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All aboard for people and pets



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Molly jumps into the water taxi piloted by Spenser Stavee, left, at Banana Point on Mitkof Island last Wednesday. Molly's owner, Don Stevens, right, was returning from medical treatment in Petersburg and had taken his dog along for company.

Water taxis continue to fill inter-island travel needs

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

A few months ago, passengers on an Alaska Airlines flight trying to get to Wrangell were stranded in Petersburg due to a mechanical problem. Thanks to a local tour operator, the castaways were picked up and brought back to Wrangell in less than an hour.

For many years, Wrangell skippers have been offering shuttle services as a quick and affordable means of traveling between the two communities.

Last Saturday, Zach Taylor, owner of Muddy Water Adventures, teamed up with Summit Charters and took a Little League team to Banana Point for a game in Petersburg. During the school year, it's common for Taylor and other tour operators to transport kids between the towns for games and other events.

Although there isn't a set schedule, most oper-

ators will post on Facebook any trips with seats available in case anyone wants to catch a ride.

Spenser Stavee, owner of Breakaway Adventures, will post his taxi schedule on the Wrangell community page on Facebook to keep people abreast of trips for the half-hour run to the southern end of Mitkof Island, where people can get a ride for the 28 miles into Petersburg. It's a service he's continued after purchasing the company from Eric Yancey in 2021.

"I've got to give Eric a lot of credit for what he built over all those years and the kind of service he was giving people and keeping ... (the taxi service) affordable," Stavee said.

Though the price was \$50 per person with a minimum of \$100 per trip for several years, Breakaway had to increase the price to \$60 per person, with a \$120 minimum, due to inflation

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Staff shortage forces Senior Center to stop hot lunches, cut back on rides

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Due to funding cuts and a staffing shortage, the Senior Center has suspended its hot lunch service and limited the number of bus rides it can offer to elders. The changes will remain in effect until the center can hire two new employees — a cook and a bus driver.

"Because we are short-staffed, we have to make some changes to our schedule to keep the center going," said Senior Center manager Solvay Gillen. Hours have been cut to Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with shelf-stable lunches available for pickup from noon to 1 p.m.

Dine-in meals are no longer available and bus rides will prioritize medical visits. "I'm only one person," said Gillen, who is now the center's only employee. "I can't be in the kitchen and I can't be in the van. It might be minimal services, but

I'm still getting to you."

The organization used to have four positions — a cook, assistant cook, driver and manager. The Southeast wing of Catholic Community Service, the organization that funds the Senior Center operation, discontinued Wrangell's assistant cook position and cut back the hours of the remaining part-time roles. These cuts made it difficult for employees to keep the job and balance their budgets. "You can't live off that, really," Gillen said of the part-time jobs after the cuts.

Catholic Community Service announced that it would be downsizing in the middle of last month.

Before services were cut, the center typically provided around 40 to 45 rides per day. During pandemic lockdowns, that number could be as high as 90 or 100. Elders would get rides to lunch, to get groceries, to check their mail, to medical appointments and more.

Gillen is optimistic the organization will be back to its regular operations soon. She is currently interviewing candidates for the cook position and the driver position is open. "Hopefully, it won't last for that long," she said. "Everybody's been pretty understanding."

Marleen Carroll takes advantage of the Senior Center's bus and meal offerings when they're available. The changes, she said, will affect her quality of life and that of others who use the services regularly.

"It's going to make me more homebound," she said, and will affect senior community members' social lives. With dine-in meal service suspended and transport options limited, those social opportunities have largely disappeared for the time being. "Most of the people down there haven't got a lot of social life other than the Senior Cen-

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State says troll season will open July 1, but no king take allowed

By SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sitka Sentinel

The Southeast Alaska summer commercial troll season for coho and chum salmon will open on July 1, but no chinook retention will be allowed, the state Department of Fish and Game announced May 30. The prohibition on troll-caught kings is due to the ongoing lawsuit by the nonprofit Wild Fish Conservancy against the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Still, Alaska trollers are holding out hope that king salmon fishing will open as usual on July 1 if the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals grants a stay of last month's U.S. District Court order that blocks the fishery.

"We live and hope that the 9th Circuit will grant the stay of the order from the U.S. District Court," said Matt Donohoe, president of the Alaska Trollers Association.

ATA and the state are backing the National Marine Fisheries Service in the lawsuit filed by the Washington state-based Wild Fish Conservancy. The lawsuit is aimed at protecting the endangered southern resident killer whales, which spend part of the year in Puget Sound and prey on

the same stocks of king salmon that are caught in the Southeast Alaska troll fishery.

The conservancy claims the Southeast troll fisheries threaten the Endangered Species Act-listed chinook salmon and southern resident killer whales that feed on them in waters off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and Canada.

On May 26, the U.S. District Court in Seattle denied a motion for a stay on the court's order of earlier in the month. That order vacated the incidental take statement issued by NMFS in 2019 that had allowed the Southeast troll catch.

The state is appealing to the 9th Circuit, asking for a stay by June 23 to allow fishermen time to prepare for the king salmon troll fishery.

Donohoe said he feels like trollers have been living under a "sword of Damocles" with the threat of not being able to troll for chinook because of the lawsuit, leaving only coho and chum fishing.

He said the market for early season cohos isn't good because of the relatively small size of the fish this time of year, and the banner catch of Bristol Bay sockeye last year.

Holiday weekend charter boat accident near Sitka takes 5 lives

By STEFANIE DAZIO
AND BECKY BOHRER
Associated Press

A fishing adventure turned tragic for a family when disaster struck one of the two Sitka boats they chartered over the Memorial Day weekend, leaving three people dead and two missing despite a search over hundreds of square miles of ocean.

The tragedy tore the Tyau family apart: Two sisters and one of their husbands are dead, while the other's partner and the boat captain remain missing a week after the 30-foot aluminum boat was found partially submerged off an island near Sitka.

Authorities on May 29 suspended their search after more than 20 hours, covering 825 square miles.

The sisters' parents, older brother and sister-in-law were on the other charter boat as part of a three-day trip to a destination fishery known for king salmon and groundfish.

The sisters and their sister-in-law didn't like fishing but joined the vacation to spend more time with a family that was usually split between Hawaii and Los Angeles.

"It was just supposed to be a simple family get-together for eight of us, since we haven't been together in the same spot for so

long," Michael Tyau, the older brother, told The Associated Press on June 1. "For it to turn out like this is really devastating."

The Tyau siblings — Michael, Brandi and Danielle — grew up fishing in Hawaii with their parents. Michael Tyau said his sisters hated being cold and wet but would endure it for their water-loving parents and later their partners.

Brandi Tyau's longtime partner, Robert Solis — a Navy diver turned private investigator who was stationed in Hawaii when they met decades ago — was someone for whom "the ocean really was his life," one of Solis' brothers said.

So when the Tyau siblings' mother suggested a family trip last year, a fishing vacation in Sitka Sound won out.

"My sisters, I think, reluctantly agreed," Michael Tyau said.

He and his wife flew from Los Angeles to Alaska with Brandi Tyau, 56, and Solis, 61. They met up with their parents, sister Danielle Agcaoli, 53, and her husband, 57-year-old Maury Agcaoli, all Hawaii residents.

The whole family stayed in a lodge owned by Kingfisher Charters in Sitka.

The boats the Tyau clan chartered, named the Pockets and

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Wednesday, June 7: Dana Ivy, Jacob Soeteber, Devyn Young; Anniversary: Mike and Natalya Jabusch.

Thursday, June 8: Anniversary: James and Cinda Stough.

Friday, June 9: Jon Ryon Pino.

Saturday, June 10: None.

Sunday, June 11: Kim Stover, Kyler Archie Young.

Monday, June 12: None.

Tuesday, June 13: Aaron Powell, Mark Walker, Alivia Lani Young.

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

PARKS and RECREATION advisory board meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, in the assembly chambers at City Hall. Public encouraged to attend. To submit comments to the department or board, email lrobinson@wrangell.com.

BABY RAVEN READS: FAMILY EVENT, 10 a.m. to noon, Friday June 9, at Wrangell Head Start. Theme is "Raven Brings Us Fire." Alaska Native families with children up to age 5 are invited to join for storytelling, songs and other cultural and literacy activities.

IRENE INGLE PUBLIC LIBRARY summer reading program is open to students entering kindergarten through ninth grade in the fall. Register at the library. The program runs 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.

MUSKEG MEADOWS will hold the Ray Pederson Memorial Ryder golf competition, 18 holes both days, Saturday, June 10, and Sunday, June 11, starting at 10 a.m. Register by 9:30 a.m.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse," rated PG, at 7 p.m. Friday, June 9, and Saturday, June 10, and at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 11. The animated action adventure runs 2 hours and 20 minutes; tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

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 community center; Friday lunch will be at the community gym, with indoor play and activities. Through July 30. Volunteers 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.

TOUCH A TRUCK at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 17, at the track and parking lot by Volunteer Park. Hot dogs and snacks will be available. Join the fun and come check out all the big rigs. All ages welcome.

PATS LAKE FAMILY FISHING DAY, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and WCA/IGAP, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 24. Free outdoor fun for the family, including fishing, games and crafts. Lunch and prizes courtesy of Stikine Sportsmen Association. Some fishing gear and personal flotation jackets may be available for use onsite.

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

- **JUNE YOUTH ART CAMP**, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays at the community center multipurpose classroom through June 30. Open to kindergarten to fifth grade. \$25 fee. Wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty.

- **YOUTH WRESTLING CAMP** with Mike Bundy open to kindergarten through grade 12 at the community center gym. Camp days are July 10-13, with a tournament July 14. Camp is free but registration is required and sign-up is open until June 30.

- **MENS OPEN GYM BASKETBALL**, 4 to 6 p.m. Sundays at the community center gym. Open to 15 years and older. \$5 drop-in fee. Cash or check. Wear athletic clothing that bends and flexes, and bring gym shoes.

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

Senior Center Menu

Special notice to patrons of the Senior Center

Starting June 6, the Senior Center is limiting its meal and ride services while trying to hire a cook and a driver.

Shelf-stable meals, a fruit cup and milk can still be picked up by seniors or their loved ones at the center Tuesday through Friday from noon to 1 p.m.

Services will be reinstated once the center is able to hire people for the positions.

Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours	Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
June 7	4:02a	9:34p	17:31h	June 11	4:00a	9:38p	17:38h
June 8	4:02a	9:35p	17:33h	June 12	3:59a	9:39p	17:39h
June 9	4:01a	9:36p	17:35h	June 13	3:59a	9:40p	17:40h
June 10	4:00a	9:37p	17:36h				

Ferry Schedule

Northbound

Sunday, June 11
Columbia, 3:45 p.m.
Sunday, June 18
Columbia, 2:15 p.m.
Sunday, June 25
Columbia, 4:45 p.m.
Sunday, July 2
Columbia, 2 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, June 14
Columbia, 4 a.m.
Wednesday, June 21
Columbia, 7 a.m.
Wednesday, June 28
Columbia, 10 a.m.
Wednesday, July 5
Columbia, 6 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
June 7	03:18	17.5	04:37	14.5
June 8	04:10	16.6	05:31	14.4
June 9	05:09	15.5	06:30	14.5
June 10	06:18	14.3	07:33	14.9
June 11	07:39	13.4	08:34	15.5
June 12	08:58	13.1	09:30	16.3
June 13	10:09	13.3	10:21	17.0

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

May 31, 1923

The first aerial mail ever received through the Wrangell post office came from Lake Bay Wednesday morning, having been brought by the seaplane Northbird piloted by Roy Jones with Glen Day as engineer. Mr. Jones stated that the flight from Ketchikan to Lake Bay was made in 55 minutes. Arriving here, it soon became known that the Northbird had brought mail and there were many visits to the post office with the result that about a dozen persons received letters within 45 minutes from the time they had left Lake Bay. While the Northbird was here several local people had the thrill of a flight over the city.

June 4, 1948

Last Friday evening the Seattle Police drill team arrived in Wrangell on the steamship Alaska on their return trip to Seattle. The team was met at the boat by Chamber of Commerce President Thor Hofstad, who presented the members and their families with passes to a show presented for them at the ANB Hall. The show was attended by a large number of townspeople, although it was intended mainly for the visitors. The Alaska Native Brotherhood

generously donated the hall for the event. At the close of the program, the police quartet sang several numbers.

June 8, 1973

State and city police confiscated nearly \$360 worth of beer, wine and hard liquor from the high school graduation party at the Elks Club on May 30. The party, a graduation-night tradition, was planned by the seniors and not a school-sponsored event. In the past, city officials and the police either have looked the other way or cooperated as students partied, danced and drank. One year, the police department even provided chauffeur services to the students. Not so this year. State Trooper Robert Koslick and Sgt. William Klein of the Wrangell Police Department entered the Elks Club and observed numerous drinking violations. "There were 16-, 17- and 18-year-olds with drinks in their hands," Koslick said. "We confiscated all the booze and poured out what was in the glasses," the trooper said. Rob Luce, a graduating senior, did much of the work to set up the party. Luce said he had talked with Mayor Don House, City Manager Herb McNabb and Sam Privett, an Elks Club trustee, and that he had re-

peatedly told each of them there would be drinking at the party "so that there would be no misunderstanding." He said he was given the impression that the students would be permitted to hold their traditional party. "Would we have held the party next door to the police department if we didn't think that it was OK?"

June 4, 1998

A strange-looking eel was caught in a shrimp trawl by Dan Doak last week while he was shrimping between Babbler Point and Mill Creek in the Back Channel. "Dan said it was the first one he'd ever seen, and he's been shrimping here for years," said Leland Phillips, from Sea Level Seafoods. After spending time in the freezers at Sea Level and Fish and Game, it was finally identified by Fish and Game biologist Gordan Woods as a slender snipe eel. The slender snipe eel usually prefers deep water but is attracted by lights and it is sometimes caught by fisherman near the surface, as was the case with this specimen. The eel is known for its long beak-like recurving jaws. It can grow as long as 57 inches. Phillips said this eel was about 30 inches long, and had a beak that was as hard as a bird's.

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WEEKLY FARE SALES



FREIGHT FOR LESS

Rucking packs a weighty challenge to hiking Wrangell's trails

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

On a recent Saturday, Devyn Johnson brought her children and their friend to the Rainbow Falls trailhead at 5 Mile. They met with a curious hiker and prepared to trek up the path to the top, about six-tenths of a mile away.

Before starting on the journey, Johnson found a large slab of rock weighing between 20 and 30 pounds and put it into her backpack. That's the difference between hiking and adding a rucking element to it.

Every weekend, rain or shine, the Wrangell Parks and Recreation department hosts a rucking hike in various places around the island to provide movement and a little extra challenge.

Rucking's history is rooted in military training, as soldiers would have to carry their gear-laden backpacks for miles, building endurance and preparing for combat. These days, people have formed groups

across the globe to participate not only in casual rucking events but competitions, with people loading up with weights.

In Wrangell, the rules for rucking are far less heavy and was "started just to encourage people to get out and move and enjoy the outdoors," Johnson, the recreation and aquatics coordinator for Parks and Recreation, said. "Sometimes it's more fun to do things in a group, so once a weekend I'm going to rally folks and choose a different spot."

So far, she and her children have hiked Rainbow Falls, the Volunteer Park nature trail, the Mount Dewey Trail, the path around Muskeg Meadows Golf Course and the airport loop.

People who come along for the hikes don't need to carry backpacks or weights. That's just to add more challenge if someone is up for it, Johnson said.

Rucking is another offering from Parks and Recreation staff to keep people moving. Director Lucy Robinson said she is consid-

ering buying a GoRuck backpack, which is a name brand hiking gear company that hosts official events and competitions. The packs are specifically designed to carry weights and can range in price from \$95 up to \$555.

Robinson said she gave Johnson information on rucking when she started in her position and Johnson has "kind of run with it." She pointed out that rucking allows people of all fitness levels to come together for one activity. Though it has just started, she said they would like to see it continue throughout the year.

"We're trying to do walking and hiking and running," Johnson said. "We're trying to break it up so there's something for all abilities. If you're not super keen on going up Rainbow Falls one weekend, reach out to me and we can do the nature trail the following weekend. I just want it to be accessible to everyone."

It's recommended that participants wear flexible clothing and comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots depending on the ter-

rain, carry water and keep dogs on a leash if they are brought along.

Most hikes have been between one and two miles, except for the airport loop, which is closer to three miles.

People who participate in the rucking group can also use the miles logged as part of the Walk Southeast challenge if they are registered for the event, which lasts until Sept. 1.

Johnson will host rucking hikes every weekend, either on Saturday or Sunday depending on her schedule. The hikes are free to attend and information for upcoming hikes can be found on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page or in the member email that is sent out on Mondays.

Though she tries to challenge herself while rucking, Johnson said the rock she carried up Rainbow Falls trail wasn't the heaviest she's brought with her.

"I've carried my children," she said. "I've carried them on countless adventures."

Visitor bureau selects an app to put Wrangell on a 3D informational map

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau is converting the town to digital.

On May 24, the WCVB board unanimously approved spending up to \$12,000 with a mobile mapping app provider to aid and encourage travelers and increase data analytics for marketing.

At the monthly board meeting, Economic Development Director Kate Thomas and Matt Henson, the borough's marketing and community development director, presented board members with results of their research into smartphone mapping software.

"This is meant to be a software platform that serves businesses on the ground here in Wrangell but also acts as infrastructure that supports the independent traveler," Thomas said in an interview last Wednesday. "Will it be used by cruise passengers or otherwise? Yeah, maybe, but it's more or less for those who ... want to do things independently."

It's appeal, she said, is to those who want non-guided excursions.

"It is essentially a 3D topographical interactive map. It's going to show your landscape with elevation, coastline and major features for Wrangell specifically," she said.

Thomas said they hope to have the app up and running no later than July to take advantage of the rest of the tourist season.

Of the two apps Thomas and Henson narrowed it down to, their preferred choice is Wander due to its cost and accessibility. The app presents a topographical image of the island, complete with

roads, points of interest, businesses and public amenities. It allows the user to map out distances between places and get information about those places.

"You can click on each item and within the icon, once it opens up, it would have directions, the telephone number, the website, a link to be able to share it," Thomas said. "Then it would have a narrative. Some things would be very basic. You're not going to have a long narrative for your gas station, but you're going to have a narrative for Chief Shakes Tribal House and a link to the WCA website."

Another feature that had the staff sold on the Wander app is its ability to provide information both online and offline. Once the app is downloaded to a traveler's phone, the map, points of interest and other items would be available even after the person is out of cell service. It won't have enough topographical information to act as a navigational aid, Thomas said, but it would act as a place locator.

Thomas pointed out that cell service is spotty past 2.5 Mile or past the golf course down the Spur Road, "which means 75% of our points of interest are out of cell range." She added that there are only two cell phone service providers that tend to work well in Wrangell.

"The beauty of the software is that it works on and offline, so it acts as a GPS that works by satellite," she said. "That was critical to us because most of the mobile mapping software out there requires you to have cell service."

Along with helping travelers plan out their adventures in Wrangell, the software would

allow WVCB to collect analytical data on its users so they would know how to better market the community as a destination to other travelers.

Though the technology might not fly with some of the island's older visitors, board members agreed that the app could be useful in attracting a younger population.

The visitor bureau would sign up for a year at a time to make sure they were getting a good return on their investment in the software. The first year with Utah-based Wander would cost \$10,000, which would be paid for through the Marian Glenz Fund. Glenz, who died in 2017, was the chair of the WCVB board for a long time. She left the fund so that the visitor bureau could "try

new mediums for marketing and development as it relates to tourism when there wasn't room to do that," Thomas said.

She said the fund would be able to cover the annual \$6,000 service fee and \$2,000 add-on features fee for about three years "without zeroing out that fund balance ... and not pull it from the (borough) general fund until we know we're getting the analytics we want to see out of it."

The app will be beneficial in a way that traditional print guides are not in that it can be updated if anything changes in the community. If a business closes or opens, changes its contact information or location, that can be reflected as soon as it happens in the Wander app.

Once the software is imple-

mented, Thomas said she and Henson would work to notify the community and business owners so that information could be added as soon as possible.

Because the staff at Wander were so interested in Wrangell, they started researching and building it for demonstration purposes.

"The beautiful thing is they started to already implement some of our points of interest when they did a demo for us," Thomas said. "They did it in a destination-specific fashion, where normally they would give you a demo of another community. They were so interested in Wrangell and thought it was such a unique location, that they started to upload our local points of interest to show us the demo."

Myra Arlene Sarber

April 21, 1942 - April 14, 2023

Myra Arlene Sarber passed with her family by her side April 14 in Sunnyside, Oregon. Myra was born the sixth child of seven in Spokane, Washington, to Thelma Irene and Faber Sebastian Wondzell. In 1951, her family moved by steamship to Wrangell in the territory of Alaska. 1955 brought a consistent and loving stepfather, Albert Ronning.

She married her lifelong love, Homer Sarber, in Petersburg in 1962, and they settled down in Ketchikan to raise their family.

Myra and Homer lived in Ketchikan for 35 years, during which time Myra worked many different jobs, in addition to those of homemaker and mother. She did at-home child care, worked in the lunch program at Schoenbar Middle School, earned her CNA, was a pharmacy technician at Island Pharmacy, and eventually retired from her position as insurance claims processor with Tongass Timber Trust in 1999.

She worked in the pharmacy at Nugget Rexall in Juneau while she and Homer lived there for a few years in the 1980s.

Homer and Myra spent 10 years as dedicated foster parents to several children who Myra enjoyed taking under her wing and nurturing as her own.

She loved retirement and thoroughly enjoyed living as a "snowbird," splitting time between her family's A-frame cabin on Kupreanof Island and her beloved motor-home, "The Rose." Retirement allowed for travel and discovering new places with family and friends. A highlight of every year was leaving Arizona in the spring and enjoying a long trip north to Alaska, as they stopped in Washington and Oregon to spend time with family and friends.

She was especially close with her siblings and their spouses, lovingly referred to as "the out-laws," with whom they shared adventures in the United States and abroad. In 2009, they bought a home and settled in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, for the winter months and continued to travel to summer in Alaska.

Myra was an energetic, magnetic force who, when faced with challenges, didn't back down.

She was a spiritual and Christian woman who advocated tolerance and acceptance. Myra had a true, independent Alaska spirit that she passed on to her children. She loved her family and time with them was precious to her. Myra cherished the independence she and Homer shared: Theirs was a special life that made time for others around their first love — each other.

Myra had many hobbies and interests. She was especially known for being a treasure hunter and collector: digging bottles, collecting shells and turning them into beautiful displays. She took classes to develop her interest and artistry in Alaska Native basketry and beadwork. She was an avid gardener in Alaska and Arizona. She cared deeply for the many special dogs who were central to her life and family.

Myra and Homer loved exploring Southeast Alaska by boat, adventuring with friends and family, and especially with Homer's brother and sister-in-law, Frank and Maggie. Myra loved sharing "the good cabin life," first with her children and then her grandchildren.

Myra was a friend to many, who were drawn in by her curiosity and interest in life, her good humor and the gleam in her eye that beckoned them to join her. She brought a special light and playful mischief into a room, and into the lives she touched. She didn't get "old" in the traditional sense, with a buzzing energy around her that never waned. She will be dearly missed by those who loved her.

Myra was preceded in death by her parents and stepfather; and siblings Bruce, Robert and Shirley (Ronning) Wondzell, Blair Wondzell. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Homer H. Sarber; children Scott (Shelly) Sarber, Kevin Sarber and Sabrina Sarber; grandchildren Megan Brown, Treven (Krisandra) Sarber, Jorah Barber, Micah Barber, Kysa Marie Barber and Darrah Barber; great-grandson Taven Sarber; siblings, Joyce Kramer, Terry (Christine) Wondzell, Clara Ann (Edward) Ness and Georgina Ronning Skrinski; and many loving nieces and nephews.



ROYALTY MENU

Thursday, June 8

Deep-fried everything - corn dogs, twinkies, etc.

Friday, June 9

Shawna's Philly cheese steak sandwich, french fries

Saturday, June 10

Pie and bake sale, late-night burgers

Sunday, June 11

Diamond C breakfast; closed for lunch

Monday, June 12

Halibut tacos

Tuesday, June 13

Bob's deli day and lasagna dinner

Wednesday, June 14

Teriyaki grilled chicken, jasmine rice with egg roll

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Governor needs to think before he hires

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

People are growing increasingly cynical about government: How money is spent, how hiring decisions are made, and how it seems there are few consequences for actions that hurt the public.

Yet too many elected leaders continue making bad decisions that add to the cynicism.

Such as Gov. Mike Dunleavy appointing to the University of Alaska Board of Regents his former chief of staff whose poor judgment — and illegal actions, according to a judge — cost the state at least half-a-million dollars.

Tuckerman Babcock, a longtime political adviser to the governor, had orchestrated what amounted to a purge of state employees who declined to sign a

loyalty pledge after Dunleavy took office in December 2018. A federal judge ruled that demanding resignation letters while at the same time asking 800 employees to sign a “statement of commitment” to the new administration to keep their job violated the workers’ state and federal constitutional rights.

The cost to the state treasury of the illegal actions managed by Babcock is at half a million and growing — one case is still pending a damages award.

And yet, years later, Babcock cannot manage an apology for his illegal action or for sticking the state with the tab. “That’s certainly something that is in the past,” he told a reporter after his appointment to the university governing board.

No remorse, no accountability, no regrets for violating the law, and yet the governor believes this guy should make policy for the statewide university system, with thousands of employees and an annual budget of about \$870 million in state and federal funds.

And in a bizarre personnel choice a month earlier, the governor’s office promoted its staff photographer to a newly created position as pro-family policy adviser, at \$110,000 a year. It appears no one bothered to check out the guy’s

podcasts or history of incendiary statements.

Jeremy Cubas in his podcasts — produced separate from his job while he was working for the state — defended some of Adolf Hitler’s views and said people should “get violent” in response to aggressive transgender activists.

In a March podcast a month before he was promoted at the governor’s office, Cubas talked of how society has exaggerated the seriousness of rape. “Rape, in the end, is pretty low on the totem pole of grave immoral actions,” he said. “Because in the end, I mean, if you produce a child through rape, you’ve ontologically fulfilled the act to a pretty good capacity.”

In an interview with a reporter on May 30, Cubas said, “an act like divorce is worse than rape.”

He also said it’s not possible for a man to rape his wife: “When you signed the contract, you have already consented. You’re consenting until the end of time, until you’re dead.”

In one of his podcasts, he said “sometimes a woman needs to be slapped,” adding, “I don’t think there’s any sin there.”

He repeatedly defended Adolf Hitler in his podcasts. “He wasn’t just a lunatic who wanted to kill Jews. I think he

was somebody who recognized the virtues of living homogeneously,” Cubas said in January.

In the same episode, Cubas said Hitler targeted Jews not because of their race but because they were “homeless people just taking over the country.”

Cubas told the reporter that he provided access to his social media accounts as part of the hiring process at the governor’s office, and he assumes someone checked them. It sure looks like no one listened to the podcasts before promoting Cubas to a six-figure job.

He resigned after reporters asked the governor’s office about the podcasts and hiring decision.

The governor can do better than Cubas and Babcock. Neither should be advising on anything at state expense.

The cost to the state treasury of the illegal actions managed by Babcock is at half a million and growing — one case is still pending a damages award.

EDITORIAL

It’s the little budget items that can make a difference

The biggest headline in the borough’s draft budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1 is the proposed 24% reduction in the property tax rate, though a substantial drop had been expected. This year’s comprehensive assessment review of every piece of property in Wrangell resulted in a significant boost in taxable value for most homes and businesses. Borough officials had said the intent was fairness — assessing all property by the same standards — not raising revenue. The proposed cut to the tax rate follows through on that pledge.

Aside from the \$2 million in property tax revenues anticipated for the next fiscal year — out of a total general fund budget of \$7.3 million in property tax, sales tax, state and federal revenues, and interest on savings — there are a couple of smaller numbers worth paying attention to.

The draft budget shows a \$78,000 increase in spending on marketing and community development, with most of that for a new employee dedicated to marketing. Within the Department of Economic Development, the Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau has approved spending \$12,000 to get the town on a 3D map. Not just any map, but an interactive app for smartphones to provide visitors — and locals, too — a topographical map of the island, showing roads, points of interest with information, businesses and public facilities.

The app is intended to make it easier for independent travelers to enjoy their time here by giving them more information — exactly the type of visitors the town needs to fill hotel, lodge and bed and breakfast rooms, eat and shop.

It’s money well spent. Wrangell needs to attract more visitors, new businesses and particularly new residents to help fill the multiple job vacancies that are holding back the community.

There doesn’t seem to be an employer in town that isn’t looking to hire, as worker shortages are forcing cutbacks in hours and services — just look at the Senior Center. The borough owns the building and Catholic Community Service operates the center.

Unable to hire a cook and a driver, while also dealing with cuts in federal funding to the Southeast nonprofit, the center has eliminated its hot lunch program. No more coming to the center to eat and share company. The meals are all to go. And rides for seniors have been cut to only the minimum, focusing on medical appointments. Before the cutback, the center typically provided 40 to 45 rides per day.

The borough last year budgeted \$13,000 in assistance for the Senior Center. The draft budget for the next fiscal year includes \$15,000. The assembly and borough officials should ask Senior Center management if a little more money could help restore the level of services the community’s elders need.

— Wrangell Sentinel

THE EDITOR’S DESK

Measure of a man is how he treats others no matter their color or beliefs

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

On a recent Sunday, as I was heading to the store, my phone rang. I don’t get many calls these days unless it’s somebody trying to sell me something.

To my surprise, the caller ID showed the name of someone I hadn’t seen in years. Was it coincidence and this was just a spam call? I took a risk and answered, and I’m glad I did.

“Hey, is this Marc? It’s Darryl.”

At first, I was worried something happened to his older brother or younger sister, who I call my adopted older brother and younger sister. But, as it turns out, Darryl was calling to catch up after many years and to relay a message of gratitude.

“Dale (older brother) and I were working together on a house, and we were talking about what a great man Grandpa Lutz was,” he told me.

I grew up in a house built by my father, uncle and my Grandpa Lutz, who lived next door in a house he built with the help of his sons. When I was about 9 years old, my grandparents invited a pregnant mother and her sons to live in the small, converted travel trailer in their backyard where my great-grandmother lived until her death in 1974.

Philomena and her sons, Dale and Dar-

ryl, had come from Guyana, a country in South America. They were escaping an abusive home, looking for somewhere safe. My grandparents didn’t waste a second in welcoming the family. When Davina was born, she became inseparable from my grandfather.

My grandpa and my father put us all to work, my brothers and Dale and Darryl. If something needed to be done and we didn’t know how to do it, they taught us. Most of those lessons stuck, especially with my oldest brother and my adopted brothers, all of whom can build a house in their sleep.

Leroy Lutz, my grandpa, was born in the early 1900s in Kansas. Photos I have of him as a child show an impish grin and a look of mischief brewing. He was never big in stature and was always slight in frame. But his character always shone through.

He could be gruff, growling under his breath if he disagreed with something, yet he was always accepting of others. He was a Christian and served as a deacon for decades in his Seventh-day Adventist Church, sharing his faith when asked but never pushing it on anyone.

Growing up with a British mum ensured he hated tea (“She used it to cure everything,” he would tell me). He loved gardening, especially his roses, and collecting

rocks. He hated spaghetti (“worms”). And he loved creating and building.

Leroy believed in helping others but believed more in them learning to help themselves. If someone asked for a hand-out, he’d offer them a fair day’s wage in exchange for a day of work. Plus, he’d buy them lunch.

He didn’t care what your politics were, even though he was a Republican. He didn’t vote for someone because of party loyalty, he voted for someone based on their ideas and resolve to fix a broken system. Merit went miles with him.

My grandfather’s ethics and character still echo with me and the others whose

lives he touched even though he’s been gone nearly 30 years. His life serves as a reminder that we make change in the world not by forcing it on others but by working with others. We build our community up by lifting others up.

Darryl has had his ups and downs and successes and failures in life, just like anybody else. But to hear him tell me that because of the lessons he learned from my grandpa, that he is pulling through and building a better life for himself, well, that makes me take stock in what I learned from him as well.

I think we should all strive to be more like Leroy Lutz.

Policy for Letters to the Editor

- Letters should be typed or clearly written and no longer than 400 words.
- All letters must be signed by the writer and include a phone number and any affiliation with a group which pertains to the letter.

The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions.

The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon for Wednesday publication.

Letters are run on a space-available basis.

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Water taxis

Continued from page 1

and the rising cost of fuel.

In comparison, a one-way Alaska Airlines flight to Petersburg averages around \$129, and passengers are limited to the airline's one-flight-a-day schedule. The state ferry is only \$45 for walk-on passengers, however it's three days until the ferry returns going the opposite direction. It also averages about three hours to get from Wrangell to Petersburg by ferry.

The affordable cost of a water taxi the 12 miles to Banana Point was a deciding factor for Wrangell resident Don Stevens last Wednesday, as he had gone over to Petersburg for medical treatment and was returning home using the taxi service both ways. He was also able to easily bring his dog Molly. For Stevens, the small-boat option makes sense.

"It's handy. It's a short trip," he said. It's also a convenient option. "If you take the ferry, it's in the middle of the night."

Yancey years ago started shuttling people between Wrangell and Banana Point when the summer tourism season ended. "I think a lot of this was born from the wintertime when

there's not a lot going on. He started running back and forth, kind of the first guy to stay in the water year-round," Stavee said.

Though plenty of Wrangell people go to Petersburg, Stavee said more seem to come from Petersburg to Wrangell. Part of that is due to getting into town. If someone is boating to Banana Point, they need to arrange a ride into town, whereas for passengers coming to Wrangell, they get dropped off right in town.

A lot of Breakaway's passengers to Wrangell are workers coming on Fridays to get their federal TWIC card (transportation worker identification credential) and/or TSA PreCheck.

"They can come over here, get it done and go back a couple hours after it's done," Stavee said. "We try to be as flexible as we can. Sometimes we have tours and stuff like that, but we try to tailor it to everybody. Every once in a while, I'll do one in the morning, then one two hours later, then one in the afternoon because that's how people need to work it out."

He said it's not uncommon to shuttle people back and forth seven days a week.

Jennifer Ludwigsen, who has three

children, has been using the water taxi service for around six years to get her three children, Trevyn, Aaydn and Maddilyn Gillen, over to Petersburg for weekends with their father.

"In the winter, they go every other weekend, weather depending," she said. "This winter, they didn't have to cancel at all. If the weather is bad, they'll turn around and they (the kids) don't go that weekend."

She said that Breakaway posts its schedule early enough that she's able to coordinate drop-off and pick-up times with the children's father. She has friends in a similar situation who benefit from the ease of getting back and forth between the islands.

The affordability and quick, easily scheduled times are typically deciding factors for patrons of the taxi services, Stavee said.

"For the most part, I think this works pretty well," he said. "I think what would happen if you tried to get too expensive with some of this stuff, it just wouldn't happen. ... Banana Point is close and it puts wear and tear on the engines, but if you can get four or five people and at least cover your expense, it makes it worth it."

Senior center

Continued from page 1

ter," she said. "It gets them out and about. A lot of people, when you get older, it's easier just to stay homebound."

But the center's services go beyond food and transportation.

"I have observed the Senior Center calling people like Tammi Meissner (Wrangell's community navigator with Tlingit and Haida) to talk to new people," Carroll said, "to help them get the resources available to them. I've seen the girls down there find people to clean their homes. They're always going out of their way."

The organization seeks to connect seniors with community resources, Gillen explained. "There's a lot of people who don't

have family to come and check on them and they do live alone. Our community is built on strong workers. We're just cut from that cloth, and it is very challenging sometimes to convince our elders, 'hey, let us bring you a meal at lunchtime.'" Beyond its typical scope of work, the center is on the lookout for seniors who may have taken falls at home, could benefit from medical services or might need a wheelchair or other assistive device.

The organization's services and transportation offerings are part of the reason Carroll moved back to Wrangell from the Lower 48. She likes to stroll around downtown because the streets are safe. "I can't do that down south," she added.

Boating deaths

Continued from page 1

the Awakin, set out May 26 amid rough conditions. Michael Tyau said his sisters and wife spent the day's voyage seasick in the two boats' cabins and skipped going out to fish the next day so that they could recover on land.

On May 28, their last vacation day before Memorial Day flights home, the women rejoined the boats. Danielle Agcaoili "didn't want to let anybody down," Michael Tyau recalled through tears.

The boat captains opted for different fishing spots. Aboard the Pockets, Michael Tyau said he "in no way felt in jeopardy, like this wasn't safe for us to fish in."

The Pockets returned to the lodge the evening of May 28, but the family began worrying when Brandi Tyau, Danielle Agcaoili, Maury Agcaoili and Solis aboard the Awakin didn't respond to text messages and never arrived for dinner.

The Awakin hadn't come back, the charter company told Michael Tyau, and they had lost radio contact with the captain, 32-year-old Morgan Robidou.

Robidou had been fishing for several years, according to posts and comments on his social media pages.

He was "the nicest, quietest, friendliest young fellow you've ever seen," said Thad Poulson, editor of the Daily Sitka Sentinel newspaper, where Robidou once worked as a press operator.

What happened aboard the Awakin remains unclear. Efforts to recover the vessel have been hampered by rough seas and strong winds. Hanson Maritime of Sitka is working to retrieve the boat.

The bodies of Brandi Tyau and Danielle Agcaoili were found inside the cabin. Maury Agcaoili's body was discovered near the boat. Solis and Robidou were still missing as of June 2.

The boat was last seen on the

water the afternoon of May 28 near Sitka, authorities said. At about 7 p.m. that evening, the first searchers, a Coast Guard Air Station Sitka helicopter crew, sighted the bow section of the missing boat extending above the water near Low Island, about 10 miles west of Sitka near Cape Edgecumbe.

In addition to the U.S. Coast Guard, which dispatched a C-130 aircraft from Kodiak, searchers included the Sitka Fire Department dive team and search and rescue team, NOAA law enforcement, Alaska State Troopers and good Samaritan vessels.

Coast Guard investigators are working to determine the timeline and cause of the incident.

The day the boat went missing, there was a small craft advisory in the area where the boat was found, warning mariners of roughly 17 mph winds and 10-foot seas with rain during the day and slightly stronger winds and similarly high seas later in the day, said Pete Boyd, a National Weather Service meteorologist.

In addition to potentially rough seas and high winds, the area features rocks that can seemingly rise even from deep water, posing hazards to boats.

The boat had an emergency beacon onboard — not a requirement for charter fishing boats of that size and passenger capacity — but it didn't appear to have been used, ac-

ording to the Coast Guard.

Kingfisher Charters declined to respond to questions outside a statement saying the company is "devastated by the loss of the guests and captain of the Awakin" and is fully cooperating with an investigation it hopes "furnishes answers to the questions as to how it occurred."

Brandi Tyau and Solis leave behind one son together, as well as Solis' three sons from a previous relationship. The Agcaoilis

have two children, one of whom just graduated from high school.

The family's vacation was meant for them to enjoy a holiday weekend away and bridge the gap between their homes in Hawaii and Los Angeles.

"I don't think all eight of us have been together in over 10 years," Michael Tyau said.

Now, only four are left.

Shannon Haugland of the Sitka Sentinel contributed to this report.

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Dear Wrangell,

The last three and a half years have been wonderful. Rosie and I just wanted to take a moment to express how much we have enjoyed being a part of this community. Through Pandemics, Shut-Downs, re-openings and renewed vision for our community, We have grown fond of how truly genuine the community is. We want to say thank you for welcoming us into Wrangell, and supporting us and sharing your lives with us. We have a legacy of memories here. Our first house together married, our older kids graduating from Wrangell High School and navigating the ups and downs of giving birth "away from home." Your support, advice and love has been amazing and we will always cherish it. On top of that, this community has really embraced The Salvation Army and all we try to do here. As missionaries of sorts, we know that the vision that you have helped create for The Salvation Army here in Wrangell will continue far beyond what Rosie and I ever hoped. With your love, support and care, the Army can once again be the place, everyone calls home for a variety of reasons. Wrangell holds a place in our hearts and we will cherish the friendships we have made while here and will continue to lift you in prayer. God bless each and every one of you, and know that you can find hope, your joy, your purpose and your place with Jesus Christ! And the coffee is always on at The Salvation Army.

With Love,

Jon & Rosie Tollerud

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Calling all creatives: It's time to put on shows of talent and wearable art

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Do you know any magic tricks? Can you juggle five bowling pins or burp the alphabet? Can you do a great Matthew McConaughey impression? Or even better, a terrible Matthew McConaughey impression?

If so, you would be a perfect fit for Wrangell's Fourth of July talent show and wearable art competition, both of which are coming up next month. The talent show offers community members a chance to display their skills, and the wearable art event provides them an opportunity to design, create and model handmade clothes featuring unorthodox materials.

The shows are scheduled one after the other on July 3 at the Nolan Center starting at 6 p.m. The royalty contestant, Ander Edens, will be crowned immediately afterward.

Nolan Center Director Cyni Crary, business owner Bonnie Ritchie and "Annie" director Haley Reeves are working together to organize the event. This year's theme is "Shine Bright Like a Diamond" — a spin on the overall Fourth of July theme, "A Diamond in Southeast."

The theme is "pretty much anything goes," said Ritchie. Participants might opt to make glittery wearable artwork or twirl a bedazzled baton for the talent show, but strict adherence to the theme is not required. "Everybody has their own way of shining, so come out and show your community how you can shine."

Crary, Ritchie and Reeves welcome acts of all kinds. Typically, the show features a lot of singers, but the organizers want would-be participants to know that skills of all types will be celebrated. "We want all kinds of different talent," said Ritchie. "We're talking juggling, we're talking ... hula hoops, skits."

"Have fun with it," added Reeves.

Each talent should last about three minutes, maximum.

The wearable art competition is particularly special to Crary.

The activity, which is popular throughout Southeast, is still catching on in Wrangell, but she is committed to fostering enthusiasm for wearable art in town. "I don't think people know what it is," she said. That's why she's pairing it with the talent show.

Wearable art involves making and modeling handmade clothes, often created using recycled or unusual materials. Last year, Crary's dress was made of tea lights and Ritchie's was made of playing cards. Ritchie's daughter's dress was made of Dungeness crab shells, dipped in dye for a rainbow effect.

"It's super cool because it sparks all kinds of different creativity," said Ritchie.

"You try to go all out and go as crazy as you want," added Crary. "This year, we're really hoping to get some new people involved and new talent."

Participants can model their own creations or design an outfit for someone else to wear.

Both the wearable art and talent shows will have separate judges, generous prizes and age-differentiated categories for kids, youth and adults.

The organizers have offered to assist potential performers or wearable artwork-makers, in case there are people who want to participate, but aren't sure how to start.

"If you're even thinking about it and you just want to know more about it, give us a ring," said Reeves. She, Crary and Ritchie are available to help "hash out ideas," she explained. "Reach out, let us know and we'll get you involved."

The event's judges have not yet been chosen, but the organizers plan to pick a wide selection of community members, particularly artists, to evaluate people's creations and skills. They will use criteria forms to judge participants on metrics like originality and effort.

"I definitely think it's a great opportunity for people to come out and show the community something that they haven't shown them before," said Reeves.

Serving up feasts fit for a king



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Ander Edens celebrates the kickoff of his Fourth of July royalty campaign last Wednesday at the downtown pavilion. The teen has a full menu planned for the month of June, and raffle ticket sales began on June 1.

Dog owners to strut their mutts on the Fourth

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Every dog may be a good boy, but which member of Wrangell's canine community is the best boy?

Scratch that, it's an unanswerable question. And one that the Fourth of July dog show will not seek to address. Instead, the event will offer dogs and their owners the chance to display their unique personal style and stellar obedience skills — or lack thereof — in the company of fellow dogs and dog lovers.

Prizes will be awarded, but for Joan Sargent of St. Frances Animal Rescue, "every dog is a winner."

Wrangell's pups can exhibit their abilities in a variety of events. Fashion-forward people and pups might gravitate toward the costume event, where dogs and their owners show off their matching outfits.

Athletic dogs may opt for the agility trial, in which owners lead their pets through an obstacle course consisting of cones and a small jump, adjusted to



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Rocco, a Danish farm dog, jumps for a treat from owner Bella Ritchie's hand at the dog show during last year's Fourth of July.

the size of each dog. The event is timed, so the speediest dogs will be the winners.

The dog-calling competition showcases the animals' loyalty in the face of temptation. "We lay out about 50 feet of a mixture of dog food and treats and toys," said Sargent. "There will be a handler there ... who will hold the dog at one end of this gauntlet. The time starts when they (the owner) calls their dog. The dog needs to come straight to you and not eat."

"It's pretty entertaining," she laughed.

Last year, Anne Morrison volunteered as one of the dog show judges and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The event is a major draw for spectators and participants alike, and she was impressed by how many people got involved.

Morrison also stressed that the competition welcomes dogs of all personalities and discipline levels. Though the well-behaved dogs put on amazing performances, she remembers all the dogs fondly, even the unruly ones. "Watching that little Jack Russell Terrier take off whenever he wanted to was the funniest thing," she said.

"It was fun to see how well some of them had been trained," she added. "It was also fun to see those that had a mind of their own."

That said, organizers have put certain rules in place for participant safety. Dogs must be leashed at all times, except

when competing in the agility trial or dog-calling event.

Treats, however, are allowed. "If your dog responds better to a treat rather than you," Sargent said, "then that's OK."

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Ideally, the competition will be limited to about 15 entries — if the event stretches on too long, dogs can overheat in the July sun. If more than 15 people want to enter their dogs, Sargent would consider splitting the competition into two heats. "You want to cut it off, but you don't want to cut it off," she said of the number of entries. "We try to be really flexible so that everyone can have fun. ... Our concern is for the animals."

There will be prizes offered to the winning dogs in each category, but for Sargent, they aren't a particularly important part of the show. The point, she explained, is "for people who have dogs to get together and hang out."

The event has been running for three years and typically has a high turnout.

Its time and date this year has not yet been set, but it will be part of the Fourth of July weekend festivities. If weather serves, the competition will be held in a cordoned-off area near City Dock. If it's rainy, it will be held at the covered basketball court behind Evergreen Elementary.

The event is sponsored by Cooper's Corner, a handmade gift business owned by Kimberly Szczałko, and St. Frances Animal Rescue.

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Photos left to right: Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan, Representative Mary Peltola

New business offers puzzle-solving prospecting adventure up the Stikine

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Ever dreamed of being a hardened-but-hopeful gold prospector, heading up the Stikine in a steamship to strike it rich in the Klondike gold fields? Thanks to Wrangell's new escape room, you can experience the excitement and adventure of the prospecting days without blowing your life savings on a dubious venture.

Lisa and Luke Messmer's new business, "You Escape Me," offers customers the chance to test their mettle as they race against time to identify clues, solve riddles, complete puzzles and unlock the escape room's hidden mysteries.

The activity officially opened last Thursday in the Kadin Building.

Lisa Messmer doesn't want to spoil the game for potential customers, but she will reveal that the story begins on the fictional Steamboat Millie, which she named after her late grandmother, Millie Grant. Unlike some escape rooms, the storyline isn't scary. It focuses on puzzle-solving — one of the Messmers' favorite pastimes. "We love Scrabble, we love anything that's a puzzle," Lisa said.

The pair came up with the idea to bring an escape room to Wrangell in 2019, after exploring — and enjoying — the activity in other communities. "I thought



PHOTO BY CAROLEINE JAMES/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Lisa and Luke Messmer stand outside the entrance to their new escape room business, "You Escape Me." Inside the Kadin Building space, visitors race to complete an intricate series of puzzles before an hour is up, surrounded by handcrafted scenery.

in Wrangell, for the cruise ships, there's nothing to really do," Lisa said, particularly for the non-hiking set. Tourists could "come to the escape room and just

do something for an hour, get out of the rain, maybe."

She worked with a Canadian company to design an intricate plotline and puzzle

series, but when the pandemic hit, she had to put her plans on hold for a few years.

Now that tourism is back in full swing, she explained, it seemed like a good time to open. Groups have already begun to book the space.

Creating the escape room was a labor of love, both for Lisa and Luke. The pair spent countless hours designing the layout, painting murals, sculpting bespoke set pieces, accumulating props and hand-carving wooden chests. Years of preparation aside, the final build took a concentrated month of work.

Doing the same escape room twice spoils the element of surprise, so the business is geared primarily toward tourists. Lisa is still deciding whether she will be open only for the summer season, or whether she'd consider taking bookings during the winter. In the meantime, locals and newcomers alike can enjoy the activity in the coming months, at least until the cruise ships stop coming in.

The escape room is located at 215 Front St. on the second floor. Each session lasts one hour. Four to eight people are allowed in per session and tickets cost \$40 per person. To book, call 907-305-0555 or reserve your spot at bookeo.com/youescape.

Parks and Rec looks to sculpt young minds with new summertime art class on Fridays

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Sharpen your pencils, dip your paintbrushes and don your smocks, because Parks and Recreation is offering art classes to youth this summer.

There will be two art camps, one in June and one in July. Each will be held on Fridays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the community center multi-purpose room. There will be space for 15 K-5 students in each class. The camp costs \$25 per student and participants should wear clothes they won't regret splattering paint on.

Tawney Crowley, the art teacher at Evergreen Elementary School, will lead the classes. This is the first year she's offered a summer art program and the decision was motivated by high student interest. "I've heard from them (students) about how they want more art opportunities," she said. "I listen to the feedback that I'm getting and try to offer what I can."

She's looking forward to having concentrated time with students to work on in-depth projects. During the school year, she only gets to teach for a half hour, which doesn't provide ample time to support students. "We make it work," she said of the time limit, but admitted that it wasn't ideal.

Longer classes with fewer students will allow her to provide more in-depth feedback on each child's work. "Taking a low number

like that might be a little bit frustrating," she acknowledged, but the enrollment cap will make the class more meaningful. "I really want to be able to take the time to sit here and not just guide them through a craft, but answer their questions, show them how to do something."

During the summer camp's 90-minute teaching windows, she plans to dive into a variety of artistic mediums, including painting, sculpture and chalk pastel. Though Crowley will provide structured lessons, kids can bring their own art kits and work on self-directed projects if they prefer. "I don't want to be as rigid as I am during the school year," she said.

Like her students, Crowley is excited for summer camp. Teaching art to young children is her passion and she understands the importance of providing opportunities like these, especially in a small community. "I'm biased toward the community of kids out there who don't fit into the super athletic mold," she said. "They need a place to figure it out."

"I really really love what I do," she added. "It feels like every kid, I think, has a dream to change the world when you're young, but real-life experiences can kind of knock that dream out of your hands. But for me, this is how I'm doing it. It starts here, in Wrangell. If this is what I can do, I'm absolutely happy to do it."

Sign up at wrangellak.myrec.com.

King salmon derby set for two weekends in mid-June

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The annual Wrangell King Salmon Fishing Derby has been set for two weekends in June.

Rather than have the competition run over a full two weeks from mid-June to the beginning of July, it is scheduled for June 16, 17 and 18 — Father's Day weekend — and the following weekend June 23, 24 and 25.

Fishing derby committee members met May 30 to discuss details and even whether or not to hold the event.

"People are going to be really disappointed if we cancel ours," said Luana Wellons, assistant executive director of the chamber of commerce, which organizes the derby. "People have already been (asking) me about when it's going to start and if we're going to have one. I've been answering them, as of right now, yes, there will be a derby."

Petersburg usually holds its salmon derby over Memorial Day weekend, but that event has been canceled until further no-

tice. Sitka this year split its derby over the Memorial Day weekend and last weekend. Ketchikan typically holds a coho salmon derby in the fall and Juneau is planning the Golden North Salmon Derby for Aug. 11-13.

The Wrangell derby returned last year — its first time back since 2017, with four years of cancellations due to weak king salmon runs.

Last year's derby had more than 200 entries, though only 57 fish were weighed in.

Citing predictions of low salmon return and due to the chamber being staffed only by Wellons at the moment, the committee decided to break the derby into two weekends over three days each. They will be looking for volunteers and a worker to help with the weigh-in station and other tasks.

A reduction in the entry fee was discussed but ultimately the committee decided to keep the fee at \$25 per person.

The committee will be seeking prize sponsors before announcing categories and prizes.

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Hannah's Place resource center closes doors after 12 years

BY MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Since its creation in 2011, Hannah's Place has provided resources for pregnant women and families, from clothing and newborn supplies to educational materials.

Now, after 12 years of serving Wrangell, the nonprofit has closed its doors due to a lack of need.

Monday was the last day the organization operated at 206 Church St. in the building provided by the Presbyterian church next door. It started as a ministry by Maryann Landers to help young women in need.

"(She) had a heart for young women who maybe it was their first kid, maybe they didn't plan on being pregnant. That was her heart and this was her mission," said Kathy Watkins, the last executive director of Hannah's Place.

After Landers' husband was transferred out of town with his job as a state trooper, Nedra Shoulz took the reins and made it her own.

"It became Neda's passion, too. ... She loved working here. This was her heart and her ministry," Watkins said last Friday. "She really focused on providing free education."

Along with those educational courses that ranged in topic from pregnancy and birth to parenting and life skills — like cooking courses — Hannah's Place also provided clothing for maternity, newborns and toddlers, loaned out cribs and

car seats and gave away other needed supplies.

Shoulz had helped Watkins in her recovery from a broken femur, and Watkins later helped teach sewing classes. Even though she is retired, when she heard about Shoulz's departure in October 2022 due to health reasons, Watkins stepped up to keep the doors open one day a week.

"It's one of those things where God puts you in the right place at the right time for the right reasons," she said.

Watkins said from a business standpoint, Wrangell isn't big enough to sustain a family resource center. Since she took over the executive director position in October, "not one person in Wrangell has contacted me for classes," she said. One woman in Sitka took the classes online.

Even though the space is provided free of charge, Hannah's Place still has to pay, on average, \$400 a month in utilities and \$119 a month for the educational courses which are provided through BrightCourse Lessons.

She believes that the organization has fulfilled its purpose, and if there was a need, there would be a way.

"If it's being utilized, you find a way to make it work and God provides," Watkins said. "If it's not being utilized, it's just putting money out."

There are still three rooms filled with infant and toddler clothing, baby furniture and other supplies. Board



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Three upstairs rooms in Hannah's Place are still filled with maternity, infant and toddler clothes, among other items after the organization shut down on Monday.

member Janell Privett said the board is still discussing the distribution of the items that have been donated or purchased by Hannah's Place. Some of the items are brand new with tags still attached.

Watkins pointed out that many businesses and other organizations will help fill the need for such items, whether through BRAVE, the thrift stores in town or through the Wrangell Ministerial Association.

Report finds most Alaska drowning victims were not wearing flotation jackets

BY YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

Alaska has the nation's highest rate of drowning deaths, and the rate was consistently high over the past six years, according to a new state report.

A Division of Public Health epidemiology bulletin released on May 31 examines drowning deaths from 2016 to 2021 and found some patterns and common factors. The vast majority were unrelated to work, even though drowning is a well-recognized commercial fishing hazard. Other common factors were failure to use personal flotation devices, called PFDs, and rural locations.

Alaska has some inherent characteristics that increase drowning risks, experts say. Those include a reliance on boats for basic transportation, low temperatures that can kill even strong swimmers, extreme weather and remoteness that can hamper rescue efforts.

"It's a hazardous environment. The water's cold," said Deborah Hull-Jilly, injury surveillance program manager for the division's epidemiology section and a coauthor of

the recent bulletins.

Some recent drownings occurred amid those hazardous Alaska conditions. Three people were found dead and two others were missing after a charter fishing vessel sank in rough seas near Sitka on May 28. A week earlier, a 20-year-old man drowned after he became stuck near Hope in the notoriously treacherous Turnagain Arm mudflats.

Aside from boat travel, snowmachine and all-terrain vehicle travel can also present drowning risks. There have been cases where snowmachine riders fell through the ice, Hull-Jilly noted, and some people engage in risky behavior by skipping their snowmachines over the surface of open water. "They're going without a life jacket or a PFD, and they don't know how to swim," she said.

Of the 342 drownings in Alaska from 2016 to 2021, 85% occurred in recreational or other non-work activities.

Among those that occurred in boating accidents from 2016 to 2018, whether recreational or for subsistence food-gathering, 75% of the victims were not wearing personal flotation devices. That rate

increased to 88% in the subsequent three-year period.

The recreational boating statistics contrast with those in commercial fishing, where fatality rates have decreased substantially in recent years through enhanced safety measures.

Another frequent factor contributing to Alaska drownings is intoxication. For example, 28 people died from drowning that occurred in bathtubs or hot tubs. In two-thirds of those deaths, drug or alcohol use was implicated, according to the bulletin.

Drowning rates were highest in Southwest Alaska and northern Alaska, according to the data.

The median age of drowning victims was 45, and 83% of victims were male over the six-year period.

Twenty children 14 years old and younger died in drownings over the six years, and a quarter of the victims

who were younger than 9 had been unattended by any adult leading up to those tragedies, according to the bulletin.

Amid the sobering statistics, there are some encouraging signs of improvements, said Annie Grenier, education coordinator for Alaska's Office of Boating Safety.

She pointed to data compiled by the U.S. Coast Guard about lifejacket use by recreational boaters. The most recent publicly available report from the Coast Guard that compares states, issued in 2019, showed Alaskans rank near the top in use, both among adults and teenagers.

Success among youth could be a result of years of education, Grenier said. Over the school year, the office's education team taught 17,000 students about water safety, including the use of personal-floatation devices. Similar numbers of students were taught in each of the past 10

years, she said.

"Some of these kids are hearing the message six times by the time they get out of elementary school," she said.

There are signs of progress among adults, too, she said. Even though Alaska is one of the few states that does not require operators of motorized boats to take boating-safety classes, increasing numbers of Alaskans are taking those classes voluntarily, she said.

In another adult-focused outreach effort, the Office of Boating Safety is working with Alaska breweries and distilleries to spread a safety message in advance of the Fourth of July holiday. The campaign, focused on reducing use of alcohol on boats, is called "Save it for the Shore."

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

Police report

Monday, May 29

Agency assist: Ambulance.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Agency assist: Municipal line crew.
Violations of conditions of release.
Arrest for assault and domestic violence.

Tuesday, May 30

Motor vehicle accident.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
Scam reported.
Motor vehicle accident.
Runaway juvenile: Returned home.

Wednesday, May 31

Domestic.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
Agency assist: Ambulance.

Summons service: Civil.
Traffic stop.

Thursday, June 1

Theft.
Agency assist: Paper service.
Summons service.

Friday, June 2

Animal complaint: Dog at large.
Violations of conditions of release.

Saturday, June 3

Agency assist: Department of Transportation.
Motor vehicle accident.
Lost property.
Found property: Returned to owner.

Sunday, June 4

Abandoned vehicle.

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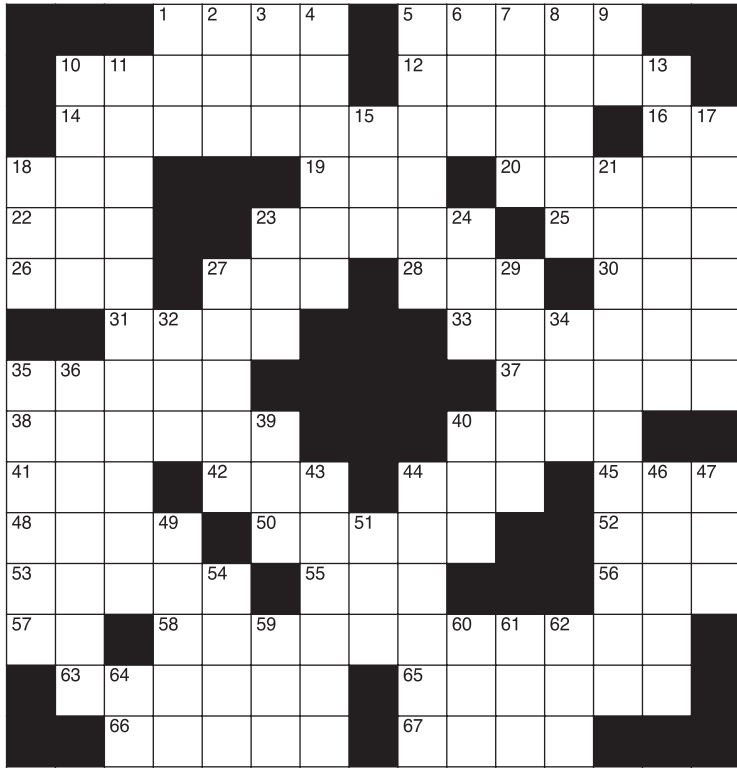
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*APR is effective as of April 25, 2022, is based on a \$150,000 loan with a 180 month term and zero down payment. APR may increase based on credit score. Rate and term are subject to change.

Crossword

Answers on page 12



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Flat tableland with steep edges | 38. Told on |
| 5. Where there's __, there's fire | 40. Hillside |
| 10. Talked incessantly | 41. Peyton's little brother |
| 12. Skill | 42. Soviet Socialist Republic |
| 14. Without shame | 44. Cathedral city in Cambridgeshire |
| 16. Where teens spend their days (abbr.) | 45. Witness |
| 18. Boxing's GOAT | 48. Brews |
| 19. Used to anoint | 50. Yellowish-brown |
| 20. Cluster cups | 52. Arctic explorers, abbr. |
| 22. Footballer Newton | 53. Mexican agave |
| 23. They make up a forest | 55. A type of "cast" |
| 25. Split pulses | 56. Encourage |
| 26. Self | 57. Atomic #52 |
| 27. Post-office box | 58. Relating to position north of south of equator |
| 28. Test for high schoolers | 63. Gadget whose name you forget |
| 30. Large, flightless bird | 65. Another recording |
| 31. Expectorated | 66. Small blisters |
| 33. Falsehood | 67. Dark brown or black |
| 35. Prickly, scrambling shrub | |
| 37. French river | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Licensed for Wall Street | 34. American spy organization |
| 2. "___ and flow" | 35. A person's chest |
| 3. A very large body of water | 36. Came from behind to win |
| 4. Accumulate on the surface of | 39. Fall back |
| 5. Central cores of the stem | 40. Nellie __, journalist |
| 6. Angry | 43. Great places to kayak |
| 7. Ceramic jar | 44. Suffer patiently |
| 8. Scraped a car | 46. Majestic bird |
| 9. __ route | 47. Electroencephalograph |
| 10. Soviet labor camp system | 49. Organic compound used as an antiseptic |
| 11. Strong hostilities | 51. Objects connected to the web (abbr.) |
| 13. Vitamin of the B complex | 54. Ship as cargo |
| 15. Go quickly | 59. The bill in a restaurant |
| 17. Toast | 60. Upper-class young woman (abbr.) |
| 18. A team's best pitcher | 61. Judge in OJ Simpson trial |
| 21. A Philly culinary specialty | 62. One's grandmother |
| 23. Small child | 64. Siberian river |
| 24. Unhappy | |
| 27. Trims away | |
| 29. Characterized by crying eyes | |
| 32. Soft touch | |

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the City and Borough of Wrangell Code, Sec. 3.04.080, notice is hereby given that the regular assembly meetings of the assembly shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month and shall begin at 6 p.m.

If any such Tuesday shall fall on a legal holiday as defined by the laws of the State of Alaska, the meetings scheduled for that day shall be held at the same hour on the next succeeding day which is not a holiday. Separate notice for the regular assembly meetings shall not be required. There will be no regular meetings the second Tuesday in July and August and fourth Tuesday in December.

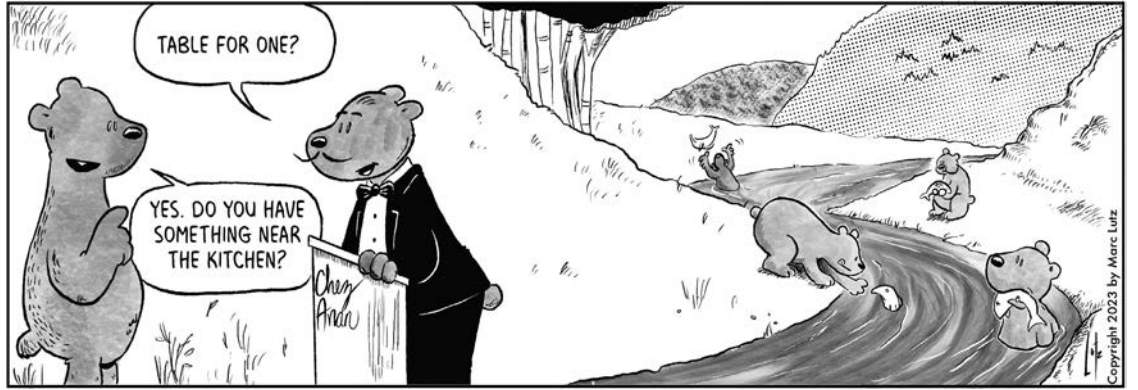
If a work session is scheduled preceding the regular assembly meeting, publication shall be made on the website and posted at City Hall and the post office that the regular assembly meeting shall begin at 7 p.m.

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

Publish June 7, 2023

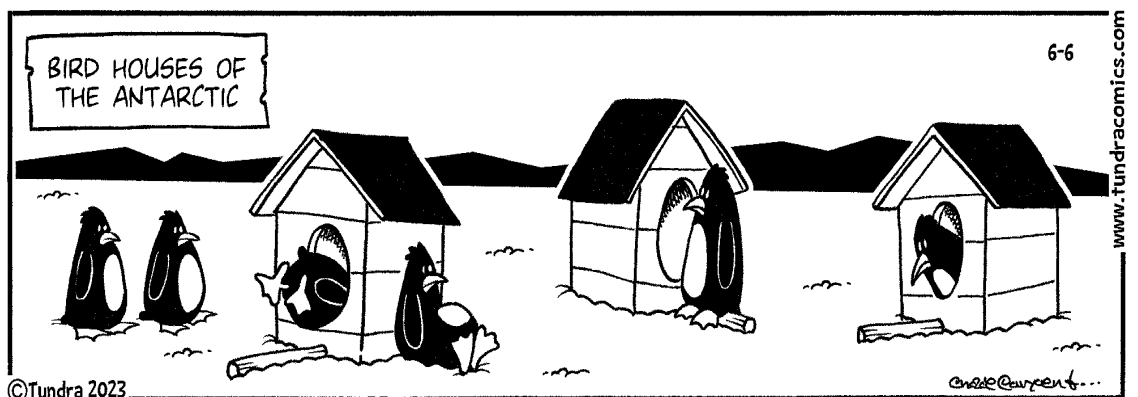
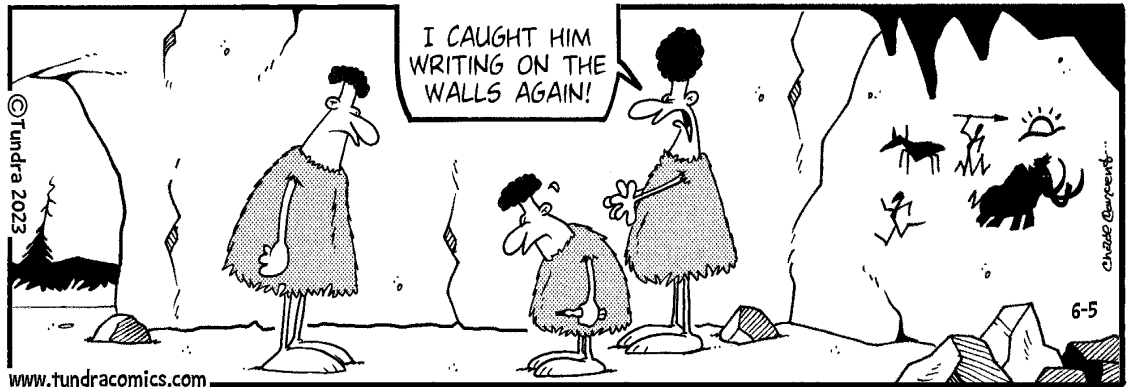
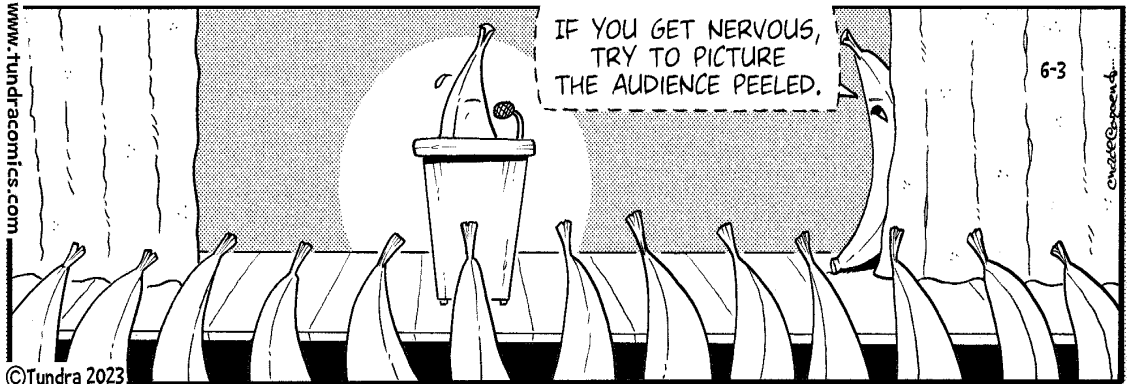
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



CLASSIFIED

HELP WANTED

Wrangell Public Schools is accepting applications for the following positions:

- Custodian: This is a full-time, year-round classified position with benefits, 7.5 hours per day. Salary placement is on Column B of the Classified Salary Schedule. Job duties include but are not limited to keeping our school complex clean and assisting with setting up rooms for classes, large presentations and busi-

ness meetings as needed; and assisting with minor repairs. A High School Diploma or equivalent is desired. Start date: as soon as possible.

Also accepting applications for the following extracurricular positions for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Art Festival Adviser
- Baseball Head Coach and Assistant Coach
- Basketball, Boys Assistant Coach
- Cheerleading Head and Assistant Coach
- Class Advisers:
- Freshmen Class
- Sophomore Class
- Senior Class Co-adviser
- Cross Country Running Assistant Coach
- Softball Assistant Coach
- Volleyball Head and Assistant Coach
- Elementary Student Council Adviser

For detailed job description and salary schedule, please contact the District Office at 907-874-2347. These positions are open until filled. It is Wrangell Public School District policy to not discriminate based on age, race, color, national origin, sex or disability.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Wrangell Senior Center, Southeast Senior Services, a division of Catholic Community Service, is currently recruiting for a cook at \$18/hour, 20 hours a week, and a driver/assistant cook at \$17/hour, 25 hours a week. Apply online at www.ccsak.org/jobs. For more information contact Solvay Gillen at 907-874-2066.

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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Juneau police find 3 people dead aboard boat

Juneau Empire

Three people died within a three-day period aboard a vessel anchored offshore at Sandy Beach in Douglas, across Gastineau Channel from Juneau, with drug use a possible contributing factor to their deaths, the Juneau Police Department reported June 3.

The Dusky Rock, a 35-foot commercial sailing vessel built in 1984, was anchored offshore in Douglas for about a week, said Juneau Harbor-master Matthew Creswell, although it frequently anchored near a downtown Juneau harbor at night, according to boat owners at both harbor locations.

The first death was reported at around 2:23 p.m. May 31 when 34-year-old Erika Lee Judson told police she found her friend, Curtis Edwin Anderson, 51, dead aboard the Dusky Rock.

"The initial investigation showed no signs of foul play," the police statement issued on June 3 noted.

At about 6:20 p.m. on June 2, police received another report of death aboard the vessel, which was still anchored at the same Douglas location.

"The complainant reported hearing a dog howling on his friend's boat, the Dusky Rock," the police stated. "He went out to check on the dog and found a deceased female on board." It was Judson.

Authorities later "con-

firmed there were two deceased females on board the Dusky Rock. Nobody else was located on the vessel," the police stated. The other woman was 28-year-old Amoretta Nina Nichele Wesley.

According to the police, there were no initial signs of foul play regarding the death

of the man found May 31. All three individuals are being sent to the Alaska Medical Examiner's Office in Anchorage for autopsies.

"The use of controlled substances may have been a contributing factor in these deaths," the police stated.

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE INVITING BIDS Alder Top Village Subdivision Site Work

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska will receive sealed bids for the construction of the **ALDER TOP VILLAGE SUBDIVISION SITE WORK** project. Work consists of clearing and grubbing of approximately 3,000 feet of right of way, removal and disposal of unsuitable soils and rock embankment. The Engineer's Estimate for the Base Bid work is \$700,000 to \$750,000.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time on June 27, 2023, and publicly opened and read at that time.

The Contract Documents are available in electronic format and can be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFPs section. Downloading Contract Documents from the City and Borough of Wrangell's website requires registration with the Borough Clerk in order to be placed on the Plan Holders List and to ensure receipt of subsequent Addenda. Failure to register may adversely affect your proposal. It is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure that they have received all Addenda affecting this Solicitation. To be registered, contact the Borough Clerk at 907-874-2381 or at clerk@wrangell.com.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informality in a Bid, or to make award as it best serves the interests of the OWNER.

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

Publish June 7, 14 and 21, 2023

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST AREA OFFICE

Preliminary Written Finding under AS 38.05.035(e) and AS 38.05.945

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection, gives formal notice under AS 38.05.945 that the Division has made a preliminary decision under AS 38.05.035(e) and proposes to adopt a site-specific Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) under AS 38.05.112 and the administrative standards of AS 41.17.060 regarding the sale of the following commercial timber sale: Kaikli Cove Timber Sale (SSE-1381-K).

Before this sale may be held, the Commissioner will make a written final decision that the sale is in the best interest of the State. This decision will set out the facts and applicable policies upon which the Commissioner bases his determination that the proposed timber sale will or will not best serve the interest of the State. The final decision is expected to be available to the public after July 4, 2023.

The draft Forest Land Use Plan is intended to provide the best available information regarding the proposed timber harvest on 49 acres and the management of other non-timber uses in compliance with AS 38.05.112 and AS 41.17.060, and must be adopted by the DOF before the proposed activity can occur. The Forest Land Use Plan is expected to be available to the public with or after the issuance of the final decision on July 4, 2023.

The area of the sale is proximate to the community of Naukati on Prince of Wales Island. The timber sale area is found within Section 17 and 18, Township South, Range 80 East, Copper River Meridian (CRM). The sale area is found within the Craig D-4 NW USGS quadrangle. The main access for this sale area is from the existing Prince of Wales Road System, specifically the Naukati (2060000) Road.

The two harvest units total approximately 49 acres and contain approximately 826 MBF of timber. This volume will be negotiated and sold under provisions of AS 38.05.115 or AS 38.05.118, in the form of one or multiple sales. The sale(s) will require in-state manufacture and it will be a negotiated contract.

The public is invited to comment on any aspect of the preliminary decision. Comments should be mailed to the Alaska Division of Forestry, 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213, Ketchikan, AK 99901. Comments must be received at the Division of Forestry office no later than **July 3, 2023**, in order to be considered in the final best interest finding decision of whether or not this sale will be held in whole or in part or to be considered in the adopted FLUP. To be eligible to appeal the final decision or the adopted FLUP, a person must have provided written comment by **July 3, 2023**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS CONTACT:

Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection	Contact:	Greg Staunton
2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213	Phone:	907-225-3070
Ketchikan, AK 99901	Email:	greg.staunton@alaska.gov

Copies of the preliminary decision are available for review at the Division of Forestry at the above address and at the Ketchikan, Craig, Petersburg and Wrangell Public Libraries and the State Online Public Notice System at <http://notice.alaska.gov/211326>.

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate in this review may contact the number above.

Publish June 7 and 14, 2023

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC HEARING PUBLIC NOTICE

During the Regular Assembly Meeting of Tuesday, June 13, 2023, starting at 6 p.m. in the Wrangell Borough Assembly Chambers at 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska, there will be a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the following item(s):

- Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Budget.
- ORDINANCE No. 1043** of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, adding Section 5.04.045 – Volunteer Firefighters and Providers of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Exemption to Chapter 5.04 - Property Tax in the Wrangell Municipal Code.
- Community Development Block Grant / Coronavirus for Recreation Center HVAC and DDC Upgrades Project. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the in-person hearing to solicit public input on the achievements of the project. If you are unable to attend the meeting, written comments on any aspect of the above referenced project are invited and should be addressed to: Amber Al-Haddad, Capital Facilities Director, P.O. Box 531, 1064 Case Avenue, Wrangell, Alaska, or to the following email address aal-haddad@wrangell.com. The office is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.
- Community Development Block Grant for High School and Middle School Fire Alarm System Replacement Project. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the in-person hearing to solicit public input on the achievements of the project. If you are unable to attend the meeting, written comments on any aspect of the above referenced project are invited and should be addressed to: Amber Al-Haddad, Capital Facilities Director, P.O. Box 531, 1064 Case Avenue, Wrangell, Alaska, or to the following email address aal-haddad@wrangell.com. The office is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

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

Publish June 7, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetlands

To: All interested Agencies including all Federal, State and Local, Groups and Individuals.

This is to give notice that the Wrangell Cooperative Association, Responsible Entity (RE) under Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and/or 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management, to determine the potential affect that its activity in the floodplain and wetland will have on the human environment for New Construction - Lot 1A Duplex Project under the Indian Community Development Block Grant-American Rescue Plan and Indian Housing Block Grant-American Rescue Plan programs under HUD ICDBG-ARP: 22RP0217720 and IHBG ARP: 21AH0216230.

The proposed intention is for new construction of a single-story, 3-bedroom single-family duplex on an undeveloped parcel, zoned single-family residential parcel, located at Lot 1A, Block 35, Plat 2020-8, USS 1119, to provide housing units for low to moderate income residents in and around Wrangell, Alaska. The proposal will discharge 2,804 cubic yards of shot rock and 176 cubic yards of D-1 gravel into 0.25 acre of palustrine wetlands. This is for the construction of an access road, a 3,034-square-foot building pad for two duplex family residences, and a driveway to access each duplex. A HDPE water line and a sewer line will be installed under the driveway and access road. For a total of 0.25 acres of palustrine wetlands and floodplains.

The proposed project is located at Lot 1A, Block 35, Plat 2020-8, USS 1119 Etolin-Spruce Subdivision in Wrangell, Alaska.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the Wrangell Cooperative Association (RE) at the following address on or before June 23, 2023. Wrangell Cooperative Association, 1002 Zimovia Highway, PO Box 2021 Wrangell, AK 99929, phone (907) 874-4304, fax (907) 874-4305, Attention: Edward Rilatos, Tribal President, during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Comments may also be submitted via email at wcatrib@gmail.com.

Publish June 7, 2023

Dunleavy's adviser said rape 'pretty low on totem pole' of immorality

Employee resigned from \$110,000-a-year state job after news media inquiries

By NATHANIEL HERZ, Alaska Public Media

AND CURTIS GILBERT, American Public Media

Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy's adviser on "pro-family" policies resigned May 30 after revelations that he made incendiary and offensive statements on a podcast.

A review of more than 100 hours of recordings found that Jeremy Cubas defended some of Adolf Hitler's views, boasted that he uses a vile racial slur "on a daily basis" and said people should "get violent" in response to aggressive transgender activists.

He also said it's not possible for a man to rape his wife. "When you signed the contract, you have already consented," Cubas said recently.

Cubas aired those and other extreme views on the podcast he co-hosts, "Contra Gentiles," whose Latin title translates to "against the non-believers."

The program, which has been published for the past three years, was available for anyone to hear on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and YouTube when Dunleavy, in April, promoted Cubas to a \$110,000-a-year job as his policy adviser on "pro-family" issues.

Cubas resigned after Alaska Public Media and American Public Media asked Dunleavy's office about Cubas' comments, according to Jeff Turner, a spokesman for the governor.

"Gov. Dunleavy sincerely

believes that the differences between people are what makes all of us stronger," Turner said in a prepared statement. "Derogatory statements about individuals and groups within our society do not in any way reflect the values of Gov. Dunleavy or his administration and will not be tolerated."

Cubas declined to comment after his resignation. But in a 50-minute interview the morning before his resignation was announced, he stood by his views.

"The podcast is made for people who are more philosophically inclined," Cubas said. "So if somebody is not looking at it that way, but is just looking to get outraged, there's nothing I can do about that."

In an interview in April, Dunleavy said Cubas' primary responsibility was assembling a pro-family website. He said he chose Cubas for the role because of his experience with web development, and because he'd already served as his staff photographer for more than a year.

Dunleavy and his staff have not said whether they vetted the podcast prior to Cubas' hiring.

Cubas said he submitted to a background check and provided access to his social media accounts as part of the hiring process, and he assumes someone checked them. "They didn't really ask me specifically about things."

His promotion to the governor pro-family adviser job also coincided with Dunleavy's push to appeal to social conservatives during his second term as governor.

The podcast was available online for more than a year when Cubas first started working in the governor's office in March 2022.

The name, "Contra Gentiles," references a landmark religious text written in the 13th century by a Catholic priest and saint, Thomas Aquinas, and Cubas said the show draws on ideas that have been dominant in Western culture.

"I have not said anything in the podcast that has not been held for the majority of our civilization — including in the United States, at least in its early forms," he said in the May 30 interview.

Episodes typically run about two hours, with some stretching on for more than four. The discussions are freewheeling and range from dialogue about Catholic philosophy to banter about sex. But Cubas also shares extreme takes on social issues and sometimes expresses racist views.

In March, Cubas spoke at length in his podcast about his belief that modern society has exaggerated the seriousness of rape.

"Rape, in the end, is pretty low on the totem pole of grave immoral actions," Cubas said. "Because in the end, I mean, if you produce a child through rape, you've ontologically fulfilled the act to a pretty good capacity."

Cubas said that's why he believes that "an act like divorce is worse than rape." While he also argued that rape can be sinful if it involves sex outside of wedlock, he said it's fine for a man to force himself on his wife.

"I don't think it's possible to rape your wife. I think that that's an impossible act," he said. "When you signed the contract, you have already consented. You're consenting until the end of time, until you're dead." In another episode from 2021, Cubas said that "guys have been told that anything they do is rape," and as a result have become too cautious around women. "Women," he said, "want to be taken by a man."

In the interview, Cubas defended his statements on rape. "This has been the view of the Western world for the majority of its history," he said. "It's only been in the last 80 to 100 years in

which that has changed at all."

In the discussion on rape and marriage on the podcast, Cubas also says that "sometimes a woman needs to be slapped," and added "I don't think there's any sin there."

Cubas' comments directly conflict with Dunleavy's political platform. While Cubas legitimized unwanted sex on his podcast, Dunleavy has prioritized prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault.

In addition to his extreme views on rape, Cubas repeatedly defended Adolf Hitler. He sometimes jokingly celebrated Hitler's birthday, downplayed his role in the slaughter of 6 million Jews and spoke favorably about his views on keeping people of different racial backgrounds apart.

"He wasn't just a lunatic who wanted to kill Jews. I think he was somebody who recognized the virtues of living homogeneously," Cubas said in January — a few months before he was promoted in his state job. He added: "I think some of the principles are worth talking about."

He also argued that Hitler accomplished much more than Martin Luther King Jr., who he called a "loser" who "accomplished nothing."

On the same episode, Cubas argued that "anti-semitism is not a real thing," saying that Hitler targeted Jews not because of their race but because they were "homeless people just taking over the country."

"He wanted the races in their respective areas to remain pure, so Europe remains Europe," Cubas added.

While Cubas frequently notes that his parents are from Peru and that his maternal grandmother was Black, he's also called himself a "white Latino" and a "race realist." And he invoked ugly racial stereotypes about minority groups. In several episodes Cubas also casually used the N-word.

"I say it on a daily basis," Cubas said on an episode in 2021 where he used the racial epithet. "The more they tell me not to say it, the more I want to say it."

In a March episode called "Satanic Gender Demons" Cubas also called for violence in response to transgender activists who are "yelling at people's faces" and "forcing you to comply to their demands."

"Just get violent on them," he said. "If somebody yells at your face, there's no reason to yell back any more. You just take your fist and you start beating them."

Andrew Gray, the first openly gay man elected to the Alaska Legislature, said that Cubas' comments are "absurd" and "beyond imagination."

"If it were a movie, you wouldn't believe it," Gray, an Anchorage Democratic state House member, said in an interview May 29. "You would not believe that somebody working for the governor would record this in any sort of public forum — or any sort of private forum."

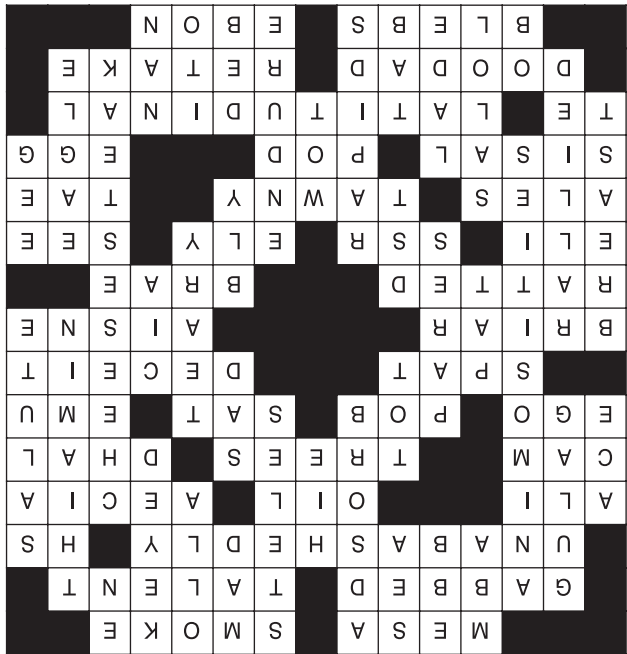
Cubas, 40, has nine dependent children, according to a financial disclosure he filed with the state, and he owns an Anchorage photography business called MadMen Studios.

Between 2017 and 2021, he taught philosophy classes at the University of Alaska Anchorage Mat-Su campus, and he also did graduate work in philosophy at a Catholic research university in Belgium.

Cubas attends Wasilla's Sacred Heart Church with Dunleavy, and his undergraduate degree came from the same Catholic university as the governor: Misericordia University, two hours north of Philadelphia.

As Dunleavy's photographer, Cubas cut a low profile; he initially took pictures at events and helped set up audiovisual equipment for news conferences. His promotion in April came amid Dunleavy's renewed emphasis on social issues during his second term.

This story was produced by Alaska Public Media and APM Reports as part of the Public Media Accountability Initiative, which supports investigative reporting at local media outlets around the country.



PUZZLE SOLUTION

Reward offered for information on sea lion killings near Cordova

By ZAZ HOLLANDER
Anchorage Daily News

Federal authorities say seven Steller sea lions were found shot to death in the surf near Cordova after the Copper River salmon fishing season got underway in mid-May.

The National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration on June 2 announced a reward up to \$5,000 for anyone who provides information that leads to a civil penalty or criminal conviction. The agency includes the National Marine Fisheries Service, which oversees protection of marine mammals like sea lions.

Cordova, located on the eastern edge of Prince William Sound, is home to the Copper River's prized sockeye runs and a busy fishery that kicks off the summer commercial salmon season.

The dead animals, found along a beach on the southeast end of the Copper River Delta, were reported a day after the fishery opened, according to Glenn Charles, assistant special agent in charge for NOAA's Alaska law enforcement office.

An investigation is underway. Agency staffers spotted the sea lions during an overflight of the fishing grounds at the mouth of the river, Charles said, and determined the animals had been shot, and that no attempts had been made to salvage any meat.

The reward is to encourage people to come forward, he said. "I believe there's over 500 boats registered for the Copper River fishery and they all fish up and down the area. Chances are good

that somebody saw something."

The sea lions around Cordova are part of a population protected under the Endangered Species Act. Killing marine mammals also violates the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Restrictions to protect the hulking marine mammals have frustrated some fishermen. Occasionally, reports of violence against them surface in Alaska and other states.

The bodies of 15 Steller sea lions were found in Cordova in 2015, also at the start of the Copper River salmon season. A fishing boat captain and a member of his crew were later charged with using a shotgun to harass and kill the sea lions. That case prompted the start of federal overflights during the Copper River opener, Charles said.

He declined to answer specifically when asked if agents suspect fishermen were involved in the shooting.

The dead animals were not seen before fishing started, Charles said. Because they were found in the surf, he said, it's "highly likely" they were in the water when they were shot.

NOAA asked anyone with information to contact the investigating agent directly at 907-250-5188 or through NOAA's Enforcement Hotline at 800-853-1964.

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