

Assembly to look into metering water hook-ups

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

At its regularly-scheduled meeting Tuesday evening, the City and Borough Assembly revisited the water crisis that potentially looms over the coming summer.

Public Works director Amber Al-Haddad reported efforts to “plunge” two of the plant’s four slow-sand filtration bays in order to clean them since last week showed promise. However, she was careful to point out that the method was still in its infancy, and only time and repetition would reveal how effective it actually is.

Her plan is to plunge each of the filters in turn, repeating as necessary to free up sediment clogging the system.

“I think it will take several processes per filter,” she said. “I think we’re just going to play it by ear.”

After nearly two decades of operation, the silicate material filtering water at the plant has never been replaced, though it should be periodically. Gradually efficiency at the plant has been diminishing, to the point where last year it was unable to keep up with summertime production. A state of emergency was called for several weeks as a result, briefly disrupting seafood plant production and other services.

Making substantial upgrades to the plant before the next busy season has proven time consuming. The state Department of Environmental Conservation has to review and approve of changes to the facility, a process which can take several months. Designs for a more efficient roughing filter – a preliminary stage of filtration before water heads to the slow sand bays – will not be ready to submit until the third week of May.

“We’re not on alert right now, we’re not there. We’ve started the education process,” said Carol Rushmore, serving as interim city manager until a replacement for Jeff Jabusch is in place. He retired at the end of March.

Efforts to reach out to the public and make residents more conscientious of their water usage would be undertaken by social media outlets. At its last meeting the Assembly approved a draft response plan to water shortages, coupled with fines for people found violating emergency usage orders.

A new rate schedule to bring water utility charges in line with production costs is also in the works, with Assembly members commenting on a preliminary, five-percent hike prepared by staff. But member Julie Decker,

participating by phone, wanted to see a comparison of Wrangell’s rates to those implemented recently by Ketchikan, which elected to hike industrial rates substantially over three years.

Assembly member Mark Mitchell tasked city finance director Lee Burgess with running numbers on the cost to install water meters on Wrangell homes and commercial concerns. The reasoning for the move would be to better cover production costs, while also making residents more conscientious of their water usage.

Wrangell already uses meters for its larger commercial and industrial users, though rates only begin rising past the 500,000-gallon mark. Burgess proposed lowering that threshold to 5,000 gallons, gradually increasing rates per 1,000 gallons from there.

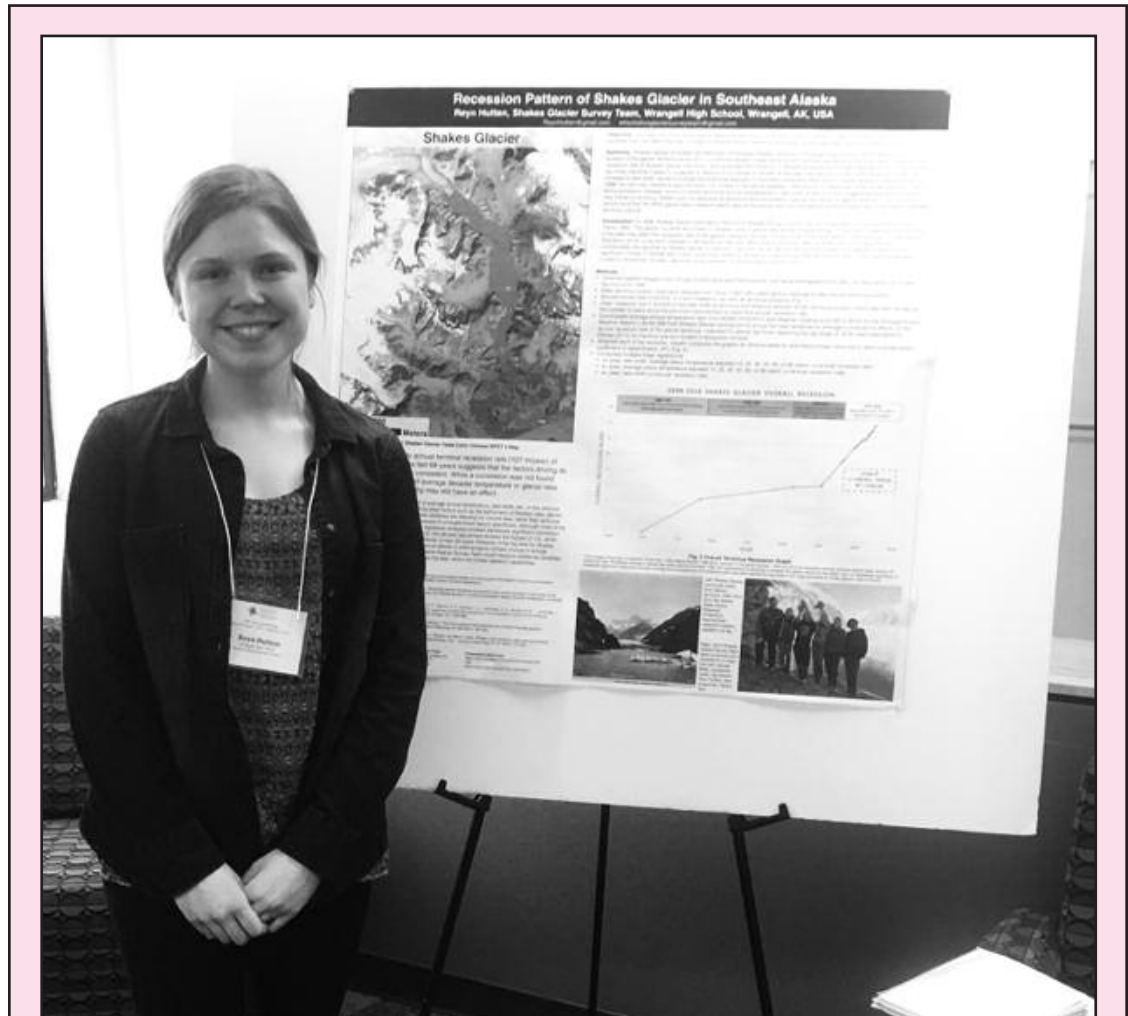
“This was kind of an initial proposal to serve as a starting point,” he noted.

Speaking with his counterpart in Petersburg about their meter installations on residences, Burgess roughly estimated it would cost half a million dollars to do so in Wrangell. Individual units could cost around \$470 apiece to acquire and install, though that cost could double or triple if special hookups were necessary. Consumption in Petersburg had dropped by about 30 percent following the transition, he said.

Burgess would come back with firmer estimates at the next meeting, to see whether meters would be implementable in Wrangell. “It might require the (water) fund borrowing financing,” he said, “but it could work.”

The topic of rates was also tabled for a future meeting, though Decker recommended making any changes sooner rather than later. “I would just as soon wait until we learn about the cost of meters,” said Mitchell, preferring to have an in-depth rate conversation once. He agreed a decision needs to be made quickly, but with the best information available.

Also water-related, a public hearing required by the Department of Agriculture as part of its loan process was scheduled to be held at City Hall on Wednesday. This would allow the public to give input on a proposed project to replace the current water treatment plant with one better suited to the area’s water. A draft loan application with some alterations would be presented to the public. If favorable terms could be gotten and a new plant project pursued, it could take between three and five



SUBMITTED PHOTO

High school senior Reyn Hutten prepares to deliver a presentation on the Shakes Glacier Survey Team’s findings at the Northwest Scientific Association annual meeting in Ashland, Oregon on April 1.

Senior student graphs glacier recession for capstone project

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrapping up the spring Chautauqua season at the Nolan Center this year, a Wrangell school senior presented the findings by her classmates and herself mapping the movements of Shakes Glacier.

Located about 30 miles northeast of Wrangell up the Stikine River, the glacier is an oft-visited site by residents and visitors touring the river system. Its meltoff feeding into Shakes Lake, the glacier is part of the wider Stikine Ice Field, of which LeConte Glacier is included.

Reyn Hutten this year was captain of the high school’s Shakes Glacier Survey Team, which for four of the past six years since 2011 has sent students upriver to measure the feature’s position. The survey team was unable to make it up to the glacier this past year due to low water levels. Along with students Sig Decker, Sam Prysunka, Garrett Miller, Josephine Lewis, Charley Seddon and Helen Decker this year, the group has learned to use surveying equipment in the field and has been measuring the position of the glacier’s terminus, or where it meets the water, and the width of the lake at that point.

Shakes Glacier has been gradually retreating over the years, and for her senior capstone project Hutten wanted to make the team’s findings available to the wider public as a way to repay the community for its support of the survey program. First making a presentation to the Northwest Scientific Association at its annual conference in Ashland, Oregon at the end of March, she used

Continued on page 12

years to design and construct.

In other Assembly business, an executive session was held at the meeting’s end to continue term negotiations with manager candidate Lisa Von Bargen, currently economic director for Valdez. No agreement was reached Tuesday, with discussions to continue. Asked to participate in an interview, Von Bargen was hesitant until a contract with the city could be final-

ized. A profile on the new manager in the Sentinel will be forthcoming as that develops.

Commercial and retail licenses were approved for Happy Cannabis, a proposed shop and grow facility. It received its licensing from the state Marijuana Control Board earlier this month.

A special meeting between the Assembly, city staff and public employees’ union representatives

was also scheduled for June 8. Negotiations over a new collective bargaining agreement has dragged on since the previous arrangement expired in 2014. Both Wrangell and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547 headed into legal conflict last year, but resolved the matter before things came to a head through a settlement conference in December.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



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

April 27: Traci Davidson, Tyson Messmer, Erica Ottesen, Linda Peabody, Greg Meissner, Emily Cummings; **April 28:** Chuck Helland, Blake Stough, Gregg Wilson, Krissy Smith, Brittney Kagee. *Anniversary:* Fred and Merce Angerman, Brian and Deanne Cooper, **April 29:** Katie Penney, Kyle Hommel, *Anniversary:* Jim and Sveta Wooden, **April 30:** Brayden Cartwright, Chris Booker, James McClosky, Danika Smalley. *Anniversary:* Ronnie and Lucia Graves. **May 1:** Gavin Hamley, Jonna Kautz, Brad Fitzgerald, Jeff Smith, Lotus Booth, Alina Ward, Nancy Barlow. *Anniversary:* Austin and Diane O'Brien. **May 2:** Colleen Hought, Dena McChargue, William Helgeson. *Anniversary:* Paul and Erin Allen. **May 3:** Lenora Moore, Brandon Kenfield, Lauren Gillen, Steve Keller. *Anniversary:* Elmer and Pat Mork. **May 4:** Harley Anderson, Kendri Cesar, Keith Young, Kevin Young, Zachary Atkins.
If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary at no charge please call the Sentinel at 874-2301.

Senior Center Menu

Thursday 27:

Salisbury Steak, Corn, Mashed potato, peach salad.

Friday 28:

French Dip with Aujus, Broccoli blend, Green salad.

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

Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, April 27

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

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

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

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

Sunday, April 30

Piano and Violin student recital 3:00 p.m. in the Wrangell high school commons.

Gospel Meeting: Gospel Meeting with Lucas and Don in the Nolan Center classroom. 6:00 p.m.

Singspiration: hosted by St. Rose Catholic Church at 6:30 p.m. Great music, followed by fellowship and refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Monday, May 1

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

Tuesday, May 2

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

Wednesday, May 3

Gospel Meeting: Gospel meeting with Lucas and Don at the Nolan Center Classroom. 7:00 p.m. Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Call Adrienne at the Sentinel to have it placed here.

Continuing Events

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

OTHER MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

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

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

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

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

The Way We Were

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

May 3, 1917: Civic Improvement Club believes that a creditable display of flowers and vegetables could be shown in early fall. It has been suggested that a small fair be held in

Wrangell at the close of the contest which the Civic Club announced last week, or later. Two public spirited citizens with cameras offered to take a few of the pictures required, in the Yard

contest announced in the Sentinel last week, free of charge. Contestants will do well to give their names to the committee, Miss Woods and Mrs. Johnson, as early as possible in order to get the benefit of this free service.

May 1, 1942: A large crowd of fun loving members, their families and friends enjoyed another Red Men Dance and social last Saturday night. The enthusiastic response of the gathering in requesting that the socials continue later in the season than has been customary in the past prompted their organization to plan another for Saturday night, May 9. The lodge has enjoyed a very successful two years since the organization of the Red Men Merry Makers as has been evidenced by an increase of over fifty percent of the active membership. At the regular meeting Tuesday night the brothers were treated to chicken and noodles with all the trimmings, including juvenile caps and bibs which gave the luncheon the appearance of something from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

April 28, 1967: Alaska's spectacular world traveling art gallery, a 60 foot trailer of 107 works of art arrived back in Alaska Sunday after a two week stay and inspection by thousands of persons in Seattle's Center. "More than 2,000 persons were at the Seattle Center," said David Hughbanks, Center director of special activities. "In my opinion, Alaska has provided us and the art world with the most attractive art show of its size I have ever seen." For

six years the Washington State Art Commission has planned a mobile art trailer such as Alaskans have now built to show outstanding art to widely separated audiences. The big state's art drew visitors including art commissions of western Washington cities, counties, the state itself, and major colleges and universities.

April 30, 1992: Earth Day came and went quickly last week, but it didn't pass unnoticed by the students of Stikine Middle School. Sixth grade teacher Ruthie Knight said it was decided to combine their usual spelling

bee with an Earth Day presentation in order to have one big assembly. Earth Day songs were written by students and sung by music teacher Karen Morse. Students also conducted a debate over ANWR. Sixth grader Tamara Mill won the spelling bee and eighth grader Tanya Martin finished second. "The Bahai's gave us a beautiful Earth Day flag which we're going to present to the school," Knight said. The school will also be receiving trees from the Forest Service for planting but Knight said they haven't been given a place to plant the trees yet.

FERRY SCHEDULE

Departures

Northbound

Saturday April 29:

Matanuska 2:45 a.m.

Tuesday May 2:

Matanuska 7:30 p.m.

Saturday May 6:

Matanuska 6:45 p.m.

Sunday May 7:

Malaspina 6:45 p.m.

Tuesday May 9:

Matanuska 6:45 p.m.

Southbound

Friday April 28:

Matanuska 8:30 a.m.

Monday May 1:

Matanuska 6:30 a.m.

Wednesday May 3:

Malaspina 7:00 a.m.

Thursday May 4:

Matanuska 11:30 p.m.

Monday May 8:

Matanuska 4:30 a.m.

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



TIDES TABLE April 27 - May 4

	High Tides		Low Tides					
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM		
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft		
April 27	1:51	19.3	2:33	17.4	8:06	-3.6	8:15	0.0
April 28	2:32	19.3	3:19	17.0	8:50	-3.8	8:57	0.0
April 29	3:15	18.9	4:08	16.2	9:36	-3.3	9:44	1.8
April 30	4:00	18.0	5:01	15.2	10:26	-2.4	10:36	2.9
May 1	4:52	16.7	6:02	14.3	11:22	-1.1	11:37	4.0
May 2	5:54	15.3	7:15	13.7	12:25	0.2
May 3	7:11	14.1	8:32	13.9	0:51	4.7	1:36	1.2
May 4	8:37	13.6	9:39	14.6	2:17	4.6	2:52	1.7



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
April 17	55	40
April 18	54	42
April 19	54	41
April 20	53	41
April 21	65	24
April 22	65	26
April 23	68	29
April 24	70	24



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
April 27	5:20a	8:17p	15:01h
April 28	5:13a	8:19p	15:06h
April 29	5:11a	8:21p	15:10h
April 30	5:09a	8:23p	15:14h
May 1	5:06a	8:25p	15:19h
May 2	5:04a	8:27p	15:23h
May 3	5:02a	8:29p	15:27h
May 4	5:00a	8:31p	15:31h

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Schools adopt \$5.86M budget for 2017/18

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell Public Schools has adopted a final draft budget for the coming year.

Meeting Monday evening at Evergreen Elementary School, the board voted to approve the third draft, which projects expenditures totaling \$5,860,894. Attendance for the year is anticipated at 273 students. Costs since the first draft was put forward in February have come down by about \$134,000 in expected benefits, due to lower insurance rates.

"It's fairly straightforward, which is not always the case for the budget," school superinten-

dent Patrick Mayer explained.

Some savings from the benefits item saw a reduction by \$85,000 from \$375,000 previously being allocated from the school's capital improvement fund, when factored into other adjusted items. The budget is still keeping things conservative, anticipating a five-percent cut to the state's Foundation Support for the coming year. The Legislature in Juneau is still negotiating a final budget plan, and the prospective cuts may not materialize.

Deadline for submission of a budget to the Borough Assembly is May 1. A workshop smoothing out further details was set ahead of the Assembly's meeting on Tuesday.

Board members also had to decide on a school budget for the coming year, but were torn on versions put forward by the Wrangell Teachers Association and school administration. Start and end dates for each were the same, but proposed work days and holiday breaks were at odds at points.

Members of the board could not come to agreement at the time, and proposed holding the matter of the calendar to the next meeting.

"There's valid points on each side," board president Georgianna Buhler noted. Board member Susan Eagle

recommended that a draft calendar be brought forward for consideration at least a month earlier next year, to give staff more notice to make arrangements for the summer.

Also discussed during the meeting was formally adopting a policy that would limit the secondary schools' open campus policy. In past years, students are allowed to leave campus on their breaks so long as parents had signed a permission slip. This year, secondary schools principal Bill Schwan adopted a policy which no longer allows sixth graders that privilege, and explaining the decision to the board on Monday went on to say he would like to see that policy eventually extended to include seventh and eighth graders.

His reasoning had been in response to reports of students getting into trouble off campus, either fighting or getting into altercations with elders.

"When I came here I had heard the horror stories," Schwan said. But the decision went beyond a few anecdotes; he noted that allowing younger students free rein to leave during lunch meant the school - which is responsible for their safety - could not account for their whereabouts.

"One of the things that takes kids off campus is the prospect of going downtown," Mayer said, echoing the principal. "How are we supposed to know where they're at?"

"You guys hired me to provide safe education," Schwan said. "Looking over this year it's been very successful."

"I think it should be up to parents," commented board member Tammy Groshong, citing precedent. "The middle school has always been able to leave with written parental permission."

Schwan countered that the policy still allows parents to

come retrieve their children for lunchtime if they wanted. He pointed out that relatively few students took advantage of leaving campus, and added that having them on campus has allowed the school to steer some students who need extra academic help into supportive programming.

Board members shot down the policy proposal, but agreed to take up the issue further as part of a public discussion.

On Monday the school board welcomed a new face to its ranks, Robert Rang. He was appointed to the board earlier this month by the Borough Assembly, replacing outgoing member Rinda Howell. At the meeting, Buhler presented Howell with a plaque marking her 10 years of service to the board.

"We want to tell our outgoing board member 'thank you,'" Buhler said.

Rang is currently the chief executive officer at Wrangell Medical Center. Mayer has been serving on the hospital's governing board since being elected in October.

Also approved during the meeting were non-tenured teacher contracts, extended to Laurie Brown, Patricia Gilbert, Matt Gore, Michelle Jenkins, Odile Meister, Matt Nore and Virginia Oliver.

An executive session held at the end of the meeting discussed ongoing contract negotiations with the Wrangell Teachers Association, though no actions were taken. Individual personnel matters relating to the content of that discussion could not be spoken to due to privacy and legal concerns.

Looking ahead to next year though, some concern was expressed that Evergreen Elementary School principal Diedre Jensen was being let go. Her name was conspicuously absent among contracts

being considered for renewal.

During the guest input period, a couple of community members stepped forward in order to speak up in favor of Jensen, who has been principal at Evergreen for three and a half years.

"The school has become a family since she became principal," said Arlene Wilson, a teacher at the school.

Another speaker called her a "passionate individual," and spoke up for her efforts to improve school safety and reduce problems with bullying.

Explaining the board had a sizable agenda ahead of it, Buhler had limited public comments to three minutes per person, amounting to 12 minutes in all.

"When we have an executive session I have to be respectful of members of the board as well," she explained later.

Monday's meeting was prefaced by updates from student groups. Wrangell's Student Government put forward some proposals for school administrators to consider, including class scheduling.

Girls from the Alaska Association of Student Governments reported on their trip to Juneau in mid-March. There they discussed proposals and resolutions with 300 students from 40 other schools around the state, voting on measures as a general assembly. They were also able to tour the State Capitol, meeting with legislators and listening to the governor.

Girls attending the Alaska Association of School Boards' Youth Leadership Institute and Legislative Fly-In in February also updated the school board of their trip. Students learned how to advocate for issues and speak with lawmakers, and lobbied for support for education funding and supportive programming.

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JULY 29
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Police report

Monday, April 17

Control burn: Caller stated they will be burning.

Tuesday, April 18

Road Complaint
Agency Assist: Report about a creek running brown. PW notified.
Report of harassing phone calls.
Found property.

Wednesday, April 19

Driving Complaint: Hit and Run.
Citizen Assist: Vehicle unlock.
Suspicious circumstance.
Citizen Assist.

Thursday, April 20

Suspicious noise.
Report of Fraud.
Report of hit and run.
Traffic Stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.
Driving complaint.
Agency Assist: Line crew.

Friday, April 21

Agency Assist.

Agency Assist: Paper service
Noise complaint.

Saturday, April 22

Agency Assist: Water Plant
Found Property: Returned keys to owner.
Citation issued to Cathie Angerman age 63, for failure to provide proof of insurance and verbal warning for faulty equipment.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for faulty equipment.

Sunday, April 23

Suspicious Person.
Citation issued to Kaydee Howell age 18, for failure to show proof of insurance and verbal warning for faulty equipment.
Bar fight: Request for officer due to fight outside bar.
Parking complaint.
Trespass Warning.
Report of Assault.

There was one ambulance call and three dog complaints during this week.

Going to the dogs: wine tasting benefits SAR program

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A number of Wrangell residents stepped out Friday for a bit of culture, partaking in a wine tasting fundraiser.

Held at Rayme's Bar, proceeds from the 14-varietal sampling went to the local search and rescue (SAR) dogs program for Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department.

The program currently enlists the services of three retrievers, named Katilli, Sage and Aspen. Katilli has been in service the longest, picking up trainings and certifications over the past three years. The dog has supported various emergency responses over the years, participating in four searches in 2016. Supporting the dogs takes quite a bit of time and resources. Firefighter and dog owner Steve Prysunka explained travel and training for workshops and courses have been sponsored by a combination of the fire depart-



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Jill Privett and Katie Taylor finish setting up the hors d'oeuvres at the SAR fundraiser wine tasting Friday evening.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

A group of canines and humans make their way to Volunteer Park Sunday morning, raising money for the fire department's search dog program while also enjoying a spot of weekend sunshine.

ment, Stikine Sportsmen Association, and out of pocket.

"Because we're trying to train more dogs this year we were looking at ways to improve our fundraising," he explained.

Reme Privett, who owns Rayme's and is a member of the Sportsmen, had recommended the idea of the wine tasting to Prysunka, and arranged with Bobby Roles from K&L Distributors in Sitka to act as sommelier for the evening.

Roles said this was the first wine tasting he had been a part of in Wrangell for about five years, with the last such course held at the Elks Lodge. About 60 people – some dressed up to the nines – came out for the event, featuring domestic and foreign wines currently unavailable to the island's shops.

After a brief introduction about the SAR program by Prysunka, Roles walked people through the process of sampling wine, what to look for, and how best to proceed through the different whites and reds.

With a line forming and reforming past the table, samples were poured into passing wine glasses, with some opportunity to ask Roles more about the different labels. Refreshments were also provided by Jill Privett and Katie Taylor, ranging from cheese and chocolates to meat, bread and exotic pinwheels.

Wines varied from a tart Chardonnay and dry Pinot Grigio, to a pair of Prosecco and various red blends. Some came from Washington and Oregon river valleys, but others were from further afield, Australia, Italy and Chile.

After tasting and talking over different wines, patrons also had

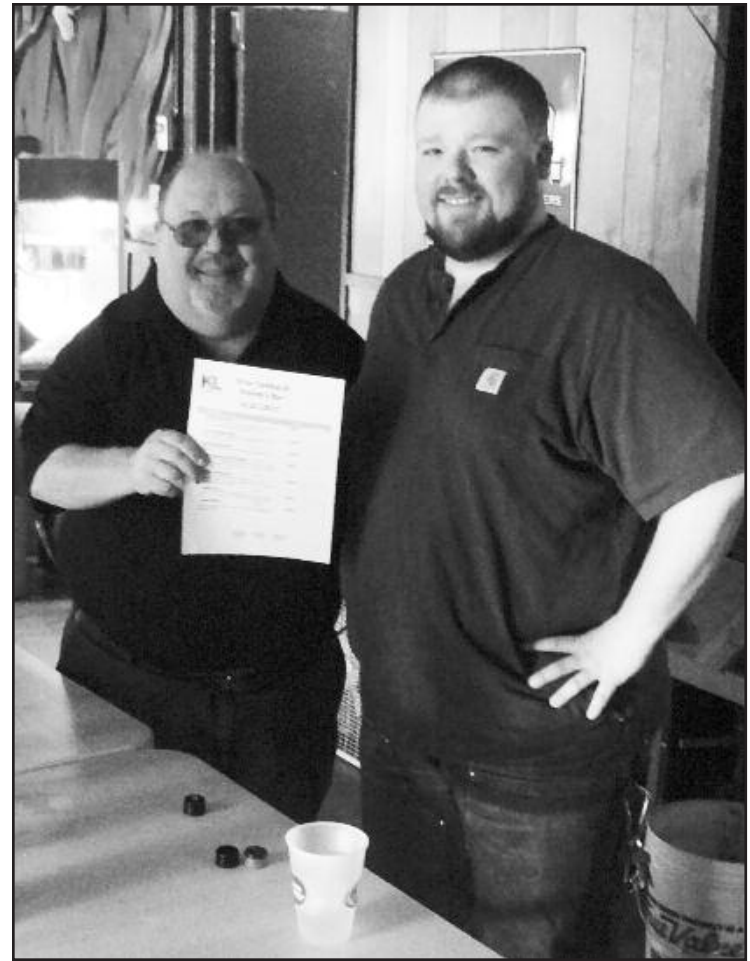


PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Wine supplier Bobby Roles and bar-owner Reme Privett get ready to serve out different vintages at a fundraiser at Rayme's Bar last Friday. The event raised \$1,400 for the search and rescue dog program.

the opportunity to order up bottles of their own for later delivery. The evening ended up being a success for the dogs, too, bringing in about \$1,400.

A further walk scheduled for Sunday morning was coordinated with the Southeast Beasts running group. Joggers, walkers and their pooches met at the Volunteer Park pavilion, and made their way together around the recently touched-up trail loop. (See the Earth Day page)

With proceeds from the walk,

in all the SAR program gained about \$1,700.

"This is going to help defray our airfare costs," said Prysunka.

The next training session is planned for October in Ohio, where the three dogs will undergo courses through Summit Search and Rescue. Katilli will be doing a water-related human remains search course, Sage will undergo an intermediate air scent course, and Aspen will partake in an intermediate course for finding human remains on land.

Muskeg Meadows Schedule Change

ANNUAL MEETING

Fri., April 28, 7:00 p.m. Elks Upstairs

ANNUAL DINNER AND FUNDRAISER

Sun., April 30, 5:00 p.m. Elks Nolan Room

First tournament April 29&30 10:00 a.m.

Sign up at 9:00 a.m.

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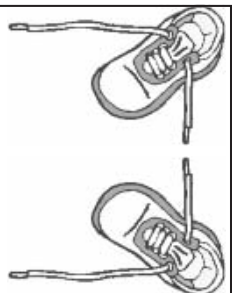
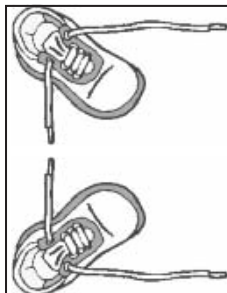
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Baby turning two?

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Cruise ship arrival marks start of visitor season

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

With the arrival of the *Wilderness Adventurer* on Tuesday, a sunnier outlook for the local economy breaks the clouds of Wrangell's off-season.

The 160-foot vessel is operated by UnCruise Adventures in Seattle, and can carry up to 60 passengers. Early in the season, on Tuesday it was carrying 28 en route to Juneau. According to the latest cruise ship schedule, *Adventurer* will only be making the one stop into Wrangell this season, but its larger sister vessels *Wilderness Explorer* and *Wilderness Discoverer* will be stopping 11 times over the summer.

Sixty more visits are anticipated through the end of September, tour vessels ranging from the 104-foot *Alaska Dream* to Regent's *Seven Seas Mariner*, a 709-foot cruise liner that carries 700.

"One of the boats will be in on the Fourth of July, which should be interesting this year," pointed out Shawna Bunes, at the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce office.

According to industry projections, analyst Meilani Schijvens of Juneau's Rain Coast Data said 2017 could potentially break records for cruise ship arrivals in Southeast Alaska. The record was set in 2008 with the arrival of 1.03M people, before a hard recession reversed the trend.

"We broke the million-passenger mark for the first time since 2009 last year," Schijvens noted.

Part of the trend is reflective of improvements in the overall economy, with the country making a slow recovery since 2009. Though Alaska is still in a state of recession and the state continues to make agency cuts in order to address its multibillion-dollar spending deficit, outside money through tourism has helped the sector continue to grow in recent years.

According to labor statistics, tourism accounted for nine percent of all employment earnings in the region in 2015, with 1,420,877 visitors bringing in \$207.3M. The sector made up about 17 percent of all jobs in Southeast, and is currently the fastest-growing. About 500 average annual jobs were added last year, and a total of 1,500 have been added since 2010.

"The visitor industry has the strongest outlook for all of Southeast Alaska," Schijvens reported.

There are other factors to consider when gauging the industry,

such as safety concerns traveling abroad. She noted international tension and crises have been a boon to domestic travel, and exotic states such as Alaska and Hawaii have benefitted from the unease.

The additional passengers coming to Alaska do not necessarily point to a larger fleet.

"We're getting a similar number of vessels," Schijvens noted. But "the boats are getting bigger."

Cruise Lines International Association Alaska, an industry group, reports that to better handle the larger ships now calling on Alaska, facilities are being expanded significantly. Juneau — which receives 99 percent of all traffic passing through the region — is in the process of building two panamax docks capable of accommodating 1,000- and 1,110-foot ships in its downtown district. The first phase adding a southern berth was completed last spring, and the second northern phase begun in September is expected to finish next month. At Hoonah, Icy Strait Point is adding a 400-foot floating dock and welcome center as well.

Wrangell has been making improvements of its own, with the addition of a second summer float finalized last year and updates to the main dock's railings, moorings and electrical system wrapping up before the summer season. Sale of tide- and uplands beside the dock to the Stikine Inn were recently approved by the city, and the hotel has plans to expand in the next three to five years.

Not all visitors have come by cruise ship, with about 30 percent traveling by air or ferry. Air travel passengers hit record highs last year as well, a trend whose envelope Schijvens predicted will continue to be pressed in the coming year.

While regional economic forum Southeast Conference has projected the visitor industry will continue to improve in coming years, problems arising from the state's budget crisis could be a dampener. Cuts to the state's tourism marketing budget have dropped by 92 percent since 2015, to \$1.5M this year. Those resources go into funding advertisements and promotional drives online and in traditional media, drawing attention — and hopefully dollars — to the state. With less support on the state side, the burden of marketing may instead swing over to the private sector.

"We're relying on the cruise industry to spend that money for us," said Schijvens.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

The *Wilderness Adventurer* makes its first and only scheduled stop of the 2017 visitor season Tuesday morning. Its 28 passengers make up the first wave of tourists to visit the island.

In Memory

Clifford O. White 1925 -2016

Clifford Orlando White, 91, passed away on Christmas Day, 2016 in Des Moines, Washington. Clifford was a longtime resident in Wrangell, Alaska, and considered it his home. Clifford was born on September 30, 1925 in McCook, Nebraska, but lived on a farm near Oberlin, Kansas. A combination of the depression and dust bowl in the 1930's, caused the family to lose the farm and migrate to Pueblo, Colorado at the age of 9.



Clifford Orlando White

At an early age, he started a career in house building and remodeling. This was interrupted at the age of 18 by being drafted into the Army. His first overseas assignment was in the Philippines 3-days after US forces took back the main Island, and was to be a part of the initial assault force on Japan. History intervened, and he became a part of the first occupying force to land in Japan.

Clifford returned to Pueblo following WWII, married Lavon Hopper in 1949, and had two children - Mark and Diane. His career continued as a Contractor engaged in; commercial building, concrete structures, excavation and demo work, sewer and water systems, house moving and renovation.

The economy became stagnant in the Pueblo area in the 1960s, making it difficult for Contractors in the construction industry. HUD started building low income housing in Pueblo, making it difficult for him to compete at that time with his current properties. As a result, he applied for Director of Public Works position in Wrangell in 1968 and was successful, serving 8 years in that position.

Clifford and Lavon moved to Wrangell with a house trailer and some debt. Lavon continued to develop as an artist, while Clifford started building out of pocket. Over the years, the couple were able to amass several commercial properties and residential rental units,

along with a commercial building in Petersburg that became the District Court House. That building was later sold, with the proceeds invested in residential properties in Tacoma, Washington. Lavon passed on in 2001. Much later Clifford remarried to Betty King, Wrangell, who survives him.

Clifford was active in remodel and property management to the end. He was inspecting one of his houses when he slipped and fell. Complications put him in the hospital where he contracted a deadly viral infection, and later succumbed. His properties are currently being managed by Diane Lightner, with help from her niece Jillian Rushton.

Out of 6 siblings, Clifford is survived by a younger brother, Orville White (Martha): two children, Mark (JoAnn) White, and Diane Lightner; three grandchildren, Amanda (Jeremy) Murphy, James White, and Jillian (Kent) Rushton; and one great grandchild, Willa Rose Murphy.

A memorial reception will be held May 3, 2017 at 3:00p.m. in the Legion building for friends and family to celebrate his life.

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New beach site records high PSP toxin readings

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Last week Wrangell's Indian Environmental General Assistance Program office issued an alert regarding potentially dangerous shellfish.

Readings for butter clam samples taken from the south side of Zarembo Island earlier this month came back surprisingly high for saxitoxin, the root cause of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) in humans. The Food and Drug Administration sets a safety threshold for consuming saxitoxin at 80 micrograms (µg) per 100 grams of shellfish. The butter clams sampled at Zarembo came back at 884 µg.

As a contrast, the IGAP office issued alerts at Shoemaker Bay beaches last August for readings of 212 µg, and this January issued a similar warning for butter clams near Pats Landing reading 115 µg.

Saxitoxin is produced by the phytoplankton Alexandrium, large blooms of which can taint nearby waters. Area filter feeders like clams and oysters absorb the toxin, which can be transmitted to humans upon ingestion. Symptoms of PSP tend to begin with numbness of the oral membranes, and severe cases can entail nausea, vomiting, neurological effects, paralysis, respiratory failure and ultimately death.

While not being harmed by it themselves, shellfish eventually process out the saxitoxin levels in their bodies over time. For example, butter clams measuring 212 µg last summer showed readings of 104 µg by Thanksgiving.

Different species absorb but also relinquish toxin levels differently than others. Blue mussels do so relatively quickly, and Wrangell IGAP technician Kim Wickman explained this quality makes them a particularly good test sub-

ject to gauge current water conditions at local beaches. While a cautionary alert remains in effect for butter clams at Shoemaker and Pats, blue mussels tested there last week showed saxitoxin levels of 47 and 36 µg, respectively, and are fine to consume.

"They're kind of our indicator species," said Wickman. Another batch was sent out on Tuesday.

Wickman takes samples on a regular basis from Shoemaker and Pats, and the Zarembo sampling was a surprising outlier. The site had been chosen by a local family, which nominated the site after winning a drawing from the IGAP booth at the April 1 community health fair.

"It means there's a lot more areas with PSP than we thought," Wickman explained.

Resources are also available for those wishing to arrange a test for specimens from their preferred gathering-grounds.

The Sitka laboratory that runs the tests prefers its samples live, and some forms and arrangements need to be taken care of through the office beforehand.

Information on different shellfish species is available at the IGAP office, inside the Wrangell Cooperative Association quarters on Lynch Street.

"People also need to know their shellfish," she added, and materials helpful to identifying different species are on hand.

Shellfish conditions are made public through the Sitka-based organization Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research. Its Southeast Alaska Tribal Toxins website is maintained at www.seator.org/data. The site collects updated data from 28 different sites in 16 communities around Southeast, focused on saxitoxin, domoic acid and other harmful toxins to be found in shellfish.

Hospital designs still being drafted, cost hammered down

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

In its monthly meeting the Wrangell Medical Center Board learned progress continues to be made in drawing up plans for a new hospital.

Hospital chief executive officer Robert Rang informed the board that architects with Juneau firm Jensen Yorba Lott are still hammering out designs, following a site visit in mid-March. At the moment the contractors are trying to reconcile staff's "wish list" for a future facility with applicable standards, minimizing the building's footprint where possible.

On the financial end, the accountant at BDO in Anchorage was looking at the hospital's ability to pay for a new facility in the long term. Given its patient volume and low debt, Rang said "he felt WMC could finance \$20-21M over a 30-year period."

Rough estimates for a future hospital from six years ago had tacked a pricetag of around \$24M to the project, but costs for the center currently being designed have yet to be determined. An estimate will come from JYL once the design is presented.

Once that comes in, Rang intends to follow up with the Borough Assembly to explore its options.

"There's a lot of ways to finance that as well," he added. Rang noted the most important thing to keep in mind in the

process would be transparency, and appreciating risks down the line, such as revenue projections and patient capacity.

For present revenue, in his monthly report, finance director Doran Hammett said March had been a slower month than expected. Revenue was down for the month over that of the previous year by nine percent, with the FY17 year-to-date being down by only one percent in comparison.

The hospital should still conclude the month at about even. Hammett explained "meaningful use" money receivable from the state for 2015 and 2016 together amounts to \$125,750.

"By the end of this month we will have received those funds," he said.

The hospital's credit with the borough's \$500,000 emergency account set up last year is down to \$40,000, with regular payments continuing to bring that back down to zero over the next several months.

"Cash continues to stay at

about 27 days," Hammett added. Cash reserves were at \$811,933 on March 31, sufficient to run the hospital for nearly a month. At the start of the fiscal year in July that amount had been at 17 days.

In personnel matters, laboratory technician Vincent Balansag is still working on returning from the Philippines, working through a visa renewal. Rang reported the process could take some time but WMC was helping as best it could. Balansag could be back within six months, he said.

One resignation in the nursing department leaves a vacancy to be filled meanwhile by traveling staff. Even so, Rang pointed out the total number of traveling staff has been greatly reduced since last year following a recruitment drive, which in turn has saved the hospital money in the process.


An interim manager has been brought onsite to review workflow in the hospital's med-

ical records department. Sent by billing contractor TruBridge, coverage of reallocated duties will be attended to while a permanent manager to the department is selected.

In her staff report to the board, Dr. Lynn Prysunka asked for its support in drawing in new volunteers for the high school's junior firefighter program. She explained students partaking in the program are

important to the continuation of the volunteer fire department.


At the request of the hospital board, new invoices have also been prepared for use. The new bills will be issued with a detailed description of services, costs, and costs already covered by insurance. The colorful slips also include versions for "past due" and "final notice" notifications.



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Our full Household Hazard Waste Brochure and the Water Environment Federation's Household Waste Chart can be found on line at: <http://www.wrangell.com/publicworks/annual-hazardous-household-waste-event>. Hard copies are also located at City Hall, the Solid Waste Transfer Facility and at the Public Works office. This brochure describes preventative measures you can take in your home to reduce the quantity of waste you must dispose. For details on what you can do to eliminate hazardous waste from the solid waste stream, contact the Public Works office at 907-874-3904.

Publish: April 20, 27, May 4 and 11, 2017

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Walker offers help in brokering fiscal fix

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – With Alaska legislative leaders at odds over how to best address the state’s multibillion-dollar deficit, Gov. Bill Walker on Tuesday offered his help in hopes of nudging talks forward.

Walker said he has invited House and Senate leadership to the governor’s mansion Wednesday to begin looking for areas of common ground.

The Legislature has extended beyond a voter-approved 90-day session limit, with a budget and fiscal plan unresolved. The constitution allows for regular sessions of up to 121 days, which would extend into mid-May.

While there’s general agreement about using earnings from Alaska’s oil-wealth fund, the permanent fund, to fill a large chunk of the deficit, there is disagree-

ment about what else should be done.

The House majority, composed largely of Democrats, conditioned approval of permanent fund legislation on passage of a broad-based tax capable of generating at least \$650 million a year and a rewrite of oil tax and credit policy.

Caucus leaders on Tuesday showed no signs of yielding in their position. Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux, one of three Republicans in the House majority, said the GOP-led Senate has “another thing coming” if it believes a permanent fund bill alone will suffice.

Meanwhile, Senate leaders, who have advocated for continued budget cuts and limits on future spending in addition to structured use of permanent fund earnings,

have said they aren’t interested in a House proposal to implement a personal income tax. They also don’t want to raise taxes on the oil industry.

Senate Majority Leader Peter Micciche said differences between the two sides jeopardize passage of permanent fund legislation that is seen a cornerstone of any fiscal plan. The Soldotna Republican sees positive signs in improved oil prices and production.

Walker, a Republican turned independent, appears to be more in line with the House majority in seeking a more comprehensive fiscal plan that includes a broad-based tax. He said such a tax is needed to close the deficit.

The state, which has long relied on oil revenue to fund government, has been grappling with

how to pull itself out of a deficit amid low oil prices.

Walker said that what the House and Senate ultimately do is up to them but the message he said wants to impress is that it’s “not about what we want to do, but what we have to do.”

“I have been where they are, as far as having to make decisions that go against what I personally feel comfortable with doing,” Walker said.

He cited as an example his decision last year, in the absence of a fiscal plan, to cut the amount of money available for the annual dividends Alaskans receive from the permanent fund.

Senate President Pete Kelly, a Fairbanks Republican, said disagreements between the Senate and House are not new. While Walker has a role to play, it will be

up to the House and Senate to come to terms, Kelly said.

State unemployment rate steady at 6.4 percent in March
JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – Alaska’s unemployment rate held at 6.4 percent last month, the same as February.

The preliminary, seasonally adjusted number for March is down compared to a year ago, when it stood at 6.6 percent.

The state labor department says preliminary estimates indicate there were 7,100 fewer jobs in March when compared to March 2016.

The department, in a release, cited continued losses in several sectors, including the oil and construction industries and state government.

It also noted that job losses don’t necessarily lead to higher unemployment rates. To be considered unemployed, the department says a person must remain in Alaska and actively be seeking work.

Nationally, the unemployment rate last month stood at 4.5 percent.

At 83, lone Alaska congressman files for reelection

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – Alaska’s lone U.S. House member has made it official: He wants a 24th term.

Rep. Don Young filed his declaration of candidacy on Wednesday, just five months since his most recent win. The primary he signed up to compete in won’t be held until August 2018.

Young is the longest-serving Republican in the House, having held his seat since 1973. He is 83 years old.

In a video statement accompanying his announcement, Young, who has a reputation of being prickly, says he filed early so that anyone who might think about running or who thinks he might retire “can forget it.”

He says he likes what he does, is good at what he does and is right for Alaska.

The filing deadline for the primary is June 1, 2018.

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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

Measure gaining steam would create fisheries trusts to offset “graying of the fleet” and the lack of opportunities for younger people

Numerous studies over the past decade have highlighted Alaska’s “graying of the fleet” (the average age of permit holders is 50), and the lack of opportunities for younger people to launch a career in commercial fishing.

State data show that between 1975 and 2014, more than 2,300 limited entry permits (nearly 28 percent) migrated away from Alaska’s rural fishing communities to non-residents.

A new measure gaining steam in the Alaska legislature aims to reverse that trend by creating fisheries trusts in which communities could buy permits and lease them to fishermen who otherwise could not afford them.

“It’s good to recognize the problem, but it’s even better to try and do something about it,” said Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins (D-Sitka) sponsor of the legislation (HB 188).

Under the plan, regional trusts could buy or be gifted a maximum of 2.5 percent of the permits in any given fishery, and lease them for up to six years to fishermen who want to make the transition from deckhand to permit owners. The fishermen must then buy their own permits if they choose to continue in a fishery. The trusts would apply to all limited entry fisheries in Alaska.

At the outset, the trusts would be authorized in up to three Alaska regions that choose to opt in, and must be approved by two-thirds of any municipality. Board members would be recommended by cities and boroughs in each region and appointed by the governor. Unincorporated communities may also be included on the board.

“Just as people often rent before buying a house, fisheries trusts offer an opportunity to run a boat and gain experience before making the six-figure decision to finance a permit and become an independent small business owner,” Kreiss-Tomkins said.

Interested stakeholders, which include Alaska Native groups, state agencies and fishing organizations from Southeast to Nome, have spent more than two and a half years developing the idea.

“We are continuing to craft and refine the model in terms of legality and policy,” Kreiss-Tomkins said, adding that the level of interest is very region specific.

“Some are very bullish about the opportunity, some are not. That’s totally fine,” he

said. “We expect some will watch and see how it goes, and then make a decision once they have more information.”

The measure is scheduled for hearings during the current extended legislative session although it is not expected to be put to a vote.

“We are taking it slow and steady,” Kreiss-Tomkins said. “In the interim, we are hoping to grow the conversation with fishing communities, economic development advocates and other stakeholders who would benefit from this tool in their tool box. Then we will be ready to revisit it next year.”

Voices from the fishing front - Fishermen are on the front line when it comes to the impacts of an off-kilter climate, and an ongoing “listening” project by The Nature Conservancy in Alaska is giving voice to what they are experiencing.

Called Tidal Change.org, the project began gathering comments last fall from a wide cross section of fishermen on how a changing climate is affecting their lives and views on the future.

“Our main intention is to make sure that people have an opportunity to hear stories that are truly authentic and rooted in personal experience that perhaps aren’t otherwise being heard,” said Dustin Solberg, a Nature Conservancy writer based in Cordova.

Here’s a sampler:

“I’ve noticed a lot of environmental changes,” said Melanie Brown of Juneau, a longtime setnetter at Bristol Bay. “The rivers don’t freeze anymore and the ice floes aren’t there to protect the bluff above where our site is. It’s starting to fill in my site so it goes dry more quickly and I have less fishing time. It’s daunting.”

“The last 35 years I’ve noticed the ocean warming in places where the salmon have to navigate up coastal streams,” said Bob Snell who fishes the Washington and Oregon coasts. “It is difficult for them to get up to their spawning grounds, and to survive after they’ve laid their eggs in the warm water.”

Eugene Anderson, a lifelong fisherman from Chignik, said most fishermen agree that “something is not right.”

“Over the past years since the waters have warmed up the fish blush earlier. By the first week of August you start getting fish in the river back and they are all red, and the salmon are smaller. Sometimes we have water temperatures as high as

60 degrees, and when the water is warmer the feed is not as prolific. The young people really have to think about what’s going on. It’s a very uncertain time. It’s kind of scary.”

Larry Vander Lind, who has fished at Kodiak and Bristol Bay since the early 1970s, said fishermen are seeing more algae blooms in the water and more jellyfish.

Peter Andrew of Dillingham, a 45-year fishing veteran added: “Scientists speak about water temperature being a key part of the survival of sockeye and other salmon species. I’ve seen the water temperature go up and it is very alarming to me. Bristol Bay is an absolute wonderful place and it’s going to take some good stewardship and policy makers to make sure this fishery stays as it has been for 10,000 years.”

“I don’t care what people say, there is global warming and it’s changing things,” said Jon Gaedke who has trolled for king and coho salmon in Southeast for 26 years.

“People look at me like I’m a nut, but I tell them the salmon are confused. The patterns they have followed for years and years – now they don’t seem to know which way to go or where or when to go. That’s pretty scary business.”

Find more fishing voices at Then Nature Conservancy in Alaska on line and on Facebook.

Herring happenings - Kodiak’s herring season, which began on April 15, has produced 70 tons so far and is on hold while awaiting a resurgence of fish. Unlike roe herring fisheries at places like Sitka Sound and Togiak which can wrap up after a few short openers, Kodiak’s herring hauls can occur at up to 80 different places and last into June. This year’s herring harvest is limited to 1,645 tons.

Togiak in Bristol Bay is Alaska’s biggest roe herring fishery and all signs point to it kicking off at the traditional time in early May. Budget cuts last year had processors pitching in for aerial surveys to spot the herring swarms, and precluded any stock sampling. Now a \$61,000 boost will help get herring monitoring back on track.

“We need to have information on the age and size of the fish that are harvested,” said Tim Sands, area manager at the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game office in Dillingham. “Without that we can’t forecast the next year’s return and we have to be much more conservative. That’s

reflected in this year’s harvest level of 23,000 tons as we had no data to work on.”

This year’s projected Togiak harvest is down by more than 10 percent from the past two seasons. Participation and price, however, are on an upswing and four buyers are expected.

“It looks like we’re going to have 19 seine boats and 16 gillnetters. Last year we only had three gillnetters,” Sands told KDLG. “I’m hearing rumors of \$100-\$150 a ton so the price is back up and that’s bringing them back into the fishery.”

Further west, a lack of buyers has kept herring boats beached for about a decade. Nearly 12,000 tons could be taken from fisheries up the coast from Security Cove to Norton Sound if there was a market.

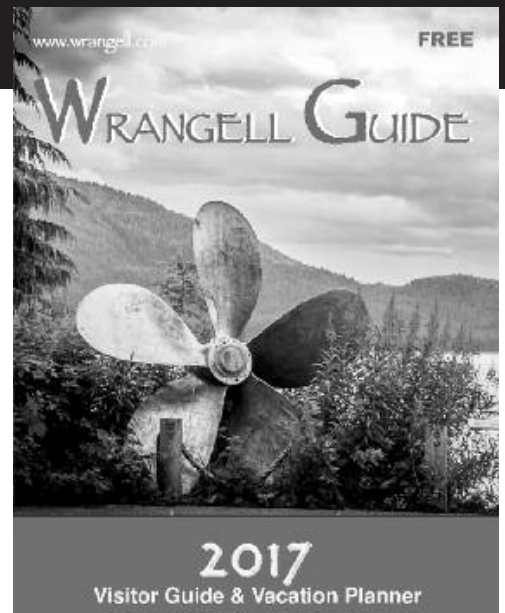
Statewide, Alaska will produce less than 40,000 tons of herring this year. Only the female fish are valued for their eggs, all of which go to Asia; the males are typically ground up for meal or dumped.

Last year, the average price for roe herring to Alaska fishermen was just \$.11 a pound. In Norway, where herring are smoked, pickled and canned, fishermen fetch more than \$1.40 a pound.

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Ketchikan seafood processors to see water-rate hikes

KETCHIKAN, Alaska (AP) – Officials in Ketchikan have

approved an ordinance that more than doubles water rates for the southeast Alaska city's seafood processors over the next three years.

The City Council approved the ordinance in a 5-2 vote on Thursday. Water rates will increase by 35 percent each year over the next three years for Ketchikan's three fish processors E.C. Phillips and Son, Trident Seafoods and Alaska General Seafoods, The Ketchikan Daily News reported.

The new water rates come in response to a consulting firm's study that found all rate classes were paying more than their share of the cost of providing water service except for the seafood processors. The three companies accounted for nearly half the cost of production but were paying less than 5 percent of generated revenue, according to the study.

Paul Cyr, with E.C. Phillips and Son, has spoken out against the argument that seafood processors are being subsidized by the city or other ratepayers.

"We've not requested a subsidy, or received a subsidy," Cyr said. "Water, in the form of rain, is one of the natural resources we have in excess here in Ketchikan, and it should be used to retain businesses rather than run them out of town. If there's any subsidizing taking place, the fishing industry subsidizes the city through fish taxes and self-imposed enhancement taxes."

Cyr added that the seafood processors will not be able to "handle this kind of a giant increase" in water rates.

The fishing industry is recovering from a unsuccessful pink salmon season, and fish processors are unable to raise the costs of their products because prices are part of the global market, Cyr

said.

Councilman Bob Sivertsen said in an April 6 meeting on the water-rates proposal that the city wanted to create an even playing field with the rate classes.

"It's not just to balance the budget on the fish processors'

backs," Sivertsen said. "We're going to look at other rates too, be it sewer, water, power, garbage, whatever it is. The city provides a service, and they have to pay for that. Our population base isn't growing, but our costs definitely are."

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Samson tug sinks in SE, responders search for spill

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) – Emergency responders have placed containment and absorbent booms near a tugboat that sank in southeast Alaska.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation says the Powhatan, owned by Samson Tug and Barge, sank Wednesday night while docked at Staffigavan Bay, about 7 miles north of Sitka.

The tug after it sank shifted downslope 1,083 feet, moving from a depth of 49 feet to 197 feet. Divers confirmed the location.

Samson estimates the tug carried 325 gallons of lube oil, 12 gallons of diesel and possibly sludge. Neither the amount released nor the cause of the sinking is known.

The DEC says a spill could affect salmon fry and herring larvae.

State unemployment rate steady at 6.4 percent in March

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – Alaska's unemployment rate held at 6.4 percent last month, the same as February.

The preliminary, seasonally adjusted number for March is down compared to a year ago, when it stood at 6.6 percent.

The state labor department says preliminary estimates indicate there were 7,100 fewer jobs in March when compared to March 2016.

The department, in a release, cited continued losses in several sectors, including the oil and construction industries and state government.

It also noted that job losses don't necessarily lead to higher unemployment rates. To be considered unemployed, the department says a person must remain in Alaska and actively be seeking work.

Nationally, the unemployment rate last month stood at 4.5 percent.



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WRANGELL SENTINEL

Comics

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



King Crossword

ACROSS

- From one end to t'other
- Egg
- Potential syrup
- Vast time period
- Water barrier
- Biz deg.
- Fast
- Foreman foe
- Diamond round- trippers
- Stair part
- Qua
- Weak soup
- Present
- Island garland
- Buy stuff
- Lubricate
- Past
- Rage
- Use an old phone
- DIY buy
- Leftovers recipe
- Lucky number
- Accomplish
- California-Nevada lake
- Propels
- That guy
- Landfill, essentially
- Commotion
- Swindles
- Pond organ-ism

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
18							19	20			
			21		22	23					
24	25	26		27			28		29	30	
31				32				33			
34			35		36			37			
		38		39			40				
41	42					43			44	45	46
47				48	49	50					
51				52					53		
54				55					56		

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 54 Symbol of intrigue | 8 Paris subway | one |
| 55 Ardor | 9 Big success | 29 Raw rock |
| 56 Despot | 10 Competent | 30 Church seat |
| | 11 Twosome | 35 Writer |
| | 16 Storefront sign abbr. | Buscaglia |
| | 20 "Monty Python" opener | 37 "Who cares?" |
| | 22 Start | 39 Fodder plant |
| | 23 Laugh-a-minute | 40 Simpson's interjection |
| | 24 Deity | 41 Dissolve |
| | 25 "Richard -" | 42 Assistant |
| | 26 Sudden assembly that some find entertaining | 43 "Hey, you!" |
| | 27 Michigan, for | 44 Congers |
| | | 45 Sitarist's rendition |
| | | 46 Mast |
| | | 49 Fish eggs |
| | | 50 Literary collection |

Puzzle answers on page 10

Classified/Legals

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347-4437.....tfn1-3b15

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**CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
 ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF
 Cruise Ship Facility Security Officer
 Harbor Department**

The City and Borough of Wrangell will begin to accept applications for the position of Cruise Ship Facility Security Officer to establish a pool of applicants to hire a Temporary Worker until May 5, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. You must have a valid TWIC card and an Alaska Driver's license, and a High School Diploma or GED.

This position performs duties as a part of the Department of Homeland Security Port Security Plan. The nature of the work requires that the employee maintain effective working relationships with other City Departments and employees, State and Federal officials, business and community organizations and the public.

Must be able to lift and carry 50 pounds. Successful applicant must be able to work in all weather conditions and throughout all hours of the day or night.

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

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

Carol Rushmore
 Interim Borough Manager

Publish: April 20 and April 27, 2017

JOBS
 WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION TRANSPORTATION is seeking two trail and road maintenance laborers. Complete job descriptions and applications available at WCAT office at 104 c-1 Lynch Street. Contact Bill Willard at 874-3077 with questions. Closing date: May 5 at 1 p.m.....4x5-4b40

SERVICES
 D&D TREE SERVICE licensed and insured tree topping, limbing for view, danger trees felled or taken down in pieces, brush cutting, etc in town or remote. Don Stevens 907-617-5585.....3x5-4b20

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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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

The Wrangell Parks and Recreation Department will begin to accept applications for the position of **Recreation Assistant** to establish an open pool of applicants for temporary help. Applications will be accepted beginning April 12, 2017 through December 30, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

Applicants selected for this position will serve as a *Recreation Assistant* at Parks & Recreation and will be involved in recreational activities including department recreation programs, community events, facility rentals and other similar recreational services.

Duties include providing oversight of facilities and activities, ensuring adherence to regulations and procedures, monitoring the security of premises, maintaining routine reports and general custodial duties.

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

This position requires candidates to be available to work a minimum of 6 hours per week with shifts scheduled throughout the week, including weekends. Applicants must be at least 16 years old.

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

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

Carol Rushmore
 Interim Borough Manager

Published: April 20 and April 27, 2017

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the Petersburg Borough will receive sealed bids for the Petersburg Municipal Power & Light Headquarters Building Remodel. The work involves interior and exterior upgrades to the two-story wood framed building of 5,530 sf constructed in the 1930's. The project includes demolition of a portion of the lower floor of the building; new structure and exterior wall construction at this location; new rainscreen wood siding system with remote insulation and removal of the existing vinyl siding system; new windows and exterior doors; new marquees; new exterior stairs; and new exterior lighting. Interior work includes selective demolition for a new accessible public entry, new and remodeled reception areas, new interior stair, new restrooms, insulation of roof and attic, and new finishes at remodeled areas. Revisions to existing mechanical and electrical systems is part of the work as well as associated site work at parking and walkways.

The estimated construction cost for the base bid is below \$525,000. Notice to Proceed for the project will be given on August 1, 2017 with substantial completion by February 1, 2018.

Sealed bids will be received by the Petersburg Borough, Post Office Box 329, Petersburg, Alaska 99833, located in the Municipal Building, No. 12 South Nordic Drive, Petersburg, Alaska 99833 until 2:00 p.m. prevailing time on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Assembly Chambers.

The Contract Documents are available at the Petersburg Borough website, the Plans Room, or Associated General Contractors website. Printed sets of the contract documents may be obtained by contacting Millard + Associates Architects LLC, 309 Stedman St., Ketchikan, Alaska at (907) 225-7133 or lmillard@millardarchitects.com. A non-refundable fee of \$100.00 made payable to the Petersburg Borough is required for each set of printed Contract Documents. Petersburg Standard Specifications (CPSS) are available for an additional fee of \$60.00 made payable to the Petersburg Borough, or they may be viewed on the Petersburg Borough website. Even though the Contract Documents are provided on-line, each Bidder must be registered with the Owner's Representative by sending an e-mail to lmillard@millardarchitects.com. **Bids from unregistered companies will not be accepted.**

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond, cashier's check or certified check made payable to the Petersburg Borough in the amount of five percent of the total bid price.

Prospective bidders are encouraged to attend a Pre-Bid Conference to be held in Petersburg on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 10:00 AM local time at the Assembly Chambers. Attendance by teleconference is available by calling 1-800-315-6338, with access code: 4425#. Technical questions regarding this project shall be in writing and directed to the architect, Linda Millard, Millard + Associates Architects LLC at lmillard@millardarchitects.com.

The Petersburg Borough reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in a bid, and to make award to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder as it may best serve the interest of the Borough.

Authorized by: Steve Giesbrecht, Borough Manager

Published: April 27 and May 4, 2017

— King Crossword — — Weekly SUDOKU —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Answer

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



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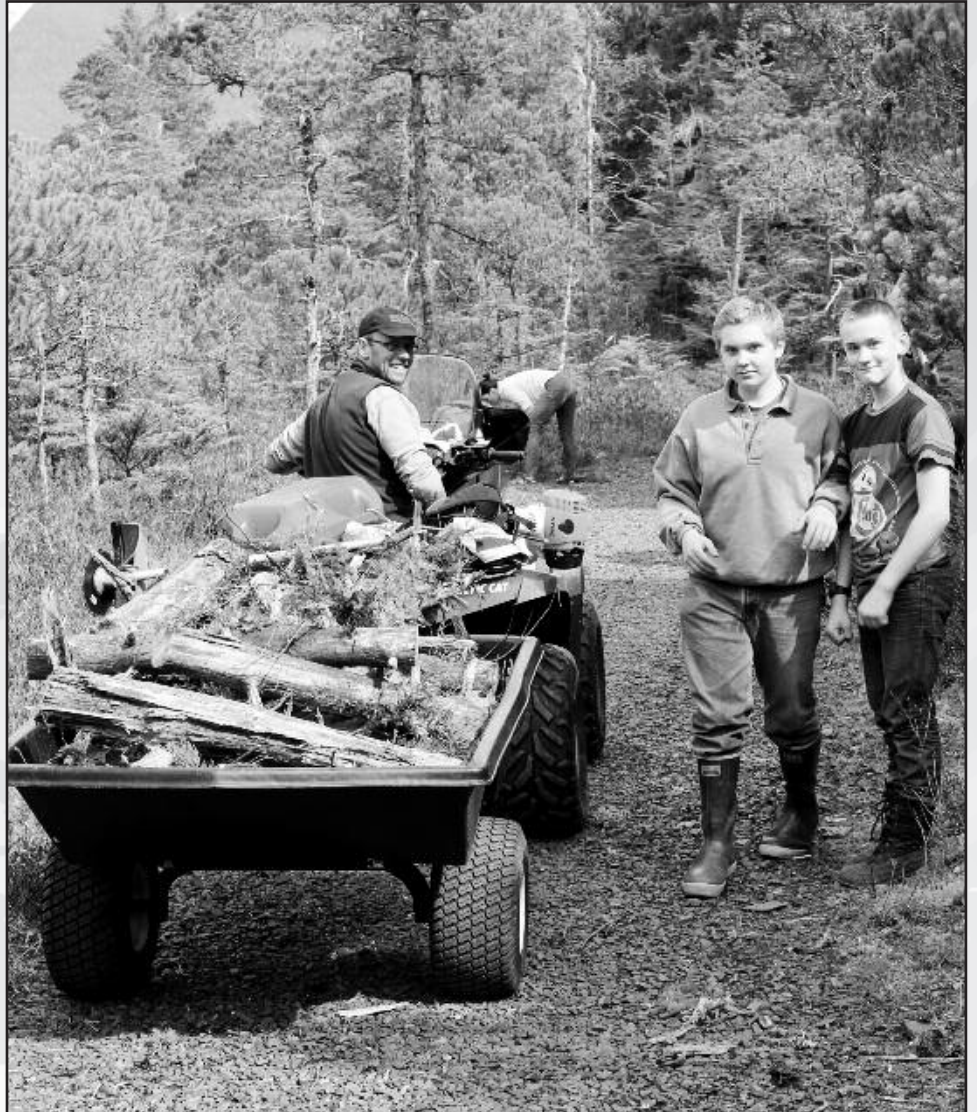
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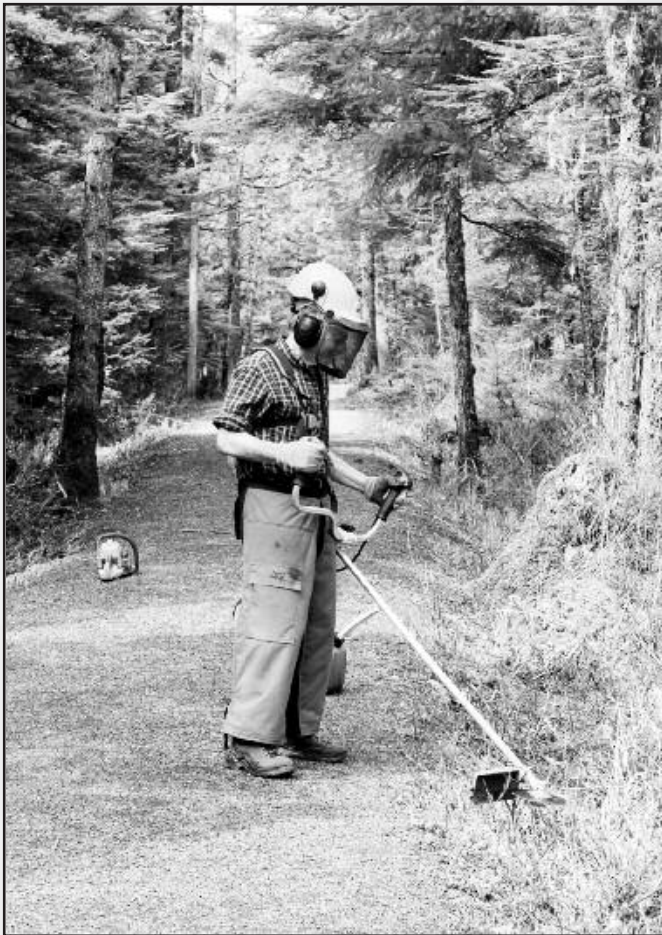


Earth Day

April 22



Driving the ATV, Peter Branson ferries collected brush and debris to manageable piles as volunteers work along Volunteer Trail Saturday morning. Sixty Wrangellites stopped in throughout the day to undertake various maintenance projects for Parks and Recreation's Earth Day effort.



Haig Demerjian gets ready to run a brusher over over-growth alongside the Volunteer Park extended loop on Saturday. Crews broke into groups to fell alders, trim trees and pull roots around the parksite.



Dixie Booker and her family pick up garbage and other bits that don't belong behind the ballfields at Volunteer Park.



Esther Ashton, Renee Claggett (on the stairs) and another volunteer apply paint to the dugouts and announcement box at the ballfields. Repairs went into sprucing up the buildings ahead of the start to the Little League season.

PHOTOS BY
DAN RUDY

Glacier

Continued from page 1

the Chautauqua format to deliver her data to Wrangell on April 20.

Hutton explained the team could not have done their surveying without extensive community assistance. Breakaway Adventures, school advisors Heather Howe and Jenn Miller, Forest Service staff, and R&M Engineering have all contributed guidance and resources to the program over the years.

Surveyor Greg Scheff in particular had been a source of support, Hutten said. A longtime proponent of the survey, he had taught the students how to properly use surveying equipment, and had been a part of their yearly trips.

“He was a huge help to our project,” said Hutten. Sadly, Scheff was killed in a plane crash on Admiralty Island last April.

Hutten also received guidance from her parents, Martin and Karen Hutten, who are both biologists working for the United States Forest Service.

“My parents guided me a ton,” she said. It had been her mother’s suggestion that she take part in the NWSA conference.

“It was a total blast,” she said. Hers was the only presentation dealing with glaciers, in a conference whose theme was on understanding and managing diversity, from landscapes to genes. “I got a lot of people listening to this poster presentation that I did.”

There were 150 professionals and researchers there, some of whose work Hutten was already familiar with. She had been nervous beforehand, but like a cross-country race, Hutten said she quickly got into the run of things.

“It went super well. I did a lot of practice sessions,” she said.

The poster was in some ways practice for her presentation in Wrangell, and was modified into a slideshow for the Chautauqua. The effort she put into her work had been substantial, and Hutten logged over 150 hours on the project in all.

To start with, she endeavored to map out the glacier's history beyond the students' own relatively recent measurements. To do this, Hutten turned to a variety of sources. This included aerial photos of the glacier over the past 80 years taken by the Navy, US Geological Survey and USFS. Additional imagery taken by satellites were obtained from Google EarthEngine and EarthExplorer. Terminus position data going as far back as the mid-16th century came from Dr. Rob Viens' 2001 dissertation at the University of Washington, which studied the Stikine Ice Field extensively.

“I ended up getting quite a bit, going back pretty far,” she said.

At one point, the glacier had come down to the Stikine River itself, and for her project Hutten put together an aerial-view infrared map tracking its extent there in 1698 to the present. On

average, through the middle of the 18th century until about 1948 the rate of terminal recession was about 26 meters per year.

Hutten reported that significant recession in the glacier's terminus began at that point, averaging about 107 meters per year. “This is really, really fast,” she said.

Shakes Glacier retreated about two miles over the next three decades (see diagram), and about as much again from 1977 up to the present. Over the past decade though, recession of the terminus has stabilized somewhat. However, melting is still progressing.

“It looks to me like we are losing ice volume from the top of the glacier,” said Hutten.

To try and determine the causes, Hutten turned first to variable data collection. Using average annual temperature data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration since 1919, the Weather Underground from 2012 to 2016, and data from the Wrangell Airport station, she determined an annual 10-year average temperature to minimize short term fluctuations. She also took into consideration lake width at the terminus and various lag times that could impact the glacier's recession in ranges of 15 to 60 years.

She graphed and compared these variables using linear regressions, and so concluded the 107 meter-per-year rate of recession for the glacier.

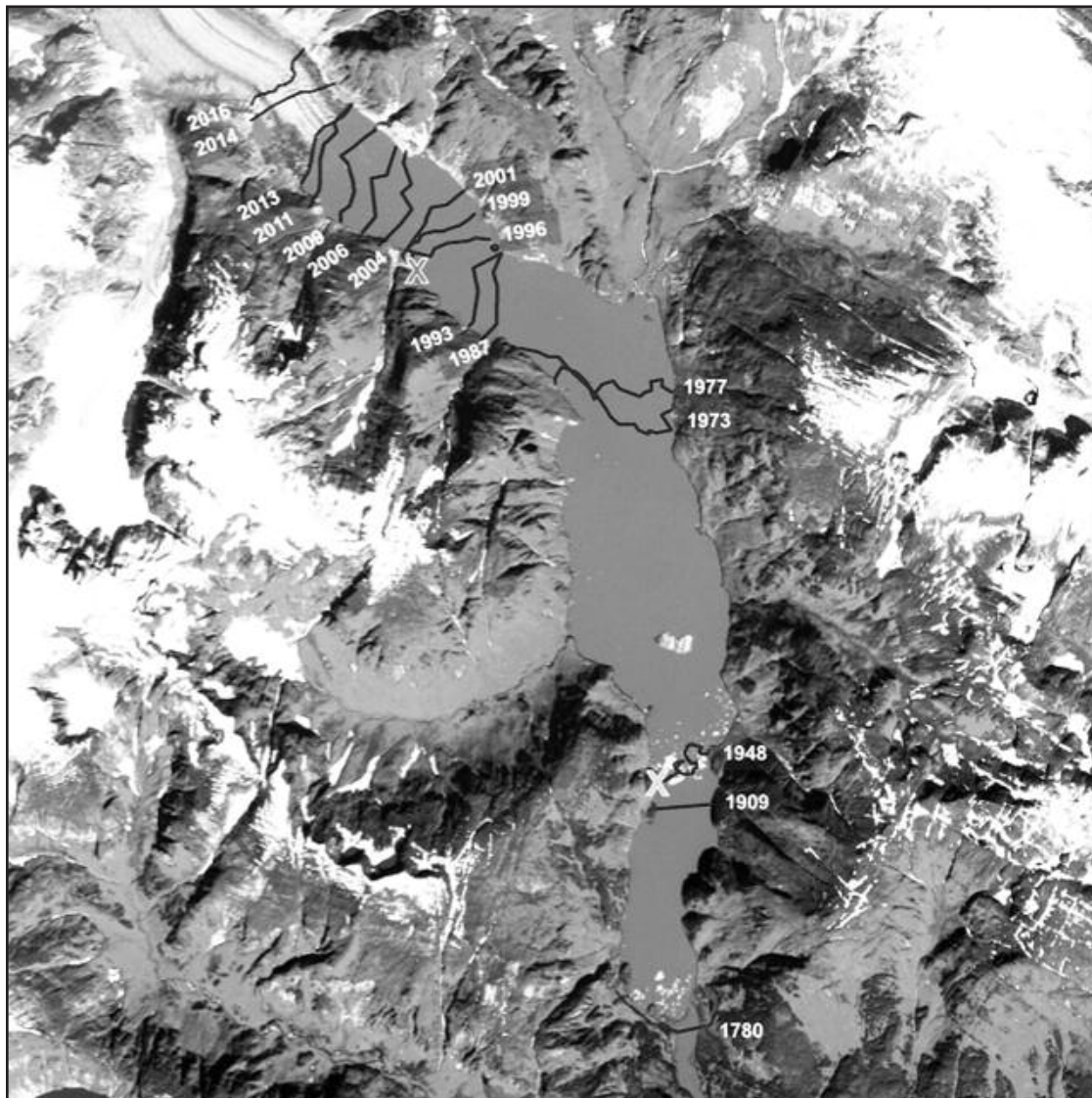
“While a correlation was not found between recession rate and average decadal temperature or glacial lake width, climate and geography may still have an effect,” she wrote in her report. Other factors could be at play, such as the depth and shape of Shakes Lake, the glacial bed slope and glacial lag time.

“There are a lot of things at work there that can obscure any one variable,” she explained.

“These variables might also be affecting ice volume loss, rather than terminus retreat, of Shakes Glacier. It would be necessary to evaluate these factors specifically, which is beyond Shakes Glacier Survey Team’s current capabilities,” Hutten concluded.

In future years, she would like to see the WHS Shakes Glacier Survey Team take measurements of additional variables such as lake depth and terminus height above the lake, which will further research capabilities. A partnership with University of Alaska researchers such as that done with Petersburg High School’s LeConte Glacier Survey Team could also enhance their capabilities, Hutten said.

An explanatory video put together by her classmates was added to the survey team website at <http://whsshakesglaciersurveyteam.weebly.com>. As part of her project Hutten has also arranged to put the glacier data on public display at the high school, school district office, Nolan Center and Wrangell Ranger Station.



SUBMITTED ILLUSTRATION

This false color infrared map overlooking the Shakes Glacier and lake tracks the ice mass’ retreat from the Stikine River over the past three centuries. The arrow at left points out the point where the glacier’s recession began to speed up in 1948. The arrow at right indicates where students at Wrangell High School survey the position of its terminus each fall.

After graduation this year, Hutten plans to attend Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. She may begin studying biology, which could lead her down a medical-related path or could branch out into zoology, Earth sciences— most anything at this point. “We’ll see where it goes. But science is definitely going to be a part of it,” she said.


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