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Assembly approves \$1.6 million for schools; max allowed under law



PHOTO BY SARAH ASLAM/WRANGELL SENTINEL

New parent Tawney Crowley (back row, from left) and teacher Tasha Morse were among the those who attended the assembly meeting May 10 to speak on the borough's contribution to next year's school budget. Teacher Laurie Hagelman looks over at Crowley's 4-month-old infant Riley, seated in her carrier.

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The assembly on May 10 unanimously approved \$1.617 million as the borough contribution to the school budget for the 2022-2023 academic year, more than \$300,000 higher than this year's local funding level and at the maximum allowed under state law.

Everyone who spoke at the assembly meeting called on the assembly to appropriate more money for schools.

Schools Superintendent Bill Burr, School Board President David Wilson, teacher Tasha Morse, parent Kaelene Harrison and first grade teacher and parent Mikki Angerman were among those who testified in support of the larger borough contribution.

One after another, they cited diminished resources, culled arts programs and music classes, and a bare-bones approach to funding that can't meet student needs, including making it hard to recruit and retain paraprofessionals because the schools can't pay a living wage.

Harrison, who with Victor Sanoe Harrison has seven children, five in the school system, said the lack of offerings for her kids is making her reconsider if Wrangell is the best place for her family.

Harrison said it breaks her heart to see Wrangell's once thriving school system struggle, and that she's wit-

nessed "a community die when schools shut down."

When she went to high school, she had seven classes of art to choose from. Her kids have one.

She asked the assembly, "What do you want your child's school to look like?"

Harrison said the funding they need are for the basics, not extras — but that's not enough. "We want our kids to make a difference," she said. By offering the bare minimum, "they're not going to come back to Wrangell."

Angerman said as a teacher for the past 10 years, she sees how thin they're stretched.

"I can also see it as a mom," she said. "My son loves the arts. He does great in reading, writing and math; but he loves the arts." Angerman said her husband talks about how wonderful Wrangell's schools used to be.

She, too, is considering leaving.

"Even though we don't want to, we may have to move," Angerman said. "How do we attract people from homeschooling when we can't offer them anything? We need help."

Wilson said planning for the future takes resources and commitment. He said students are helping to write grants to bring in money.

"We need an infusion of funds," Wilson said.

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Legislature in final steps on adjournment deadline

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

The borough and Wrangell schools could receive about \$4.5 million in state funds, and individuals could receive a fall dividend at least more than double the amount of last year's payment as the Legislature is in the final day of its regular session on Wednesday.

High oil prices — \$50 per barrel above a year ago — have added billions to state revenues and made it easier for legislators to add money to the budget for schools, local public works projects and the annual Permanent Fund dividend.

The Legislature faces a midnight Wednesday adjournment deadline to finish its work. If House and Senate members are unable to negotiate compromises on spending bills and other remaining items, they could call themselves back to work or the governor could call them into special session.

As of Monday, the biggest political and financial issue on the budget table was the amount of the dividend. The House had approved a \$1,300 PFD and an energy relief payment to Alaskans at the same amount, resulting in about \$2,600 for residents at a cost of around \$1.6 billion to the state treasury.

The Senate plan called for a \$4,200 PFD, plus the energy relief check of \$1,300, for a combined payment to residents of \$5,500 this fall, at a cost of about \$3.6 billion, possibly draining all of the state's savings accounts except the Permanent Fund if oil prices drop back toward the long-term average in the next year.

Last year's dividend was \$1,114, under the \$1,300 average of the past decade.

While House and Senate members were struggling to agree on the amount of the dividend in the session's final days, there appeared little dispute over a \$4.1 million state grant to help the borough pay for a new water treatment plant. The community priority was in both the House and Senate versions of the public works budget, called the capital budget, though other spending items were in dispute and the bill was not finished as of Monday.

The 25-year-old water plant has been an operating problem for years, with a high buildup of sediment affecting water quality, flow and treatment costs. A new plant, estimated at more than \$15 million, would include a new filtration system. The borough already has about \$11 million in federal funds to put toward the project.

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Wetlands field research

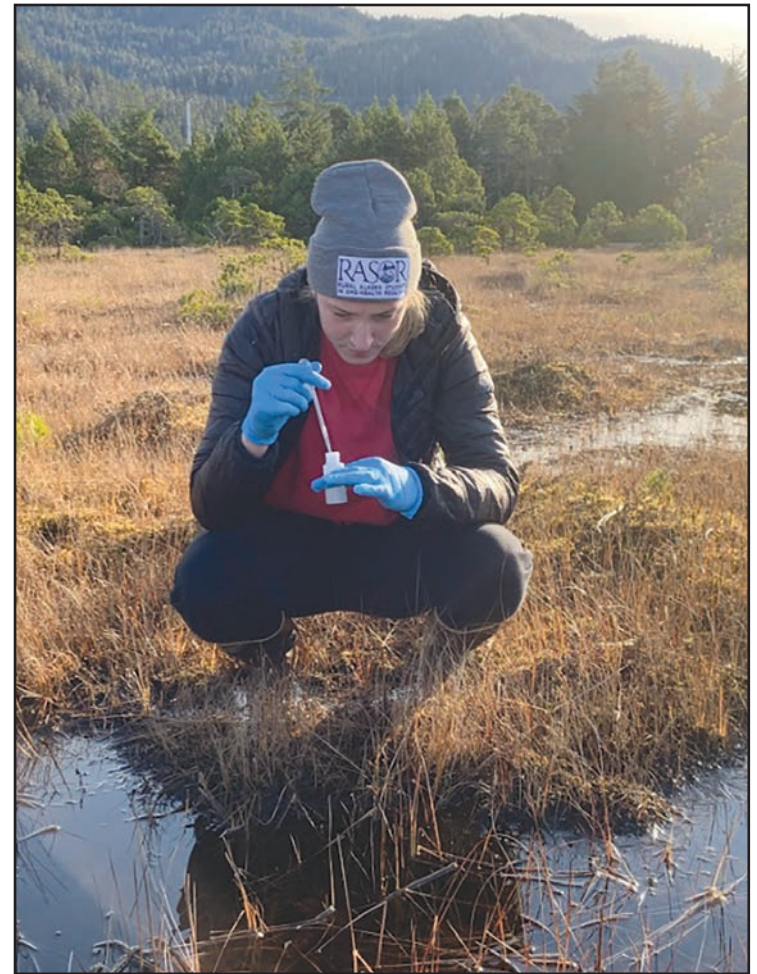
Water study highlights importance of cleaning up after pets

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

A group of high school students delved into scientific research while earning college credits as part of the Rural Alaska Students in One-Health Research (RASOR) program.

The University of Alaska Southeast has been running the program for the past three years to highlight environmental issues that can affect human health. This year, Wrangell students decided to research problems with dog waste getting into groundwater along the Volunteer Park trail.

According to the presentation submitted by the five students, they hypothesized that the water samples they planned to collect along the trail would have a higher amount of fecal coliform



COURTESY OF KIM WICKMAN

High school senior Liana Carney takes water samples last November from groundwater at the Volunteer Park trail as part of a fecal coliform study conducted by students in the Rural Alaska Students in One-Health Research program.

Continued on page 5

Borough will auction off former hospital building starting June 1

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The borough assembly on May 10 approved a resolution to put the former hospital building up for auction, with the borough running the sale rather than turning it over to an online surplus property vendor and paying a 5% commission.

Assemblymember Jim DeBord voted no; everyone else voted yes.

The borough has been spending almost \$100,000 a year on insurance and heat since SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium moved out of the 30,596-square-foot building and into a new facility on Wood Street more than a year ago. The property reverted back to the bor-

ough. The oldest portions of the building date back to 1967.

The property will be listed at a minimum bid of \$830,000, the value deemed by a commercial appraisal.

The auction will start on June 1 and run through June 30.

"To me, at its current value, you're basically giving it away," DeBord, the only no vote, said in an interview Friday. "It's a huge piece of property you're essentially giving away for \$830,000, in my opinion."

He also noted that the borough could find it needs the former hospital as temporary quarters during construction or as the site for a new police and fire station building if it decides not to rebuild the Public Safety Building.

"You have no idea who would buy it and what would be done with it," he said of the former hospital.

If the winning bid comes in at over \$1 million, the sale would need to be ratified by voters at the regular election on Oct. 4.

If the winning buyer wanted to take possession before Oct. 4, it would require a special election to approve the sale on the faster timeline.

The assembly had been considering a resolution to put the former hospital site up for auction at its April 26 meeting, but the issue on what would happen if bidding went beyond \$1 million led to the assembly postponing the matter until May 10, when it approved a modified resolution.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, May 19: Kolin Shea Wallace, Jacob Werner, Sheila Wickman, Anniversary: Jeff and Danielle Smith.

Friday, May 20: Jerry Bakeberg, Dawn Davis, Lindsey McConachie; Anniversaries: Ben and Kristin Schwerin, Felix and Verda Villarma.

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

Sunday, May 22: Jim Abbott, Dante Nesbitt, Charley Murray-Young.

Monday, May 23: Dennis Pavlina, Logan Scott, Mia Wiederspohn, "Wilfred".

Tuesday, May 24: Jana Barlow, Delilah Roane; Anniversary: Lorne and Stephanie Cook.

Wednesday, May 25: Chelsea Pollow, Scott Thomas, Guy Young; Anniversary: Jake and Alesha Jabusch.

Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, May 19

Chicken noodle soup, mixed veggies, cabbage pear and raisin salad

Friday, May 20

Hamburger, cantaloupe slice, carrot pineapple salad, oven french fried potatoes

Monday, May 23

Chicken rice casserole, mixed veggie, cauliflower and broccoli tossed salad

Tuesday, May 24

Beef stew with veggies, spicy fruit cup, rolls

Wednesday, May 25

Chinese fruited pork, green beans, waldorf salad, rice

Please call the senior center at 907-874-2066 24 hours in advance to reserve a seat at lunch at the center or to request delivery. The senior van also is available to transport seniors to medical appointments, reasonable errands such as collecting mail, getting prescriptions or other essential items.

Ferry Schedule

Northbound

Friday, May 20
Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.
Saturday, May 28
Matanuska, 12:45 a.m.
Friday, June 3
Matanuska, 5:45 p.m.
Monday, June 6
Matanuska, 8:45 p.m.

Southbound

Monday, May 23
Matanuska, 9 a.m.
Monday, May 30
Matanuska, 2 a.m.
Monday, June 6
Matanuska, 6 a.m.
Thursday, June 9
Matanuska, 4:15 p.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
May18	02:33	18.9	03:41	15.4
May19	03:19	18.2	04:33	14.7
May20	04:09	17.1	05:31	14.0
May21	05:07	15.7	06:38	13.6
May22	06:19	14.4	07:51	13.8
May23	07:45	13.5	08:57	14.5
May24	09:07	13.3	09:53	15.5

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

WRANGELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is sponsoring a luncheon with Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday at The Stik. The senator will give a short presentation and take questions from the audience. RSVP to 907-874-3901.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER presents "Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore" rated PG-13, at 7 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12, for the action adventure fantasy film that runs two hours and 20 minutes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

MUSKEG MEADOWS will hold the Ray Pederson Memorial Ryder Cup, 18 holes both days on Saturday and Sunday starting at 10 a.m. Register by 9:30 a.m. \$25 fee each day.

SOUTHEAST SENIOR SERVICES is offering a series of free online Tai Chi classes for ages 60 and up twice a week through June 23. Improves strength and balance, reduces risk of falls. Taught by a certified instructor. Call 907-463-6113 for registration and more information.

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

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

Continuing Events

PARKS and RECREATION www.wrangellrec.com

Open swim is open by appointment, at reduced capacity. Locker rooms are available.

Arthritis class, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Lap swim, 6 - 7:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Lap/tot swim, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., weekdays, 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday

Open swim, 6 - 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; 6:30 - 8 p.m. Friday; 1 - 2 p.m. Saturday

Water aerobics class, 10 - 11 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Weight room: 6 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 8:30 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Saturday

AA Meetings: North Star Group meets from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

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

May 18, 1922

Judge Charles E. Bunnell, president of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, arrived on the Jefferson on Saturday and called on Miss Rees, school superintendent. He also met members of the school board and the Parent-Teacher Association. Judge Bunnell is full of enthusiasm for the opening of the farthest north college in the world and is anxious to get the institution launched just outside of Fairbanks. He is confident of its future and its ability to compete for students on an equal plane with similar institutions in the states. The first year the institution will offer courses of study in agriculture, home economics, mining engineering, civil engineering, and will cover a number of subjects. Judge Bunnell is hopeful that next year he will be

able to start a course in fisheries and also commercial business.

May 16, 1947

Postmaster E. R. Sharnbroich today repeated his previous requests to Wrangell citizens to exercise care in their use of the Federal Building. During the past few weeks there have been instances again of apparent deliberate vandalism in defacing signs and other parts of the building. Most of this could be stopped if parents would see that their children are not allowed to play in and around the building. Sharnbroich reminded Wrangellites that their Federal Building and surrounding grounds is said by everyone to be the finest in the territory, and it should be our goal to keep it that way. Upkeep of the building is paid by the public, he said, and because it is the public's building they should take more care in its use. He said children have been allowed to play on the cement parking lot at the side of the building and to play ball on the lower lawn on the beach side. Some of them, he pointed out, are spoiling this privilege for others by playing on the porch, and using the lobby for basketball, marbles, etc. in the evenings. He advised that if this is not stopped, the post office lobby will have to be locked after closing hours. Citizens are also requested to use the roads and sidewalks around the building and not make paths through the lawns. No one, he thought, would be in so much of a hurry that the few extra steps needed to take to the sidewalk or road would

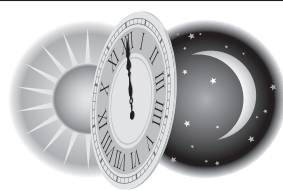
delay them.

May 19, 1972

A new fiscal school district budget totaling \$913,700 was approved last week by the city council. The city's share of the spending schedule submitted by Schools Supt. Dick McCormick remained at \$50,000. The rest of the budget is provided by state and federal agencies. In other actions during the meeting May 10, City Manager Kester Dotts learned that the Insurance Services Office of Alaska has completed a survey of Wrangell's firefighting capabilities and subsequently upgraded the town's insurability. The change, the manager said, will mean a 10 percent reduction in most people's fire insurance rates.

May 19, 1997

A four-day-a-week senior citizens center has been approved for Wrangell by the city council. The center will operate on a first-year budget of \$19,000, most of which will be provided by the state's Office of Aging. Councilmen approved the center concept after hearing a report last week by a 10-member mayor's committee headed by Mrs. Carol Elliott and the Rev. Peter Gorges. Father Gorges said the program will provide recreation, education, social and other activities for Wrangell's over-55 population. The center program will be at the Women's Civic Club building from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and one night a week for a total of 30 hours a week, the co-chairs said. The building was donated for the purpose by the Wrangell Women's Civic Club.



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
May18	4:28a	9:04p	16:36h
May19	4:26a	9:06p	16:40h
May20	4:24a	9:08p	16:43h
May21	4:23a	9:10p	16:47h
May22	4:21a	9:12p	16:50h
May23	4:19a	9:13p	16:53h
May24	4:18a	9:15p	16:57h

Wrangell receives \$1 million toward domestic violence prevention

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

A Ketchikan nonprofit has helped the Wrangell tribal council secure a \$1 million federal grant toward domestic violence and sexual abuse prevention, and advocacy for survivors.

Agnes Moran, executive director at Women in Safe Homes in Ketchikan, helped Wrangell Cooperative Association apply for the grant from Indian Health Services. The entirety of the \$1 million is for Wrangell, tribal and non-tribal, at \$200,000 a year over the next five years, she said May 10.

The goal is to create two job positions at WCA to address domestic violence — one prevention, and one advocacy — Valerie Massie, coordinator for the Indian General Assistance Program at WCA, said Friday via email. The prevention position would be created first, with Ketchikan staff at WISH providing training.

The second position, an advocate for survivors and

their dependents experiencing abuse, could provide more safety-oriented services in Wrangell, Massie said. That will require collaborating with law enforcement and finding a more secure location to work out of than the WCA office.

Moran said starting with a prevention position for the first year would get the worker integrated into the community in a positive manner, followed by an advocacy position the next year.

WCA will be the lead. "They will be designing and selecting the appropriate programs. They will start out by doing a survey of the community needs," Moran said.

Before she moved to Wrangell, Massie used to work for Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, a domestic violence safe shelter in Anchorage.

"I know how vital it is for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors to have local resources at the ready, right when they need them," Massie said. "WISH has

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PHOTO BY DUSTIN SAFRANEK/KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS
Women In Safe Homes executive director Agnes Moran stands outside the administrative office at the WISH facility in Ketchikan on May 11. WISH also assists domestic violence survivors from Wrangell.

Museum seeks to make new Friends through membership drive

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Since the onslaught of COVID-19 two years ago, the Friends of the Museum lost more than half its membership due to various reasons and has struggled with bringing in needed donations.

The nonprofit foundation that raises funds for the Wrangell Museum is working to increase membership through different means, including an upcoming membership drive.

"The (Friends of the Museum), when I came aboard in 2019, had 60-plus members," said foundation president Michael Bania. "In the first year of COVID, it dropped down to 23 members. Last year, we did a mailing, so now we're up to about 40 members."

According to the website for The Nolan Center, the building that houses the museum, "The Friends of the Museum supports the activities and acquisitions of the Wrangell Museum through advocacy, fundraising, special programming and activities. Foremost will be efforts to maintain the stability and preservation of Wrangell's history, secure grants, promote a volunteer program and join in the partnership with the Wrangell Museum and its staff."

This year's visiting cruise ships are expected to possibly bring up to 20,000 tourists, and Cyni Crary, director of The



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Michael Bania, president of the Friends of the Museum foundation, left, and Cyni Crary, director of The Nolan Center, are preparing for a membership drive on May 28. The event, Night at the Museum, will give attendees a chance to name the stuffed wolf shown here — and support the museum.

Nolan Center, estimates between 40 to 80 people per ship visit the museum.

"(During COVID) with the cruise ships not coming in, there wasn't any traffic coming into the museum, so we're really looking forward to a busy season coming up," Crary said. "We're trying really hard to revitalize the Friends and to get new members and get people excited again."

When staff at The Nolan Center was reduced to just one employee, which was Crary, the Friends went so far as to volunteer hours to run the site's gift shop, Bania said.

"They stepped up and really helped. It was awesome," Crary said.

Friends of the Museum also help raise funds for things like the materials used to install new shelving in the gift shop

and a new centrally located audio-visual control panel that will help with displays found throughout the museum. They also aid in setting up exhibits, contributing food to functions held at the center, and coming up with fundraising ideas.

Bania said that the nonprofit is looking to diversify its membership since it has traditionally been comprised of older people.

"We want at least 100 (members) and we want a demographic change," she said. "Young families are getting more involved. There are opportunities here to have a children's art day, anything. This facility can be used for so much."

At 6 p.m. on May 28, The Nolan Center will host Night at the Museum, a membership drive for the Friends, which will include a potluck dinner open to the community. There will be speakers, doors prizes, entertainment and a chance to win Alaska Airlines tickets.

"We're going to do some educating that night so that we can try to get some younger folks coming in," Crary said.

Both Crary and Bania see The Nolan Center and museum as much more than a convention center or place to display historical artifacts. They would like it to become a community gathering place for a variety of events.

"There's so much potential here to be a community center but it requires community involvement," Bania said.

Motor fuel tax holiday bill could die in state Senate in final legislative days

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

It's up to the Senate in the final days of the legislative session whether Alaskans will get a year of gasoline and diesel at the pump without the state tax of eight cents a gallon.

The House by a 36-2 margin on May 4 passed the measure — which could save an average driver \$30 to \$50 a year in motor fuel taxes but cost the state about \$35 million in lost revenues — sending it to the Senate for action in the final two weeks of the session.

A week later, the Senate Transportation Committee moved the bill on May 11, sending it to its next stop, the Senate Finance Committee, just one week before the constitutional adjournment deadline this Wednesday.

As of Monday, the Finance Committee had not scheduled

the bill for a hearing. If the Senate fails to approve the bill, which also would need to go back to the House for concurrence with Senate amendments, the measure will die at adjournment and the tax will remain in place.

The measure also would suspend to June 30, 2023, the state tax on marine fuel (5 cents a gallon) and aviation gas (4.7 cents a gallon).

The governor and multiple legislators have been pushing for the tax holiday to provide a small relief for consumers paying the highest prices at the pump in years. Though the bill says dealers "shall reduce the cost of fuel to the final consumer" by the amount of the tax break, there is no enforcement mechanism, and the tax is assessed at the wholesale, not retail level.

Critics of the tax holiday argue

that Alaska's motor fuel taxes are the lowest in the nation, haven't changed in a half-century, and the tax revenues are needed for road maintenance.

The legislation was amended in the Senate Transportation Committee last week to include a new licensing fee of \$50 on plug-in hybrid vehicles and \$100 for fully electric vehicles, to compensate for the fact that their owners don't contribute the same to state revenues as vehicle owners who pay taxes on the gasoline or diesel they buy.

Separate from the motor fuel

tax, the legislation, sponsored by Anchorage Rep. Andy Josephson, would increase the state tax on refined fuel products by about half-a-penny per gallon to boost funding for Alaska's spill prevention and response program.

Josephson said the small increase would help the account, which is supposed to be self-supporting, remain viable for its important work. The account is used to clean up spills at service stations, dry cleaners and other sites around Alaska.

The half-cent increase is estimated to raise about \$3.6

million a year for the Spill Prevention and Response Division at the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Correction

The news story in the April 27 Wrangell Sentinel about the airport disaster training drill misspelled the name of Gerrit Southland.

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Candidates should talk about the real issues

BY LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

The community's future depends on adequate, affordable housing, and the same for child care services. Without both, Wrangell will find it difficult to keep the businesses, jobs, school enrollment and services it has, much less grow.

You could say the same for salmon returns, state and federal funds, a dependable ferry system and better weather, but all of those are outside the community's control.

Housing and child care are something Wrangell needs to confront, look for answers and even help pay to improve. Both are so basic to the well-being of the community that they justify the use of public funds. Don't call it a subsidy, call it an investment in keeping the town alive with new families, new energy and maybe reaching a point in the future when "help wanted" signs become less common than street signs.

The fact is new workers are dissuaded from moving here if there is no housing. Parents can't work — or can't work as many hours as they want and are needed on the job — if there is no one to care for their children. Child care and housing are not luxuries, they are necessities, same as utilities.

Hopefully, candidates for municipal, state and federal office this year will talk more about the real needs of housing and child care and less about the national political garbage that swirls around social media, less about attacking the other party, and less about how people can have everything they want from government without paying taxes.

It was interesting to read former governor Bill

Walker's interview in last weekend's Ketchikan Daily News, where he said the biggest issues he is hearing from people on the campaign trail to get his old job back are, yes, you guessed it, affordable housing and child care.

"I haven't been in a single community that has (not mentioned) affordable housing, and I don't bring it up," Walker told the newspaper. "I just say, 'what (are) the biggest issues?' ... and that's what it is."

He went on to connect the dots. "I think our economy is a bit stifled," Walker said, "because of lack of affordable housing, because you can't get employees. You can't do the business that you want to be doing." In particular, tourism businesses can't find all the workers they need to rebuild their operations with the return of visitors this summer.

Same for child care, he told the Ketchikan paper, thinking out loud about tax credits to help employers that need help in assisting employees with child care expenses or converting unused spaces for child care services.

"Just sitting back and letting it take care of itself ... isn't quite enough for me," he said.

Wrangell's Nicole Hammer had a similar answer last year when she was looking for work. "It's come to the point where I have to go back to work, but how does one go back to work when there's no child care around?" Hammer said in an interview with the Sentinel. "It feels like it's just my problem, but it turns out it's a problem for multiple families."

It's a problem for the community, not just families. And what better time to confront problems than in an election year. It's time for the candidates to start talking about their ideas.

"The fact is new workers are dissuaded from moving here if there is no housing. Parents can't work — or can't work as many hours as they want and are needed on the job — if there is no one to care for their children."

GUEST OPINION

Alaska can help solve nation's energy crisis

BY FRANK H. MURKOWSKI

Russian President Vladimir Putin's dreams almost came true.

Over the past few years, the Russian government has promoted development of the vast natural gas resources of the Russian high Arctic to Germany, Poland, and other eastern European countries. Putin planned to have them totally dependent on long-term contractual commitments for their energy needs, formerly provided by coal.

Had Putin waited a few years, most of Europe would have become so dependent on Russian gas that they would effectively be held hostage. Putin would have been able to achieve his ultimate goal, reuniting Mother Russia and returning to the former "grandeur" of the USSR.

Putin, however, misjudged on two accounts: Eastern Europe is not yet entirely dependent on Russian gas, and he totally underestimated the fierce response from Ukraine. The war rages on, and he appears to have no graceful exit.

However, his actions have cut off global access to Russian oil resources. The impact is being felt around the

world, as fuel costs for shipping, agriculture, manufacturing and daily transportation skyrocket.

As absurd as it may seem, President Joe Biden is playing right into Putin's hands. Rather than recommit to our former U.S. policy of attaining a level of energy independence that we once enjoyed, Biden has seen fit to pull oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve — at least 1 million barrels per day. That creates a concern for our national security if an emergency arises.

Further, Biden is refusing to open up federal petroleum reserves for production. Several of the most promising prospects are in Alaska.

The Naval Petroleum Reserve-Alaska was set up in 1923. This is an area of 23 million acres, about the size of the state of Indiana. ConocoPhillips has leases with some production and could develop a lot more.

Nearby is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, an area similar to NPRA, about 19 million acres. Congress has set aside 8 million acres for wilderness, 9 million acres in a wildlife reserve, and authorized leasing in the remaining

1.8 million acres. A lease sale took place last year and the state acquired several leases. Payment was made to the Department of the Interior, yet the Biden administration is litigating the sale.

Both these federal areas are near the trans-Alaska pipeline, which has a design capacity of 2 million barrels per day. Yet current throughput is roughly 500,000 barrels a day, about what the U.S. had been purchasing from Russia at a cost of about \$46 million per day.

If the Biden administration would issue an emergency order to open up both areas — ANWR and NPR-A — production could be increased and have an impact on our oil deficit.

Those who object to developing fossil fuels have a role to play, too. The preservationist/green lobby has no plan to address consumer prices for gasoline.

However, the Biden administration could negotiate a trade-off with the environmental lobby. I suggest the Department of Energy draw up a formula in which, as new green energy technology is introduced, there would

EDITORIAL

Share your dividend wealth

The amount of this year's Alaska Permanent Fund dividend was uncertain as of the Sentinel's printing deadline Monday evening, but it is certain that the payments will total more than \$1 billion above last year's checks, maybe a lot more, depending on final budget action by the House and Senate.

No doubt a lot of families need every bit of that to pay rent, buy food and clothes, cover utilities and fuel, particularly in rural communities where there are few cash-paying jobs.

Equally of little doubt, a lot of Alaskans never counted on the oversized, overstuffed election-year dividend approved by legislators. And while they can find uses for the money, many can afford to share some of their high-oil-price largesse with others.

For Alaskans who are not familiar with the Pick.Click.Give program, there is still time to learn. The program, run by the Permanent Fund Dividend Division, makes it easy for people to go online, pick from hundreds of charitable organizations across the state, then click and give to the ones they support. The donation will be deducted from the dividend and sent directly to the nonprofits to fund their good work.

Though the deadline to have applied for this fall's PFD was March 31, there still is plenty of time to share some of this year's jackpot dividend with groups that help people in need and communities year-round. Alaskans have until Aug. 31 to go back online and sign up for Pick.Click.Give., or to increase their donation. It's easy to go to the dividend division website at pfd.alaska.gov and choose the Pick.Click.Give. button on the right-hand side.

With the fall payment expected to range between \$2,600 and \$5,500 per person, depending on House-Senate negotiations in the Capitol, this would be a good year for Alaskans to share more than their weak response under the program's first dozen or so years. Last year, dividend recipients contributed less than one-half of 1% of their money through Pick.Click.Give. Of the \$10 billion handed out in dividends since the charitable donation program started in 2009, Alaskans picked and clicked about \$30 million for nonprofits on the list.

Certainly, many Alaskans give much more than that every year to charitable organizations directly, whether in cash, their time, donated food and materials. There is no need to only use the dividend checkoff to help neighbors and communities — but it's easy and convenient, and comes at the same time as people are filling out the form for the annual benefit provided by Alaska's oil-wealth savings account.

With this year's fall payment likely to set a new record somewhere between double and quintuple last year's \$1,114 check, it would be a good time to add a middle name to the PFD: Permanent Fund Sharing Dividend.

— Wrangell Sentinel

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thankful for EMT volunteers and the caring hospital staff

A heartfelt thank you to the highly professional volunteer ambulance crew and EMTs for their quick response to our call and for caringly and safely carrying me down our 27 steps for my recent trip to the hospital.

And thank you soooooo much for your warm, loving care during my recent six-day stay (with pneumonia) in the hospital. To: Lillia, Christina, Connie, Lisa, Rachel, Shahmeer, Molly, Stephanie, Meghan, Katie, Georgina and Dr. Restad.

Much love,
Karen Morse

be a proportional adjustment downward in our national production of fossil fuels.

Something along these lines would make it possible for the U.S. to begin efforts to again achieve energy independence, stimulating an adequate level of oil production and advancing development of green energy.

President Biden and his advisers must be held accountable for their irresponsible and illogical decision to disregard Alaska as a potential solution to our nation's energy crisis. Alaska must be an integral part of our nation's energy planning. Our na-

tion's inflation rate is near 8%, and high energy costs are a major factor.

Alaska must be allowed to develop and access our renewable natural resource wealth — our fish and timber — as well as our non-renewables — our minerals and yes, our oil and gas. Alaska's assets hold the key to countering President Putin's actions and President Biden's inaction.

Frank H. Murkowski is a former governor (2002-2006) and former U.S. senator (1980-2002) from Alaska.

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School funding

Continued from page 1

Morse, who conducted the spring concert on May 12, said students need creative outlets. She gave up teaching jazz to teach art.

"We're not looking for a raise. I'm looking out for my kids that love music, art and shop. I want my children to have the best education," she said.

Fifth grade teacher Laurie Hagelman said if things remain as they are, there is "no viable way we can provide teaching. Our enrollment has gone down. We are down 34 students. When we cut teaching positions, we cut programs."

Mayor Steve Prysunka during assembly discussion said his confidence in committing more to school funding has increased. "For the first time in six years, I felt like I had a good understanding of where the schools are at," he said.

The school district had requested \$1.592 million in borough funds for the next school year; the assembly, on a motion by Jim DeBord, boosted that to \$1.617 million. State law sets a minimum and maximum formula for local contributions to school budgets in an effort to prevent too much inequity between communities.

Of the borough contribution, \$741,489 is from sales tax receipts and \$876,140 will come from the federal Secure Rural Schools fund, Borough Manager Jeff Good said Monday.

Assemblymember Bob Dalrymple seconded the motion at \$1.617 million. "I've been quite dejected at the budget process at the state until this year," he said. "There are a lot of people that don't have a shared sense that education is important."

Water study

Continued from page 1

bacteria than an area that wasn't frequented by dogs.

Many different health issues can arise from water that has been polluted with animal fecal matter, including cholera, gastroenteritis and E. coli. Kim Wickman, who is the mentor for the RASOR class, said water catchment systems, if not regularly cleaned and maintained, could be at risk for fecal coliform contamination.

"Coliforms can be present anywhere you might find fecal matter, whether it's a dog, a bird, a beaver," Wickman said. "People have catchment systems and anything that's on their roof can be washing into their water treatment tanks." Anyone who lives past 6 Mile has some sort of water treatment system, since there is no borough water pipeline beyond that, she said.

Problems with dog waste at Volunteer Park have been ongoing for many years, and Parks and Recreation Director Kate Thomas said her crew works hard to keep that park and others poop-free. She said they also try to prevent the problem through education.

"Volunteer Park is the particularly challenging location because dogs get to get out and freely roam the main areas," Thomas said. "It's been a big problem for the Little League community."

Thomas said there are approximately 570 dogs on the island and, while most people are responsible and clean up after their pets, "there are the legitimately irresponsible people."

The RASOR students, senior Liana Carney and juniors Kiara Harrison, Brodie Gardner, Devlyn Campbell and Killian Booker, along with Wickman and teacher Heather Howe, collected water samples over three weeks last November from four different sites — three along the Volunteer Park trail and a control site on Spur Road they reasoned wouldn't be frequented by dogs.

It was their expectation that they would find more fecal coliform in the three sample sites around the trail than they would at the control site.

"Our hypothesis was not supported because our control site has as many as or more fecal coliforms than our other sampling sites," Harrison said in the presentation the group made in April along with groups from Sitka, Petersburg and Craig. She said it was possible the coliforms detected were from geese found at the control site.

"The next step would be to take samples from water clearly contaminated with fecal coliform," Gardner said during the presentation. "We could also repeat tests at different times of the year to account for weather cycles and amounts of trail use."

Ellen Chenoweth, of UAS, the RA-

SOR program director, said it's not uncommon that the hypotheses aren't supported through research.

"It's probably the most common result we get from these types of studies because they're trying something new," Chenoweth said. "Their discussion session is used to look at why the hypothesis doesn't work out. They were in a site where there was a lot of bird activity. The trail section was more covered and the control site was in the open."

Harrison said the study didn't necessarily show what the group wanted it to, but it was a learning experience nonetheless.

"We learned how to do all the (testing) processes and if we were to (test again) we would have it down pretty well," Carney said. If they could prove there were more coliform bacteria in the trail sites, she said they would hope the results would encourage the public to put more effort into cleaning up after their pets.

Through Parks and Recreation's efforts to educate people and the RASOR group's research, Thomas said public awareness is growing and the problem is improving.

"When you have students in particular targeting these issues, adults pay attention to it and the effect on our recreation areas," Thomas said.

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SEARHC negotiated payments in lieu of annual property taxes back before borough assembly

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The borough assembly was scheduled to hold a special meeting Tuesday evening to consider an agreement for the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium to make voluntary payments on tax-exempt property it owns in town.

A draft agreement had been on the agenda at the assembly's May 10 meeting but discussion was postponed.

Mayor Steve Prysunka is leading the negotiations on the borough's side, Borough Manager Jeff Good said last Thursday.

The borough had started negotiations by asking for \$225,000 a year, and SEARHC offered \$45,000 per year for 10 years covering all of its property in Wrangell.

SEARHC is not legally required to pay taxes — state law exempts nonprofit religious, charitable, hospital or educational organizations from municipal property taxes.

The tribal nonprofit owns the

hospital, clinic and other office and rental housing properties in Wrangell.

The borough has been in negotiations with SEARHC since October 2021, when the finance department said it inherited the issue "as a result of the transition in borough managers" for a voluntary payment in lieu of taxes, according to a May 10 summary statement submitted by Good and Finance Director Mason Villarma to the assembly.

SEARHC paid a \$331,287 property tax bill from the borough for the new Wrangell Medical Center in 2021. Though SEARHC at one point had requested a refund of last year's payment, that has been dropped from the latest proposal discussed by the assembly.

"At a certain point, (property) taxes will be due," Good said of the negotiations last Thursday. Tax payments to the borough are due by Oct. 15.

"Hopefully, it won't go that long," he said.

Domestic violence

Continued from page 3

served Wrangell for many years and a lot can be done remotely, but that physical and emotional presence in Wrangell will be invaluable."

The prevention aspect could look like programs such as "I Toowú Klatseen/Boys on the Run," an adaptation of a Sitka-based 10-week running program for men and boys.

"Participants will gain the skills they need to build healthy relationships and create a community of respect for self and others," Massie said. That includes discussion and culturally based activities which honor Southeast Alaska traditional values.

Other prevention work would look like adult and family outreach and education, time in the schools educating students about safe relationships and what to do when they feel unsafe or confused.

The funding would bolster much of the work that BRAVE already is doing in Wrangell.

For survivors and their dependents, the advocate position would help them while or after they experience abuse.

The advocate could help with a secure place to live, safety planning for escaping an abuser, legal help in procuring a protective order or changes to child custody, divorce, financial or logistical support if there has been financial abuse, counseling, social support and relocation assistance.

"Abuse is not just physical," Massie said. "Usually there is financial, emotional, mental abuse, and/or social isolation before physical violence occurs."

Dealing with abusers or perpetrators can be dangerous work, especially in a small town like Wrangell, Massie said. Proper safety measures

need to be in place before services such as safe housing can be offered.

Joan Sargent, treasurer at Building Respect and Valuing Everyone (BRAVE), a 5-year-old volunteer organization to prevent violence in the Wrangell community, heard about the federal grant opportunity from WISH in November. She is a WISH board member.

Sargent told Massie, and WCA Tribal Administrator Aaltséen/Esther Reese and Massie brought it before the WCA council in December, where it was approved for application.

Wrangell is an underserved area, Moran said. "We've struggled with how to support you," she said. "We've sent people up periodically. But we've never felt we provided adequate coverage."

Abuse comes in many forms, and often the most hurtful kind is invisible, Massie said.

"Those family and friends outside of the relationship may ask why someone does not 'just leave' their abuser," she said. "Often, leaving isn't as simple as breaking up and walking away. The risk of death is highest for a victim of domestic violence after they leave their abuser. Leaving often requires planning and a support system. Men can be victims of abuse as well, and it can get much worse because of the social stigma around men seeking help."

Massie provided two numbers for people who need help: StrongHearts Native Helpline 1-844-7NATIVE (844-762-8483) a safe, anonymous and confidential domestic violence and dating violence helpline for Native Americans and Alaska Natives, offering culturally appropriate support and advocacy, and the WISH Ketchikan Hotline: 907-225-9474 or 800-478-9474.

Legislature

Continued from page 1

Wrangell also looks likely to receive around \$150,000 in additional one-time state funding for the school district, to help the schools avoid further cuts to staff and services.

The state covers about 60% of

the district's operating budget under a formula based on enrollment. But the funding formula has not changed since 2017, while costs have increased and Wrangell has lost enrollment. Though several lawmakers argued for an increase in the funding formula, they lacked the votes to win pas-

sage and legislators compromised on a one-time appropriation to help local districts for the 2022-2023 school year.

The House approved \$57 million; the Senate was at \$60 million; the two chambers will negotiate their different numbers this week.

All the oil money also has

prompted a Senate plan to make good on several years when the Legislature and governors short-funded the state's reimbursement responsibility to municipalities which had borrowed to build or remodel schools, with the anticipation that the state would cover much of the debt payments

as required by law. Low oil prices and budget deficits drove the decision to cut funding those years.

Wrangell could receive close to \$300,000 under the Senate plan to pay back municipalities across Alaska for years of short-funding the state's share of local school construction bond debt. The big winners in the plan, which totals nearly \$200 million, would be Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, which have borrowed heavily for new and remodeled schools.

Whether the back payments are made to municipalities — and how much they will be — are subject to House-Senate budget negotiations.

The biggest drama of the final week of the session was the battle over this year's Permanent Fund dividend. After the Senate amended the budget to supercharge the PFD and energy relief check to \$5,500 on a 10-9 vote, the House was confronted with the politically contentious challenge of accepting the Senate number or rejecting it and forcing a conference committee on the budget.

The joint conference committee started work on Sunday, after the House voted 18-22 on Saturday to reject the Senate version of the spending bill.

Critics of the measure, which over the weekend included labor, education and business groups, expressed concern over the reliance on high oil prices to pay the bills. Educators also worried that spending so much on PFDs would leave the state treasury unable to "pre-fund" education for the 2023-2024 school year.

Most legislators generally support fully funding the state's contribution to school district operating budgets a year in advance to avoid the risk and uncertainty to education programs.

"We must balance the needs with the wants," Fairbanks Rep. Bart LeBon said during House budget debate over the PFD on Saturday. He voted not to accept the Senate numbers. "I get it that there's needs and wants. ... We need to support roads, troopers, public education."

LeBon is one of three House members named to the budget conference committee, along with Rep. Dan Ortiz, who represents Ketchikan and Wrangell. Anchorage Rep. Kelly Merrick, House Finance co-chair, will lead the group.

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Volunteers aid in effort to keep downtown looking good

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Volunteers cleaned up 14 garden beds along Front Street, from the Stikine Inn down to Rayme's Bar, last Saturday to keep downtown looking nicer for tourists and residents alike.

The annual cleanup came about after the beds needed more maintenance, as bushes had become overgrown and caused line-of-sight problems for motorists, said Parks and Recreation Director Kate Thomas.

"Over 550 hours of labor went into (cleaning) them last year," Thomas said. "That's not the cumulative season, it was just to get them to maintenance levels."

Last year's hours included the labor of volunteers and

Parks and Recreation staff, she said.

Among this year's volunteers was Jeanie Arnold and her daughter Hailey Gablehouse, who cleaned up the garden bed at the corner of Front Street and Campbell Drive. They pulled weeds, trimmed the bushes and cleaned up any trash found in the bed.

"I always love a good opportunity to come out and help the department and support them in any way I can," said Arnold, who is the current chairwoman for the Parks and Recreation board. "Tourism is a relatively good industry here in the summertime and I think it's nice to have a beautiful street front for not only the tourists but for the residents."



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Parks and Recreation Board Chairwoman Jeanie Arnold and her daughter Hailey Gablehouse pull weeds from the garden bed at the corner of Front Street and Campbell Drive. The bed is one of 14 along Front Street and Case Avenue that volunteers spruced up during last Saturday's community effort.

Columbia's return to Southeast service nowhere on the horizon

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

The largest of the state ferries, the 499-passenger Columbia, was still listed as inactive on the Transportation Department website as of Monday, with no indication it will go back to work this summer as was planned nine months ago.

Last August, the department's draft summer 2022 schedule included the ship "penciled in" to run May 11 through Sept. 14, with weekly sailings to Southeast from Bellingham, Washington, "pending crew availability." The run would have included weekly stops in Wrangell.

After months of nationwide advertising for crew, including contracting with an Anchorage-based recruiting firm that earns \$5,000

for every applicant it brings in, the Alaska Marine Highway System apparently remains short of enough staff to put the Columbia back at sea.

As of March, the ferry system needed more than 100 new hires to officially put the Columbia on the summer schedule and start accepting passenger reservations.

The ship has 50% more space for cars and trucks than the second-largest ship in the fleet, the Matanuska, which sails between Bellingham and Southeast. Without the Columbia, the ferry system is stressed to handle this summer's strong demand, and squeezed in an extra run for the Matanuska from Bellingham for next week to help accommodate close to 300 travelers waitlisted for travel to Alaska.

Department officials have not responded to Sentinel requests for information on the status of the Columbia, nor has the ferry system updated legislators on the prospects of the ship coming back to work this summer after being out of service since fall 2019.

As recently as mid-February, Transportation Department officials briefed legislators on plans to bring back the Columbia by May 1, pending sufficient staffing.

At that briefing, a doubtful House Speaker Louise Stutes said the department was "disingenuous" in continuing to talk of hiring enough workers and bringing back the Columbia. "That is not a good way to carry out your business," the Kodiak legislator said at a House Transportation Committee meeting.

"Staffing goals for the summer season will not be met at current recruitment rates," the department reported in its presentation to the committee in February, acknowledging that insufficient staffing could result in scaling back the ferry system's summer schedule.

The Columbia was pulled from service in fall 2019 to save money, particularly when traffic was light during the peak of COVID-19 travel restrictions, and for scheduled overhaul and maintenance. Since then, the Alaska Marine Highway has lost far more crew to

retirement and resignations than it has been able to make new hires, especially after deep budget cuts imposed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

The Transportation Department has commented that marine operations worldwide, not just in Alaska, are reporting worker shortages.

The Columbia is scheduled for an extensive rebuild of its controlled-pitch propeller system starting this fall, raising questions among legislators whether the ship will be available in 2023 — even if the ferry system can hire enough crew.

Alaska Airlines says flight disruptions will continue until June

SEATTLE (AP) — In a message to Alaska Airlines employees last Thursday evening, and later sent to customers, CEO Ben Minicucci said the high level of flight cancellations since April will continue throughout May but that stability should return to the schedule in June.

He said the airline has been canceling about 50 of the 1,200 flights it operates every day.

"This is coming at a time when flights are already full, so rebooking options are limited and many of our guests have experienced extraordinarily long (customer service) hold times," Minicucci wrote.

Alaska's daily northbound and southbound flights into Wrangell have not been affected in recent weeks.

Minicucci said the airline started April and May with 63 fewer pilots than needed to fly its published flight schedule. Management didn't recognize this shortage until too late, he said.

The airline said it has responded by centralizing staff and schedule planning under one team and prioritized hiring, training and recruiting for pilots, flight attendants, and other workers.

He said it will take some time for the complex operations of the airline to turn the corner. Relief is in sight in June, he wrote, when an additional 114 pilots will be available.

The chaos has been damaging for the airline. Passengers whose travel plans have been severely disrupted found little help from the airline in finding alternative ways to their destination, with customer service phone lines citing hold times of up to 10 hours, The Seattle Times reported.

In a follow-up video message for the traveling public that was posted on YouTube Friday morning and sent via email to Alaska's mileage plan members, Minicucci offered an apology.

"I'm deeply sorry," he said in the two-minute video. "I hear every day from friends, neighbors and guests about how disruptive our flight cancellations have been."

He then reiterated the message he'd sent to employees, saying that "the month of May will continue to be choppy" but that "for June and beyond, we've made significant changes to ensure a high degree of reliability."

In his message to staff, Minicucci acknowledged that responsibility for the situation lies with management.

He also said the cancellations are not because of any action by the pilot union, which is in talks for a new contract and considering strike action.

He told employees the airline should be back on track in July and August. "By July and through the rest of the summer travel season, we should be back to flying a reliable and well-staffed operation," Minicucci said. "An additional 50 pilots, 400 flight attendants and 200 reservations agents will have joined our ranks."



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Wrangell High School g



With packed class schedules, work and other extracurricular endeavors, it's not easy to schedule a time for 15 high school seniors to gather for a class photo. Between the two, though their busy schedules won't include schoolwork, they'll still have a lot going on. In the photo on the left (taken by Vincent Balansag), the graduates in the back row are, from the front row, from left: Jimmy Baggen, Ryan Rooney, Jake Eastaugh, James Shilts, Tyson Messmer, Darryl Smith and Caleb Garcia. In the photo on the right (taken by Marc Lutz), from left: Jake Eastaugh, Ryan Rooney, Rowen Wiederspohn, Jamie Early, Adriana Nelson, Sophia Hagelman, Darryl Smith and Jason Gadd.

As the Wrangell High School class of 2022 prepares to graduate on Friday, the Sentinel asked them to reflect on the past four years and how they would advise the class of 2023.

JIMMY BAGGEN
What are your plans after graduation?
 My plans after high school are to go to (the University of Alaska Southeast) and enroll in

the diesel power tech program. I will be there for two years, and after that I may go into the diesel mechanics field.

What will you miss about high school?
 I won't miss much about high school. I will miss field days and sports trips. I liked most of my teachers, so I will miss them.

What won't you miss about high school?
 I won't miss book reports or homework. I won't miss any of the presentations.

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

My advice to next year's seniors is that it gets easier every year. Don't listen to any big people or teachers trying to dog you down.

LIANA CARNEY
What are your plans after graduation?
 I will be attending the University of Jamestown in Jamestown, North Dakota. There I will pursue a degree in nursing and wrestle for the Jimmies.

What will you miss about high school?
 I will miss welding and all the sports.

What won't you miss about high school?
 I won't miss all the COVID rules and regulations.

What's your advice for next year's seniors?
 Do all the scholarships.

JAMIE EARLY
What are your plans after graduation?
 After high school, I plan to go to Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, to study to be a physical therapist assistant.

What will you miss about high school?
 The thing I will miss about high school is athletics and traveling around the state with my best friends for sports.

What won't you miss about high school?
 The school Wi-Fi and the sound of the bell when you're in the hallway.

What's your advice for next year's seniors?
 Make the most of your time left in high school; time will fly faster than you expect.

JAKE EASTAUGH
What are your plans after graduation?
 I'll probably just go right into working.

What will you miss about high school?
 Seeing all of my friends every day.

What won't you miss about high school?
 Dumb rules.

What's your advice for next year's seniors?
 Have fun while you still can!

JASON GUSTAFSON GADD
What are your plans after graduation?
 Keely, Carter and Jason are going on a plane.

What will you miss about high school?
 My friends and the sun.

Continued on next page

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The Class of 2022 was able to gather and then get on with their busy lives. This Friday, the class will graduate, and on the left: Kendra Meissner, Emma Martinsen, Liana Carney, Jamie Early, Adriana Nelson and Sophia Hagelman. In the middle: the graduates are, from left: Kendra Meissner, Liana Carney, Emma Martinsen, Caleb Garcia, James Shilts, Jake

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Class of 2022

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What won't you miss about high school?
Uhmmm ... haha, nope.

What's your advice for next year's seniors?
Like firefighters because they wear boots.

SOPHIA HAGEMAN
What are your plans after graduation?
My plan is to be a CNA (certified nursing assistant) so I can take care of people in need.

What will you miss about high school?
All the amazing students in my grade/classes and teachers.

What won't you miss about high school?
I won't miss homework at all.

What's your advice for next year's seniors?
Take your time, make mistakes you can learn from, and don't spend your time trying to be cool for others because, after high school, in the real world, being cool won't matter.

EMMA MARTINSEN
What are your plans after graduation?
Attending cosmetology school in Florida.

What will you miss about high school?
Being able to hang out with my friends whenever I want.

What won't you miss about high school?
The homework.

What's your advice for next year's seniors?
Start your senior project as soon as you can.

KENDRA MEISSNER
What are your plans after graduation?
Attend Boise State University and pursue a degree in radiologic sciences and travel around the United States as much as possible.

What will you miss about high school?
Sports and the sports trips.

What won't you miss about high school?
The tests and schoolwork, of course, but mostly the bad parking.

What's your advice for next year's seniors?
Do not go for the advanced diploma, it does nothing for you.

TYSON MESSMER
What are your plans after graduation?
I plan to go to University of Miami to pursue a bachelor's degree in biology. This degree is a baseline to meet the requirements for medical school to become an anesthesiologist.

What will you miss about high school?
I think I am definitely going to miss the easygoing environment and homework. It is going to be much more challenging in college, but I am up for a challenge. Sports have always been a big part of me and going into a Division I school is going to be a lot harder than Southeast Alaska.

What won't you miss about high school?
Continued on page 10

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Graduates

Continued from page 9

I am not going to miss how small our school is because I like to meet new people and make

new friends. Whereas here, it's the same people every day, but don't get me wrong, I like these people.

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

I would say that time is on your side and to use it wisely. Falling down a rabbit hole is not going to get you anywhere. Being able to realize something before it is almost or too late to fix is huge.

ADRIANA NELSON

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be attending the National Aviation Academy in Clearwater, Florida, in October, taking a 14-month long course to

become a certified AMT (aviator maintenance technician). Hopefully, continuing on in the aviation field.

What will you miss about high school?

Spending time with everyone.

What won't you miss about high school?

Probably the schoolwork.

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

Don't let yourself stress, it doesn't help and always remember to enjoy the time you have left.

CALEB GARCIA-RANGEL

What are your plans after graduation?

I'm going to the military for four years, the Air Force. After that, I'm going to college.

What will you miss about high school?

I'll miss making fun presentations.

What won't you miss about high school?

I won't miss all of the homework and big projects.

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

You really don't have to work that hard, just don't indulge in distractions.

RYAN ROONEY

What are your plans after graduation?

Going into the Army to become a Ranger.

What will you miss about high school?

Not having to worry about much of anything.

What won't you miss about high school?

Grades.

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

Learn what you can get away with not doing.

JAMES SHILTS

What are your plans after graduation?

Own a business and become rich.

What will you miss about high school?

Free exercise equipment.

What won't you miss about high school?

Homework.

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

Don't slack off.

DARRYL SMITH

What are your plans after graduation?

My plan after graduation is to attend the program of RAHI before attending the University of Alaska Anchorage for an associate of applied science to become a radiology technician. If the (health) field interests me enough, I will further my career, whether it's taking on a bachelor's degree in radiologic technology or to go back into college to be a veterinarian. After that I would like to live in a small community on the West Coast or Southwest region of the United States.

What will you miss about high school?

The thing most missed about the final four years of high school would be the missed opportunities I didn't take earlier as a freshman to really indulge in what I wanted to do career-wise or better set myself in my education. I will not miss

Continued on next page

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Award ceremony highlights student achievements, scholarships

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Plenty of foot stomping, hand clapping and cheering punctuated the accolades bestowed on Wrangell High School students last Friday, making the auditorium a celebratory club for an hour.

Eighth through 12th graders gathered along with community members for the high school's end-of-the-year award ceremony to honor student achievements and announce senior scholarship recipients.

A total of \$108,300 from 19 local scholarships were awarded to seniors, said school counselor Addy Esco. An additional \$682,869 from 17 outside scholarships were also awarded.

Teachers Lisa Brooks, Jack

Carney, Winston Davies, Ann Hilburn, Donna Massin and Tasha Morse handed out awards to their students who put in extra effort to succeed throughout the past school year. Categories like the Improved Athlete Award honored students from all four grade levels. Some were awarded to multiple students, some to just one.

From science and mathematics to shop class, teachers took note of their students' performances.

"They put in more time than they're expected to, they're here before school, after school, lunch time," Davies said before awarding the shop class Workhorse Award to senior Jimmy Baggen. Along with a couple of other awards, he also named senior Darryl

"They put in more time than they're expected to, they're here before school, after school, lunch time."

Winston Davies,
Shop class teacher

Smith as the Shop Student of the Year for 2021-22. Davies admitted it was a tough decision because of all the hard work his students put in.

Scholarships for the senior class were also announced. Of the local scholarships, the Wrangell Pulp Scholarship, which is usually awarded to two students, was handed out

to three students this year: Liana Carney, Renee Roberts and Baggen, who is the first student to receive the \$20,000 award for a vocational-technical school.

"It's definitely nice to see all the hard work put into (applying for) scholarships starting to pay off," senior Carney said on April 21 when the scholarship was originally presented.

The award ceremony was emotional for some of the presenters at times, as Frank Roppel awarded Jamie Early with the \$5,000 Patricia Roppel Memorial Scholarship in honor of his late wife. Gig and Julie Decker awarded the \$3,000 Sig and Helen Decker Memorial Scholarship in honor of their late children, Sig and Helen, to Early as well.

The eighth-grade class is encouraged to attend the event to get an idea of what it takes to succeed in the next four years of school.

"We try to do that every year just so they can hit the road running as a ninth grader, understanding that every class counts and every minute counts," said Bob Davis, the assistant principal of the high school and middle school. "There's a tremendous amount of money and support out there for people who put in the time and effort and work hard. It can go to a variety of people. It's not just people going to college."

The Sentinel plans to print the entire list of award and scholarship winners next week.

Library reading program for children starts June 1

Sentinel staff

Summer is more than just playing outdoors for children — it can be about reading books and winning prizes, including a pool and pizza party.

The Irene Ingle Public Library's summer reading program is open to children entering kindergarten through the freshman year of high school in the fall.

Almost 100 children completed the reading program last year, Margaret Villarma, library director, said last week.

Children need to come into the library or call 907-874-3535 to register in advance; the reading program starts June 1 and runs through July 30. The library is open noon to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and noon to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

The program will operate the same as in past years. Kids will need to come into the library and take a very short quiz on a tablet to test their reading level so that library staff can help direct them to books to check out based on their skills and interests.

After children complete a book, they will answer a few online questions and receive points for each book they read, Villarma explained.

Children will drop their points into jars for prize drawings — the more books they read, the more points they earn, the more chances they have to win prizes at the end of the summer.

The library has been running the summer reading program for children for more than 25 years, Villarma said.

Continued from page 10

anything that I haven't already missed.

What won't you miss about high school?

I would not miss the lack of variety of preferable classes or courses on a subject I am interested in, or wanting to study further.

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

My key advice would be to start taking what you have, education, more seriously at an earlier stage. All the given opportunities for my education and being sociable were missed and in return having damaged potential down the road. Starting

early in an act of self-fulfillment is a part to success with no end. To start too late in the disregard for future potential is a whole other unfamiliar world lost for what was to be than not.

ROWEN WIEDERSPOHN

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan on attending Fort Lewis College in Colorado and pursuing a career in computer engineering.

What will you miss about high school?

I will miss the community and the positive atmosphere Wrangell provides as a whole.

What won't you miss about high school?

Nothing. Every little struggle along the way has pushed me to be the man I am today. If I could go back and do it again, I wouldn't change anything.

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

Keep your head up and keep trucking because this is just the beginning.



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Legislature close to approving bill for tribal recognition

By BECKY BOHRER
The Associated Press

JUNEAU (AP) — The state Senate passed legislation last Friday to formally recognize tribes in Alaska, which supporters say is an overdue step that would create opportunities for the state and tribes to work together.

The measure passed 15-0 and will return to the House, which passed a similar version last year. If the House agrees to the Senate version before the Legislature's scheduled adjournment this week, the bill will go to the governor.

If the bill is enacted, its passage would likely bump from this year's ballot a similar tribal recognition initiative. Initiatives that qualify for the ballot can be bumped if the Legislature passes substantially similar legislation first. If the bill were to stall, however, and not pass, the initiative would be on the ballot.

The group behind the initiative, Alaskans for Better Government, said its goal is to "secure state recognition of Alaska's (229) federally recognized tribes, regardless of whether this is accomplished via the legislature or the ballot box."

Having a recognition in law would allow for continuity from one governor's term to the next so that Alaska could work toward long-term solutions to is-

ssues with tribes, the group said.

"Without a strong foundation between governments it's like building on sand — trust is temporary, relationships erode quickly, and efficiencies that are collaboratively achieved are unsustainable," according to the ballot group.

Bethel Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky sponsored the bill, HB123.

Barbara 'Wáahlaal Gíidaak Blake, a co-chair of the initiative, said Friday's Senate vote was "definitely worth celebrating" but also one step in the process.

"We'll keep a watchful eye until all of the boxes have been checked, so to speak," she said.

The federal government already recognizes tribes as sovereign, and engages with them on a nation-to-nation basis. The state does not always do the same.

The state works with tribes on "matters of child welfare, the Village Public Safety Officer program, temporary aid to needy families, Medicaid, Head Start early education programs, as well as tribal courts," former Anchorage Rep. Chuck Kopp said in an opinion column in the Anchorage Daily News in February.

The legislation would add the Legislature's acknowledgement to current practices by recognizing the tribes and improving government-to-government relations, Kopp wrote.

Cruising into the season



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

The 342-foot cruise ship Ocean Victory awaits passengers to return after coming into port at the City Dock last Thursday. It was the first official cruise ship in Wrangell for the tourist season, and the Ocean Victory's first visit to Southeast and first to Wrangell. It entered service just seven months ago.



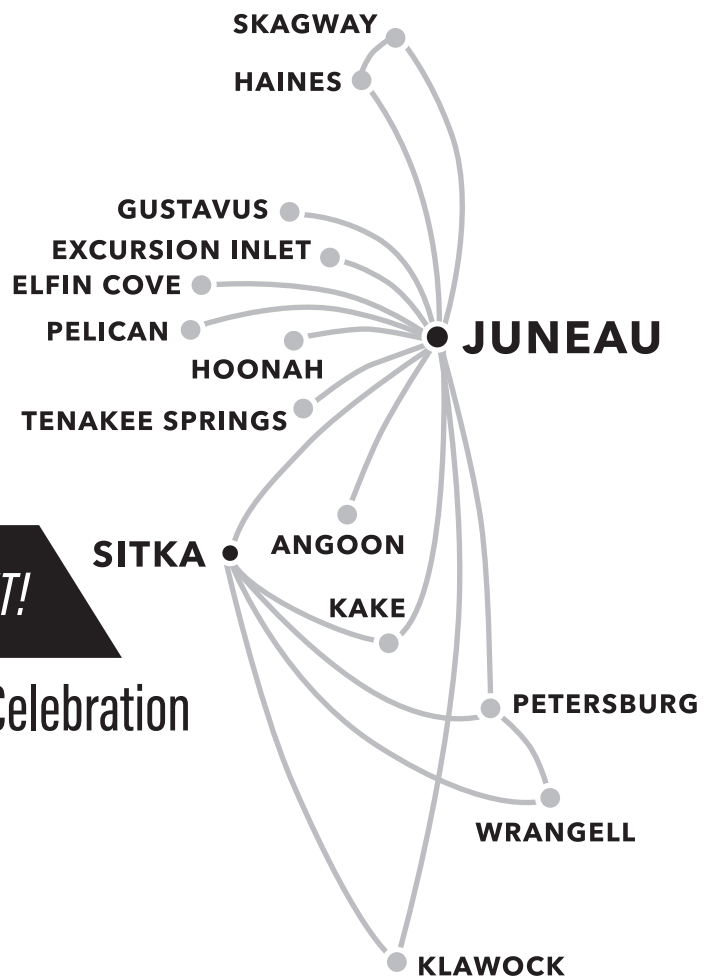
PHOTO BY SARAH ASLAM/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Jackson Carney, 13, uses a lull during state testing at the school -- his grades were high enough to exempt him -- the morning of May 12 to sell garnets as the first cruise ship of the year, the Ocean Victory, was in port. Jackson started selling garnets when he was 9 years old. "I bought my four-wheeler with garnet-selling money," he said. "I would sell at all the competitions."

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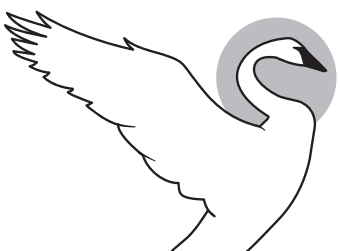


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Chamber picks July 4th logo design winner; still looking for royalty candidates

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

When Kitty Angerman caught wind of the chamber of commerce logo design contest for the Fourth of July, she smelled inspiration right away.

That inspiration — the scent of the Stikine River — won her the grand prize of \$1,000, and her design will appear on posters, T-shirts, hat, cups and more.

Angerman was the first to submit an entry into the contest, followed by 22 more. Chamber executive director Brittani Robbins said they decided to go with a contest this year rather than pay someone for a design to get the community more involved in the process. The theme of this year's Fourth of July events is "A River Runs Through Us."

Though there aren't any runners-up, Robbins said the chamber plans to ask some of the artists if the organization can buy their art to make stickers to give away.

The winner was announced May 9, and the results were a surprise to Angerman.

"I'm so excited. I'm so happy," she said.

Angerman said she was inspired by the smell of the river when she started the project.

"Around Southeast, no matter where you go, each place has its own



COURTESY OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The chamber of commerce selected Kitty Angerman's design for this year's Fourth of July logo art.

smell," she said. "So does the river. I thought, 'How can I draw the smell of the river?' Up the river, you're usually getting a breeze from the east. It's got that fresh, clean smell of snow

and glaciers."

Angerman incorporated movement to represent the breeze and decided "Wrangell" needed to appear large at the top of the design instead of small-

er and at the bottom. "It was kind of weird. I only had one idea. Sometimes I'll come up with three, four or five," she said.

When it comes to her winnings, Angerman said she's thinking about putting half in her piggy bank to donate to next year's contest.

Along with the logo contest, Robbins said the chamber is still looking for contestants for the royalty contest, which is the annual fundraiser to bankroll the chamber's Fourth of July events the following year. Candidates sell raffle tickets through food sales and other efforts.

Raffle winners in past years have received cash prizes. The contestants get to keep a percentage of their sales.

So far, only one person has signed up for the contest, and Robbins said the chamber has been "advertising on social media, bulletin boards, KSTK, (Wrangell Sentinel) stories, and we went to the high school and presented to all the kids 14 and up."

Robbins said it has been increasingly difficult to get people to sign up for the contest year after year.

The royalty contest begins on May 31 and runs through June. The person with the highest sales wins the title of king or queen and runners-up win prince or princess. Sign-up forms and more information can be obtained at the chamber of commerce office inside the Stikine Inn.

Salvation Army offers free lunches for children this summer

Sentinel staff

The Salvation Army is working with Wrangell businesses and community donations to provide free weekday lunches for 50 children again this summer.

The program starts June 1 and will run through July 29, Lt. Jon Tollerud of The Salvation Army said last week. It's open to children entering first through fifth grades.

"It will be similar to what we did last year," Tollerud said, with families needing to call to register their kids in advance: 907-874-3753. The program is limited, and he encouraged families to call soon to sign up.

Children will receive a voucher each day, good for a lunch at City Market or other participants, Tollerud said last week, as he was still working to line up meal providers.

Kids will need to come out to the church on Zimovia Highway between 11 a.m. and noon each weekday to pick up their certificate for that day's lunch.

Each certificate will be good for just that one day — no collecting multiple coupons and loading up on several lunches at once.

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Ballots will be automatically mailed to qualified registered voters beginning April 27th. You will vote by selecting one candidate. You must sign your ballot envelope, provide an identifier and a witness signature, and return or mail your ballot by June 11th. If you will not be at your current mailing address or do not receive a ballot, you can contact the Division of Elections.

The Division of Elections' regional offices will offer early and absentee in-person voting beginning May 27th. They will be open on weekdays between 8AM and 5PM, on weekends with limited hours, and on election day between 7AM and 8PM. For the full schedule and a list of additional early and absentee in-person voting locations throughout the state, visit the Division's website at AKVoteEarly.alaska.gov.

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The State of Alaska, Division of Elections, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need special assistance and/or accommodation to vote, please contact your regional Division of Elections office to make necessary arrangements.

Interior Department report says there were over 400 Native boarding schools

By FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — A first-of-its-kind federal study of Native American boarding schools that for over a century sought to assimilate Indigenous children into white society has identified more than 400 such schools that were supported by the U.S. government and more than 50 associated burial sites, a figure that could grow as research continues.

The report released May 11 by the Interior Department expands the number of schools that were known to have operated over 150 years, starting in the early 19th century and coinciding with the removal of many tribes from their ancestral lands.

There were 21 schools in Alaska, including the Wrangell Institute, which the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs operated from 1932 to 1975. Most of the schools in Alaska were operated by religious groups.

The report noted “the collaboration between the U.S. military and religious institutions and organizations for Indian education in Alaska.”

It gave Sitka as an example, where in 1881 military officers numbered the houses in town and hung a tin label around the neck of each Native child with their house number, “so that if a child was found outside of the school, the Indian policeman or teacher took the numbers on the labels and reported them,” the report said.

“The following morning the head Indian of the house to which the absentee belonged was summoned to appear and

answer for the absence of the child. If the child was willfully absent, the headman was fined or imprisoned.”

The dark history of the boarding schools — where children who were taken from their families were prohibited from speaking their Native American languages and often abused — has been felt deeply across Indian Country and through generations.

Many children never returned home. The investigation has so far turned up over 500 deaths at 19 schools, though the Interior Department said that number could climb to the thousands or even tens of thousands.

“Many of those children were buried in unmarked or poorly maintained burial sites far from their Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Villages, the Native Hawaiian Community, and families, often hundreds, or even thousands, of miles away,” the report said.

The Wrangell Borough took ownership of the former Institute property in 1996 and wants to develop much of the 134 acres for residential lots, but plans to conduct an archaeological survey of the grounds before proceeding any further.

A second volume of the Interior Department report will cover the burial sites as well as the federal government’s financial investment in the schools and the impacts of the boarding schools on Indigenous communities, the Interior Department said.

“The consequences of federal Indian boarding school policies — including the intergenerational trauma caused by the family separation and cultural eradication inflicted upon generations of children as young as 4 years old — are

heartbreaking and undeniable,” Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said in a statement.

Haaland, who is Laguna, announced an initiative last June to investigate the troubled legacy of boarding schools and uncover the truth about the government’s role in them. The 408 schools her agency identified operated in 37 states or territories, many of them in Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico.

The Interior Department acknowledged the number of schools identified could change as more data is gathered. The coronavirus pandemic and budget restrictions hindered some of the research over the past year, said Bryan Newland, the Interior Department’s assistant secretary for Indian Affairs.

The department has so far found at least 53 burial sites at or near the U.S. boarding schools, both marked and unmarked.

The U.S. government directly ran some of the boarding schools. Catholic, Protestant and other churches operated others with federal funding, backed by U.S. laws and policies to “civilize” Native Americans.

The Interior Department report was prompted by the discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves at former residential school sites in Canada that brought back painful memories for Indigenous communities.

Haaland also announced on May 11 a yearlong tour for Interior Department officials that will allow former boarding school students from Native American tribes, Alaska Native villages and Native Hawaiian communities to share their stories as part of a permanent oral history

collection.

“It is my priority to not only give voice to the survivors and descendants of federal Indian boarding school policies, but also to address the lasting legacies of these policies so Indigenous Peoples can continue to grow and heal,” she said.

Boarding school conditions varied across the U.S. and Canada. While some former students have reported positive experiences, children at the schools often were subjected to military-style discipline and had their long hair cut.

Early curricula focused heavily on outdated vocational skills, including homemaking for girls.

Tribal leaders have pressed the agency to ensure that any children’s remains that are found are properly cared for and delivered back to their tribes, if desired. The burial sites’ locations will not be released publicly to prevent them from being disturbed, Newland said.

Accounting for the whereabouts of children who died has been difficult because records weren’t always kept. Ground penetrating radar has been used in some places to search for remains.

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, which created an early inventory of the schools, has said Interior’s work will be an important step for the U.S. in reckoning with its role in the schools but noted that the agency’s authority is limited.

Later this week, a U.S. House subcommittee will hear testimony on a bill to create a truth and healing commission modeled after one in Canada. Several church groups are backing the legislation.

Report details collaboration in boarding schools between government and churches

By PETER SMITH
The Associated Press

A new Interior Department report on the legacy of boarding schools for Native Americans underscores how closely the U.S. government collaborated with churches to Christianize them as part of a project to sever them from their culture, their identities and ultimately their land.

The role of churches forms a secondary part of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report, released May 11 after a year-long review sparked by the 2021 discoveries of hundreds of potential graves at former residential schools in Canada. Most of it focuses on the government’s responsibility for its own officials’ actions and policies.

But it details how the government provided funding and other support to religious boarding schools for Native children in the 19th and early 20th centuries to an extent that normally would have been prohibited under rules on separation between church and state. Churches had clout with the government as well, it adds, and were able to recommend people for appointments to federal positions on

Native affairs.

While this church-state collaboration is well known to specialists in the field and was the subject of federal reports in past generations, the latest one brings it to a wide audience at a time when many Americans are only beginning to learn about the boarding schools.

The Interior Department report, quoting a 1969 Senate investigation, acknowledges that “federal policy toward the Indian was based on the desire to dispossess him of his land. Education policy was a function of our land policy.”

A core part of that was training Native Americans in vocations that were less land-intensive — though often ill-suited to available jobs — in addition to breaking down tribal ties.

Christian conversion was also key, the report says, citing an 1886 Commissioner for Indian Affairs document that disparaged Native spiritual traditions and said the government should provide “encouragement and cooper-

ation” to missionaries.

“The government aid furnished enables them to sustain their missions, and renders it possible ... to lead these people, whose paganism has been the chief obstacle to their civilization into the light of Christianity,” the commissioner wrote at the time.

The May 11 report also says the government funded the schools with money held in trust for tribes as compensation for land they ceded. A 1908 Supreme Court ruling held that “the prohibition on the Federal Government to spend funds on religious schools did not apply to Indian treaty funds,” it notes.

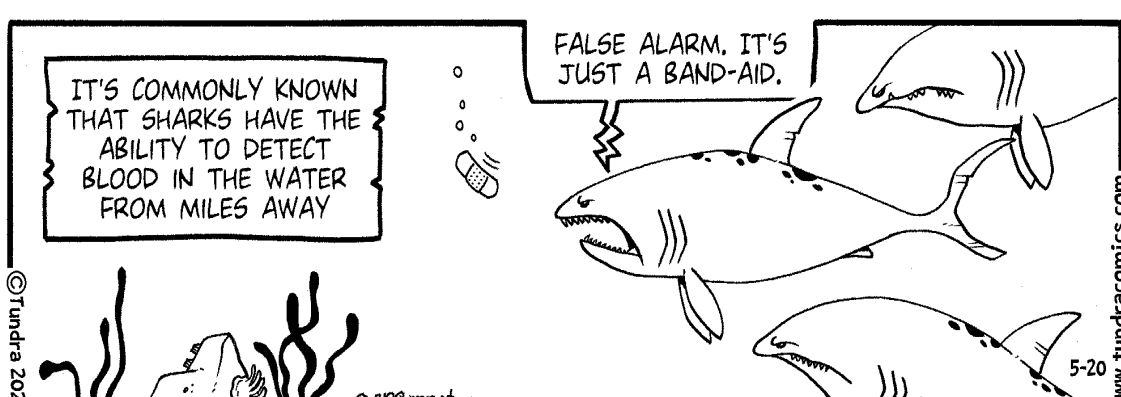
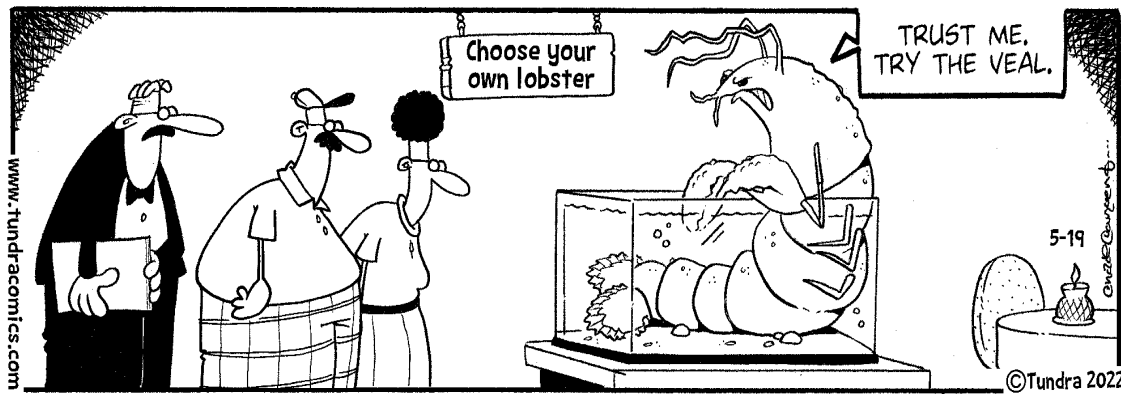
And it says, citing the 1969 Senate investigation, that the U.S. military “was frequently called in to reinforce the missionaries’ orders” in the 19th century.

The report identifies 408 boarding schools for Indigenous children in 37 states and former territories that were either run or supported by

Continued on page 15

Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



Police report

- Monday, May 9**
Speeding complaint.
Child in need.
Civil issue.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for not having available seats for everyone.
Found bike.
- Tuesday, May 10**
Vandalism.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
Motor vehicle accident.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for not completely stopping at stop sign.
- Wednesday, May 11**
Agency assist: Fire Department.
Assault.

- Thursday, May 12**
Unsecured load.
Neighborly dispute.
Suspicious activity.
- Friday, May 13**
Noise complaint.
Dog at large.
Summons service.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
- Saturday, May 14**
Agency assist: Ambulance requested.
Suspicious activity.
- Sunday, May 15**
Intoxicated persons.
Citizen assist: Unlock vehicle.
Domestic violence: Unfounded.

Collaboration

Continued from page 14

the government between 1819 and 1969. While it doesn't say how many were church-run, an earlier report by the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition found that more than 150 were, about half each by Catholic and Protestant groups.

Several church-run schools were in Alaska, including one in Skagway operated by a Catholic mission from 1933 to 1959.

At a congressional hearing May 12 on a bill that would authorize a truth-and-healing commission to investigate the boarding schools, modeled on a similar one in Canada, witness Matthew War Bonnet testified about his childhood experience at the St. Francis Boarding School in South Dakota. Priests who ran the facility sought to alienate him from his parents and culture, and at times subjected him to sadistic abuse.

"The boarding schools were

sanctioned by the United States Government," said War Bonnet, 76, a Sicangu Lakota from the Rosebud Sioux Reservation. "The government gave the churches our lands to Christianize us, modernize us and civilize us. But the churches treated us wrong. ... The government and the churches need to be held accountable."

The Rev. Bradley Hauff, the Episcopal Church's missionary for Indigenous ministries, who is Lakota and a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, said faith groups must confront their history of collaboration on the schools.

"As much as we in the church might not want to acknowledge that, it is the truth, and we have to acknowledge and reckon with it. We did work hand in hand with the government in the assimilation process," he said. "Most if not all the Christian denominations that had a presence in America in the late 19th century operated at least one Indigenous boarding school."

At its General Convention in July, the Episcopal Church plans to vote on probing its role with the schools and acknowledging its responsibility for causing trauma in generations of Native Americans.

Maka Black Elk, executive director of truth and healing at the Red Cloud Indian School, founded in 1888 by Jesuits in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, agreed that faith groups must reckon with their past. Lakota staffing, language and ritual are central to the modern Red Cloud school, which serves Christians as well as followers of Native spiritual traditions.

"While today we recognize there are many Native people who identify as Christian ... and value that part of their identity, we have to engage deeply with that history," he said.

In April, Pope Francis apologized at the Vatican to Indigenous delegations from Canada "for the deplorable conduct of those members of the Catholic Church" in oper-

ating the schools, where many children were abused and died from disease and other causes. Francis plans to apologize again on Canadian soil in July.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation, a lobby affiliated with the Quaker movement, which operated multiple boarding schools, said in a statement that this week's Interior report should spur congressional approval of the truth and healing commission.

"Further, we call on the faith community at large to share records and accounts of their administration of these

schools," the committee said. "Only through complete honesty and transparency can we begin moving toward a more just future."

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CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will accept sealed bids for the 3-Megawatt Transformers Procurement in the office of the Borough Clerk until 2 p.m. prevailing time on June 3, 2022. The full solicitation can be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell's website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFP's section.

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

Publish May 18 and 25, 2022

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

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

- a. Ordinance No 1024 of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending certain Sections in Chapter 14.13, Impoundment of Vessels, in the Wrangell Municipal Code.

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

Publish May 18, 2022

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE INVITING BIDS LIBRARY FLOORING MATERIALS PROCUREMENT

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the purchase of Library Flooring Materials, delivered FOB Port of Wrangell, Alaska.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time on May 25, 2022. The full solicitation document for this project is available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the Borough's website, www.wrangell.com, under the Bids and RFP's section.

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

Publish May 11 and 18, 2022

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE INVITING BIDS HERITAGE HARBOR BOAT RAMP CONCRETE PAVING

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for construction of the Heritage Harbor Boat Ramp Concrete Paving.

The Work consists of all activities necessary to construct the Heritage Harbor Boat Ramp Concrete Paving, including asphalt demolition and disposal, excavation, base course, and concrete paving. The Owner's estimate for the project is approximately \$25,000 to \$35,000.

The Contract Documents are available in electronic format only and can be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFP's section. Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time on May 26, 2022.

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

Publish May 11 and 18, 2022

CLASSIFIED/LEGALS

HELP WANTED

Southeast Auto & Marine (NAPA Auto Parts) is accepting applications for a Sales Associate. A job description and application can be picked up at the store at 101 Front St. or by calling 907-305-0802. Salary DOE.

HELP WANTED

Wrangell IGA is accepting applications for multiple positions. All positions are open until filled.

- **Cashier:** 40 hours a week. Starting \$13 to \$15 an hour based on experience, with advancement possibilities. Main IGA cashier, stock candy and clean front-end.
- **Frozen Food Stocker:** 40 hours a week. Starting \$14 to \$16 an hour based on experience Advancement possibilities to Frozen Food Manager position is the goal for this position. Stock frozen foods and grocery. Some cashiering and boxing required.
- **Meat and Deli position:** 40 hours a week. 18+ years old required for use of equipment. Opportunities for ad-

vancement. Starting \$15 to \$18 based on experience and pay increases as more skills are learned. Stocking and cleaning meat and deli departments. Slicing deli meats and cheese, making sandwiches, wrapping chicken beef, pork.

- Pick up an application at

Wrangell IGA.

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.

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA PUBLIC NOTICE Public Hearing

During the Regular Assembly Meeting of Tuesday, May 24, 2022, starting at 6 p.m., there will be a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the following item(s):

- a. Ordinance No. 1025 of the Assembly of the City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending sections 5.02.050, investments and 5.02.080, maturities, of the Wrangell Municipal Code.
- b. Resolution No. 05-22-16985 of the Assembly of the City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending the fees and rates schedule for the sanitation department.

The public is encouraged to attend.

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

Publish May 18, 2022



ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY NOW HIRING!

AMHS is on the lookout for focused, hard-working individuals for several full time, year round professional and entry level positions within our organization. Positions are available throughout Alaska in our administrative offices, terminal locations and onboard our vessels. Many AMHS positions do not require any prior maritime experience to apply!

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- Licensed Deck Officers
- Able Bodied Seaman
- Marine Engineers

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Visit the employment page on our website for current positions open for recruitment and details on the application process.

FerryAlaska.com/employment

Bestowing blessings



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Pastor Sue Bahleda of the Island of Faith Lutheran Church and Lt. Rosie Tollerud (right) give the Blessing of the Fleet last Sunday at the Mariners' Memorial at Heritage Harbor. Girl Scouts presented the U.S. and Alaska flags, and music teacher Tasha Morse sang the Star Spangled Banner. "The blessings come not from us but the blessings are our collective wish for all of our fisher folk," Bahleda said. Tollerud began the prayer with, "Let us pour out prayer and blessing for our fleet. ... For fishing vessels, their captains and their crews, that they have an abundant harvest, weather the storms and come home safe." John Yeager, left, was one of the event participants.



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FOR CONGRESS

U.S. commercial fishing harvest fell 15% in value in 2020

By PATRICK WHITTLE
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — America's commercial fishing industry fell 10% in catch volume and 15% in value during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, federal regulators said last Thursday.

The 2020 haul of fish was 8.4 billion pounds, while the value of that catch was \$4.8 billion, officials with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said. The early months of the pandemic posed numerous challenges for the U.S. fishing industry, which has remained economically viable despite the difficult year, NOAA officials said.

"It was fishery closures, boats not going out due to COVID, border closings due to COVID, lots of disruption in the flow of goods and services," said Michael Liddel, NOAA's commercial fishery statistics branch chief.

NOAA made the announcement as it unveiled its "Status of the Stocks" report, which provides details about the health of the nation's commercial fishing industry.

The report said there were 51 fish stocks on the federal government's "overfished list" in 2021. That list includes stocks that have been depleted by excessive fishing and the number

was an increase of two from the previous year.

Bering Sea snow crab was among the stock added to the overfished list. The snow crab fishery in Alaska is one of the most valuable in the country, and was worth more than \$100 million at the docks in 2020. Climate factors appear to be playing a role in the decline of Bering Sea snow crabs.

The stock could be falling victim to disease, predation and movement in search of colder waters, said Kelly Denit, director of NOAA Fisheries' Office of Sustainable Fisheries.

"That abundance has dropped by more than 50% in the last two years, and that stock is now overfished," Denit said.

NOAA also removed a few fish stocks from its overfishing and overfished lists. They included the south Atlantic Coast tilefish and the eastern Pacific Ocean yellowfin tuna.

Some of the largest value seafood species were once again New England staples, such as lobster, a fishery anchored in Maine, and sea scallops, many of which come to the docks in Massachusetts.

Other high value seafoods included species of crab, salmon and shrimp.

NOAA said 8% of stocks with known statuses are subject to overfishing.

Democrat files to run for Murkowski's Senate seat

The Associated Press and Alaska Beacon news service

A retired Matanuska-Susitna Borough teacher has filed to run as a Democrat for U.S. Senate in Alaska.

Pat Chesbro filed candidacy paperwork with the state Division of Elections on May 11. She would join a crowded field of 16 candidates in the Aug. 16 primary that includes the incumbent, Republican Lisa Murkowski, and Kelly Tshibaka, a Republican endorsed by former President Donald Trump.

Murkowski has had a huge cash advantage in the race so far.

The filing deadline is June 1.

Chesbro's campaign said she spent a career in education and is on the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission. She also worked as a department chair at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

The state party said Democrats, at their recent convention, urged Chesbro to run. Earlier this year, Democratic state Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson filed to run

for U.S. Senate but later withdrew. She noted in part the "monumental expenses necessary to run a successful campaign."

As an example of her views, Chesbro pointed to a May 11 vote in the U.S. Senate that could have put into law a woman's right to an abortion. Murkowski voted against the bill. "If I had been in the Senate today, I would have voted with the Democrats to try to get that into law," Chesbro said. "I would not have voted to approve (U.S. Supreme Court Justice) Amy Coney Barrett, who was put there, I think, especially because of her views on abortion."

She said she expects abortion to be a major issue in her campaign, along with the war in Ukraine, inflation and immigration.

Chesbro, born in 1948 in Upstate New York, has lived in the Mat-Su Borough since 1974. She has been active in Democratic politics for decades, running unsuccessfully for state House in 2006 and state Senate in 2014.

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