



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

## Up in smoke

Accompanied by contractor Don Sorric, Wrangell firefighters douse the decks of the Blue Jacket, which was being worked on at the yard when a fire broke out early Tuesday evening. A cause had yet to be offered by press time, but besides a good deal of smoke, no one appeared to be injured at the scene.

# Two found in city manager search, water rates may hike

By DAN RUDY  
*Sentinel writer*

Wrangell's City and Borough Assembly interviewed a pair of top candidates to replace the city manager next month.

Jeff Jabusch announced his plans to retire last September, after serving as manager for nearly four years. He will be finished at City Hall on March 31, after which economic director Carol Rushmore will step in as interim manager until the transition is completed.

Steps to hunt down a replacement for Jabusch were taken shortly after his announcement, and a months-long interview process yielded four candidates by mid-February. Three dropped out before final interviews could

take place, and the Assembly decided to pass on the fourth after an in-person fly-in.

Assessing the process, members felt a more expedited search would be better, and Jabusch worked with city clerk Kim Lane to sift through online and referenced candidates for the Assembly to interview. A special meeting was called mid-day Monday to talk to candidates, and two are tentatively expected to come to Wrangell in-person, as quickly as next week.

Gene Green is currently the project manager for Clackamas County, Oregon, after serving for two years as manager for the city of Damascus, also in Clackamas. He had been reassigned within the county after

Continued on page 11

# Jeff Jabusch to bid goodbye to City Hall next week

By DAN RUDY  
*Sentinel writer*

After four decades of public service, City Hall will bid farewell this month to its longtime finance director and recent borough manager, Jeff Jabusch.

"It's going to be kind of strange, every morning getting up and not driving into this parking lot after forty years. My car will probably just come here automatically after that length," he said.

"It's been very rewarding," he said of his tenure. "I've got to meet a lot of interesting people, and working with a lot of people, both staff people and people from around town to accomplish things, and people out of town. I've had governors and senators and engineers and architects, and everybody in between. That's been extremely interesting just to work with a variety of different people over the years."

### New face at the office

The Jabusch family came to Wrangell when Jeff was just six years old, when he began first grade. He went through school playing basketball and keeping up with his studies. He was salutatorian for his graduating class, and after a start at Oregon State ended up working his way through Seattle University.

Jabusch had not initially intended to go into his eventual major, accounting. "It's kind of a strange story, but initially I was

going to teach and be a high school basketball coach," he said. A friend of his had a crush on a girl in an accounting class, and asked Jabusch if he would sign up as well.

"He convinced me because I was kind of a math guy to take this accounting class so I could help him pass," he recalled. "I ended up being interested in accounting and liked it," while his friend ended up getting married to his crush.

Jabusch and his high school sweetheart Kay married in 1975, and after graduating from university he returned to Wrangell in 1977 for a summer season to work off student debts. Jabusch recalled he had been interested in working for a business accounting firm in Anchorage at the time, and was finishing concrete that summer when the accounting job at City Hall opened up.

"When I first got here I had a degree in accounting, but I'd never worked in an office before," he said.

Still, despite the lack of formal experience he threw his name into the hat and was one of two candidates being considered. In a strange coincidence, the other candidate has been his college friend's wife from their accounting class.

He got the job, hired by city clerk Joyce Rasler while the city manager was away on vacation.

"I certainly owe a lot to her, taking a

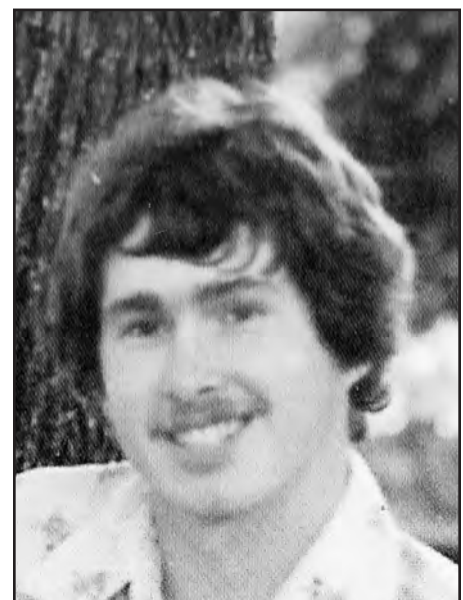
"It's kind of a strange story, but initially I was going to teach and be a high school basketball coach."

- Jeff Jabusch,  
Borough Manager

chance on someone that didn't really know a whole lot," Jabusch said. Rasler showed him the ropes as far as public accounting went, and soon had him working on grants for various projects. "I think the first couple of years that I was here, Joyce Rasler kind of took me under her wing and mentored me into that position. Once she felt I was at that point where I was on my own, she renamed the position," to finance director.

Rasler herself went on to serve as city manager through much of the 1980s. Another coworker who had helped him through those early years was Franette Vincent, who soon became Rasler's replacement as city clerk.

On the job, Jabusch recalled his first big project was setting up the first office computer at City Hall, in 1979. He had made a



Jeff Jabusch

commitment to the council to get the new system working.

"I didn't know exactly what that meant. But I learned it meant working a lot of nights and weekends for a looong time," he explained. "Of course since none of us had had our hands on a computer you can imagine it was a bit of a learning curve for all of us."

One of the main problems was a lack of IT support, as the distributor had only limited knowledge of the new technology.

Continued on page 12

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

The Sentinel extends its best wishes to the persons listed on the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce Community Scholarship Birthday Calendar.

**March 23:** Vicki Amdt, D.J. Bakeberg. **March 24:** Donavan Bean, Jenika Miller, Rya Montgomery, *Anniversary:* Don and Heather Vergillo. **March 25:** Taylor Yound, Kristie Webber, Mckenzie Smalley, Ernie Campbell, Rebecca Newcomb, Charlie Nelson. **March 26:** Judah Bylow, *Anniversary:* Tony and Kerry Byford. **March 27:** Rueben Weatherford, Johny Allen, Winston Davies. **March 28:** Gary Stevens, Chet Powell Sr., Trevor Guggenbickler. **March 29:** Tamara Eastaugh, Teddy Williams, Beverly Angerman, Paige Baremore, Larry Taylor jr. **March 30:** Kelly Weatherford, Bob Wickman, Christian Weber, Kelyn Young, Alan Westerlund, Gene Fennimore, *Anniversary:* Matt and Diana Nore.

If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary at no charge please call the Sentinel at 874-2301.

## Senior Center Menu

**Thursday, March 23:**

Cabbage Rolls, carrots, cucumber and onion salad, hot roll.

**Friday, March 24:**

Chicken Adobo, rice, southwest corn blend, orange slices.

**Monday, March 27:**

CLOSED for Swards Day

**Tuesday, March 28:**

Half a tuna sandwich, chicken noodle soup, tossed salad.

**Wednesday, March 29:**

Spaghetti with meat sauce, mediterranean veggies, Rom Rad salad.

**Thursday, March 30:**

BBQ moose on a bun, mixed veggies, potato salad.

Please call Wrangell Senior Center at 874-2066 by 10 a.m. for reservations.

Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

**Thursday, March 23**

**Story Time:** 10 a.m. Public Library. Join us for stories, crafts and snacks.

**SAIL Class:** 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults 65+. For more info call 874-3375.

**Healthy Eating Demo on Healthy Food Preparation:** 11:30 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Free class. Learn how easy it is to prepare healthy and delicious food. Samples will be available. For more info call 874-3375.

**Yoga:** 5:30 p.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join.

**Wrangell Chautauqua:** The ups and downs of Volunteering: Water Projects in Nigeria and Guatemala-Karen Endres.

**Sunday, March 26**

**Seventh Day Adventist:** Will host a Singspiration, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Afterwards, everyone is invited to stay for refreshments and fellowship. All are Welcome.

**Monday, March 27**

**Yoga:** 5:30 p.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join.

**Tuesday, March 28**

**SAIL Class:** 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults.

Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Call Adrienne at the Sentinel to have it placed here.

## Continuing Events

**PARKS & REC ACTIVITIES:** **Lap Swim:** M, W, F 6:00-7:30 a.m. & 5:00-6:00 p.m., M-F 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., S 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; **Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class:** at the Pool: M, W, F, 9:00-10:00 a.m.; **Water Aerobics:** M, W, F 10:00-11:00 a.m.; **Family Swim:** F 6:00-7:00 p.m.; **General Swim:** M & W 6:00-7:00 p.m., F 7:00-8:00 p.m., S 1:00-2:00 p.m.; **Weight Room:** M-TH 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-7:30 p.m., F 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-8:30 p.m., S 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. **Extra 2 Lane Lap Swim:** M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.

**OTHER MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:**

**AA Meetings:** Tu. 7 p.m., Toss Off Th. 7 p.m., Smoked Fish F 8 p.m., Step Study Sat. 7 p.m. at the Episcopal gChurch Parish Hall, Study Materials provided. Wed. M & M 12 p.m. at the Catholic Parish Hall, use back entrance.

**NA Meeting:** Wednesday, We Do Recover, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall.

**Bridge Social:** F, 1 p.m. at th Island of Faith Lutheran Church 874-3440, 874-3507.

**Salvation Army Food Bank:** Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For information or questions please call Major Michael Bates at 874-3753.

## The Way We Were

In the Sentinel 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.

**March 19, 1917:** C.G. Burnett, A.B Pennycook, and E.P Clarke returned Saturday afternoon on the gasboat Peggy from a 300 mile cruise through Frederick sound, Chatham strait, and Summer strait. They report that all bays along Baronof Island are still frozen up. The following additional items of news were gleaned from a conversation with

one of the members of the party. The Wakefield Company is putting in a one-line cannery in addition to its kippered herring plant. The company now has about 5,000 barrels of herring corralled in seine which will be used for halibut bait when the cannery begins operating. The steamer Curacao came into Port Walter recently with a pile driver

and crew to begin work on the salmon cannery and kippered herring plant for the Pacific Mild Curing Company. It is reported that another salmon cannery is to be built at Red bluff bay. Captain Morgan formally of Wrangell, arrived in Port Walter recently after seven years' absence from Alaska. Captain Morgan was married last year to a lady of the Lone Star state and expects to have her join him soon. He plans to come to Wrangell to live in a few months. The Peggy got froze in at Port Walter, it being necessary for the crew to chop a way for her to get out. The cruise lasted nine days. The weather was disagreeably rough all the time, and the trip would not have been a very pleasant one had it not been for the cheering influence of Mr. Pennycook lived up to the sentiment of favorite: "It's nice to get up in the morning, but it's never to lie in your bed."

**March 20, 1942:** Wrangell Chamber of Commerce rallied to the support of civil defense in the community at its luncheon meeting Monday in the Civic Center, naming a committee of George Fabricius and Ernest Anderson to cooperate with Civilian Defense Director James L. Dolan in obtaining sand which is to be placed in various homes and business houses about town to be used in an emergency against incendiary bombs.

There's need of a port captain here, particularly with the fishing season approaching, so that boats can clear promptly without having to report at Ketchikan or Petersburg, was brought up by James Nolan and the Chamber voted to immediately get in touch with Commander F.A. Zeusler of the Coast Guard in Ketchikan and

urge such an official be stationed here as soon as possible.

**March 17, 1967:** Activation of preliminary work on the new Wrangell airport on the back channel near the north end of the island was reported at the luncheon meeting of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday at Winnie's Café. Stanley W. Pseiser, appraiser for the state department of highways, said he was in town to make an appraisal of the old Alaska Packers site, part of the program to extend the road to the new facility, City Administrator Clayton Schmitt reported the Division of Aviation had requested the city acquire 50,000 cubic feet of rock from the Point Highfield quarry to be used in the airport construction. He reported also that only two properties on the Church Street improvement

right of way remained to be cleared and action on those was expected to go to the attorney general's office late this week.

**March 19, 1992:** Gov. Walter Hickel may have intentionally delayed releasing his capital budget until Friday the 13th. The \$300 million budget for proposed public works projects might well face the ax this year. Not from the movie character Jason, but from the Legislature. Included in the budget is nearly \$5 million earmarked for Wrangell, including \$4.3 million for extensions of the Zimovia Highway water and sewer system and \$443,000 for snow removal equipment at the airport. The plan was delivered as lawmakers debated what cuts needed to be made in Hickel's proposed \$2.48 billion operating budget.

## FERRY SCHEDULE

### Departures

#### Northbound

**Saturday, March 25**  
Matanuska 12:30 a.m.  
**Sunday, March 26**  
Malaspina 7:45 p.m.  
**Tuesday, March 27**  
Matanuska 10:00 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 1**  
Matanuska 2:30 a.m.  
**Sunday, April 2**  
Malaspina 4:45 p.m.  
**Tuesday, April 4**  
Matanuska 10:00 p.m.

#### Southbound

**Friday, March 24**  
Matanuska 10:00 a.m.  
**Monday, March 27**  
Matanuska 2:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, March 29**  
Malaspina 8:15 a.m.  
**Monday, April 3**  
Matanuska 8:45 a.m.  
**Wednesday, April 5**  
Malaspina 8:00 a.m.  
**Friday, April 7**  
Matanuska 6:00 a.m.

Arrival times may vary. Call 874-2021 for verification or call 874-3711 for recorded information.



## TIDES TABLE March 23 - March 30

	High Tides		Low Tides					
	AM	PM	AM	PM	PM	Ft		
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Ft	
March 23	10:19	13.6	11:18	13.4	3:53	5.5	4:41	2.0
March 24	11:13	14.7	11:59	14.7	4:58	4.3	5:31	0.8
March 25	.....	.....	Noon	15.9	5:47	2.7	6:12	-0.2
March 26	0:37	16.0	12:43	16.8	6:28	1.2	6:49	-1.0
March 27	1:12	17.0	1:24	17.5	7:07	-0.2	7:25	-1.4
March 28	1:46	17.9	2:05	17.8	7:45	-1.4	8:01	-1.4
March 29	2:21	18.4	2:46	17.7	8:24	-2.2	8:37	-0.9
March 30	2:57	18.6	3:29	17.1	9:06	-2.4	9:17	-0.2



## Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
March 12	41	34
March 13	44	40
March 14	41	37
March 15	39	36
March 16	39	36
March 17	41	36
March 18	39	34
March 19	42	36



## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
March 23	6:45a	7:05p	12:21h
March 24	6:42a	7:08p	12:26h
March 25	6:40a	7:10p	12:30h
March 26	6:37a	7:12p	12:35h
March 27	6:34a	7:14p	12:40h
March 28	6:32a	7:16p	12:44h
March 29	6:29a	7:18p	12:49h
March 30	6:27a	7:20p	12:53h

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# New hospital building plans to take shape

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

A reboot to the local hospital's new building project was underway last week, with key contractors on site for predevelopment work.

Wrangell Medical Center CEO Robert Rang informed the hospital's governing board at its March 15 meeting that principal architect Joann Lott and company president Wayne Jensen of Juneau-based firm Jensen Yorba Lott were in town preparing preliminary plans for a new hospital facility on Wood Street.

The pair had looked over the proposed site on March 13, which is adjacent to the current Alaska Island Community Services Clinic. Eventually the two campuses are envisioned to work in tandem to meet the community's healthcare needs, connected by covered walkway.

Taking this into account along with staff input and facilities needs, Lott explained the scope and potential costs of a new building are taking shape.

"We have had a good two days working with everyone in this room," she said. Lott told the board the plans should take two weeks or so to prepare, with cost estimates taking another on top of that. "Four weeks at the most, I think we'll be able to talk numbers on that." She added the design will only be preliminary, subject to ongoing modifications as the project unfolds.

On the numbers end of things, BDO USA in Anchorage has been hired to assess the project's financial feasibility. The firm has worked with WMC on past such projects, and handles its accounting audits each year. A specialist with the company was brought in to take an initial look at the hospital's financial standing and potential revenue, and if deemed feasible BDO would at a later stage help with preparations for a Department of Agriculture loan to pay for the project.

"If everything works out right, in a couple of months we should have all the

data," said Rang.

In other board business, in his monthly accounting report CFO Doran Hammett explained the hospital's revenues were down close to 30 percent last month.

"February was not a very good revenue month," he commented.

Hammett explained this was due to a combination of the shorter, 28-day month, an 18-percent drop in long term care revenues due to two freed-up beds, and ongoing kinks in the billing process. "We think some of these issues will turn themselves around," he told board members.

Though expenses for the month were also higher than budgeted for, at \$18,000 the amount was negligible. In terms of the year to-date, Hammett pointed out WMC was still ahead for budgeted expenditures.

"Overall, not a terrible month, but not exactly where we want to be," he summarized.

The hospital ended the month with 39.3 days cash on hand – the length of time it could pay for operations using only its reserve funds – at about \$1.17M. As of the mid-month meeting, Hammett reported the hospital was down to 31 days. "Cashflow is going to slip a little bit toward the end of the month," he added, due to three payroll periods falling throughout March.

The hospital's accounting will also be holding onto \$100,000 in potential Medicare reimbursements due at the end of the fiscal year in June. The money is a portion of a sum the program had refunded to WMC last month, and subsequent adjustments are common.

"We may owe them some money, we may not," Hammett explained. "We've been careful to sit on the money that's been refunded to us" in either event.

One area of growth to the hospital's revenue this month has been its labora-

## Police report

### Monday, March 13

Parking complaint: Report of person parking on private property. Agency Assist: Fire Department notified of alarm going off.

### Tuesday, March 14

Agency Assist: Random breath test. Harassing phone calls. Agency Assist: Structure fire. Traffic: Road blockage.

### Wednesday, March 15

Agency Assist: Alarm. Agency Assist: Electrical Fire.

### Thursday, March 16

Disturbance. Citizen Assist.

### Friday, March 17

Icy Roads: Caller reported black ice. Public works notified.

### Saturday, March 18

Found property: Returned to owner. Dog bite. Domestic: Verbal. Traffic: Verbal warning for parking in middle of the road. Agency Assist: Arrested Phillip Haskins age 24, on charges of two counts of Theft III. Citizens Assist.

### Sunday, March 19

Courtesy Ride: Intoxicated person. Officer responded.

There were three ambulance calls and four dog complaints during this week.

tory services. With its annual subsidized blood draws in the run up to this year's health fair, by midmonth Rang reported 267 tests had been ordered by residents, with more anticipated during the final run of early draws this week. "Most people are getting more than one test," he added.

After Friday, blood sample draws will return to normal pricing from its \$25-per-test rate. Results from the month's samplings will be available at the fair on April 1. Hosting a variety of health- and wellness-related exhibits at the Nolan

Center, the event will be running from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. this year.

Also boosting laboratory services has been "new hire" drug screenings for AICS staff in the run-up to next month's expected merger with Southeast Alaska Community Health Consortium. The previous week had seen 60 such screenings in one day, Rang told his board, with another 70 expected last week. The SEARHC acquisition of AICS is expected to conclude ahead of April 1.

# Tribe office to gauge air quality of wood stoves

The environmental office of Wrangell Cooperative Association will be conducting field surveys later this spring to gauge air quality in the community.

In a presentation to the

Healthy Wrangell Coalition at its monthly meeting last week, WCA it was reported will be acquiring an electronic monitoring device that will read for particulate content in the air.

Readings will be taken to gauge

air quality and measure how prevalent such material is in the air over certain timeframes.

Run through the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (IGAP) and sponsored by an Alaska Native

Tribal Health Consortium grant, the study will focus in particular on fine particulates from wood smoke.

ANTHC describes itself as the largest Native health organization in the country, serving 158,000 people in and around the state. It runs and supports a variety of different health and wellness programs, and its Air and Healthy Homes program works with tribal partners to address air quality and healthy homes issues in their communities.

On its program page, ANTHC identifies rural communities in particular as facing a range of air quality challenges, including but not limited to indoor air quality in homes and at schools, solid waste burning, smoke, road dust, mold and moisture intrusion.

Residents relying on wood stoves as a heat source in their homes are put at higher risk for respiratory problems from inhaling smoke, carbon monoxide, and microscopic particles. Particle pollution from burning wood contains microscopic solid or liquid droplets that are small enough to get deep into

the lungs and cause health problems.

Of this particulate, matter less than 10 micrometers across can settle into the bronchi and lungs. Particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter pose the greatest problem, able to enter the blood stream through the lungs.

There are ways to mitigate health risks posed by wood stoves, such as using only dry wood and not allowing the fire to smolder. Site inspections of household stoves and wood storage can help identify spot fixes, and further alternatives include using pressed brick logs, wood shed construction and so forth.

Wrangell's IGAP also conducts toxin monitoring for shellfish found on local beaches, and has organized other community health initiatives such as the boatyard's net recycling collection and elder household cleanup drives.

The WCA will also be holding an e-waste collection next month at its cultural center on Front Street, set for April 15. Look for its booth at next weekend's Health Fair (April 1 at the Nolan Center, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) for more details.



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WRANGELL SENTINEL

# Obituary:

## Donna Lea Larsen, 70

Donna Lea Larsen, 70, died on February 15, 2017.

Donna was born on March 24, 1946 to Rosella and Ray Gibson joining her brother Dennis and just seven minutes ahead of her identical twin sister Dorris. Her baby brother Bill rounded out the family a couple of years later.

Donna grew up in the Pittsburgh, California area and graduated from Pittsburgh High in 1964. She married Leon Harvey shortly after high school, and had her first child Kathleen (aka Toot) in February 1968. In August of 1968 Donna and the baby followed Leon to Wrangell, Alaska.

She loved to tell the story of



Donna Lea Larsen

landing in Wrangell in a Grumman Goose on the water. She saw water pouring in

through the rivet holes and thought she and her baby were about to drown. In 1974, the couple welcomed the first baby of the year, Earnest.

Donna loved the town of Wrangell so much that after her divorce she stayed. Soon she met the love of her life, Roland Larsen and after being together for over twenty years they made it official on July 3, 1991. Together they were very active in the Elks and Emblem Club.

Donna was the kind of person that makes a small town like Wrangell special. She gave as good as she got with the morning coffee guys during her Dockside days. She loved to

cook for the fall moose hunters. She was well known for her fudge – who knows how many 1000's of pounds of that stuff she made, most of which she gave away.

February 23, 1998 Donna suffered a stroke. The stroke slowed her down, and she may have lost a filter or two along the way. Anyone who knew her knew she loved nothing more than to reach out and touch any man's butt. It never seemed to matter if she knew him or not, if it was appropriate or not, if you were male and in the reach of her good hand, you were going to get a grab or a pat.

She was preceded in death by her father Ray, her older brother Dennis and her husband Roland.

Donna is survived by: her mother Rosella; twin sister Dorris; younger brother Bill; and her children, Kathleen and Earnest; and their children, Devan, McKenna, Kaylene and Britany.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

### STINKERS SEPTIC PUMPING

Spring is coming up fast, so make pumping your septic tank #1 on your home to do list.

Call 907-752-0662 or 752-1969

## Young not convinced GOP bill is right for health care woes

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – The longest-serving Republican in the U.S. House said Monday that he isn't convinced that a GOP bill pending in Congress takes the right approach to addressing health care problems, particularly for a high-

cost, remote state such as Alaska.

During a teleconference with reporters, Rep. Don Young said there can't be a one-size-fits-all approach to health care, yet he said that's what's being pitched. He said no state would be

affected more than Alaska.

Young said he is fighting to ensure Alaska gets equitable treatment and is working with the state's Republican senators to address Alaska-specific concerns, including high cost of health care, high premiums and lack of competition.

"We remain the highest-cost state for health care and therefore, at times, we require a different approach than the Lower 48," he said. "Right now, I'm not convinced what we have is the best approach."

He also expressed concern with how quickly the bill is moving. A vote could come as early as Thursday.

High health care costs, a relatively small market and a lack of competition have been ongoing concerns in Alaska, where just one company now offers individual health policies.

Lori Wing-Heier, director of the state's Division of Insurance, told The Associated Press in a recent interview that the bill, as proposed, would "kill" Alaska's individual market, making it unaffordable for low- to moderate-income Alaskans.

House Speaker Paul Ryan on Sunday said revisions to the bill were being discussed, and Young described the situation as fluid.

Young said he's committed to repealing former President Barack Obama's signature health care law, sometimes called Obamacare, and suggested a repeal of the law that would take effect in 2020, pro-

viding time for Congress to work on a replacement.

## Editorial

### Thank you Jeff

by Ron Loesch, Publisher

We join with the community in thanking Jeff Jabusch for his 40 years of service to the citizens of Wrangell.

Jeff has maintained the public's checkbook for much of that time and kept it balanced through boom times and busts.

During Alaska's oil boom era, the city built its public safety building, high school and municipal pool.

When the Wrangell Mill closed in 1994, "it was scary bleak," as Jabusch put it.

Later, Alaska's rich uncle, Sen. Ted Stevens secured a \$37 million relief grant that public officials along with Jabusch leveraged into \$200 million in public projects including generators, trails, a museum and the Marine Service Center.

During volatile times when Wrangell ventured into a public partnership with Wrangell Seafoods and local shareholders were likely to lose their investments, public meetings were tense. Jabusch could have remained silent, but he spoke up and reminded elected officials that their fiduciary responsibilities were to the citizens of Wrangell and not WSI shareholders. There were limits on how public money can be spent.

In 2013 he made a move we can't fully comprehend. He took the borough manager's job.

Wow, he even made that job look easy.

This month, like all good managers, he gives credit to his fellow employees, speaks modestly of his achievements and transitions into grandpa mode.

Jeff, Wrangell is grateful that you executed your city hall duties with transparency, integrity and thoughtful leadership for the past four decades.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Harborlight Assembly of God

Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.,  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. 874-2244

### St. Rose of Lima, Catholic Church

Sunday Masses 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.  
Enrichment in Faith- All are welcome, 10:00 a.m.  
874-3771 or 305-0654

### St. Philip's Episcopal Church

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m., Church School 10:00 a.m.  
874-3047 or 874-4480

### First Presbyterian

Worship Service 11 a.m., 874-3534

### The Salvation Army

Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.,  
874-3753

### Island of Faith Lutheran Church-ELCA

Worship Service 9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship,  
Faith Walking Saturday 10 a.m., 874-2743

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Priesthood Relief Society & Primary at noon.;  
Sunday School 11 a.m.; Sacrament 10 a.m.,  
874-3976 or 3778

### Wrangell Community Church of God

Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.; 874-3964

### Bible Baptist Church

Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.;

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# Library gets pens moving with writer's workshop

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

Have you ever had a story you were just aching to tell, but weren't sure how to best get started? Or is there a manuscript in the bureau you'd like to have published, but don't know how to get it into print?

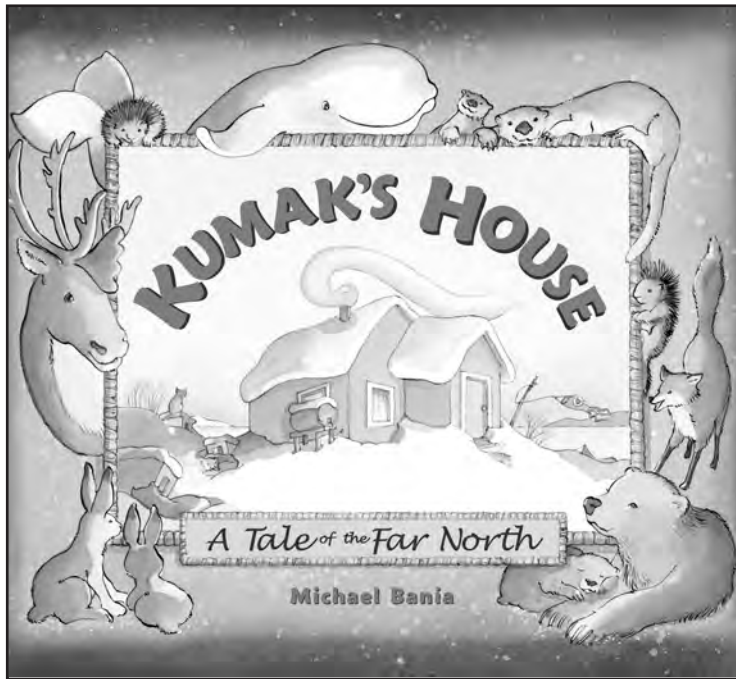
Local author Michael Bania sought to answer some of these queries in an open workshop last week for prospective writers and illustrators. Held at the Irene Ingle Public Library, about two dozen inquisitive residents brought their notepads, portfolios and laptops to the March 14 presentation.

Bania herself is a published author and illustrator, known best for her "Kumak" series of books. For two decades she was a rural educator for districts in Kotzebue, Buckland, and other communities in Alaska's northwest. After retiring from the position, she moved to Soldotna and Homer before settling into Wrangell eight years ago.

"A lot of people asked me about the process," she recounted, which had prompted her to hold the workshop. "I think I'm just a teacher at heart."

As Bania explained, her experiences in the village heavily influenced her artistic works. She had first approached publisher Alaska Northwest Books with an idea for a coloring book on Inupiaq village life, but instead found interest for what became her first children's book, *Kumak's House: A Tale From the Far North*.

The story follows an Inupiaq



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Published in 2002, "Kumak's House" was the first for author Michael Bania, who has lived in Wrangell since 2009. The work started a series of children's books about the Inupiaq villager, including "Kumak's Fish" and "Kumak's River," as well as a coloring book depicting village life in Alaska's Arctic.

villager as he seeks advice on improving his accommodations.

From teaching kindergarten, Bania said the story's fable structure reflected the interests and tastes of her students, who never got enough of the old classics.

"They liked the regular old *Jack and the Beanstalks*," she explained, and Kumak reflected that fable-like manner of storytelling. It made its mark, being selected for a 2003 Children's Book Council award. The follow-up work, *Kumak's Fish: A Tall Tale From the Far North*, was selected as an honor book for the first Wanda Gág Read

Aloud Book Award, and both were chosen for the Alaska Association of School Libraries "Battle of the Books" for first grade.

A lot of care went into putting her books together. "I

wanted them to be read over and over again," Bania explained. Her first book was published in 2002, but as she explained to her audience at the workshop, the process of getting one's ideas into binding and onto shelves can be a multi-year process.

When pitching an idea to a publisher, she said it first helps to do a bit of research. "Know your market," Bania explained.

Have a detective thriller in mind, where smugglers spirit away blood diamonds inside leaden shipments of downrigger weights? Run an online search first, to see if it's been done before. Become familiar with the genre you intend to work in, get to know the publishers that primarily deal with those, and focus on contacting them.

A query letter gets submitted before sending in a manuscript. This is never more than a page long, and summarizes a prospective book with a good hook.

"You've got to be able to condense your story into two paragraphs," said Bania. If a publisher is interested, they will ask to see more. From there,

one may enter the editing process, which the author explained is where a finished book really begins coming together.

As far as getting started goes, Bania said the best thing is to write every day. "If you have an idea, just put it down. It's just paper. If you don't like it, you can put it in the trash."

Dummies and drafts are just layers through which one polishes out a manuscript, she explained. The important thing is to be open to changes and improvements as the process progresses.

Bania's other adage is to write what you know. "What you have to write is what you're passionate about."

In addition to relating her experience, during the workshop Bania fielded questions and reviewed ideas. The audience also participated in some warm-up activities to try and get their imaginations flowing.

"I loved it," attendee Nancy Gradwohl said afterward. A pastor by profession, besides writing sermons, she journals and does poetry in her off-time. "It was so well attended."

## Sea lion study gets crowdsource help

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A federal wildlife agency studying the Steller sea lion decline in Alaska's Aleutian Islands is looking for help from citizen scientists. Volunteers don't need raincoats or rubber boots to pitch in, just eyeballs and a computer screen.

Fisheries researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration want them to sort through 500,000 images captured by 20 cameras at six remote sites. The job is simple: Flag photos that show sea lions.

NOAA Fisheries biologist Katie Sweeney is specifically looking for 256 Steller sea lions captured starting in 2011 that were permanently marked by branding, allowing them to track movement patterns. The image sorting tells researchers which photos are most important to review.

"If we see these animals over time, we can estimate their survival," Sweeney said from her office at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle.

Steller sea lions are the largest members of the eared seal family. Adult males in the Aleutians can grow to 2,400 pounds and females to 800 pounds, Sweeney said.

They are found in the North Pacific from Japan and Russia to Alaska and as far south as the Channel Islands off the coast of Southern California.

The western population, from Prince William Sound to the Aleutians, was listed as endangered in 1997. They fell to their lowest numbers in 2003 and the population since then has increased just 2.7 percent annually. Sea lions in the far western Aleutians were especially hard hit, declining by 94 percent over the last 30 years.

No one knows why. Tracking marked sea lions has indicated they are not simply moving east to other parts of Alaska or west to Russia. Contaminants and poor nutrition are among the possibilities, but answers don't come easy because of the expense and time needed to reach the remote locations where they live. NOAA in 2012 turned to remote cameras to gather more information.

The 20 cameras work year-round, snapping a digital photograph every 10 to 30 minutes during daylight.

"We get on a research vessel and we are out 1,200 miles in the Aleutian Islands," Sweeney said. "We go to each site and have to pull out the SD cards and download them."

A handful of people who volunteered to check the images could not keep up with the volume.

Computer analysis was not an option because creating an automated process would have been expensive and time consuming, Sweeney said.

"We kind of need the human eye for it," she said.

Researchers turned to crowdsourcing. They're working with the Zooniverse platform, a team of programmers and researchers who have created web-based systems to enable citizen participation in research across the disciplines, from astronomy to zoology, according to spokeswoman Laura Trouille, director of citizen science at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago.

About 2,200 volunteers starting Wednesday took a short tutorial on how to help sort the first 30,000 images.

One volunteer was Charlene Andersson, a teacher at Meadows Elementary School in Valencia, California, who saw the project as an opportunity to engage her students in curriculum on animals and their habitats. That led to questions on endangered species and causes for sea lion decline.

"They're so excited about contributing to the project," Andersson said. "They're coming in and saying, 'Can we go on the site right now?'"


Sweeney hoped volunteers would finish that first batch by June, when she leaves for the Aleutians to count sea lions and brand more of them. Instead, the citizen scientists surprised her and zipped through the first batch in a day and a half. Researchers have uploaded more images.

They have also launched a second phase of the project: Asking volunteers to look at photos with sea lions to see if any animals are carrying the permanent marks that reveal where the sea lions were born, their age and their gender.

The sorting will help researchers focus on the most important images.

"Of these 10,000 images, these 100 are the good ones you want to look at," Sweeney said.

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PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Wrangell running group Southeast Beasts marked Saint Patrick's Day last Friday with an early evening 5K and 10K run, with proceeds going toward the high school's industrial arts start-up, Wolf Fabrications. The student-managed production has helped the Beasts in past years with fabricating wooden participation medals for the group's Alaska Day half-marathon and other items.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## When Irish eyes are smiling

Reme Privett prepares around 43 pounds of corned beef brisket in preparation for Saint Patrick's Day last Friday. Rayme's Bar rang in the Irish patron saint's day with free fare of brisket, 15 heads of cabbage and 40 pounds of potatoes, in addition to slinging a bevy of green-colored beverages.

# Inspectors seek review of second AK underwater pipeline

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) – A federal agency investigating an underwater pipeline leaking natural gas in Alaska's Cook Inlet is expanding its review to a nearby oil pipeline.

In a proposed safety order issued Friday, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration said the 8-inch oil pipeline owned by Hilcorp Alaska LLC is subject to the same stresses as Hilcorp's 8-inch natural gas pipeline and must be quickly inspected.

The natural gas pipeline since mid-December has spewed hundreds of thousands of cubic feet of processed natural gas into the inlet, home to endangered beluga whales.

The PHMSA called for inspection of the oil pipeline, which moves crude oil and water to shore for processing, by side-scan sonar or divers within 21 days of a final safety order. If Hilcorp cannot complete the inspection, the

pipeline must be shut down, the agency said in its proposed order.

Hilcorp has 30 days to respond. Spokeswoman Lori Nelson said by email the company will work with state and federal and state agencies to ensure a timely response to concerns.

"Hilcorp continues to focus on addressing the natural gas pipeline leak and ensuring the safety of our responders in the field," she said.

The leaking line supplies gas to four petroleum platforms. Hilcorp started looking for a leak in January, and on Feb. 7, a helicopter crew spotted gas bubbling to the surface about 4 miles offshore in 80 feet of water.

Hilcorp lowered the pressure in the line Monday and estimates the leak is down to 193,000 to 215,000 cubic feet daily.

Hilcorp purchased the

pipeline and other oil and gas facilities from XTO Energy, Inc., in September 2015. Divers repaired two leaks for XTO Energy in the same line in summer 2014. Floating pans of ice make immediate repairs too dangerous, according to Hilcorp.

The PHMSA on March 3 issued an initial proposed safety order requiring the gas line to be repaired by May 1 or shut down.

The safety agency in its new proposed order said the crude oil pipeline is subject to the same threats as the leaking gas line: vibration, excessive bending in pipe that's not supported by the sea bed, and contact with rocks.

A rupture of the oil pipeline could cause far greater environmental damage than the gas leak, the safety agency said.

The proposed safety order calls for high-resolution side-scan sonar inspection. For areas

where the oil pipe is not supported by the ocean floor or more than 10 feet, the safety order calls for inspection by divers or their equivalent.

Hilcorp has said it has observed "no significant impacts to wildlife or the environment" from the natural gas leak.

Environmental groups say processed natural gas will create a low-oxygen dead zone threatening beluga whales, other marine mammals and fish. Two groups have given required 60-days' notice that they intend to sue Hilcorp over the release.



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# Senate PFD restructure to get hearing in House Finance

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

A bill that would rearrange how earnings from the Permanent Fund are used passed the Senate last week, with a version set next to be read by the House Finance Committee.

The “Permanent Fund Protection Act” (SB 26) would arrange the Fund’s Earnings Reserve Account – from which the state’s annual dividends are paid out – so that the amount of money drawn from the earnings would be tied to a percent of market value, or POMV, approach.

The bill would set up how the ERA would be tapped, and would set the POMV limit at a 5.25-percent withdraw rate from the Fund, based on a five-year historical average of value. So for example, a draw from the ERA the next fiscal year would amount to around \$2,526,000,000 based on Legislative Finance Division estimates.

The version passed by the Senate floor in a 12-8 vote on March 15 would have that draw split between the state’s operating budget and the PFD in an 75-25 split, respectively, with \$1.89B going to fund government services. A previous draft would have had that at a slightly more disparate 80-20 split, but was amended in committee. Still, for the first few years individual PFD payments would be set at \$1,000, and allowed to increase from there.

The bill supplants several similar bills put forward this session in the Senate, such as SB 70 and Sitka Sen. Bert Stedman’s SB 21. Stedman explained that under his version of the restructure, the POMV draw was set at 4.5-percent. This falls within the range recommended by the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation Trustees for protecting the fund’s principal. It figures a

sustainable yield for the fund at a ceiling of five percent each year, based on its average total value for the previous five years.

“That would inflation-proof itself, give yourself a margin,” said Stedman. At that lower rate, he continued, the Fund portfolio would be better able to withstand fluctuations in the market over time.

“I think personally the original structure (of SB 21) is more palatable to the general public, and more sustainable from a portfolio management perspective, but it’s just a step in a journey along the way,” Stedman commented.

Even with SB 26 in place as currently drafted, there would still be just under a billion dollars’ spending deficit to close. That will take a combination of cuts, revenue enhancements, and positive market conditions to overcome, but agreement on how best to partition that still seems far off.

On the House side, HB 115 was awaiting a reading as of Tuesday. It was scheduled tentatively to be heard this morning at 9 a.m. In that bill, the POMV draw would be set at 4.75 percent, with a third going toward dividend payments and the rest going toward the operating budget.

The bill would also establish a statewide income tax, set at 15 percent of the federal liability. This component may find itself at loggerheads when reconciling the budget with the Senate’s version later in the session, which appears to favor deeper cuts over increasing tax revenues.

With differing majority caucuses in both chambers, Stedman foresees the debate going into future legislative sessions. However, both chambers seem to be in agreement when it comes to repurposing the Fund’s ERA, which at least brings down the overall

deficit substantially. At current spending rates, the state has fewer than two years of savings in the Congressional Budget Reserve to draw from.

“(SB) 26 will extend the life of the CBR and give us more time to work our way out of this problem,” Stedman said. “We’ll see what those rates are and the split level is, and we’ll see how that goes the next couple years

as we work through this problem.”

Ahead of the committee’s review of SB 26, House Finance member Rep. Dan Ortiz (I-Ketchikan) will be taking public input this evening with a constituent teleconference. For Wrangell, residents can participate at the Legislative Information Office at 5 p.m., upstairs inside the Kadin Building.

“You’re seeing now the slow turning of Alaska’s economic shift to get out of this recession and its structural deficit issue,” Stedman commented. “Hopefully at the end of this session we’re going to have the restructuring proposal refined for the Permanent Fund and we’re then going to continue over the next couple of years to fix the problem.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF STATE OF ALASKA

The Taku, arriving in Petersburg.

## M/V Taku for sale through sealed bid

JUNEAU – The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) is selling the M/V Taku through a sealed bid sale. The minimum bid price is \$1.5 million and interested bidders must have a bid bond of \$5,000. The complete bid package is available on the state’s Online Public Notice website.

ADOT&PF is selling the vessel “As Is/Where Is” to the highest bidder. The sale process involved getting Federal Highway Administration approval since federal funding was used to maintain the vessel over its lifespan.

Last month, ADOT&PF initiated proceedings to transfer ownership of the M/V Taku by offering it to other state agencies or municipalities. No public entity expressed an

interest in assuming ownership of the M/V Taku.

Interested bidders have 60 days to submit bids, inspect the vessel if desired, and arrange financing if necessary. Sealed bids must be submitted by 3:00 p.m. Alaska Standard Time, on May 9, 2017. The vessel is currently at a mooring facility in Ward Cove in Ketchikan, Alaska.

The M/V Taku was determined to be excess to the needs of the state for ferry vessels and outside the realm of what the state can afford to maintain and operate in passenger service with available funding. The vessel was constructed in 1963 and faithfully operated as a part of the Alaska Marine Highway System for over 50 years. The M/V Taku was taken out of service on June 23, 2015.

## Group honors Sitka teens who rescued residents from fire

SITKA, Alaska (AP) – A national group has honored a group of Sitka High School basketball players who last year helped pull residents from a burning building in Anchorage.

The National Federation of State High School Associations announced Monday that the boys basketball team will receive the “National High School Spirit of Sport Award” for the western region, The Sitka Sentinel reported (<http://bit.ly/2IX4bRd>).

“The basketball team members employed the skills of teamwork and quick thinking that they had developed

through many years of participation and sprang into action,” the federation said in a release.

The federation is the national leadership organization for high school sports and fine arts activities.

The boys helped 11 people out of a burning apartment building while in Anchorage for a state basketball tournament last March. While the players were on their way to breakfast, one player noticed flames in a passing building. The van driver headed toward the building and Sitka High coach Andy Lee called 911.

The players then went around the building knocking

on windows and telling residents to get out.

No one was injured in the fire.

Lee said he is “very proud” of the team members and of the national recognition.

“It happened very quickly and we realize we impacted those families and that is going to be with us forever,” he said. “Their actions that day are a reflection of their families and our community.”

The team has also received recognition from Gov. Bill Walker and the players were grand marshals of the Sitka Fourth of July parade.

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# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH  
Fisheries columnist

## Salmon fishermen could haul in nearly double 2016's catch

Alaska salmon fishermen could haul in a harvest that nearly doubles last year's catch, due to a projected uptick in the number of pinks.

An Alaska Department of Fish and Game report on 2017 salmon run forecasts and harvest projections pegs the total catch at 204 million fish. That compares to just over 112 million salmon taken by fishermen in 2016.

The catch last season included 53 million sockeye salmon—the fifth largest harvest since 1970—but only 39 million pink salmon, the smallest harvest since 1977. For this year, the forecast calls for an “average” catch of sockeye salmon at 41 million, 12 million fewer reds than last year. For those hard to predict pinks, a harvest projection of nearly 142 million is nearly 103 million more humpies than last summer.

For the other three salmon species, managers project a catch this year of 4.7 million cohos, nearly 800,000 more than last year. A chum catch of 16.7 million would be an increase of 1.2 million fish.

For Chinook salmon, a harvest of 80,000 is projected in areas outside of Southeast Alaska, where catches are regulated by treaty with Canada.

The total dockside value of the 2016 salmon fishery barely topped \$406 million, the lowest in 14 years. The average prices paid to fishermen, however, were up across the board at 88 cents a pound for sockeye salmon; 65 cents for cohos, 48 cents for chums, 24 cents for pinks and \$4.40 cents a pound for king salmon.

The 2017 report includes a review of the 2016 salmon season for all Alaska fishing regions. Find it at the ADF&G home page.

**Hatchery hit** - Last year's salmon slump also hit state hatcheries hard.

Typically, more than one-third of Alaska's total salmon harvest and value include fish that start

out as eggs from wild stocks reared in hatcheries - mostly pinks and chums -and are released as fingerlings to the sea.

The annual Alaska Fisheries Enhancement Report shows that last year only about 27 million adult salmon returned to Alaska's 28 hatcheries that are dotted throughout Prince William Sound, the Panhandle and Kodiak. That was less than half of the forecast and the lowest returns since 1992.

That shortfall yielded a dismal hatchery catch of just 24 million salmon, 22 percent of the statewide salmon harvest, the lowest in 24 years. That pushed down the dockside value of the hatchery haul to \$85 million, the lowest since 2005.

It was poor returns of pink salmon that caused the hatchery crash, which accounted for just 15 percent of the total Alaska hatchery take.

Alaska's hatcheries are operated by private nonprofit corporations, and funded primarily from the harvest of a portion of the salmon returns. The state also operates two sport fish hatcheries in Anchorage and Fairbanks. About 120 schools also participate in educational programs that grow salmon eggs in incubators until they are released to the wild.

Operators forecast a return of about 67 million fish to Alaska's hatcheries this summer.

**Tax tasks** - Skippers could become tax collectors if a new law is given a go by Alaska lawmakers. The bill - HB 115 - would require that skippers collect an as yet undefined amount of each crew's wages and remit it to the state Department of Revenue. Currently, the IRS considers fishermen as conducting 'fishing activities' and boat captains are only required to send in a 1099 tax form for their crew members.

“We don't want to be tax collectors,” said Jerry McCune, president of United Fishermen of Alaska and a veteran skipper who

operates out of Cordova. “We have no idea what their taxes are. Even if I collect the money, I could be under collecting or over collecting and the Revenue department is going to make more work for themselves. It is cleaner the way it is - treating us as contractors, and we are the only ones singled out as that.”

McCune added that it is hard to assess the impact of the tax proposal until the legislature finalizes the state budget.

Another bill aims to boost the state fuel tax by a nickel to 10 cents, then to 15 cents by 2019. Representative Louise Stutes of Kodiak (R-Kodiak) has added language to the measure that would give a three cent rebate, but McCune said there is strong resistance to the tax increase.

“We can't absorb all these taxes as a fishing industry and still stay solvent, so we are keeping a close eye on all the proposals,” McCune said.

UFA is the nation's largest fishing industry trade association, representing 34 member groups from small salmon boats to big crab boats and at-sea processors.

Ballots have gone out to select four new UFA members, said administrative director, Mark Vinsel.

“We had an unprecedented 17

qualified applicants,” Vinsel said, adding that voting ends on March 31 and the board members will be seated on April 15.

**Fish bits** - The annual ComFish Alaska trade show set for March 30-April 1 in Kodiak will feature a historical overview of the 66 years of harvesting Bristol Bay salmon from sailboats, seafood market updates, the Navy's controversial Northern Edge exercises in the Gulf of Alaska scheduled from May 1-12, a contest for the most able fisherman, recognition of the longest serving processing workers by Kodiak's many seafood companies and much more. See the ComFish line up on Facebook.

Trident Seafoods received a gold award from the Northwest Clean Air Agency's Partners for Clean Air program for 2017. The award goes to businesses that comply with all applicable air quality regulations for at least three years, and employ additional clean air practices in at least two categories, such as energy efficiency and emissions reductions,

DJ Summers, one of Alaska's best fish writers, has left the Alaska Journal of Commerce to write a text book on the economics, politics and business of cannabis.

“I'll remember covering Alaska's fishing industry the same way Marines remember boot camp and their first foreign deployment. It really sharpened my teeth covering something as complex, as politically charged, as segmented, and as culturally and economically significant as fisheries,” Summers said. He can be reached in Utah at djs Summers100@gmail.com /

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## Pebble, EPA seek more time to resolve lawsuit

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - Additional time has been requested to try to resolve a lawsuit brought against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by the group pursuing a gold-and-copper mine in southwest Alaska.

Attorneys for the Pebble Limited Partnership and EPA on Monday asked that the lawsuit remain on hold until May 4. Monday was the deadline for a status update.

The joint motion states that the parties have made “substantial progress in recent discussions” and are focused on trying to find a mutually agreeable resolution.

The motion states that representatives from the government's “career leadership” and the new administration are involved in the talks.

Pebble sued EPA, alleging the agency had worked with mine critics with a predetermined goal to block the project.

Attorneys for the EPA have called the lawsuit an effort to undermine an agency proposal to protect parts of the Bristol Bay region from development.

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# New rockfish sport fishing regulations take effect this week

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced on Monday the bag, possession and retention regulations for this year's nonpelagic rockfish sport season.

For all Southeast waters, Alaska residents have no size limit, with a bag and possession limit of one nonpelagic rock-

fish. Nonresidents enjoy the same, with the additional limitation of one yelloweye rockfish per year. This must be recorded in ink on the back of an angler's sport fishing license or harvest record card at the time of harvest.

All nonpelagic rockfish that are caught must be retained

until the bag limit is reached. Once the first is caught and retained, all other nonpelagic rockfish caught thereafter must be released.

Anglers catching said fish from a charter vessel must release them using a deep water release mechanism, returning them either to the depth the rockfish was hooked or at least 100 feet. All charter vessels must have at least one functional deep release mechanism on board and readily available during sport fishing activities. Charter operators and crew members may not retain nonpelagic rockfish while clients are on board the vessel.

The rules change for those fishing Southeast Outside Waters, defined as those beyond Point Carolus and Point Adolphus; Struya Point and Range Point; Cape Ommaney and Cape Decision; Cape Decision and Hole in the Wall; and along international waters to the south up to 132° W longitude.

From August 1 - August 21, retention of nonpelagic rockfish in these waters is prohibited, and all anglers fishing from any vessel during that time and place must have a functional

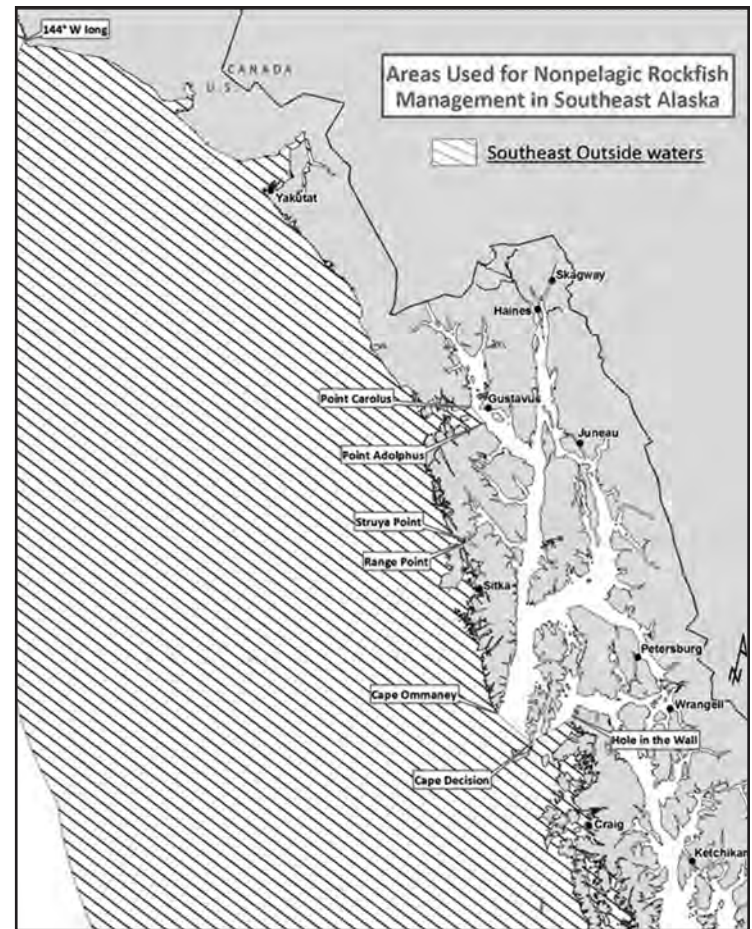


ILLUSTRATION SUBMITTED BY ADFG

deep water release mechanism on board. As with charter vessels above, nonpelagic rockfish must be released either at the depth they were hooked at or at least 100 feet.

The new management actions are being implemented in order to meet Southeast Outside Waters sport fish allocation for nonpelagic rockfish, while reducing harvest levels in

Southeast Inside Waters. The adoption of deep water release mechanisms is due to their increasing the survival rate of such species to about 90 percent. Released at the surface, rockfish only have a survival rate of about 20 percent.

The regulations took effect March 22 at 12:01 a.m., and will last through March 31, 2018.

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The Wrangell Parks and Recreation Department will begin to accept applications for the position of Lifeguard to establish an open pool of applicants for temporary help. Applications will be accepted beginning March 6, 2017 through December 31, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. The work is temporary help with Lifeguarding, facility custodial and clerical duties. Applicants must be sixteen years old or older and hold a current Lifeguard Certificate and CPR/AED Certificate.

The Parks and Recreation Department will be hiring from these applications, as needed, throughout the year. At the end of this open enrollment period applicants would need to file a new application.

Applications and detailed job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929. For more information contact Kate Thomas at 907-874-2444.

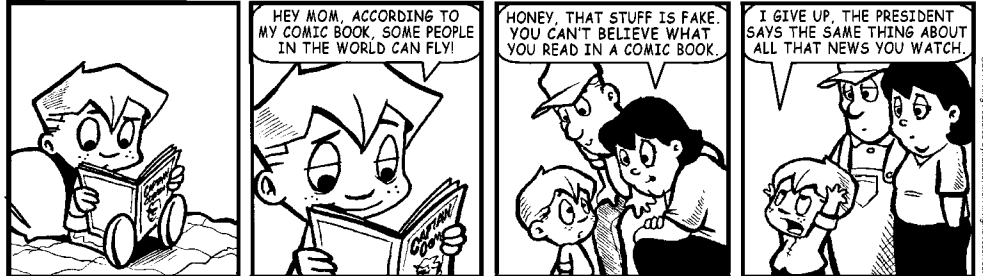
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Jeff Jabusch  
Wrangell Borough Manager

**Publish: March 16 and 23, 2017**

## Comics

### Amber Waves



### R.F.D.



### Just Like Cats & Dogs



**Weekly SUDOKU**  
 by Linda Thistle

		3	4		5			
	6		9		1			
1				7				6
		8		5	4			
	1		7					8
2		4						3
9		8						2
		2	5					9
3	5			1	8			

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆◆◆

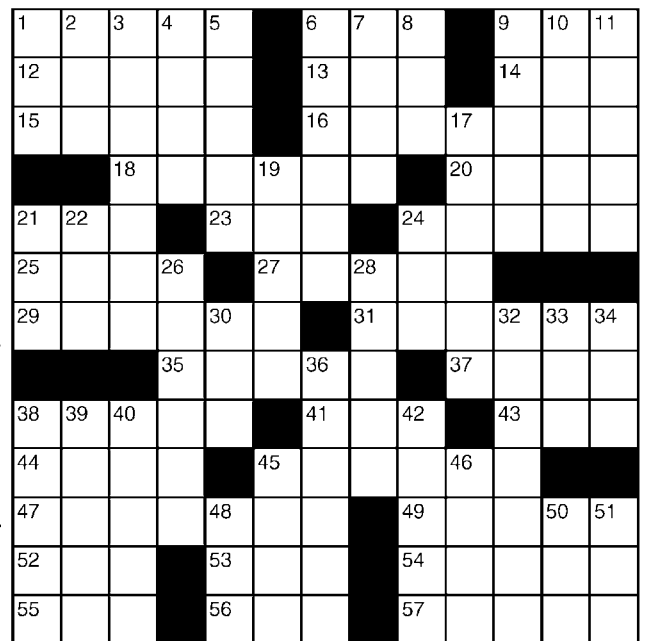
◆ Moderate   ◆◆ Challenging  
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Earth (Lat.)
- 6 Witnessed
- 9 — -relief
- 12 Symbol of slowness
- 13 Inventor Whitney
- 14 Genetic abbr.
- 15 Of punishment
- 16 Burma's capital, once
- 18 Astute
- 20 Took the train
- 21 Oom follower
- 23 Thither
- 24 Xbox enthusiast
- 25 " — a Kick Out of You"
- 27 Worked with rattan
- 29 Circle around the sun
- 31 Conspiracy of silence
- 35 Cardiff's people
- 37 Sunrise
- 38 200 milligrams
- 41 Gear tooth
- 43 Affirmative action?
- 44 Culture medium
- 45 Cringes
- 47 Longtime Klugman



- co-star
- often
- Iranian
- money
- Dumpster location
- Venus' sister
- Winged
- Victory
- Witch craft?
- Battery terminal
- Less loony
- Ranked
- Singer's recording
- Snapshot
- Past
- Jewel
- 26 In the direction of
- 28 "Forget it!"
- 30 Trawler need
- 32 Rifle
- 33 Pair
- 34 Moreover
- 36 Berates
- 38 Freight
- 39 Over
- 40 Kitchen need
- 42 Outfit
- 45 Film sample
- 46 Nevada city
- 48 Commotion
- 50 Regret
- 51 Pigs' digs

### DOWN

- 1 Recipe meas.
- 2 Away from WSW
- 3 Cowboy,

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Puzzle answers on page 10

# Classified/Legals

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## FOR RENT

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### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA AT WRANGELL

In the Matter of the Estate of: )  
 )  
 Jimmy Boyd Wright )  
 Date of Birth: 7/01/1944 )  
 ) CASE NO. 1WR-17-05PR

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

You are notified that the court appointed JASON D. WRIGHT as personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred.

Date: 03/01/2017 Jason D. Wright,  
 PO Box 671, Wrangell, AK 99929  
**Publish: March 9, 16 and 23, 2017**

## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

WRANGELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS is accepting applications for the following position for the 2016-2017 school year: High School Assistant Baseball Coach. For a complete job description and application, please contact the district office at 907-874-2347. Applications

must be received by 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 24, 2017.....1x3-23b47

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank the Fire Department for their quick response to my house fire on March 14 and to everyone else who helped me clean up inside and outside. Everyone has been wonderful

and I really appreciate all the well wishes. Bob Grant.....1x3-23b32

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THE WRANGELL SENTINEL: See us for black and white and color copies up to 11x17. 205 Front St. 874-2301

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### NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT WRANGELL; In the matter of the Estate of Gary James Stevens; Case No. 1WR-17-07 PR. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that LINNEA LEE BROOKS has been appointed personal representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Linnea Brooks P.O Box 638, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or filed with the Clerk of Court, Box 869, Wrangell, Alaska 99929-0869.

**Publish: March 23, 30 and April 6, 2017**

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### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

8	2	3	1	4	6	9	5	7
5	6	7	9	3	2	1	4	8
1	4	9	5	8	7	3	2	6
7	3	8	6	2	5	4	1	9
6	1	4	3	7	9	2	8	5
2	9	5	4	1	8	7	6	3
9	7	1	8	6	4	5	3	2
4	8	2	7	5	3	6	9	1
3	5	6	2	9	1	8	7	4

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

T	E	R	R	A	S	A	W	B	A	S	
S	N	A	I	L	E	L	I	R	N	A	
P	E	N	A	L	R	A	N	G	O	O	N
C	L	E	V	E	R	R	O	D	E		
P	A	H	Y	O	N	G	A	M	E	R	
I	G	E	T	C	A	N	E	D			
C	O	R	O	N	A	O	M	E	R	T	A
W	E	L	S	H	D	A	W	N			
C	A	R	A	T	C	O	G	N	O	D	
A	G	A	R	C	O	W	E	R	S		
R	A	N	D	A	L	L	T	E	A	R	S
G	I	G	D	I	D	U	N	C	U	T	
O	N	E	O	P	S	P	O	K	E	Y	

### CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL Temporary Water Treatment Plant Light Maintenance Wrangell Water Department

The City and Borough of Wrangell will accept applications for the position of Temporary Water Treatment Plant Light Maintenance from March 16, 2016 through April 7, 2016.

The Water Department is currently seeking an applicant to fill the position of Temporary Water Treatment Plant Light Maintenance, to assist in the day-to-day maintenance at the water treatment plant.

The position is full-time, temporary/seasonal that will work forty (40) hours per week.

Applicants must have a valid driver's license and have knowledge of light vehicle maintenance.

For a complete list of duties and responsibilities a job application may be obtained and returned to City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929. Rate of pay depends on experience.

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Jeff Jabusch  
 Borough Manager

**Publish: March 16, 23 and 30, 2017**

### CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL WRANGELL PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT SEASONAL JOB POSTING

The Wrangell Parks and Recreation Department will accept applications for the position of **Park Maintenance II** until March 31, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, hold a valid Alaska Driver's License and have knowledge of power tools and be familiar with grounds maintenance and repairs. Both positions are full time, temporary.

Duties include both skilled and semi-skilled work in landscape, mowing, weed-eating, grounds maintenance, repairs and construction of parks, playgrounds, ball fields and cemeteries. Pay range \$11.79/hr. - \$14.95/hr.

Applications and full job descriptions may be obtained at and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929.

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Jeff Jabusch  
 Borough Manager

**Publish: March 9,16 and 23, 2017**



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# Manager job

**Continued from page 1**  
 the city of 10,700 voted to disincorporate in May 2016. His prior public experience spans 40 years, including management positions in Kearny, Arizona; Molalla, Oregon; and Unalaska.

Lisa Von Barga is currently

the community and economic development director for Valdez, a position she has held since 2001. Prior to that she served five years with the Valdez Convention and Visitors Bureau as director and tourism manager, and was executive director for the city's Chamber of Commerce for 21 months. Her resume lists a wide range of project experience pertinent to city management, such as grant writing and land redevelopment.

Lane explained the fly-in interviews will be handled differently this time around. While the candidates will still have in-person interviews with the Borough Assembly in executive

session, there will be a public reception afterward that will allow them to meet with residents. Assembly members will then make up their minds on how to proceed from there. A date for that has not been set yet.

At its regularly scheduled meeting last week, Jabusch also updated the Assembly on ongoing efforts to revamp the town's water treatment plant. Ahead of the busy summer season, the plant's slow sand filtration units need a good cleaning in order to keep up with demand.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation recent approved modifications to the filtration system submitted by the city in December. The approved modifications will update materials used in an emergency fix during last summer's shortage to safer materials, while the bulk of the proposed work will have the filters' sand thoroughly washed for the first time in the plant's operating life.

A work plan for the roughing filter modifications will begin development, including procuring materials, contracting with appropriate contractors, hiring temporary laborers, securing rental equipment, etc. Due to the planning needs, coupled with the labor intense nature of the proposed sand washing, if sand washing is to be pursued in lieu of sand replacement, the roughing filter work may not occur immediately. DEC approved the request to bypass the roughing filter treatment process altogether when the modification work begins; therefore, when performing the work, water flow will not be affected. Following receipt of

DEC's approval, cost estimates are being developed.

Staff estimates the work will cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000, \$35,000 of which is for material and shipping. The silica sand will be cleaned using a locally-owned sand screw, hauling material out of the filter bays to the screw, running it through with water before returning it.

In a separate fix, new ozone generators are scheduled to arrive in Wrangell around the end of April. The city will also be making an effort to rouse the populace toward conserving water in the summer months, to help offset the heightened needs of the local seafood processors during their peak production.

As a result of additional debt incurred for replacement of those, as well as potential loans to match an upcoming DEC grant to upgrade failing water mains, Jabusch also warned of a likely rate increase on water. This will come to a five-percent rise on July 1, and again on the same day in 2018, or a \$4.18 increase in total on top of the residential \$40.75 rate.

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# Jabusch

Continued from page 1

After a lot of patience and plenty of hours, with the help of Vincent, Jabusch said the system was finally working after about a year.

"I owe a lot to her, she was just an awesome person," he said.

## Big projects

As finance director, Jabusch saw the community grow and develop in many ways.

"I think when I first got here in 1977 the only city street that was paved was from Angerman's to the Diamond C. Everything else was dirt road," he recalled. The city was only just finishing up its first sewage treatment plant in February of 1978, and the boom years of Alaska's oil revenue was making further quality of life improvements possible through grant funding. "Some of those I was a part of and some of those I wasn't."

In the next decade the city was able to build a new public safety building for its police and fire services, and a high school and municipal pool.

The latter projects were some of Jabusch's stand-out projects. Taking advantage of the time's lax arbitrage rules to make good investments using its \$8M bond issue on top of a \$16M grant, the city was able to help repay those bonds with those proceeds under a generous 90-10 state cost sharing plan. The facilities ended up being built with minimal cost to local taxpayers.

The addition of the Tye Hydroelectric Plant in 1984 helped stabilize energy supplies and power rates for residents. "That was a huge thing for this community," he said.

After a downturn in the timber industry and the loss of the Wrangell mill in 1994, the city's fortunes seemed grim. From an administrative standpoint, Jabusch recalled the population drop and loss of the main private employer in town threatened the city's ability to pay for public services.

"It was bleak. It was scary bleak," he said. "I think the biggest concern was 'what were we going to do?'"

Things looked up later when then Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) helped secure around \$37M for the ailing community. "For a town this size, it was a lot of money," Jabusch noted. "We were able to take some of that money and do things. We built the water treatment plant," for example, using the funds as leverage for grant matches.

The other big project that had stood out in his mind had been Heritage Harbor, which Jabusch explained was initially supposed to cost the city about \$6.6M. The Army Corps of Engineers ended up paying for dredging and site work, and combined with cost-sharing and other grant opportunities helped bring the city's final bill down significantly.

"It all kind of fell into place," he said. "When it's all said and done it was a \$30M project, and Wrangell's got about \$25,000 in it."

Similarly the funds were used to pave roads around town, put in new generators in the power

house, build the Nolan Center and Marine Service Center, rebuild the city dock and barge area, construct a number of parks and trails, and contribute to the public golf course. Wrangell was even able to set up its own reserve fund with that settlement money. In the end, Jabusch estimates they were able to get around \$200M for projects out of it.

He noted that much of that success had been due to a sympathetic attitude from the state and federal governments for the region after the loss of the timber industry. Not just Wrangell, but Sitka and Ketchikan also benefited during those post-mill years, he mentioned. Private foundations and innumerable grants have also been of great help to the past 20 years of development.

"There's just a lot of help from a lot of people that helped get us over the hump there," he said.

## Looking ahead

Another hump lies ahead, as the state deals with multibillion-dollar budget deficits. Revenue sharing with municipalities and a wide swath of public services and state agencies have taken their cuts, and legislators are currently looking at ways to restructure Alaska's annual individual dividend payments to cover costs. All this has an impact on how the community will be able to pay for its current services and amenities, not to mention constrict development of other projects moving forward.

"The communities are in for a long haul here with the state woes," said Jabusch.

Even when funding had been more flush, projects were not always without contention. Construction of the Nolan Center and public financing for Wrangell Seafoods had both been particularly volatile issues, he recalled, as had funding for a new hospital.

"We've had assembly meetings here where we've had people out on the lawn and down the hallway," Jabusch said. "One time we had to call the fire marshal to see what the occupancy of the building was."

For all that, he pointed out that the community got past their differences and things worked out. The Nolan Center has become an asset for hosting large events and community gatherings, while updates to Wrangell Seafoods, while not panning out in the short-term, ultimately helped make it more useful to Trident Seafoods' current operations.

"It was a long shot to have a single thing where you didn't have the backing of a big corporation," he said of the latter.

Still, favorite parts of the job he kept revisiting were seeing Wrangell grow, getting power, water and sewage service further and further down the island, and new segments of street paved. "The most rewarding part is just working with a variety of people around town," said Jabusch. "It's had its challenges. But not everything is pleasant."

After being named interim manager in the middle of 2013, Jabusch was eventually made the official borough manager that November. He saw it as a final

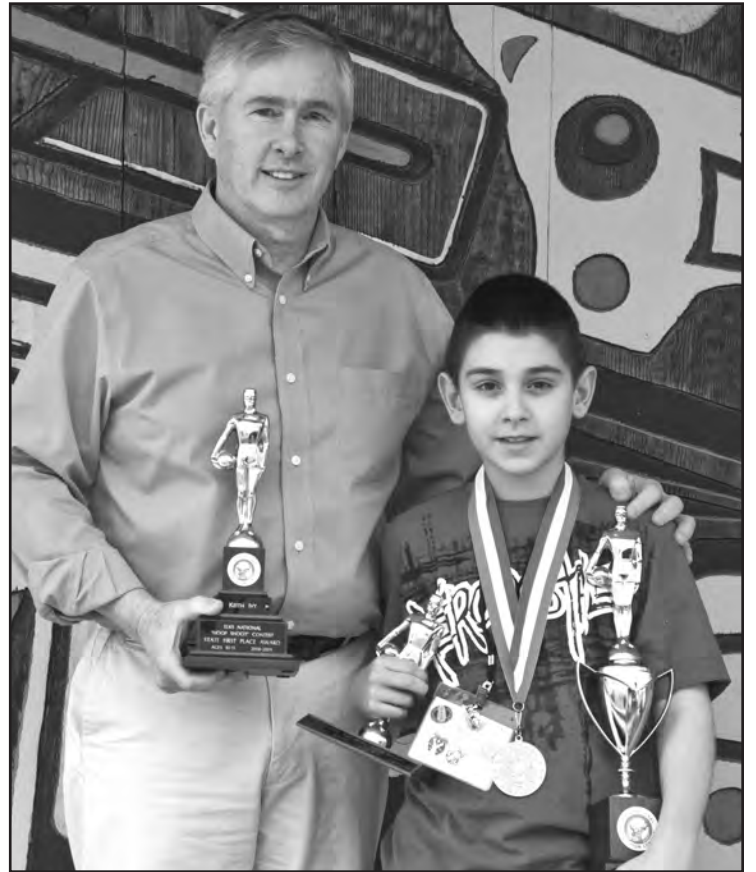
step in a long career minding the town's books, as well as a useful step toward transitioning into retirement.

The addition of Lee Burgess in February 2014 as the new finance director bore a number of parallels to his own start, Jabusch said. Hailing from Michigan, Burgess had some prior office experience but not public accounting chops – which isn't a bad thing, in Jabusch's opinion.

"I think it worked. I know in my case it did," he commented. "He's been here and he's a sharp guy, he'll do a great job." Likewise, he felt City Hall remained in good hands, pointing out the achievements of the past were all part of a team effort. Clerk Kim Lane, economic developer Carol Rushmore, public works director Amber Al-Haddad and Carl Johnson before her, and the office staff; Jabusch commended them all for their part in keeping things moving forward.

"I think we work really well together, and we've been unbelievably successful I think to get the money that helps us realize these things," he said. "Each one of us has our own niche in the process."

Jabusch's part in that process will come to a close at month's end. Turning 65 in December, he has a boat and grandchildren he would like to spend more time with and other projects to see to. Throughout his tenure he has



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Keith Ivy, right, stands with local Hoop Shoot organizer, Jeff Jabusch, who was on hand to help Keith display his medals and awards won at the local and state level in March, 2009.

stayed busy with basketball, coaching at times and refereeing games for the high school. Those are activities he would like to continue doing.

"I kind of feel bad leaving at the time I'm leaving," he said. "But it seems there's never a good time. There's always some crisis, and you could just keep going forever."

He and Kay plan to hold a big

reception at the Nolan Center this Saturday, with no-host cocktails at 6 p.m. and a buffet to follow at around 7 p.m. Remarks and a presentation will conclude the evening.

"It's just an opportunity to thank people," he said. At first the Jabusch's had considered sending out invitations, but for fear of forgetting someone have made it more of an open house.

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