	66.30	8.61	-	74.91
03-005-262	RJ Construction	PO BOX 1896 WRANGELL AK 99929	7		SOUTHEAST HOMES SUBD.	2018	47,400	-	604.35	356.40	-	960.75
03-005-262	RJ Construction	PO BOX 1896 WRANGELL AK 99929	7		SOUTHEAST HOMES SUBD.	2019	47,400	-	604.35	283.92	-	888.27
72-310-2000	Romane, Charles	PO BOX 2261 WRANGELL AK 99929	531		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	2,500	-	31.88	4.15	-	36.03
03-020-212	Rowlett, Dana & Rick	3905 DUNKELD DR NORTH LITTLE ROCK AR 72116	37A		SENNA	2022	63,300	-	807.68	104.92	-	912.60
09-010-030	Salvatore Bruno	9959 SINNEN LN BROWNSVILLE CA 95919	3	1	OLIVE COVE SUBD.	2022	69,400	-	277.60	36.10	-	313.70
09-010-120	Salvatore Bruno	9959 SINNEN LN BROWNSVILLE CA 95919	12	1	OLIVE COVE SUBD.	2022	18,700	-	74.80	9.73	-	84.53
03-006-101	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	TRACT U		USS 2321	2022	130,200	-	1,660.05	197.04	(182.30)	1,674.79
03-006-101	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	TRACT U		USS 2321	2020	83,000	-	1,058.25	380.91	-	1,439.16
03-006-101	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	TRACT U		USS 2321	2021	83,000	-	1,058.25	242.83	(182.30)	1,118.78
03-005-402	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	2 TRACT T		USS 2321	2022	56,000	-	714.00	84.57	(79.76)	718.81
03-005-402	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	2 TRACT T		USS 2321	2020	39,100	-	498.53	179.59	-	678.12
03-005-402	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	2 TRACT T		USS 2321	2021	39,100	-	498.53	116.09	(79.76)	534.86
03-005-400	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	1 TRACT T		USS 2321	2020	18,600	-	237.15	85.34	-	322.49
03-005-400	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	1 TRACT T		USS 2321	2022	24,400	-	311.10	36.42	(37.94)	309.58
03-005-400	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	1 TRACT T		USS 2321	2021	18,600	-	237.15	55.23	(37.94)	254.44
03-009-365	Slaughter, Geneva	PO BOX 1933 FERDALE WA 98248	8	2	SOUTH WRANGELL SUBD.	2022	27,500	-	350.63	45.59	-	396.22
72-080-2008	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	58		PANHANDLE T.P.	2021	500	-	6.38	1.54	-	7.92
72-040-2004	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	54		PANHANDLE T.P.	2019	13,300	-	169.58	79.86	-	249.44
72-040-2004	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	54		PANHANDLE T.P.	2020	13,300	-	169.58	61.16	-	230.74
72-040-2004	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	54		PANHANDLE T.P.	2021	13,300	-	169.58	42.46	-	212.04
72-040-2004	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	54		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	13,300	-	169.58	22.06	-	191.64
73-020-3002	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	52		BLOOMS T.P.	2021	9,600	-	122.40	30.54	-	152.94
73-020-3002	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	52		BLOOMS T.P.	2022	9,600	-	122.40	15.90	-	138.30
72-150-2015	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	515		PANHANDLE T.P.	2020	6,000	-	76.50	27.67	-	104.17
72-180-2018	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	518		PANHANDLE T.P.	2021	3,800	-	48.45	12.05	-	60.50
72-150-2015	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	515		PANHANDLE T.P.	2021	6,000	-	76.50	19.20	-	95.70
72-080-2008	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	58		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	500	-	6.38	0.82	-	7.20
72-180-2018	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	518		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	3,800	-	48.45	6.29	-	54.74
72-150-2015	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	515		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	6,000	-	76.50	9.96	-	86.46
72-440-2045	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	544		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	6,000	-	76.50	9.96	-	86.46
73-020-3002	St. John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	52		BLOOMS T.P.	2018	9,600	-	122.40	72.02	-	194.42
73-020-3002	St. John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	52		BLOOMS T.P.	2019	9,600	-	122.40	57.38	-	179.78
73-020-3002	St. John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 9										



**Obituaries**

**Fisherman Frank Duane Kelly dies at 86**



**FRANK DUANE KELLY**

Frank Duane Kelly, 86, of Wrangell, passed away April 30 in Wrangell after battling a long illness.

He was born in North Dakota on Feb. 23, 1937. He enlisted at a young age and served four years in the U.S. Army. After an honorable discharge from the service, he began his journey and love for Alaska.

He logged and fished throughout Southeast until choosing to settle in Wrangell with his sister Patricia and brother-in-law Bill Overbay. "Everyone knew Duane as just 'Kelly,'" his family wrote. "He worked with Bill on the

pile driver and fished many years on the Miss Susan."

"Kelly enjoyed sportfishing, an occasional pull-tab while watching a good baseball game. He was a quiet man with a kind smile who will be greatly missed," his family wrote.

He is survived by his sisters Patricia Overbay, Helen Christianson and Louise Eisenzimmer, and sister-in-law Marilyn Kelly, along with many nieces and nephews.

A military funeral honors ceremony will be held later this summer.

**Tlingit and Haida Council quits Alaska Federation of Natives organization**

BY ALEX DEMARBAN  
*Anchorage Daily News*

The Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, based in Juneau and representing more than 35,000 tribal citizens, and the Tanana Chiefs Conference, based in Fairbanks and representing 42 villages, announced they are leaving the state's largest Native organization. In earlier decisions, three of the state's 12 regional Native corporations have also left the politically powerful Alaska Federation of Natives in recent years.

AFN continues to represent more than 200 federally recognized tribes, 184 Native village corporations, nine Native regional corporations and 11 regional tribal consortiums. It was formed in 1966 to settle land claims and now works as a cultural, economic and political advocacy group.

The Tlingit and Haida Council executive council voted on May 1 to end its long-standing membership with AFN. Tlingit and Haida is the largest federally recognized tribe in Alaska.

In a statement, Tlingit and Haida officials emphasized the tribe's desire to carve its own path in a region it knows better than anyone, and to collaborate with other governments and entities as a sovereign power.

"It has always been in the best interest of the tribe to directly promote, advance and advocate for our people and communities, and we have positioned the tribe and strategically built our capacity to do just that," said Richard Chalvey Eesh Peterson, Tlingit and Haida council president.

Peterson said members of the executive council believe Tlingit and Haida is at a point now where the tribe can manage its relations without AFN assistance. The Southeast tribe will save about \$65,000 a year in dues to AFN.

The Tlingit and Haida council will continue to collaborate with AFN as needed, Peterson said.

Some of the other organizations that have recently quit AFN cited a variety of concerns, including disagreement on how disputes between organizations are handled.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference said in a statement that its biggest priority is the protection of salmon that feed communities in the Interior region, and that its goals are not being met.

"Over the past few years, over

40 resolutions were passed by the full board at AFN that support a subsistence way of life, but no significant action has been taken on those (salmon) directives," the organization said. "A lot of effort, time, and money goes toward participating in AFN and it is important that those resources be utilized to their maximum potential to advance TCC's tribal priorities."

Tanana Chiefs Conference said a poll of tribal delegates led to a majority vote against renewing membership in AFN, the statement said. On April 28, the executive board approved the withdrawal and notified the statewide organization.

The Aleut Corp., representing Alaska Native shareholders from the Aleutian Islands region, decided shortly after the AFN convention last fall that it would not renew its AFN membership this year, said Skoey Vergen, chief executive of the Aleut Corp., in a phone call.

In the convention in October, people from the Aleutians region and Alaska Peninsula stood and turned their backs to protest a floor vote that pitted their region against others seeking to protect salmon runs in Southwest Alaska and the Interior.

The AFN decision called for a potential reduction in the amount of fish caught in a state-managed fishery off the Alaska Peninsula, in order to protect salmon runs that have crashed on the state's two largest rivers, the Yukon and Kuskokwim.

"The AFN motto last year was unity, and AFN has bylaws that should not allow a divisive resolution to make it to the floor," Vergen said. "We were just trying to protect our fishery and felt we were unfairly being singled out."

Two other regional Alaska Native corporations withdrew from AFN in recent years and have not returned.

The board of Arctic Slope Regional Corp., representing Native shareholders from the oil-rich North Slope region, approved a withdrawal in 2019, citing long-standing tension with AFN.

The board of Doyon, the biggest private landowner in Alaska and representing Native shareholders from the Interior, voted to remove the corporation from AFN in 2020.

Last week, Doyon publicly explained the reason behind its decision, at the urging of shareholders, according to a statement from the corporation.

The regional Native corporation said that for well over a decade it has sought to see improvements in the organization, but not enough has changed.

"The needed work on conflict resolution among various Native constituents was highlighted at the 2022 AFN convention when a proposed resolution addressing subsistence fish declines on the Yukon River was met with impasse and conflict," the statement said.

**Constance (Connie) Mae Bunes**

*January 16, 1934 - April 14, 2023*

It is with immeasurable sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother and dear friend Constance (Connie) Mae Bunes on April 14, 2023.

Born to Bonita (Bunny) and Hugo Stoke on January 16, 1934, in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, Connie was raised primarily in Tacoma, Washington, with her older brother James (Jimmy) Stoke. After high school graduation, Connie entered nursing school, but her newly discharged Army fiancé Oliver (Ole) had other ideas, which included their marriage and an almost immediate move to Alaska.

Ole and older brothers Maurice and Gordon had set their sights on founding Bunes Bros., a frontier sporting goods store, in Wrangell, Alaska, in 1953. Imagine Connie's surprise as a "City Girl" arriving on a remote Alaska island, on a seaplane, already pregnant, in a dress and heels! Connie definitely had class!

Although Connie's dream was to be a stay-at-home Mom, her bookkeeping skills, which she acquired while working for Everett Bunes' accounting firm, were eventually needed at "the store."

Connie and Ole were blessed with six children. They welcomed their daughter Jan Bailey in 1951, with whom they were joyfully reunited in 2005. After arriving in Wrangell, they welcomed five more children: Terry in 1954, Debi in 1955, Randy in 1957, Vickie in 1959, and Monty in 1960. At one point, Connie had five teens living under the same roof; never a dull moment at the Bunes house! Located next to the community playground, Connie kept all the

neighborhood children supplied with Kool-Aid, cookies and Band-Aids.

When Connie wasn't tied to the stove or the calculator, she was an active member of

the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. We all looked forward to her zany, colorful outfits as she slung "Holy Burgers" for the Church's annual 4th of July fundraiser; that was classic Connie! She also loved decorating for the holidays, especially Halloween. Boy did she entertain those kids staring into her crazily crafted window on the way up the stairs for Trick or Treat.

Easy humored and always cheerfully prepared, she was like Mary Poppins with her magic purse that could seemingly produce any object on command ...

anything, anytime, anywhere. She was a lifesaver at numerous Firemen's Picnics and a true "Hub" whenever young mothers gathered; she was always quick with a bit of sage advice or a light hearted comment.

Connie was most comfortable in her own kitchen, where as queen she could hold court in her goofy aprons, frying taco shells for the masses; her holiday meals were nothing short of legendary.

Connie's mind was sharp as a tack and her memory of events and dates was remarkable. She endured many medical procedures in her later years that limited her mobility, but she fought the good fight until her body simply gave up. She leaves behind Ole, her husband of 70 years, as well as the families of their six adult children. She will be missed.

There will be special mass for Connie at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, July 2, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church.



*Celebration of Life for  
Dave Hartung*

**May 20, 2023  
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Arne Dahl**

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# Elementary school kids dig nature on Sea Day, literally

By MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

How many times can you tell your kid to go play in the ocean and mean it? At least once a year for U.S. Forest Service and school staff.

On May 9, teachers, parents and Forest Service employees taught 82 kindergarten through third grade students about tidepool sea life, tree identification, animal skulls and fur, digging clams and more at Shoemaker Bay during low tide.

"Today, you guys are going to help me get some clams and we're going to send them out to have them tested (for toxins). Who's gone clam digging before?" said Kim Wickman, IGAP technician with the Wrangell Cooperative Association, as she instructed a group of kids. Lots of hands shot up in response. "Nice! We've got two types of clams we're going to get today."

She went on to talk about smooth-shelled butter clams and ridged-shelled cockles. "See the ridges? Ruffles have ridges. Who eats ridged potato chips? When you think of cockles, think of potato chips."

Kids took up their digging tools and dispersed along the water's edge, looking for dime-sized holes, an indication that a clam is buried down a few inches.

Parent volunteer DaNika Smalley, her children and a couple other kids intently dug in one such spot only to find a clam that shuffled off this mortal coil. "It's dead," she said, and they set about to



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Ranger Tory Houser shows students from Evergreen Elementary School the skull of a bear and talks about identifying characteristics of the skull.

find another hole.

Teacher Jenn Davies brought her third grade class to participate, washing ashore plenty of memories for her.

"I grew up in Wrangell," she said. "We had Sea Day when I was (in school). It's a tradition. I remember it being a lot of fun. It used to be at City Park. It was a little more loose. There was a big fire, lots of food and a lot of parents, and you went exploring."

These days, students rotate through

six learning stations. High school teacher Heather Howe taught kids about finding sea life in tidepools; Wickman taught about clams and shellfish; Forest Service staffers Corree Delabruie and Jennifer Kardiak taught nature journaling; while coworkers Brook McHolland and Tory Houser taught tree identification and animal skulls and fur identification, respectively, with help from Kayleigh McCarthy; and Kevin Kocarek and Betsy Wirt, also with the Forest Service, taught about aquatic insects.

Delabruie became involved in Sea Day in 2011 when kindergarten teacher Vicki Bunn-Taylor had already been organizing the event for years.

"When Vicki retired, the school had trouble finding someone with time to organize it and there was a couple years where they didn't hold a Sea Day," she said. Delabruie took over organizing in 2019 as part of her Forest Service outreach duties, except for a pandemic break in 2020 and 2021.

According to Delabruie, the Wrangell Ranger District took over organizing Sea Day to keep kids exploring and learning about the outdoors.

"It helps students understand the resources of our temperate rainforest habitat, even if the field trip does not occur on Forest Service lands," she said. "Shoemaker Park is an ideal field trip for the students because it is close and provides a wide variety of habitats to explore — not just the sea, but also a freshwater creek and forested areas."

In the Shoemaker shelter, Houser taught kids about different animal skulls, pointing out the difference in teeth between moose and bear skulls.

"I want you guys to feel your teeth. Feel the ones in the back. What kind of animal are we," she said. "Are we a carnivore?"

"Omnivore," came the shouted replies. "Good job! We eat everything," she said, though a few kids took exception with vegetables.

# Cardinell resigns from jet boat association, trains Galla as replacement

By MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

Since 2019, Caitlin Cardinell has worked as the liaison between members of the Stikine River Jet Boat Association and cruise lines to schedule tours and advocate for the organization.

After 10 years in Wrangell and seeing the SRJBA through the COVID-19 pandemic, Cardinell is resigning her position as executive director and returning to Minnesota.

Though the position has been a challenge, her reasons for leaving are to spend more time with her aging parents. She will maintain a home in Wrangell but plans to spend the next year in the Twin Cities area.

"The bulk of my career with the jet boat association has been dampened by COVID," she said. "I've witnessed the collapse and now the rebuilding of the industry, globally, regionally and locally. That was a lot to navigate."

She said it was an incredible learning experience to go through a complete shutdown and reopening of the tourism industry. "It's like everyone in tourism had to relearn how to do everything over again. Communications were slower, everything just took longer and was more tedious to get up off the ground compared to how it went in 2019."

However, Cardinell said the experience she's gained through working with the SRJBA has given her the confidence to tackle any business.

"I could walk into any business and run it," she said. "If you give me a month, I've always been the type to learn as I

go. I literally run this business, every aspect of it. Marketing, communications and (public relations), accounting, operations, contract negotiations, sales, every aspect of business."

It's her plan to pass along everything she's learned to Erin Galla, who will take over the job by June 1. Cardinell will stay until the end of the month unless she is needed a little longer.

Last Thursday, Galla helped Cardinell greet tour boat passengers disembarking from the Ocean Victory, Wrangell's first cruise ship of the season. Though Galla had been meeting and training with Cardinell online while finishing school in Juneau for the past month, it was her first real day on the job.

Galla graduated last month with a bachelor of science degree in environmental resources from the University of Alaska Southeast.

"I've been working with the SRJBA for the last nine seasons as a deckhand with my dad (Mark Galla), and after college I wanted to get into a good job ... and this opportunity opened up," Galla said. The recent college graduate was born and raised in Wrangell. "I figured it would be a good (job) to apply for and see if I'd be a good candidate for it, and I ended up getting the job."

She said she wanted a job that would help her get involved in

Continued on page 11



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Stikine River Jet Boat Association Executive Director Caitlin Cardinell, right, talks with passengers disembarking the Ocean Victory cruise ship last Thursday — the first ship of the summer for Wrangell. Cardinell is training her replacement, Erin Galla, left, who will take over the job on June 1.

## Wrangell Guides are here!

The 2023 Wrangell Visitors Guide is ready for you to pick up at the Sentinel office to send to friends, family and anyone else thinking of coming to town this year.

The 40-page guide is redesigned with detailed maps and fresh photos!



WRANGELL SENTINEL

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# Police report

**Monday, May 8**  
 Illegal parking: Citation issued for blocking roadway.  
 Agency assist: Alaska State Troopers.  
 Agency assist: Alaska Department of Transportation.  
 Violation of conditions of release.

**Tuesday, May 9**  
 Dead animal: Porcupine removed from roadway.  
 Agency assist: Alaska Department of Transportation.  
 Agency assist: Alaska State Troopers.  
 Dog complaint: Barking dog.  
 Agency assist: Fire Department.

**Wednesday, May 10**  
 Subpoena service.

**Thursday, May 11**  
 False alarm.  
 Agency assist: Ambulance.  
 Welfare check.

Suspicious circumstance.

**Friday, May 12**  
 Agency assist: Ambulance.  
 Agency assist: Petersburg Police Department.  
 Civil issue.  
 Agency assist: Ambulance.  
 Threats.  
 Agency assist: Fire Department.  
 Auto theft.

**Saturday, May 13**  
 Undgerage party.  
 Unlawful contact.

**Sunday, May 14**  
 Traffic stop: Verbal warning for headlight out.  
 Dog complaint.  
 Found property.  
 Intoxicated person.  
 During this reporting period there were five agency assists for the Hoonah Police Department.

# Just a trim on the top

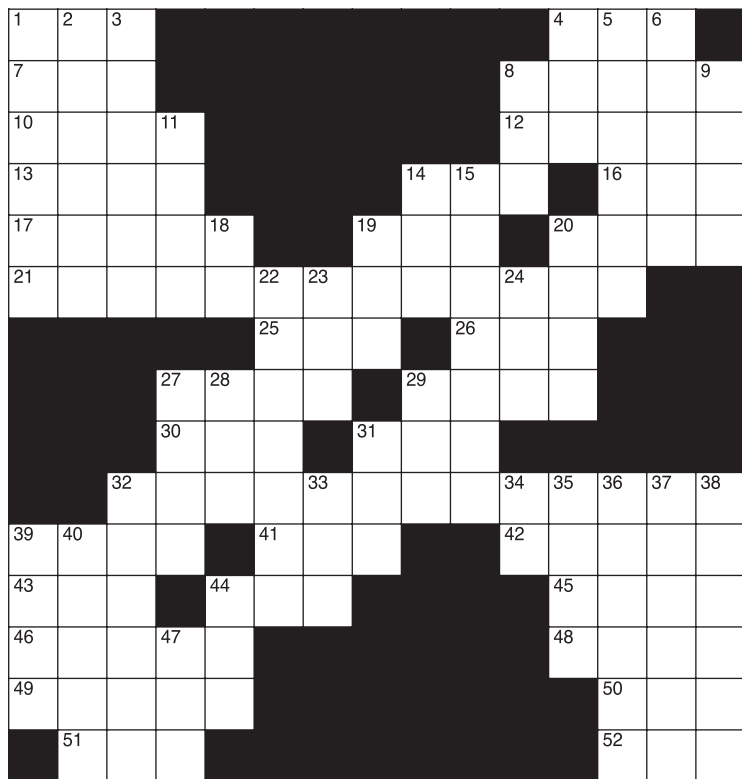


PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Richard Turner trims back a shrub last Friday during the Parks and Recreation Department's community collaboration event. Volunteers trimmed, weeded and cleaned up streetside planters throughout downtown and were treated to a voucher for food at J&W's Fast Food for their efforts. In all, 18 people showed up to help despite the gray and wet weather.

# Crossword

Answers on Page 12



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 4. Chinese philosophical principle
- 7. Branch
- 8. Jewish spiritual leader
- 10. Slang for requests
- 12. "So Human An Animal" author
- 13. Rocker Billy
- 14. British Air Aces
- 16. Type of tree
- 17. "Tough Little Boys" singer Gary
- 19. State attorneys
- 20. Goddess of fertility
- 21. Localities
- 25. Beloved singer Charles
- 26. Clue
- 27. Ridge of jagged rock below sea surface
- 29. Helsinki neighborhood
- 30. Farm resident
- 31. Ocean
- 32. Where ballplayers work
- 39. Unable to hear
- 41. Cool!
- 42. Cape Verde capital
- 43. One point north of due east
- 44. Kilo yard (abbr.)
- 45. Middle Eastern nation
- 46. It yields Manila hemp
- 48. People operate it (abbr.)
- 49. Regenerate
- 50. Not healthy
- 51. Chinese sword
- 52. Mild expression of surprise

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Unit of angle
- 2. Headgear to control a horse
- 3. Clots
- 4. Follows sigma
- 5. A woman who is the superior of a group of nuns
- 6. Greek units of weight
- 8. Radio direction finder (abbr.)
- 9. Systems, doctrines, theories
- 11. Stony waste matter
- 14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 15. Hostile to others
- 18. U.S. State
- 19. Not wet
- 20. Something one thinks up
- 22. Where beer is made
- 23. Clumsy person
- 24. Belonging to us
- 27. Canadian flyers
- 28. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 29. Snakelike fish
- 31. Unhappy
- 32. Fruit
- 33. Not good
- 34. Zero degrees Celsius
- 35. Goo Goo Dolls' hit
- 36. Crawls into the head (folklore)
- 37. Legally responsible
- 38. Move in a playful way
- 39. Regarded with deep affection
- 40. Partner to flowed
- 44. Native American tribe
- 47. Head honcho

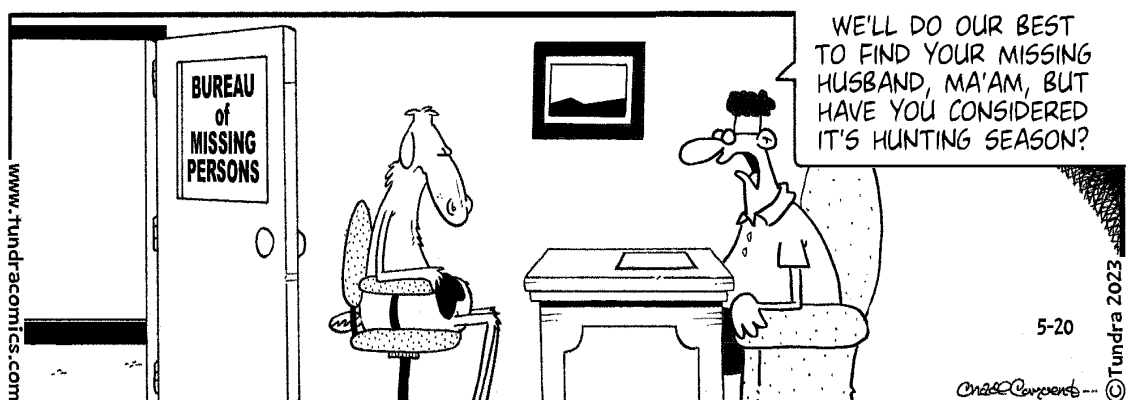
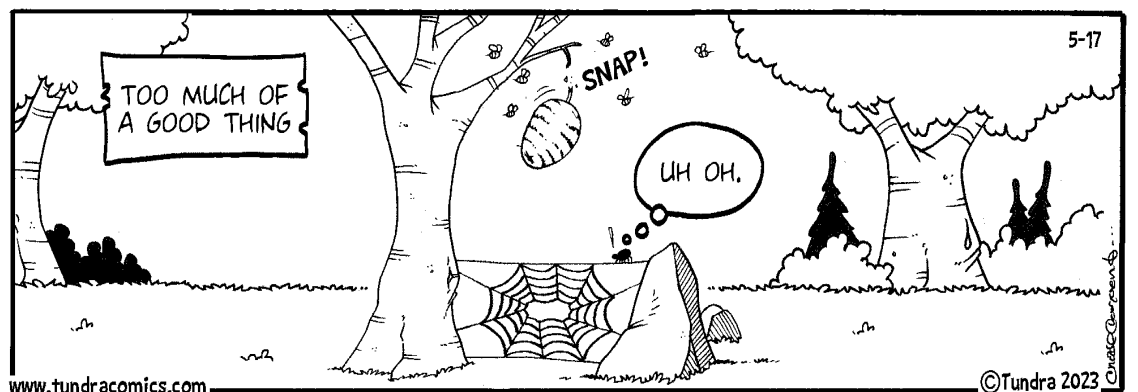
# Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



# Tundra

by Chad Carpenter





# Judge rules Ketchikan schools can display tribal values posters

By ANNA LAFFREY  
Ketchikan Daily News

A state judge has ruled that Southeast Traditional Tribal Values posters may hang throughout the Ketchikan School District, rejecting a lawsuit that sought to ban the posters.

The judge's ruling also allows the schools to continue using the tribal values in programs about expected behaviors.

Ketchikan Superior Court Judge Katherine H. Lybrand's order, which was announced on May 8, rejected a lawsuit that Justin Breese and Rebecca King filed last year against the Ketchikan School District and Ketchikan Charter School over posters titled "Southeast Traditional Tribal Values."

The posters feature an image of a totem pole, the phrase "Our Way of Life" and display a list of 14 traditional values such as "Be Strong in Mind, Body and Spirit," "Patience," "Humor" and "Speak with Care" that an elders forum on traditional values developed in 2004.

Breese and King argued that one of the 14 values, "Reverence for Our Creator," is religious and asked the court to order that the posters be removed from schools and bar the schools from using the values in a behavioral incentive program.

The plaintiffs sued on behalf of themselves and their children who attend Ketchikan schools.

King is a teacher for Ketchikan Charter School, where the values are posted widely and incorporated in a behavioral reward program that recognizes students who embody a chosen "value of the week" from the list of traditional values.

Breese and King represented themselves in court. The trial spanned about eight hours over two days the first week of May.

According to the judge's ruling, Breese and King raised

the case because they "believe the current use of the poster is teaching the values themselves and setting an expectation that students must follow all of the values in order to be a good student."

The plaintiffs argued that the district is violating the state and U.S. constitutions, which protect the right "not to believe in any religion" and "mandates government neutrality" between religion and non-religion.

Lybrand ruled in favor of the district, which argued that the value of "Reverence for Our Creator" is not religious but reflects Indigenous people's way of being, and is an important tool for cross-cultural understanding and place-based learning in schools.

The judge wrote: "Historically, Southeast Indigenous people's practices, language and way of life were suppressed, often violently, by the Western world. The development of the Southeast Traditional Tribal Values poster was an effort to record traditional tribal values and have the record of those

values available for younger generations as well as for the Western world."

The court considered evidence about the value of "Reverence for Our Creator" from individuals who work for the school district and from experts on Southeast Alaska Indigenous cultures.

Teresa Varnell, who belongs to the Haida Nation and is cultural coordinator for the school district, received permission to purchase the posters in 2021. She bought enough so that every classroom could have one if the teacher wanted, and for display in common areas like school lobbies.

According to Lybrand's decision, "Reverence for Our Creator" promotes "a belief that all beings should be respected and valued," and that tribal values are indeed "comprehensive and part of the fabric of Indigenous life." The judge further wrote, "There are no efforts to convert individuals into Indigenous culture or Tribal membership."

# Cardinell

Continued from page 9

the community and to establish her stance as an adult "instead of a child of Wrangell."

The executive director position can be demanding at time, yet Cardinell's connections in the cruise lines are appreciative of her hard work.

"All last summer (I worked with Cardinell). We made 14 port calls to Wrangell," said Becca Maxey, assistant expedition leader on the Ocean Victory. "I got to work with her through the winter to line up contracts to set up dates and contracts for this summer."

Maxey described Cardinell as a clear communicator who is accommodating to those she works with. "I was saddened to hear the news (that she's leaving), for sure. She's a notch above all the rest."

The new job will be a challenge for Galla, but it's one she's looking forward to.

"Mostly, I'm just making sure I'm filling the position to the capability that Caitlin did because I know that she can multitask like crazy, and I need to live up to the ability to fill her shoes."

For Cardinell, the thing she'll miss the most is the thing she's ready to have a break from.

"Chaos. I thrive in chaos," she said. "I'm a quick, efficient problem solver. The types of environments like this where there are a lot of factors that need to be managed at all times, it takes a certain type of brain to do this well."

But then again, she said, "I won't miss that. I do look forward to relaxing a little bit."

## CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

### Wrangell Light and Power Annual Diesel Run

Wrangell Municipal Light and Power will be starting our annual Diesel Run to support SEAPA's Tyee Lake Maintenance and Transmission Line work. The diesel run is scheduled to start Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 8 a.m., and is scheduled to end Friday, June 9, 2023, at 8 a.m.

We are asking the community to conserve electricity as much as possible during the annual diesel run.

The Fuel Surcharge that will be included on your bill for the July 2023 billing is for the additional cost to provide power to our customers when using diesel generation. This additional cost is for the power used during the time period of May 31, 2023, to June 9, 2023, at 8 a.m. The fuel surcharge will be reflected on July 2023 utility bill. The cost per KWH (power usage) for the surcharge was calculated to be 3.4 cents per KWH. In addition to the normal July bill, the surcharge (June KWH times 3.4 cents per KWH) will be added. Example: If a customer used 500 KWH in June, they would be billed an additional \$17.00 (500 X .034). The complete Fuel Surcharge calculation is posted at City Hall or can be requested.

Please contact Wrangell Light and Power 907-874-3602 if you have any questions.

Dominique O'Connor, Electric Dispatch Secretary  
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

**Publish May 10, 17 and 24, 2023**

## WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION TRANSPORTATION (WCAT) Notice of Job Openings

Wrangell Cooperative Association Transportation (WCAT) is seeking two road/trail maintenance laborers. Complete job descriptions and applications are available outside the Wrangell Cooperative Association office at 1002 Zimovia Highway. Positions are open until filled.

Contact Lizzy Romane at 907-874-3077 with any questions.

**Publish May 10 and 17, 2023.**

## CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC HEARING PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the City and Borough of Wrangell Code, Sec. 4, public notice is hereby given that the following ordinances listed by title only have 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.

During the Regular Assembly Meeting of Tuesday, May 23, 2023, starting at 6 p.m., there will be a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the following item(s):

- a. Approval to provide additional funding, not to exceed \$25,000 to the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce for 2023 4th of July activities.
- b. **RESOLUTION No. 05-23-1777** of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending the FY 2023 General Fund budget by appropriating an additional \$25,000 contribution to the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce.
- c. **ORDINANCE No. 1041** of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, authorizing the participation in the Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool, Inc. for use by cities and boroughs.
- d. **ORDINANCE No. 1042** of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, adding a new Chapter 3.55 Titled "Economic Development Board" to the Wrangell Municipal Code.

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

**Publish May 17, 2023**

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the matter of the estate of Robert Paul Farrell, Notice to Creditors is hereby given that Andrew Farrell has been appointed personal representative of the above named estate. Pursuant to Alaska Statute Title 13.16.450, all creditors are hereby notified to present their claims within four months after the date of first publication of this notice or said claims will forever be barred. Claims must be filed with the court (Case No. 1WR-23-00005PR) or be presented to:

Andrew Farrell  
8 Sylvan Lane  
Sandown, New Hampshire 03873

**Publish May 10, 17 and 24, 2023**

## CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Harbor Maintenance/Security

The Wrangell Harbor Department will accept applications for the position of Harbor Maintenance/Security through May 12, 2023, at 5 p.m. This is a permanent position with all City and Borough benefits and is part of the IBEW collective bargaining agreement.

This position has considerable responsibility for operations at Port and Harbor Facilities. The post comes with autonomy, but also the duty to coordinate and cooperate with those outside the Harbor Department.

This position provides daily maintenance of all Port and Harbor Facilities and maintains a preventative maintenance program for all Port and Harbor Facilities. The work is performed under the supervision of the Port & Harbor Director, but considerable leeway is granted for the exercise of independent judgment and initiative. The nature of the work requires that an employee maintain effective working relationships with other city departments and employees, State and Federal officials, business and community organizations and the public. Performs duties as part of the Department of Homeland Security Port Security Plan.

Requires knowledge of marine construction and maintenance operations. Requires basic carpenter skills. Requires boat handling skills. Requires basic computer skills. Requires the ability to weld steel and aluminum, or ability to learn those skills. Requires basic plumbing skills.

A High School Diploma or GED is required. Must have a valid Alaska driver's license, valid TWIC card, and basic First Aid/CPR certification or the ability to obtain all within 6 months.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger St. (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email to rmarshall@wrangell.com.

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Jeff Good, Borough Manager  
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

**Publish May 3, 10 and 17, 2023**

## CLASSIFIED

### FOR SALE

Two Stikine River properties on King Slough: 200-foot frontage, 6-plus acres, \$80,000; 8-acre backlot, lots of good access, \$60,000. Willing to finance. Call 907-518-0101.

### 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.

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# Legislation would allow subscription-style health care services

By JAMES BROOKS  
Alaska Beacon

Alaskans would be able to more easily get subscription-style health care from their doctor or dentist if a bill passed by the Alaska Senate last week moves through the House next year and becomes law.

Under a "direct health care agreement," also called "concierge care," a customer agrees to buy a subscription to a doctor's office. The doctor charges a monthly fee and in exchange the customer gets access to regular checkups or other services.

The Senate voted 18-2 to approve Senate Bill 45 from Wasilla Sen. David Wilson, sending the measure to the House for consideration. While there's no easy fix for high health care costs, Wilson said, SB 45 would offer an

alternative to health insurance.

SB 45 clarifies in state law that this type of arrangement isn't regulated like insurance, and Wilson said he believes it can be a cheaper alternative to traditional health insurance.

"It is truly amazing how much less expensive health care can become when that third-party is removed," he said, speaking about health insurance companies that act as intermediaries between a doctor and a patient.

The Alaska Dental Society testified in support of the bill, with the group saying that roughly half of dental patients don't have dental insurance. A direct agreement could offer a way to provide services without an up-front bill or the administrative costs of insurance, it said.

"It's a very interesting and new system," said An-

chorage Sen. Forrest Dunbar, one of the lawmakers who supported the bill.

Anchorage Sen. Cathy Giessel also voted in support of the bill but said Alaskans should be careful not to expect too much.

Giessel is an advanced practice registered nurse, and she questioned whether the bill will actually increase access to health care. An existing concierge care practice in Anchorage has extremely high costs, she noted.

"I do question whether this bill will increase any access to care," she said. "There is nothing in this that would guarantee it."

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

# Legislation could expand availability of home care for seniors and disabled

By JAMES BROOKS  
Alaska Beacon

Senior citizens and people with disabilities who need extra care would be able to get help at home under a bill passed by the Alaska Legislature and on its way to the governor for signature into law.

The state House voted 39-1 to approve Senate Bill 57 on May 8, followed by unanimous Senate concurrence on May 10 with the House changes.

The legislation would allow the state to license individual homes as the equivalent of assisted-living centers. A home would be permitted for up to two residents under normal circumstances, three with special permission.

Medicaid would pay for the services.

"One of the hallmarks of a society is the way that we care for those who may have a disability or who are in need of extra care," said Soldotna Rep. Justin Ruffridge, an advocate for the bill, which was introduced by Gov. Mike Dunleavy's administration.

Anchorage resident Laura Bonner testified in support of the bill, saying that she cares for an adoptive daughter who needs 24/7 care.

"She lives with me, but I'm

in my seventies and eventually she will have to move to an assisted-living or group home setting. SB 57 will give us more options for her future," she said in a letter.

"It would help many families to care for their loved ones who struggle with dementia, complex medical needs for minor children or a disabled adult who can't function on their own," she said. "Trained direct care workers are difficult to find due to a shortage of them."

Earlier in the process, senators also rolled Senate Bill 106 from Anchorage Sen. Cathy Giessel into the home-care measure.

Giessel's proposal makes permanent a COVID pandemic-era measure that allows Medicaid to pay for personal care assistants, even if those assistants are the recipient's spouse or parent.

Anchorage Rep. Genevieve Mina spoke in favor of that change, saying legislators had heard from people who put off marriage in order to stay eligible for Medicaid assistance. If they got married, they would no longer be eligible for financial help.

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

# New law will exempt low-power e-bikes from regulation

The Alaska Beacon

Low-power electric bicycles would be exempt from state regulation under a bill passed by the Alaska Legislature and on its way to the governor for signature into law.

The state Senate and House each approved the measure by wide margins, with only two no votes among the 60 legislators. Final legislative approval came May 11 for House Bill 8, sponsored by Fairbanks first-term Rep. Ashley Carrick.

If the governor signs the measure, the new law will clarify that bicycles with electric motors generating less than 750 watts of power are not classified as motor vehicles. That would allow them to be used on sidewalks and formally exempt them from registration as motorcycles.

Alaska is just one of four states that have no reference in its statutes to e-bikes. If signed into law, Alaska will become the 40th state to pass similar legislation.

The number of electric-assist bicycles sold in the United States has exploded in recent years, benefiting from the same technological developments that have boosted the growth of electric cars.

E-bikes feature a battery pack and small electric motor that provides additional momentum when the user pedals the bike.

In 2021, Americans bought 880,000 e-bikes, according to figures published by the Wall Street Journal last summer.

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

# Legislation eliminates 1-year wait for commercial driver's license

Alaska Beacon

Newly arrived residents and newly licensed drivers would have an easier way to get a commercial license under a bill passed by the Alaska Legislature.

In a 40-0 vote last Friday, the Alaska House approved Senate Bill 123, which would repeal the requirement that someone hold an Alaska driver's license for one year before getting a commercial driver's license.

CDL recipients still have to go through the normal application process, which includes a written test, road test and physical exam.

The bill passed the state Senate 20-0 on May 3 and now

goes to Gov. Mike Dunleavy's desk for approval.

Anchorage Rep. Julie Coulombe said only a handful of other states have a one-year waiting period before they issue a CDL, which makes Alaska uncompetitive.

"It's personal to me because we have a lot of Ukrainian refugees in Anchorage, and many of them have been truck drivers in Europe," she said. While she would like to see them stay in the state, some have already left Alaska because they can immediately begin driving elsewhere.

The bill does not change the minimum age for obtaining a CDL, which is 18 if used only within Alaska, or 21 for drivers traveling between states.

The bill is supported by the Alaska Teamsters, the Alaska Trucking Association and other groups.

Karl Kowalski, director of the Alaska Technical Center, a workforce training school in Kotzebue, testified that the bill will also benefit Alaskans who don't get a driver's license until after they turn 18.

In rural parts of the state, many young Alaskans wait to get a driver's license, and the one-year waiting period can put them at a disadvantage if they don't get a normal driver's license until they're older, then want to get a CDL.

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

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# Wrangell's Class of 2023



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARLENE WOODWARD

The Wrangell High School graduating class of 2023 are, from left: Elias Decker, Trinity Faulkner, Nikolai Bardin-Siekawitch, Paige Baggen, Carter Hammer, Cassidy Cowan, Kiara Harrison, Will Ashton, Ethan Blatchley, Steven Bales, Leroy Wynne, Killian Booker, Jacen Hay, Devlyn Campbell, Kyle Hommel, Rylee Chelette, Zeke Young, Brodie Gardner and Randy Churchill III.

## High school graduation marks new beginnings for senior class

BY MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

After 12 years of studying, paying attention, taking notes, playing sports and, in some cases, goofing off, Wrangell High School's senior class will receive their diplomas on Friday night.

The final two weeks of school for the graduates have been filled with finishing their senior projects, making sure other work is complete and taking time out for a sanctioned skip day up the Stikine River.

Nineteen students will walk to the pomp and circumstance at 7 p.m. Friday at the high school gym, make speeches and accept their diplomas, to come away as newly minted adults. Though there are technically 20 graduates in this year's class, Nick Allen graduated in December and has already entered the workforce in Sitka.

Each senior has tickets for 10 friends or family for seats on the gym floor, with overflow space in the bleachers. The ceremony can also be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/@WPSDusStreaming>.

The seniors graduating this week are Carter Hammer, Ethan Blatchley, Trinity Faulkner, Cassidy Cowan, Leroy Wynne, Brodie Gardner, Nikolai Bardin-Siekawitch, Killian Booker, Steven Bales, Devlyn Campbell, Jacen Hay, Will Ashton, Kiara Harrison, Zeke Young, Kyle Hommel, Randy Churchill III, Paige Baggen, Elias Decker and Rylee Chelette.

Out of the 19 graduates, 17 took time from their already filled days to answer questions about what lies ahead for each. Here are their responses.

### Carter Hammer, 19

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?

"Making fun memories and sports."

What's your advice for next year's seniors?

"Work hard, stay on task, focus on schoolwork, don't be afraid to try new things and



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH BLATCHLEY

They were feeling too cool for school, so they skipped it. The seniors prepare to take a jet boat up the Stikine River as part of a sanctioned skip day last Wednesday, while donning 2023 sunglasses.

don't give up."

What would you most like to change about the world?

"Everyone could have a 4-wheeler and snowmachine and gas money."

Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?

"Stay in Wrangell but going on a trip to Tennessee."

What are your reasons for staying or going?

"Family."

### Ethan Blatchley, 18

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?

"I like how you can have a connection with the teachers and mess around with some of them."

What's your advice for next year's seniors?

"Do your senior project earlier in the year."

What would you most like to change about the world?

"I would like to change

how much input people give on stuff that doesn't involve them. Just keep having fun and stop caring so much for what others think. (Not saying to be utterly disrespectful.)"

Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?

"Move away for a while, but I can see myself moving back eventually."

What are your reasons for staying or going?

"I want to see the states, and the world. I don't really feel like looking at the same islands unless there is a beautiful sunset."

If you move away, where do you plan on moving?

"I have no plan on where I will be moving to but I'm sure that one day down the road I'll find a spot."

### Trinity Faulkner, 18

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?

"Meeting people (since I was new to town)."

What's your advice for next year's seniors?

"Don't skip so much. I promise you, it'll just make your mental health worse and you'll have no motivation to continue doing work. Get ahead on assignments and just get them done. Plan ahead for your future self so your future self will be happy."

What would you most like to change about the world?

"The government in the USA."

Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?

"Want to stay but taking a gap year after high school so I don't know. I have received an offer to work at a ski resort though in the fall and winter, so I may do that for my gap year."

What are your reasons for staying or going?

"Just don't have enough

money to get into any schools right now, along with no financial support from family. Plus, I have nowhere to go anymore, honestly."

If you move away, where do you plan on moving?

"I have the option to move to Washington after my gap year or to New York City as well. I'm thinking I'll do one of the two."

### Cassidy Cowan, 17

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?

"Seeing my friends."

What's your advice for next year's seniors?

"Don't worry if you don't know what your plans are after high school, you have your whole life to figure it out."

What would you most like to change about the world?

"Climate change."

Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?

"Stay in Wrangell for a little, then travel!"

What are your reasons for staying or going?

"Staying in Wrangell for work!"

If you move away, where do you plan on moving?

"I plan on saving money and traveling the world."

### Leroy Wynne, 18

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?

"Playing basketball with my best friends."

What's your advice for next year's seniors?

"Enjoy it, and don't procrastinate, it goes by fast."

What would you most like to change about the world?

"I would lower international tensions."

Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?

"Move away."

What are your reasons for staying or going?

"More opportunities for me."

If you move away, where do you plan on moving?

"Arizona or Washington."

Continued on page 14



# Class of 2023

Continued from page 13

**Brodie Gardner, 18**

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?  
 "I know everyone in the school and don't pass strangers in the hallway."  
 What's your advice for next year's seniors?  
 "Get everything in on time! Even if you get a few wrong, it's still better than the 70% late penalty."  
 What would you most like to change about the world?  
 "I want world peace."  
 Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?  
 "I plan to go to college in Washington and hopefully return to Wrangell when I am done with school."

What are your reasons for staying or going?  
 "Wrangell doesn't have a college, and everyone always says, 'Wrangell isn't going anywhere, go out and experience a new place.'"  
 If you move away, where do you plan on moving?  
 "Pullman, Washington, for now."

**Nikolai Bardin-Siekawitch, 18**

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?  
 "The amount of opportunities available to the students here compared to the size and funding of our school is impressive."

What's your advice for next year's seniors?  
 "Do not, whatever you do, procrastinate. You have college applications, scholarships and classes, as well as adult responsibilities you will need to juggle and you cannot afford to put things off for later. You will miss out on enjoying the final days of your senior year and be stuck at home catching up on weeks of missed work."

What would you most like to change about the world?  
 "I would like the world to

shift its focus more on educating people about mental health."

Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?  
 "I plan to move away, but come back here for quiet time away from the city."

What are your reasons for staying or going?  
 "There will be more opportunities for me to find like-minded people, and to see the world that you just can't find here on our home rock."  
 If you move away, where do you plan on moving?  
 "Since I'm going to college in Boston, I plan on staying there for the foreseeable future unless my career takes me elsewhere."

**Killian Booker, 18**

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?  
 "Leaving."  
 What's your advice for next year's seniors?  
 "If you don't have to do a class, don't pick it."

What would you most like to change about the world?  
 "Inflation."

Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?  
 "Move away."  
 What are your reasons for staying or going?  
 "I want to travel."  
 If you move away, where do you plan on moving?  
 "Somewhere nice."

**Steven Bales, 18**

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?  
 "The math class."  
 What's your advice for next year's seniors?  
 "Finish early but stay for the fun."

What would you most like to change about the world?  
 "I don't know."  
 Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?  
 "I plan to live here and travel."  
 What are your reasons for

staying or going?  
 "Just to live my life to the fullest."  
 If you move away, where do you plan on moving?  
 "Back to Alaska."

**Devlyn Campbell, 17**

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?  
 "Dominating in Wrangell High School sports."  
 What's your advice for next year's seniors?  
 "Do everything ahead of time."

What would you most like to change about the world?  
 "End world hunger."  
 Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?  
 "Move away and hopefully come back for a little bit in the future."  
 What are your reasons for staying or going?  
 "Going to college and entering the medical field and possibly coming back to work for SEARHC."

If you move away, where do you plan on moving?  
 "Spokane, Washington."

**Jacen Hay, 18**

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?  
 "Sports."  
 What's your advice for next year's seniors?  
 "Stay determined and try your best not to fall behind even though it can be hard."

What would you most like to change about the world?  
 "I wish everybody could get along."  
 Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?  
 "Stay in Wrangell after a few years out of town."  
 What are your reasons for staying or going?  
 "My field of work I want to go into needs people in Wrangell."

If you move away, where do you plan on moving?  
 "Sitka."

**Will Ashton, 18**

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?  
 "The teachers and the quality of the classrooms."  
 What's your advice for next year's seniors?  
 "Have a plan and make yourself stand out from other students for university and scholarship opportunities."  
 What would you most like to change about the world?  
 "I'd like for there to be no more discord and more unity amongst governments."

Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?  
 "I plan on moving away."  
 What are your reasons for staying or going?  
 "More opportunities for education, careers and friendships."  
 If you move away, where do you plan on moving?  
 "Somewhere in the Lower 48 or in a larger city in Alaska."

**Kiara Harrison, 18**

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?  
 "The close-knit community and supportive teachers."  
 What's your advice for next year's seniors?  
 "My advice would be to enjoy one last year of high school experiences and make fun plans for the future."

What would you most like to change about the world?  
 "I would most like to change the world to view kindness and empathy as the standard."  
 Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?  
 "I plan to move away for a time to attend college."  
 What are your reasons for staying or going?  
 "I am going in order to pursue my education and goals of becoming a physician."  
 If you move away, where do you plan on moving?  
 "I plan on moving to Utah to attend Brigham Young

University."

**Zeke Young, 18**

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?  
 "The small size and community."  
 What's your advice for next year's seniors?  
 "I would advise that you don't procrastinate."  
 What would you most like to change about the world?  
 "Hunger."  
 Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?  
 "I'm planning to stay, but travel quite a bit."  
 What are your reasons for staying or going?  
 "I like the town."

**Kyle Hommel, 18**

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?  
 "Knowing all of your classmates well."  
 What's your advice for next year's seniors?  
 "Don't skip class."  
 What would you most like to change about the world?  
 "I wish there was less drama."

Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?  
 "Move back here eventually."  
 What are your reasons for staying or going?  
 "I like the people."

**Randy Churchill III, 18**



What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?  
 "The wrestling programs. I got started in the peewee program with Jeff Rooney at the early age of 4. I was hooked!"  
 What's your advice for next year's seniors?  
 "Be good, or be good at it!"  
 What would you most like to change about the world?  
 "The ability to relate and communicate with one another. I feel most major conflicts are caused by misunderstandings and being too easily offended."

Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?  
 "Move away. I plan on coming back though. I want to be able to give back to the community I grew up in."  
 What are your reasons for staying or going?  
 "I'm going to further my education and improve my skills so I will have more opportunities to earn more money and follow my dreams. Mostly to follow my dreams!"  
 If you move away, where do you plan on moving?  
 "I will be attending AVTEC in Seward in the fall."

**Rylee Chelette, 17**

What's your favorite thing about going to school in Wrangell?  
 "The teachers are more student orientated."  
 What's your advice for next year's seniors?  
 "Do everything ahead of time, procrastinating isn't worth it."  
 What would you most like to change about the world?  
 "Better care for animals."  
 Do you plan to stay in Wrangell or move away?  
 "Move away."  
 What are your reasons for staying or going?  
 "College, and I want to travel before coming back."  
 If you move away, where do you plan on moving?  
 "Washington."

**Congratulations**  
**Leroy!**  
 We love you!  
 Always remember  
 "Believe in your flyness,  
 conquer your shyness."  
 Love Mom and Tom


*True friends are always together in spirit.*



**Congratulations boys!**  
 From Seanne and Tom





**Congratulations**  
**on your graduation,**  
**Carter!**  
 Love:  
 Mom, Dad,  
 Nicole, Makena  
 & Jacob

**Jacen,**  
 Congratulations for all of your WHS accomplishments, including a successful senior year!  
 Honor Society, Principal's Honor Roll, Sitka Coastal Holiday Tournament MVP, Region V All-Conference Team, 1A/2A State Tournament 3-Point Champion & All-Tournament Team, AABC All-Star team, AND you built a jet boat ...  
 You make us proud, and we are excited for your next steps in life!

Love,  
 Your Family



# Wrangell grad named to state high school hall of fame

By LARRY PERSILY  
Sentinel writer

Stacey Wayne, Wrangell High School class of 1982, said it was an honor and a blessing to work as drama and debate coach with Sitka students for a quarter-century. The Alaska School Activities Association added to the honor this month when it inducted Wayne into the Alaska High School Hall of Fame.

"Wayne started coaching and teaching drama at Sitka High in 1987 and took two students to the state championship event in that inaugural year," the May 7 awards ceremony program said.

"The next year she was able to add debate, resulting in the school's first drama, debate and forensics team. With the help of talented assistants, Wayne developed a powerful program that led to more than 40 individual and team state titles in her 25-year coaching career."

Wrangell schools did not have a drama and debate team when Wayne was a student, and she had never served as a drama or debate coach before she accepted a job with Sitka schools. She learned that the teacher she was replacing had done the work — so it seemed natural to take on the coaching assignment, she said.

"It turned out to be such a blessing," Wayne said in an interview May 9. "Kids excel at levels you don't see in the



PHOTO COURTESY SAM WOOLSEY

Stacey Wayne, Wrangell class of 1982, was inducted into the Alaska High School Hall of Fame this month for her 25 years of coaching the award-winning drama, debate and forensics team at Sitka High School..

classroom."

"Wayne calls her proudest accomplishment knowing all the students she

coached and mentored who have continued to share their drama, debate and forensics talent passion through coaching

themselves," the awards event program said. "Her coaching tree has branched out all over the state — to Anchorage, Metlakatla, Mount Edgecumbe, Skagway and elsewhere."

One branch of that tree is particularly close. Her son, Sam Woolsey, is the coach at Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School.

Wayne retired from Sitka schools in 2010, having taught English, history and theater, in addition to drama and debate. She was named Alaska DDF coach of the year in 2010.

She retired as coach in 2012.

Wayne still lives in Sitka and works as a mediator for the Alaska Court System.

A contingent of former Wrangell residents attended the awards ceremony in Anchorage, including Wayne's classmate of 1982, Mercedes Angerman; Carol (Stewart) Beecher, class of 1980; Myron Myers, a longtime teacher and coach (girls basketball and volleyball); and Audrey Myers.

Wayne is the fourth former Wrangell resident named to the Alaska High School Hall of Fame. She joins basketball star Archie Young, class of 1991, inducted in 2014; former principal and schools superintendent Dick McCormick, inducted in 2009 (he died in 2018); and former elementary and high school principal in the 1980s and 1990s Dave Dirksen, inducted in 2016.

# Wrangell High and Montana State grad earns Fulbright to teach in Germany

Montana State University  
News Service

Wrangell High School graduate Kayla Hay was always interested in learning German. Her great-grandparents emigrated from Austria to Alaska in the 1920s, she said, and she was intrigued by different cultures and wanted to be able to communicate with her relatives who remained in Austria.

Hay didn't have the opportunity to take German as a student in Wrangell (class of 2018), but when she enrolled at Montana State University in Bozeman that fall, she signed up for a basic German language class her freshman year.

"I fell in love with it," she said. "There is such a nice little German community at MSU. I ended up sticking with it."

Hay, who is the first person in her family to go to college and who aspires to be a teacher, graduated from Montana State last Friday with dual degrees in secondary education and German. What's more, Hay received a Fulbright English teaching assistantship to Germany, which she believes will bolster her career goals.

"I was awestruck when I found out (about the Fulbright)," she said. "I think the experience itself is going to be extremely valuable. And it feels like a culmination of all the time and effort I've put into school and extracurriculars over the years. It's sort of proof that everything has paid off."

In September, Hay will head to Germany for orientation for the Fulbright and remain there through the end of June 2024. She hopes for a teaching job in the states next fall, maybe even Alaska.

She doesn't know yet in which German school or town she will be placed, but she does know that she will be in the state of Bavaria and will work with a school's head English teacher to teach students English and about American culture and customs. She also hopes to do additional projects within the school, such as starting an English club.



PHOTO COURTESY MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

Kayla Hay, Wrangell class of 2018, graduated from Montana State University last Friday and will head to Germany next month on a Fulbright teaching assistantship.

"I'm really excited to immerse myself in a new culture and new language," Hay said. "I really want to teach German in the U.S. eventually, and having time immersed in the country will make me a much more qualified German educator than if I hadn't had that time over there."

The best part of winning a Fulbright and what she looks forward to the most? "It's so hard to answer."

Hay said she has wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember, noting that as a kid, she often talked her younger brother into playing school during their summer breaks.

"I love learning and I love working with kids," she said. "I just thought it would be fun to teach others and a cool career path for me."

She completed her student teaching this semester in a seventh-grade life science classroom in Gig Harbor, Washington. While she had previously thought she wanted to be a high school teacher, the experience made her think she might like to teach middle school students instead.

"I love these middle kids so much," she said. "They're very funny, quirky kids. They're kind of in-between feeling too cool for school — like a lot of the older kids — but also engaged in academics and a little more mature. You can have conversations, joke around with them, have fun."

In addition to her classes, Hay worked while she was a student, including at a bakery on campus. During the COVID-19 pandemic, while taking classes online, she worked at a hospital, doing COVID-19 testing and screening.

Hay noted that she had always hoped to study abroad as a college student, but because of the pandemic it wasn't an option. Still, she traveled to Austria last summer to spend time with family and strengthen her language skills — and spent a weekend in Berlin, her

only time in Germany — and she looks forward to building on those experiences during her Fulbright experience.

"It's a little daunting and scary to be tossed into a new country so far away from home for that long, but I'm excited about it overall."



# Wyoming visit, competition welds senior's decision to pursue trade school

By MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

One thing Ethan Blatchley did not want to do for another four years was sit at a desk to earn a degree.

A recent trip to Western Welding Academy in Gillette, Wyoming, reaffirmed the graduating high school senior's choice to pursue a welding certificate, finishing up in six months.

Since he started learning how to weld in shop class last year, Blatchley has been following the academy's social media posts. He shared them with shop teacher Winston Davies, who was inspired to pursue his own certificate.

"(The academy has) a huge social media presence. They're really good about marketing themselves," Davies said. "They're trying to capitalize on the need for skilled workers. They know the moment is right for this."

As Davies researched the school, he realized they were holding a one-day teachers workshop, which would allow him to immerse himself in welding and earn a certificate. A student competition was being held the next day, so he encouraged Blatchley to join him on a trip and compete.

Every student who competed automatically earned \$1,000 toward their \$25,000 tuition, Davies said. First place won \$25,000 — or a free ride — toward their tuition, second place won \$15,000 and third place won \$10,000. Though Blatchley wasn't in the top three, he did learn quite a bit and it motivated him to learn more when he begins school in September.

Four rounds of welding competition were held in 86 booths. There were around 600 competitors in high school and open divisions. Blatchley said his competition involved two different types of welds, one of which was a more complicated vertical weld.

He was also able to meet the people who will be his instructors, giving him an idea of what classes will be like.

"I like them. They're easy to talk to," he said. "None of them were awkward or weird. They're all super nice."

For students that are more inclined to attend trade school, Davies said the decision makes sense for those who want to put in the work. Starting welders can make \$80,000-plus per year.

"Somebody that wants to work a 40-hour work week probably (won't make that much)," he said. "But these kids, a lot of them are fishermen. They have the mindset. They work when they need to, as many hours as

they need."

Three of Davies senior students are going to trade schools after they graduate this Friday. Blatchley, Jacen Hay and Kyle Hommel.

Both Davies and Blatchley had new experiences on the Wyoming trip. For Blatchley, it was seeing things like antelope, coyotes and roadkill, along with wood pallets being used as highway-side snow barriers.

For Davies, it was experiencing a different education culture.

"It was a completely different culture than what I'm used to. I'm not a welder. I was a math and science teacher for years," he said. "I can weld, but it's a different thing, there's a style and culture that surrounds it."

A shop teacher from Texas brought two of his students who won second and third place in the competition, Davies said. After seeing that and seeing how much more he can learn and provide his students, he decided he wants to bring a shop class group next year to compete.

Blatchley supported the idea.

"I think it's an amazing idea," he said. "They get to see a different part of the country. It's super-flat down there. See what it's like to be in the trade. I think it's really cool."

## Legislation to require high school civics course is held over to next year

By CLARISE LARSON  
Juneau Empire

Alaska high school students would be required to complete a civics education course or receive a passing score on a civics assessment exam to graduate if the state House next year accepts legislation approved by the Senate.

Senators unanimously approved the bill on May 5, and the House could take up the measure next year.

The legislation comes as recent national data shows the first-ever decline in U.S. eighth grade students' history and civics test scores, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, which released the data May 3.

According to the data, nearly one-third of eighth grade students cannot describe the structure or function of government, and students are increasingly struggling to understand how government works and the im-

portance of civic participation.

Senate Bill 29, sponsored by Senate President Gary Stevens, a Kodiak Republican, directs the state Board of Education to create and develop a new civics education curriculum and exam.

The exam would be based on the civics portion of the U.S. naturalization test, and also include systems used by Alaska Native tribal governments. Students would be allowed to retake the exam as many times as needed to achieve a passing score of 70% or better.

The specifics of the curriculum have not yet been determined.

The legislation is separate from a different Senate proposal that would require high schools to teach financial literacy and for students to pass the classes to earn a diploma. That bill will wait until next year, too, as it still needs to pass both the Senate and House to become law.

## Federal agencies want to help develop recreation economies

By ADAM GOLDSTEIN  
States Newsroom/  
Alaska Beacon

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is planning to develop outdoor recreation opportunities near national forests and grasslands, part of a broader Biden administration push to help communities reap economic rewards from the growing recreation sector.

Three USDA agencies — the Forest Service, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Office of Rural Development — signed a memorandum of understanding last fall pledging to collaborate on plans to develop outdoor recreation economies in "gateway communities" near national forests and grasslands.

The agency selected its final team to begin developing the first annual plan in mid-January, a Rural Development spokesperson said.

"We know that when we invest in rural and tribal communities and people, we create an economic ripple effect that benefits everyone," the spokesperson said in a written statement.

Many rural communities near national forests and grasslands have experienced significant economic down-

turns in recent years. The multi-agency effort is meant to help those communities harness the economic power of outdoor recreation.

"We want to be intentional about making sure that they are getting economic, social and physical benefits," Toby Bloom, the national program manager for travel, tourism, and interpretation with the Forest Service, said.

Some communities may have been reliant on a large employer that closed, forcing people to find work elsewhere and leading to a shrinking workforce that discourages further investment, Bloom said.

"If we can address that vicious cycle by creating opportunities, creating jobs, there's a huge amount of jobs that are generated by recreation every year," she added.

Bloom highlighted a mountain biking trail network near Ironton, Ohio, as an example of a community reorienting its economy around outdoor recreation tourism.

The USDA program is an acknowledgement from the government about the clear economic benefits of the outdoor recreation sector for rural areas, Chris Perkins, the senior director at the industry and nonprofit coalition group

Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, said.

"What this partnership will do is just make the process of economic development around outdoor recreation a possibility for more communities," Perkins said. "That will help demystify the process. And it will help them access funding and take on challenges before they arise."

Funding for the initiative will come from existing USDA grant, loan and service programs, though specific figures have not been set, the Rural Development spokesperson said.

The spokesperson added that the agencies will prioritize projects that advance Biden administration goals to address climate change, environmental justice, racial equity and improved market opportunities.

"This is really an attempt to help those communities that are near public lands and water capitalize on the financial opportunities that exist," the program manager said.

COVID-19 highlighted the importance of outdoor recreation, Bloom said. The pandemic's early months saw an explosion in outdoor recreation. And while some rural communities handled the influx of tourists effectively, others were left scrambling to accommodate the jump in visitor numbers, she said.

"It's kind of like America rediscovered its outdoors," Bloom said. "And so as federal agencies, we need to help both the visitors have their best peak experience and also help those communities that are receiving visitors be able to manage that visitation and also benefit from it."

President Barack Obama launched the Federal Inter-agency Council on Outdoor Recreation in 2011. The council, comprised of representatives from USDA, and the departments of Interior, Commerce and Defense, conducted the country's first wide-scale economic analysis of the recreation economy.

Obama's successor, Donald Trump, disbanded the council when he took office in 2017.


The Biden administration re-established the council last summer, laying the groundwork for the renewed partnership, Bloom said.

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# Metlakatla leading Alaska's efforts against invasive green crabs

By ANNA LAFFREY  
Ketchikan Daily News

Forty people spread across the estuarine beach of northwest Tamgas Harbor to study the invasive European green crab that's been moving into the large bight on the southern shore of Annette Island since at least July 2022.

For two days the last week of April, a cohort of scientists, resource managers and community members who want to quash the spread of the insidious green crab gathered in Ketchikan and visited Annette Island Reserve to share information about the crab's recent invasion in southern Southeast Alaska waters.

A team of organizers and facilitators from federal and state agencies as well as municipal, state, federal and tribal governments spent about five months putting together the workshop so that folks from across the region could learn about the crab's characteristics and work toward a coordinated regional response.

The invasive green crab is a destructive predator that can change and degrade habitat and threaten native species. The crab adapts well in almost any habitat, and has boomed on the coast of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia in recent years, tearing up essential fish habitat such as eelgrass and devouring clam beds while moving ever farther north. The crabs spread from their native Europe to North America in the 1800s by riding in the ballast water of cargo ships.

Metlakatla Indian Community established an early detection crab trapping system around Tamgas Harbor in 2020, with support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. When a team of Metlakatla scientists hosted NOAA personnel for a visit to Tamgas Harbor in July 2022, a visiting Sealaska Heritage Institute student intern named Natalie Bennett found the first-ever evidence of green crabs in Alaska waters.

Bennett spotted the top shell, or carapace, of an invasive crab that had been blown into grasses near a newly placed informational sign that warns: "Look Out! For invasive green crab." One week after Bennett found that first carapace, the team found their first live green crab in a baited pot set inside of a traditional Tlingit salmon trap on a beach in Tamgas Harbor.

The Metlakatla Indian Community team has embodied strategies that workshop leaders shared with participants last month. Organizers demonstrated early detection methods such as identifying and recording crab species in beach surveys of carapaces and dead carcasses, and rapid-response techniques such as systematic trapping for live crabs.

Participants learned to identify the crab by counting five spines on either side of its eyes and three rounded lobes between its eyes. "Green" crabs can be green, dark brown, yellow, white, red or mottled.

When the workshop group arrived at Tamgas Harbor, smaller groups broke off to learn about



PHOTO BY ANNA LAFFREY/KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS

An invasive green crab trapped on April 24 at Tamgas Harbor on Annette Island. The crabs can be mottled green, brown, yellow, white and red and grow to be about four inches wide.

surveying and trapping protocols through different beach activities.

A small group of workshop participants found two male and one female green crab while checking the first three square shrimp pots out of dozens planted in prime habitat across the long tidal beach. The pots that brought in green crabs were set in a deep eelgrass bed in a tidepool for three days and nights, and were baited with herring.

Taylor Stumpf and the Metlakatla Indian Community Department of Fish and Wildlife crew have been on the front lines fighting the crab's invasion. Stumpf said the crew had not caught any of the invasive crab for over a month leading up to the workshop. The workshop group visiting Tamgas on April 24 recovered the first live crabs found on Annette Island since March 13, according to Stumpf.

"Once you see the green crab, especially in a pot with Dungeness crab, you realize that they stick out like a sore thumb,"

Stumpf said. "They behave differently, they look so different."

"He explained, "We thought it would be especially valuable to have people come here to Annette Island, the only place in the state where these crabs have been found so far, so that people could actually see the environment and see the crabs themselves."

For an effective regional response, Stumpf said that community members need to have a good handle on how to detect and trap these crabs.

"A lot of the surrounding communities here, especially on southern Prince of Wales Island, don't have their own Fish and Wildlife department and will likely rely on citizen science for monitoring and reporting of invasive species," Stumpf said.

People from nearby Prince of Wales who work for municipal and tribal governments such as the city of Hydaburg, Hydaburg Cooperative Association, the Organized Village of Kasaan and Craig Tribal Association joined in the workshop to study

species that could soon threaten their shores.

People who work for the Organized Village of Kake, Petersburg Indian Association, Ketchikan Indian Community and Central Council of Tlingit & Haida joined the workshop. Others who attended work for organizations such as Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research, the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Coast Guard and University of Alaska Southeast Ketchikan campus and College of Fisheries and Ocean Science in Juneau.

Some came because they lead tour companies.

Many workshop attendees share an interest in food sovereignty and expertise in resource protection. The green crabs could threaten important traditional and subsistence foods as they damage nursery habitat for fish and compete with or consume other shellfish.

"We wanted to really lay the foundation," Stumpf said. "What is this crab, what does it do, how do you identify it, where could you find it?"

Organizers explained the state's permitting process for crab trapping and offered one-on-one support to file permit applications for people who want to monitor for green crabs with their trapping systems.

Workshop leaders demonstrated that communities don't need to invest in expensive equipment in order to detect the presence of green crab on their shorelines.

"The big message I wanted the small communities to take away was that carapace and molt surveys are a great and powerful way to begin," Stumpf said.

While on the Tamgas beach, participants practiced these carapace and molt surveys with Linda Shaw, a workshop organizer who works for NOAA as a habitat conservation biologist.

She said she has become "obsessed" with invasive species such as green crabs.

Emily Grason of Washington Sea Grant helped people identify favorable green crab habitat in Tamgas Harbor, such as log jams and protected tidepools. Grason shared stories from years trapping droves of the invasive crab off the Washington coast.

Genelle Winter, the Metlakatla Indian Community grant coordinator and invasive species program director, said the community is leveraging its unique position and funding sources to lead the way with Alaska's green crab response.

"This is going to be a long-haul project and so we are going to have to make sure that everybody engaged in monitoring really cares," Winter told the group during presentations in Ketchikan. "We have to know that all of the data that we are collecting is absolutely essential and valuable to helping us to preserve the natural resources that we've got."

As the workshop closed, Metlakatla Indian Community Mayor Albert Smith addressed the workshop group.

"Our subsistence use, our commercial fisheries, it's all in jeopardy," Smith told the group.

He underscored how the species has exploded in Washington waters. According to NOAA information, more than 102,000 crabs were caught in the Puget Sound and along Washington's coast in 2021, a 5,500% increase from the 1,800 crabs found two years earlier in 2019. Off British Columbia, over 300,000 green crabs have been caught since November 2021 on West Vancouver Island alone.

"Turning a blind eye or acting like it doesn't exist will be a bigger problem, and it will cost more money down the stretch," Smith said.



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# Alaska's chief medical officer points to unmet health care needs

By GARLAND KENNEDY  
Sitka Sentinel

Alaska's top health official discussed the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lessons learned and the need for Alaska to be ready for future public health emergencies.

Dr. Anne Zink, chief medical officer for the Alaska Department of Health, was the speaker at the Beyond COVID: Pandemic Preparedness in the Circumpolar North conference on April 27 at the Shee'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi community house in Sitka.

Zink, an emergency health physician in Palmer, became the state's chief medical officer in July 2019, just in time for the onset of the pandemic six months later.

"I've often been saying how we respond out of this pandemic is going to be as important as how we responded during this pandemic," Zink told the conference, sponsored by the Sitka Sound Science Center.

"The lessons that we take from this and how we move forward are going to be fundamental to our health care system, to our public health system."

Even before COVID, many in Alaska had unmet needs for health care.

"Could they afford the care where they're going to go bankrupt because they couldn't pay for their heart attack? ... What's their mental and physical health? What's their economic stability? I can't tell you how many times I had different academic people (say), 'I don't understand why this person went to work sick,' and I'm like, 'Because they can't feed their family if they don't go to work.' That is all a part of it," she said.

More than 80% of American health care funding goes toward acute and specialty care, she said, while just 3% is de-



SITKA SENTINEL PHOTO

Dr. Anne Zink, Alaska's chief medical officer, told a gathering in Sitka that the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic "are going to be fundamental to our health care system, to our public health system."

voted to prevention.

"That's just how our system is set up," she said. "In this country, we spend more per capita on health care than any other industrialized nation, and our life expectancy is lower than every other industrialized country and rapidly plummeting. So how do we shift that narrative? ... Because it's not just a health question. It's an economic question. ... Healthy economies are built with healthy people."

Early in the pandemic, she said, Alaska was effectively cut off from national virus testing.

"We can talk about equity in this very generalized term. But if we as a state are

completely cut out of all of the national testing, that's not equitable, and we need to find ways to make sure that states have access to being able to test and looking at per capita numbers," Zink said.

She recalled pushing back against an effort to shutter the port of Seattle — through which most of the state's food passes — early in the pandemic.

Despite her title as chief medical officer, Zink said, her office carries little power beyond influence and suggestion.

"Most other states have local health departments that do a lot ... and have actual health authority on health measures," Zink said. "Alaska doesn't have

that. We're very centralized in our public health, yet we have very little authority ... I sometimes joke I have the authority to Zoom and that's it — and I use that authority widely."

Alaska is "very much a home rule state. And so it's the city council, it's the community, it's the mayors and it's the tribes who have the authority. Same with schools," she said.

She was grateful for collaboration from Alaska's 229 federally recognized tribes during the pandemic. Impacts from the 1918 flu epidemic that killed millions worldwide are still evident in much of Alaska, Zink said. "Every epidemic and pandemic has disproportionately affected particularly Alaska Native people."

Zink told the crowd she prefers to address statewide health issues as they exist now.

"I'm less worried about the next pandemic; I'm more worried about my next shift. What are we doing in our health care? What are we doing in health today that makes us healthy and well today, and how do we remember the cultural and historical trauma and resilience of what's happened moving forward?"

She called attention to the Department of Health's "Fresh Start" campaign, which aims to decrease the prevalence of preventable illness.

"It is a kind of a diabetes prevention, weight loss, blood pressure activity, chewing tobacco, smoking and diabetes and sugar management (program)," she said. "This essentially allows any Alaskan to connect to all of these existing free programs that were actually in existence before it. We just packaged them up and tried to make it easier to access."

More information is available at [freshstart.alaska.gov](http://freshstart.alaska.gov).

## Alaska-Canada officials willing to talk about salmon hatcheries on Yukon River

By NATHANIEL HERZ  
Northern Journal

The salmon crisis in Western Alaska is prompting new discussions in the U.S. and Canada about an idea that would have been a non-starter a decade ago: Maybe it's time to build hatcheries to stem the steep fish declines on the Yukon River.

Indigenous culture along the Yukon, in both the U.S. and Canada, is centered on wild salmon runs. Historically, those runs supported both commercial fisheries that rural residents depended on for cash income, and subsistence fisheries that kept freezers and dinner plates full through the winter in a roadless region where groceries can be unaffordable.

But crashes in both Yukon Chinook and chum salmon stocks have led U.S. and Canadian managers to completely shut down those fisheries in recent years — precipitating new talks about whether hatcheries could help reverse that trend.

Hatcheries incubate fish eggs and release them into the wild

as juveniles, though the ones already in Alaska are designed to enhance or supplement natural populations — not to restore depleted stocks. There's already one small hatchery on the Yukon, in the Canadian territorial capital of Whitehorse, that's designed to compensate for migrating juvenile salmon that are killed when they pass through the turbines of a local hydroelectric project.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy's administration has put money for a restoration hatchery and related studies on a preliminary wish list of federal funding to U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski. And at a meeting of U.S. and Canadian officials in Whitehorse in April, a representative of a First Nations group said that members have expressed surprising openness to the idea.

"There were real concerns that if we have a hatchery, our salmon would no longer be wild," said Elizabeth MacDonald, manager of fisheries at the Yukon First Nations Salmon Stewardship Alliance. "There was also this kind of confession

that maybe hatchery salmon are better than no salmon."

Officials involved in hatchery discussions include Alaska Fish and Game Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, who described the hatchery conversation as in its early stages and acknowledged that the subject is polarizing.

Critics argue that putting more juvenile salmon in the Yukon won't solve the larger problems they cite as driving the salmon population crashes, like bycatch by ocean trawlers and warming waters in the Bering Sea.

There's also deep anxiety about tinkering with the natural river system, which some hope could ultimately repair itself.

But the dire state of Yukon River salmon populations is prompting new openness to the hatchery idea.

Runs in recent years have hit record lows. In 2021, managers counted 154,000 summer chum salmon, compared to a historical median of 1.6 million. Last year, the summer chum count was 464,000.

Chinook counts had already

been on the decline for more than a decade, but last year they dropped off a cliff. Managers predicted that between 41,000 and 62,000 Chinook would return to Canada last year, but the actual run size was estimated at just 13,000 — less than 10% of the returns two decades ago.

Those numbers have forced managers to completely close both subsistence and commercial salmon fishing on the Yukon — an outcome that residents along the river describe as an existential threat.

"I've always said I want a wild river with wild salmon. But I think we're at a point where we have to have a discussion about what are we going to do?" Brandy Mayes, the land operations manager at the Whitehorse-based Kwanlin Dun First Nation Government, said at the Yukon Territory meeting in April.

There appears to be more openness, at least initially, in Canada, which is higher up on the Yukon and naturally sees lower fish returns than Alaska. At a January workshop hosted by the First Nations salmon alliance, the Yukon Indigenous group, most participants in an informal survey said they agreed that hatcheries should be a viable proposal to rebuild salmon stocks.

"I was really surprised by these results — I had expected a lot more 'no's' judging from the previous conversations that have been held," said MacDonald, who presented the survey's results at the Whitehorse meeting. "I think people are just feeling like if they don't do something, we're going to lose our salmon."

The results, MacDonald added, are "not a 'yes' to hatcheries." She described the alliance's

January workshop as a starting point for discussion and community engagement.

That's also how officials from the Dunleavy's administration are framing their position. Vincent-Lang, Alaska's fish and game commissioner, was also at the Whitehorse meeting, where he discussed the use of hatcheries as a "restoration tool" with the Yukon's environment minister.

"I think there are some people that are ready to build one right now. But we just want to start that discussion," he said in a phone interview. "And we recognize that it's a sensitive discussion."


Officials at the meeting in Whitehorse said that any hatchery proposals would have to comply with relevant sections of the U.S.-Canada treaty that governs international salmon management.

Vincent-Lang also stressed that any push on hatchery construction would not be a substitute for work on other issues that could be driving salmon declines.

He said residents and groups along the Yukon have wide-ranging opinions about hatcheries; some are open to the idea, while others have "no interest."

Ragnar Alstrom, who leads the economic development group Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association, said that "everyone" along the river is opposed to hatcheries aimed at boosting stocks above natural levels. But, he said, he's open to discussion about the potential for hatcheries to restore diminished salmon populations.

The Northern Journal is a newsletter from Alaska journalist Nathaniel Herz.



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# Woman charged in hit-and-run that killed 2 in Metlakatla

By SCOTT BOWLEN  
Ketchikan Daily News

A Palmer woman has been indicted on murder, manslaughter and assault charges for an alleged hit-and-run in Metlakatla that resulted in the deaths of her 3-year-old son and her brother, as well as injuring the child's father.

Alecia A. Henderson, 27, was taken into custody on a court-ordered warrant May 2; the indictments were issued May 4.

Ketchikan District Court Judge Kristian Pickrell set Henderson's bail at a \$500,000 appearance bond, with 10% cash requirement. Pickrell also stipulated that Henderson could not be released from custody until a court-approved third-party custodian had been approved.

The charges stem from events alleged to have occurred in the early morning of April 22 in Metlakatla.

According to the probable cause statement filed with the court by Ketchikan District Attorney Alexander Kra-

marczuk, Henderson, her son and their child's father were in Metlakatla for a funeral and had borrowed a vehicle to use during their stay.

On the evening of April 21, they were at a memorial party at a Metlakatla residence at which alcohol was present, according to the statement.

Following a dispute with Alecia Henderson over the keys to the vehicle — during which she is alleged to have taken swings at the child's father and her brother, James Henderson — the child's father and James Henderson left the residence with the child at between 1 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. on April 22 to go to another residence about one-half mile away for the night.

Video surveillance at Metlakatla's elementary and middle schools shows the borrowed vehicle traveling toward the location of the two men and child who were walking at about 1:35 a.m. Its headlights and tail lights were on.

"The video further shows the (vehicle) deactivate its lights and then rapidly

accelerate toward the unsuspecting victims," states the document. "The (vehicle) moves outside the view of the camera. A loud thump is heard, followed by cries for help."

The vehicle continued on without stopping, according to the statement.

"When officers arrived, (the child's father) was responsive and attending to his son ... who was unresponsive but had a weak pulse," according to the court document.

James Henderson was found about 150 feet away from the child's father, and had a pulse at that time.

James Henderson was transported to the Annette Island Service Unit, where he died. The 3-year-old child was flown to Anchorage, where he died on the evening of April 23, according to the probable cause statement.

The child's father told officers the vehicle accelerated just prior to impact, according to the court document. "(The child's father) has been consistent in his belief (Alecia Henderson) was the hit-

and-run driver," according to the court document.

Metlakatla Police Department officers located the vehicle about 10 minutes later; its front end was heavily damaged and the keys were inside.

The officers contacted Alecia Henderson at the front door of the residence, according to the statement, which alleges that her speech was "heavily slurred." She allegedly told the officers that the child's father had been driving the vehicle, but later, after having been detained for investigation, said she had been the only person inside the vehicle.

According to the probable cause statement, her comments that morning were varied, ranging from saying that she was "drunk" and that she had not been driving, to inquiring about the condition of the child and his father.

In addition to the felony indictments handed down by the grand jury, she faces charges of driving under the influence and driving on a revoked or suspended license.

# Southeast seafood seller Shoreline makes national Top 10 list

By JONSON KUHN  
Juneau Empire

Shoreline Wild Salmon co-founder Marie Rose is feeling like a small fish in a big pond after the Southeast Alaska-based company was recently listed in Good Housekeeping magazine's 10 Best Seafood Delivery Services & Subscriptions of 2023.

"A lot of the companies on the Top 10 list are really big companies, we're quite small in comparison, so to know that our products are making the ranks with theirs is really exciting," Rose said. "It feels really great to have been included, we've worked really hard over the years to try to establish this online store through our website."

The Good Housekeeping Institute nutrition lab recently a review of more than 40 popular seafood and meat delivery services over the course of three months to determine the best. Shoreline Wild Salmon came in at No. 9.

Testers with Good Housekeeping reported: "The fish arrived fresh, and the portions were large and left my family feeling satisfied."

Another tester added: "It was fun to try a new dish, and it was enjoyed by everyone. The fish was delicious and the texture and color were perfection!"

An Anchorage-based delivery operation, Alaskan Salmon Company, was ranked No. 6. The other winners

are all based in the Lower 48.

Shoreline was founded in 2016 by Rose and fishermen Joe Emerson and Keith Heller. The company prides itself on fishing the "old-school way," trolling, which Rose explained is the best way to ensure their company can pull fish from the water one at a time.

"We're not catching large volumes, we're really more quality-focused than quantity-focused, and by doing so we're able to handle all of these salmon one at a time," Rose said. "As soon as they're brought aboard the boat they're immediately cleaned and pressure bled and packed into ice. Catching them one at a time allows you to take a lot of steps to really produce the highest quality possible of Alaska salmon."

The fish are fileted, packaged and frozen, then shipped from the company's Juneau warehouse to customers. Stores and restaurants can buy what they want; subscribers can select a la carte or subscription boxes that include 5 pounds or 10 pounds of fish delivered monthly.

Born and raised in Michigan, Rose explained that she, Heller and Emerson came together with the idea of taking troll-caught fish to consumers throughout the United States. At first, they started by working at farmer's markets in the Detroit and Ann Arbor area of Michigan. From there Rose said the trio started making connec-

tions with various grocery store owners and started wholesaling their product.

In addition to serving Rainbow Foods in Juneau as well as Mountain Market in Haines, Shoreline also supplies more than 60 grocery stores and restaurants in Michigan, as well as locations in Ohio, Minnesota and one in Mexico, according to Rose.

The online, direct-to-consumer business didn't start until the latter half of 2020, and it's been on a steady rise ever since.

When Rose first moved to Alaska, she worked for salmon-advocacy nonprofit Salmon Beyond Borders, but shortly thereafter transitioned into working with Heller and Emerson to collaborate on the beginnings of what would become Shoreline Wild Salmon. Emerson is their main fisherman that the company buys from; Heller handles a lot of the offloading, as well as operations in Pelican; while Rose handles the bulk of the business operations and marketing.

Emerson said he's grateful that Good Housekeeping recognized the quality of fish that Shoreline produces.

"Our mission has really been to produce the highest-quality salmon possible, and we spend a lot of time and effort to make that happen," Emerson said. "We basically try to produce a fish that we would give to our own family."

# Alaska senators among those urging museums to return Indigenous remains

By RILEY ROGERSON  
Anchorage Daily News

WASHINGTON — Alaska Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan were among a bipartisan group of 13 senators who jointly signed letters to five U.S. museums and universities, urging them to repatriate Indigenous remains in their collections.

The letters call on the University of California Berkeley, Harvard University, Illinois State Museum, Indiana University and the Ohio History Connection to comply with the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act. The 1990 federal law mandates that museums receiving federal money must return human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony to their descendants or original community.

"Delayed repatriation is delayed justice for Native peo-

ples," the letters said. "For too long, Native ancestral remains and cultural items have been unconscionably denied their journey home by institutions, desecrated by scientific study, publicly displayed as specimens, left to collect dust on a shelf, or simply thrown in a box and forgotten in a museum storeroom."

The letters, sent in late April, came after a recent investigation from ProPublica and NBC News revealing that institutions across the country hold more than 110,000 Native American remains in their collections.

Murkowski said the letters seek to "elevate the issue" and inform the public about compliance with federal law.

"It doesn't make any difference if you are a significant museum or university," she said. "If you have ancestral remains that have been part of a quote, 'collection,' they are ancestral remains that need to be

returned and not necessarily kept as someone's private collection."

Hawaii Democratic Sen. Brian Schatz, chairman of the Senate

Indian Affairs Committee, and committee vice chairman Murkowski led the letter-writing effort.

Sullivan said the letters put

pressure on museums and universities that are "reluctant to comply with the law."

Continued on page 20



# Malaspina Glacier more susceptible to melting, adding to rising sea level

By YERETH ROSEN  
Alaska Beacon

Alaska is the home of the world's biggest piedmont glacier — meaning it falls from a mountain into a flat plain. But a new study has revealed that the Malaspina Glacier is not quite as big as previously believed, and that its low elevation makes it more highly susceptible to melting that would affect the rise in global sea levels.

The glacier spills out of the St. Elias Mountains into a wide circular lobe atop a broad plain that stops short of the sea. At its widest, the glacier spans 40 miles across. It's located about midway between Yakutat and Icy Bay, where Southeast Alaska connects with the rest of the state.

The study, led by University of Arizona scientists and published in the Journal of Geophysical Research, used specially designed radar devices to conduct what was, in effect, a full-body scan that penetrated down to Malaspina's base, including into the bedrock underlying it.

It found that Malaspina's ice volume is about 165 cubic miles, about 30% smaller than prior estimates. Two-thirds of the glacier is grounded below sea level, and those bottom portions of the glacier are undercut by several channels running as deep as 1,150 feet below sea level, the study found.

At the same time, the land barrier that separates Mala-

spina from the ocean is shrinking as lagoons on it expand. Earlier research by the National Park Service, University of Arizona and University of Alaska Fairbanks indicates that saltwater is already encroaching through that dwindling land barrier and that Malaspina may be transitioning into what is known as a tidewater glacier.

Exactly when and how fast Malaspina will melt out is a subject still being calculated, said the study's lead author, Brandon Tober, a University of Arizona geophysics doctoral student. That work is being done by the same team that produced the new study, with members from UAF and the University of Montana as well as Tober and his University of Arizona colleagues. Tober said he hopes some results that forecast Malaspina's future will be ready for release by the end of the year.

The Malaspina-scanning research was part of NASA's Operation IceBridge, a program that ran from 2009 to 2021 and used airborne equipment to measure sea ice, glaciers and ice caps in both polar regions.

Generally, glacier volume measurements are made through calculations from afar that factor in the physics of locations and movement over time. But those calculations are just estimates, Tober said.

"Really, the main way to figure it out is to go fly over them with radar and measure," he said.

A challenge to radar measurements of Alaska glaciers is that in this temperate latitude, the ice is considered warm, which means it holds pools and pockets of water. That liquid water often absorbs the radio waves used by radar, interfering with any measurement attempts. To address that problem, this Malaspina project used extremely low-frequency waves that were able to penetrate those sections of liquid water, Tober said.

Most of the data for the study came from flights done in 2021, completing a grid pattern over the glacier, but there is use of data collected as far back as 2013, he said.

Alaska holds much less than 1% of the world's glacial ice, but Alaska glaciers are outsized contributors to global sea-level rise, which is largely the product of meltwater from land ice, including glaciers and ice sheets, and thermal expansion as the oceans get warmer and their waters take up more space.

Alaska glaciers contribute more than any other source of land ice aside from the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets, according to various recent studies that put Alaska glaciers' contributions at around 6% or 7%.

The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. [Alaskabeacon.com](http://Alaskabeacon.com).

# Disease-decimated sunflower sea star could be listed as threatened species

By YERETH ROSEN  
Alaska Beacon

One of the world's largest sea stars is on track to receive Endangered Species Act protections.

Federal regulators are proposing a threatened listing for the sunflower sea star, a creature that has been killed off in much of its Pacific habitat by disease. While the effect of a listing on Alaska and its fisheries is not certain, scientists say they don't expect significant changes in the state in the near term.

The public comment period has ended on the proposal for the threatened listing published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service. A final listing decision due in a year.

The proximate cause of the sunflower sea star decline is sea star wasting syndrome, which wiped out about 90% of the animals across its vast range, according to NOAA Fisheries. The wasting system has hit a variety of sea star species, though sunflower sea stars have suffered especially severe harm, according to scientists. It causes legs to fall off and, ultimately, results in disintegration of the animals' bodies.

Climate change may be behind that dis-

ease, as the arrival of Pacific marine heat waves coincided with the disease outbreak, according to federal biologists.

Sunflower sea stars are distinctive and colorful creatures found from Baja California to Alaska's Aleutian Islands. They can grow up to 24 legs and be as big as 3 feet in diameter. They are considered a keystone species in the marine environment; their top food is sea urchins, and by eating the kelp-feeding urchins they protect kelp forests that support numerous other species, including those of commercial significance in Alaska.

If it goes through, the listing will be the first for any sea star under the Endangered Species Act.

The proposed listing is unusual in other ways.

While there are some big geographic differences in population trends, with the heaviest impacts in the southern areas and less-severe impacts in Alaska and other northern areas, the listing would cover sunflower sea stars over their entire range. That is because the Endangered Species Act does not allow listings of invertebrates to be broken down into distinct population

segments, as is the case in Alaska with endangered western Steller sea lions and Cook Inlet beluga whales.

Compared to the near-total wipeouts "across the board" in Lower 48 waters, declines in Alaska waters range from 40% to 100%, said Sadie Wright, a Juneau-based protected species biologist with NOAA Fisheries who helped compile the status review that led to the proposed listing.

There is no plan, as of now, for designation of critical habitat, normally a part of the regulatory action to conserve listed species, officials said. That is because critical habitat is considered "indeterminable," said Dayv Lowry, the NOAA Fisheries biologist who led the status review.

"We know that it occurs around kelp forests. We know that it's a part of that ecosystem and an integral part of it. But the animal is also found over rock piles, sand, mudflats, eelgrass meadows. It's found all over the place," Lowry said in a news conference. "At this point, we're saying the animal is protected anywhere and everywhere you encounter it."

There are additional unknowns. Scientists are still trying to figure out the sea stars'

life cycles and lifespans and fundamental biology, Lowry said. The exact pathogen that triggered wasting syndrome is not yet identified. And any contribution of the sunflower sea star deaths to a longer-term decline in kelp forests is still unclear.

Also yet to be determined are any potential impacts of listing to commercial fishing.

Whatever damage is being done to the sea star population by bycatch, the unintended catch during the harvest of targeted fish, it's considered a low-level threat, far overshadowed by the wasting syndrome, Wright said.

"While we want to work with commercial fisheries and the fishery management councils to gather more information and promote safe handling of sea stars that are bycatch in fisheries, we don't anticipate significant changes to fisheries as an outcome of this proposed rule," she said.

The proposed listing results from a petition submitted in 2021 by the Center for Biological Diversity.

The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. [Alaskabeacon.com](http://Alaskabeacon.com).

# Repatriation letters

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"Can you imagine somebody going to your ancestor's grave and taking their bones, digging up their bones and then when you go back saying, 'I'd like my great-great-grandfather's bones back,' and they're not being cooperative?" Sullivan said April 25. "I just find it to be something

that should not be controversial."

The letters say that when the repatriation act passed in 1990, lawmakers expected repatriation to take five years, but three decades later, "a daunting amount of work remains."

"Experts reportedly estimate that it could take as many as 70

more years before ... (the act's) directive of expeditious repatriation is fulfilled," the letters stated. "This is simply unacceptable."

Statements from the Ohio History Connection, which manages dozens of sites and museums in Ohio, as well as Indiana University, Illinois State Museum

and UC Berkeley each said they received the senators' letter and are committed to repatriation.

"This work requires many resources and time commitments — for both institutions like ours and the federally recognized tribes — to undertake repatriation on such a large scale, and we hope this conversation shines a light on that issue," Ohio History Connection spokesman Neil Thompson said in a statement.

The letters ask the five institutions for an update on the repatriation process, including how they determine if "a relationship of shared group identity that may be reasonably traced" and how they use Native traditional knowledge to determine relationships between tribes and remains.

Alaska Native remains are also currently held in Alaska institutions, including the University of Alaska Museum of the North in Fairbanks. Scott Shirar, the museum's archaeology collection manager, said the museum has about 300 individuals' remains and about a dozen open repatriation cases.

Shirar said efforts are undertaken in collaboration with tribal representatives and require an initial claim from an entity seeking repatriation. Once the process begins, it can take "a couple of years, at minimum," according to Shirar.

He said "funding is always an issue," and having staff dedicated to working on repatriation could expedite the process.

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