

Volleyball team gets prepared to take on competition, Page 9



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Alaskans will start receiving \$3,284 payout next week

By SEAN MAGUIRE
Anchorage Daily News

Eligible Alaskans will receive a \$3,284 check, which includes the annual Permanent Fund dividend and a one-time energy relief payment, starting Sept. 20.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy announced the exact amount of the payments during a live stream last Thursday at a grocery store in Palmer, highlighting he said why the check is needed to help Alaskans cope with high grocery bills and energy prices.

This year's check breaks down into a dividend amount of \$2,622 per person and an energy relief payment of \$662, the Dunleavy administration confirmed. Alaskans who filed paper applications for the dividend or requested paper checks will receive them starting the week of Oct. 6. Alaskans who chose a direct deposit are set to re-

ceive their payments starting Sept. 20.

The Permanent Fund dividend is typically paid in October, but Dunleavy, who is seeking reelection, said in July that it would start being distributed three weeks early to help Alaskans prepare for the costs of winter.

After a long, drawn-out fight in the state Capitol, the Legislature passed an operating budget in May with the two payments at a combined cost of \$2.1 billion — the single largest expenditure in the state budget. The exact payment amount was determined by the number of people who applied for the dividend.

The Department of Revenue says that 634,000 Alaskans will receive this year's dividend, a slight drop in the number of applicants from a year ago, and down from a high of 644,000 applicants in 2011.

The energy relief payment was appropriated in addition to the dividend to help Alaskans with 40-year-high

inflation and gasoline gas prices, caused partly by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. A similar \$1,200 relief check was paid to Alaskans in 2008 when energy prices were also high.

Since 2016, legislators and governors have determined the dividend amount during the annual budget-making process.

High oil prices have hurt Alaska consumers but helped refill state coffers after more than a decade of deficit spending. However, since Dunleavy signed the budget in June, the projected surplus has shrunk, and the Alaska Department of Revenue has forecast that the state will collect \$1.1 billion less in oil revenue this year and next than it has expected in March.

Alaska North Slope crude prices have fallen 25% since their peak of almost \$128 per barrel in June, down to \$96.27 last Friday.

COVID boosters will soon be available at SEARHC

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

The Wrangell Medical Clinic expects to receive doses of the new COVID booster this week or next, according to Randi Yancey, medical office coordinator at the clinic. Both the Pfizer and Moderna boosters will be available once the shipment arrives.

The bivalent booster provides an immune response that is "broadly protective" against COVID-19, the Delta variant, and the BA.4 and BA.5 lineages of the Omicron variant.

As the original coronavirus has mutated over time, the original vaccine has become less and less effective at preventing infection and symptomatic illness, Dr. Joe McLaughlin, state epidemiologist, told the Anchorage Daily News last week. The original vaccines also have become less effective at preventing more severe illness, "although it's still quite effective at that," he said.

"It's in the pipeline, we should be seeing it in the next two weeks," Dr. Elliot Bruhl, SEARHC senior vice president and chief medical officer, told the Sitka Sentinel. "We're going to provide it at all of our outpatient locations."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized the doses

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Farming the seas



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Kellan Eagle talks about his experiences in commercial fishing last Thursday aboard his father's boat in Heritage Harbor. Eagle is among the next generation of commercial fishermen looking to break into the business by taking advantage of different government programs.

Look to farm programs as models for young fishermen, study says

By YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

Young Alaskans seeking to break into commercial fishing face a lot of the same barriers that confront young farmers in the Lower 48 states, but they have far fewer resources to help overcome those barriers, according to newly published research.

A study by Alaska experts with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration argues that the fishing industry and the communities that depend on fishing

should have support similar to that offered to young farmers.

"The sheer scale, depth, and breadth of programming for beginning farmers makes the comparison to new fisheries entrant programs stark. Yet the lack of a new generation of fishermen poses similar risks to national food security and should be treated with similar urgency," said the study, published in the Journal of Rural Studies.

The aging of Alaska's commercial fish-

ing workforce has been a concern for several years. The phenomenon is widespread enough that there is a catchphrase for it: the "graying of the fleet."

Other coastal states also have problems with an aging fisheries workforce, but the issue is accentuated in Alaska because of the importance of the size and importance of the industry here, said Marysia Szymkowiak of NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center, one of the two authors.

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Supply chain issues, high demand keep hunters scrambling to reload

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Issues with lingering supply chain disruptions that started with the COVID-19 pandemic have put hunters and gun enthusiasts in a bind.

Though there are signs that ammunition shortages are on the decline, stores in Southeast — and nationwide — are still having trouble getting stocked up, leading shooters to go on the hunt for ammo or to create their own.

Last month, Mike White, manager of Sentry Hardware, was still waiting on a \$75,000 ammo order he had placed in

January. He said incoming stock is better than it was a year ago, yet orders are still trickling in. The display case had very little else other than boxes of 9 mm.

The same is true for other retailers in town, such as Angerman's, where owner Jeff Angerman said some calibers have been difficult to get for a couple of years. Before the pandemic, he would have large orders come in every spring and fall.

"Now, I've had ammo orders building for a couple years. I've seen very little," Angerman said. "I recently got some .22 long rifle. I got some .45-70.

The .22 shells have been hard to get for a couple of years. That's starting to build up a little bit ... but now that it's hunting season, the main calibers that people like to use around here, I'm having trouble getting those."

Supply chain problems, including high demand for brass, import restrictions, labor shortages and other issues, have kept ammo manufacturers focusing on one caliber at a time, often churning out mass amounts of one, then switching focus to another.

Remington, a popular ammunition brand, also had pauses in production at

the beginning of the pandemic related to the company filing bankruptcy. Vista Outdoor bought Remington after the bankruptcy and has aimed to pump up manufacturing.

High demand has also led to an increase in costs, with most shells priced at \$2 or more each, Angerman said. Those costs have hunters budgeting and scaling back trips and shooting.

"Before, we could do lots of little hunting trips. Go to Zarembo, go to Prince of Wales ... all the places we like to hunt and a few random spots every year,"

Continued on page 5

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Wednesday, Sept. 14: Mikki Angerman.

Thursday, Sept. 15: Jake Harris, Alana Young.

Friday, Sept. 16: Tessa Appleman, Sarah Scambler; Anniversaries: Steve and Ginny Helgeson, Brian and Yuri McCloskey, Chris and Kristie Weber, Lee and Jennifer Wiederspohn.

Saturday, Sept. 17: Nancy Seimers; Anniversary: Robert and Rynda Hayes.

Sunday, Sept. 18: Derek Angerman, Miah Houston, Nicki Nikodym.

Monday, Sept. 19: Alex Angerman, Mark Galla, Doug Roberts, Lucas Schneider; Anniversary: Tom and Linda Nore.

Tuesday, Sept. 20: Jing O'Brien, Briana Burley Taylor.

Wednesday, Sept. 21: Terry Bunes, Keely Good, Adam Messmer, Jason Rak.

Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, Sept. 15

Pork roast, harvard beets, cauliflower broccoli toss, rice

Friday, Sept. 16

Lemon baked chicken, brussels sprouts, sukiyaki salad, boiled potatoes

Monday, Sept. 19

German meatballs and pasta, beets with orange sauce, tossed salad

Tuesday, Sept. 20

A-1 meatloaf, steamed greens, perfection salad, mashed potatoes and gravy

Wednesday, Sept. 21

Chicken a la king, broccoli, fresh fruit with creamy sauce, 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

Saturday, Sept. 17
Matanuska, 12:45 a.m.
Friday, Sept. 23
Matanuska, 6 p.m.

Southbound

Thursday, Sept. 15
Matanuska, 3:45 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 19
Matanuska, 2 a.m.
Monday, Sept. 26
Matanuska, 7:45 a.m.

As of Monday afternoon, the Alaska Marine Highway System had not yet released its fall/winter schedule that starts Oct. 1.

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
Sept. 15	04:44	14.0	04:45	15.5
Sept. 16	05:31	12.4	05:24	14.3
Sept. 17	06:33	11.1	06:17	13.1
Sept. 18	08:02	10.5	07:37	12.4
Sept. 19	09:32	10.8	09:07	12.5
Sept. 20	10:37	11.7	10:16	13.3
Sept. 21	11:25	12.9	11:10	14.3

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

WRANGELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2023 community birthday scholarship calendar fundraiser is underway. \$5 per listing for an anniversary, birthday or an in-memory-of listing. All proceeds go to scholarships for Wrangell High School graduates. Deadline for listings is Oct. 3. Call 907-874-3901.

WRANGELL SCHOOL BOARD will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, via Zoom. Go to: <https://bit.ly/3AW8D6n>. The meeting ID is 921 3419 8652 and the passcode is 871528. Community members can email comments to kpowell@wpsd.us, or can sign up under guests to be heard at the meeting by emailing the same address before 3:30 p.m. the day of the meeting.

STORY TIME AT THE LIBRARY, 10 to 11 a.m. Fridays starting Oct. 7. Come enjoy the stories, crafts and snacks at the Irene Ingle Public Library. Call 907-874-3535.

DANCE FOR BABIES, TODDLERS and their FAMILIES on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. through Oct. 27. This free activity is hosted by The Salvation Army. Adults must be present. If you are interested in volunteering as a live musician (guitar, piano, etc.) to play some nursery rhymes, call 907-874-3753.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER presents "Three Thousand Years of Longing," rated R, at 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12, for the drama fantasy romance film that runs one hour and 48 minutes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

PARKS and RECREATION 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.

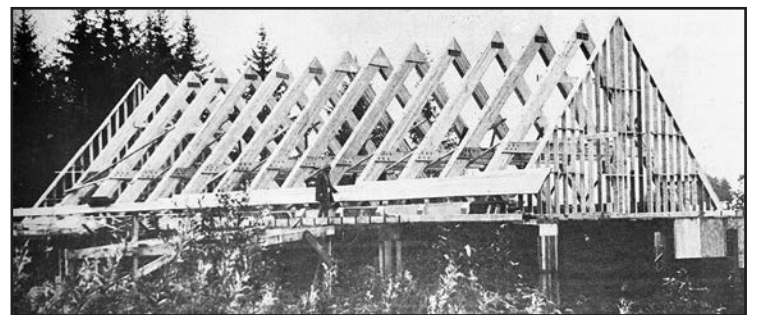
The Way We Were In the Sentinel 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.

Sept. 14, 1922

At the Wrangell Commercial Club weekly luncheon at the Wrangell Hotel last Monday, officers of the Civic Improvement Club were present as guests. A number of worthy projects were discussed, but the one which was taken most seriously was the proposal to utilize the unused patches of soil on Front Street for little flower gardens. It was proposed that the Commercial Club attend to the fencing of these small parcels of ground, and that the ladies of the Civic Improvement Club provide the bulbs and seeds. Mrs. O.C. Palmer, president of the Civic Improvement Club, stated that while she could not speak definitely for her organization, she had not the slightest doubt that the Civic Improvement Club would at all times be found ready to cooperate with the Commercial Club in any efforts to beautify the town, preserve its totems and other relics, as well as to lend its moral support to any effort put forth in the interest of better sanitation.

Sept. 12, 1947

The town council with Mayor



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Workmen hurried in September 1972 to get the roof on the new Salvation Army building under construction on Zimovia Highway. Salvation Army officials from throughout the state were working on the building, along with prime contractor Art Ivy, of Wrangell.

Barnes presiding held a special meeting with the school board tonight to arrange for the operation of the school for the coming year. In addition to the council and mayor, school board chairman Virgil Neyman and School Superintendent George Fabricius were in attendance. Fabricius explained how the school has to pay all bills and then send the vouchers for refundable items, such as teachers' salaries, school supplies and books, to the Territorial Commission of Education office, which refunds the amount spent on such items. He further explained that the school is still due from last year's operation \$6,026 that was payable on June 30, but the territory informs him it will not be able to pay this amount until after Sept. 30. The council, on a motion by member Joyce Hay, voted to advance the school \$5,000 to carry on until the territory's money arrives.

Sept. 15, 1972

A 10% winter reduction in fares has been announced by the Alaska Marine Highway Division, effective Oct. 1 through March 31. The winter rate and vessel schedule was made available last Monday. A state Public Works Depart-

ment spokesman also said that the Wickersham will be the first vessel of the fleet to undergo its annual overhaul this year. It will be placed in drydock Sept. 16 and resume service Nov. 14. An original plan to lay up the big ferry for this winter for economic reasons has been discarded by the state. Meanwhile, representatives of the marine highway are scheduled in Wrangell next Wednesday to discuss planning for future scheduling and routing of ferries with community leaders and officials.

Sept. 11, 1997

At Monday's school board meeting, new middle school administrator Monty Bunes urged that separate lunch times be set for middle and high school students, to ease the burden on local food outlets. Theater groups should be in for a treat this year as a revolving stage is added to the Evergreen Elementary gym. The board agreed to ask the Nolan Foundation for \$4,000 for materials to build the stage, and the JIPA (youth program) has money left over that can be used to help fund the work. The new elementary school principal has volunteered to oversee the project.

Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
Sept. 14	6:19a	7:09p	12:50h
Sept. 15	6:21a	7:06p	12:45h
Sept. 16	6:23a	7:04p	12:40h
Sept. 17	6:25a	7:01p	12:36h
Sept. 18	6:27a	6:58p	12:31h
Sept. 19	6:29a	6:55p	12:26h
Sept. 20	6:31a	6:53p	12:22h

Homeschooling growing in Alaska, not as much for Wrangell students

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Now that in-person school is available, the Wrangell homeschool community has shrunk to roughly pre-pandemic levels, though community awareness of alternative education options has increased.

Homeschool education, which has been growing steadily nationwide since the 1970s, experienced a massive popularity boost in 2020, as families who were dissatisfied with their children's Zoom classes explored other possibilities.

While the percentage of homeschooled children nationwide was holding steady at around 3% before the pandemic, that number rose to 11.1% in the fall of the 2020-2021 school year, according to data from the Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey.

In Alaska, this popularity boost was even greater. The percentage of homeschooling households rose 17.9% throughout the state in 2020, which was the largest increase in the nation, according to the Census report.

Jen Whicker, contact teacher at Personalized Academic Choices in Education, or PACE, believes that online learning during the pandemic has boosted communities' interest in their homeschooling options. She visited Wrangell last month to raise awareness about PACE and check in with her homeschooling families.

PACE is operated by the Craig City School District, providing services to students statewide. It operates mostly with state funding.

Though PACE enrollment has dropped somewhat since pandemic shutdowns ended, its student body is still larger than it was before 2020. "We doubled our enrollment statewide," said Whicker. "Our numbers are still going up."

Whicker supports 12 Wrangell families who are homeschooling their children through PACE. Most of her students, she explained, opt for a combination of homeschool and public school, but she has noticed a shift toward PACE classes as homeschooling becomes more mainstream. "I do have more and more who are just choosing to graduate with PACE since COVID," she said.

The students and families she works with often cite the increased flexibility that homeschooling offers, along with frustrations about the public school system, as reasons for making the switch. At Wrangell High, students often turn toward PACE to help them complete the school's unique senior requirements.

In the aftermath of the pandemic, the population at Wrangell schools has decreased by about 50 students — a 15% drop from 2019. As state funding is based on enrollment, the district this year expects \$474,000 less from the state than the past school year.

According to Kim Powell, the district's executive administrative assistant, most of these students were lost to out-migration as families left town, not homeschooling and correspondence courses.

The district does not keep official data on whether students who leave opt to homeschool or simply move away. However, Powell has maintained a

contact list of the community's homeschool families since March of 2021, when pandemic lockdowns drove many parents to try at-home education. At its peak, the list contained 34 families and has now dropped to "roughly" the same number that were homeschooling pre-pandemic — about 10. She could only think of one family that began homeschooling during the pandemic and did not return.

However, the Wrangell homeschool community appears to have grown stronger and more active. A Facebook group for Wrangell homeschoolers, which was created in 2020, has now grown to 74 members. They share workbooks and other resources with area families who are either considering homeschooling, or are homeschooling already.

The district is somewhat concerned about the impact that a potential homeschool renaissance could have on their finances. "I think it's always a concern," said Powell. But, citing the fact that many pandemic homeschool families had since returned to the district, she added "I don't think it's the main factor."

Bill Burr, district superintendent, also expressed a mixture of apprehension and support for homeschooling. "When our school numbers are down ... we've got to roll back some of the options for students, which really impacts our education," he said. However, he acknowledged that "for some, homeschooling may be the best option. As long as a student is getting an education, for the sake of Wrangell, that's a good thing."

New Muddy Water Adventures 38-foot catamaran adds to tour boat fleet

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

A dream that started eight years ago smoothly sailed into reality in August.

Last month, Muddy Water Adventures introduced the newest addition to its fleet: A 38-foot-long catamaran dubbed "Island Cat." The new boat is the realization of owner Zach Taylor's nearly decade-long dream.

"About eight years ago, I got passed by two of these boats that are smaller than (my new one) in front of town," Taylor said. "I was slogging along in five-foot waves in a jet boat, and they passed me, and the (pilot) had an open cup of coffee in his hand."

Taylor said that moment was an epiphany. "Whatever that is, I need one of those," he said.

After researching, Taylor discovered the double-hulled catamarans have a much smoother ride than single-hulled boats, cementing his decision to get one. He finally placed his order in July 2021 with Brix Marine in Port Angeles, Washington. The aluminum vessel, originally slated to be finished in May this year, was completed a couple months later due to a delay getting outboard controls and electrical panels.

The delay led to Taylor shuffling some tours around and leasing his father's jet boat to fulfill tour obligations with higher passenger counts than his six-passenger jet boat could handle.

Along with a smoother ride, the Island Cat can accommodate 21 passengers, has an onboard bathroom, a small galley, a front deck, back deck, top deck and enclosed cabin for plenty of viewing options, something the passengers on the inaugural trip to Anan



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Muddy Water's Island Cat returns to Wrangell from its inaugural trip on Aug. 23 to Anan Wildlife Observatory. The boat's double hull makes for a smoother ride across the water, while dual 425-horsepower Yamaha outboard motors power the 38-foot boat, which can carry 21 passengers.

Wildlife Observatory took advantage of.

"It was a nice day, so I had people on the top deck, as well," Taylor said. "On the top deck, because it's behind the top house, it's like being on the back deck of a ferry. There's just a little gentle swirling wind back there. They were sitting in the sun, drinking coffee and chatting all the way down to Anan and back."

Another feature Taylor is happy with is the boat's ramp. "We pulled right up to the beach at Anan, dropped the ramp and everybody walked

out."

Taylor's favorite aspect of the boat is how it performs in any type of weather.

"In my jet boat and other jet boats I've driven, if you hit two-foot chop, you're instantly getting beat up. You have to slow way down," he said. "This boat, it actually speeds up when you hit two-foot chop. The ride and performance actually improve if you get a little bit of chop, so that's my favorite part."

And because the catamaran has dual 425-horsepower Yamaha outboard motors, Taylor

said it's much quieter than his jet boat, registering at only 60 decibels (a normal conversation) in the cabin while driving.

The Island Cat is the ninth vessel in the Stikine River Jet Boat Association's member fleet, said SRJBA executive director Caitlin Cardinell. "The

Island Cat has some strong advantages to it that a jet boat can't compete with, so we hope to play to its advantages when it comes to tour offerings."

Beyond tours, Taylor said he hopes to keep the catamaran in service all year as a water taxi, filling the void left by the reduced number of state ferries coming to Wrangell. He cannot pilot the Island Cat up the Stikine, but he can use it for more extensive trips.

"I can go to Banana Point, Coffman Cove, Fort Protection, all the way to Petersburg," Taylor said. "I plan to do a regular taxi service, just like the state ferry used to be, more on a schedule."

Though Taylor would like to have a set travel schedule over the winter, he's not opposed to chartered taxi service on an as-needed basis.

Cardinell said the addition of the catamaran is one of the ways the tour operators who belong to the SRJBA are constantly working to make improvements and create a better experience for passengers.

"SRJBA member companies are always thinking of ways to diversify our boat tour offerings," she said. She hasn't had a chance to take a ride in the Island Cat, but she's "heard from multiple folks who have that it is a very comfortable ride."



Out of respect for our local Stikine River moose hunters, the following member companies of the Stikine River Jet Boat Association will NOT be operating jet boat tours on the Stikine River for any cruise ship days after September 13.

Happy Hunting!

Alaska Waters • Alaska Peak & Seas
Summit Charters • Alaska Charters & Adventures
Muddy Water Adventures

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

My job with the Sentinel will not change

BY LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

Starting this week, I will be working as a policy adviser to Mary Peltola, Alaska's newly elected congresswoman. I hadn't planned on it, but she asked and I accepted. Fortunately, I saved my suits from when I worked in Washington, D.C., for the state and federal governments a decade ago.

I'll be advising Peltola on oil and gas and other energy issues, natural resources, tax, fiscal, transportation, federal agency issues and whatever else is on the work list for Alaska as she fills out the rest of the late Rep. Don Young's House term until January.

While all of that is important to Alaska, and to the rest of the country, it does not diminish my commitment to maintaining the Wrangell Sentinel as the best possible newspaper for the community. Though four hours away on the East Coast for the next several weeks, I will continue to help edit and direct the Sentinel, working with the solid staff of Amber Armstrong-Hillberry, Marc Lutz and Caroleine James. They run the paper, I just help.

Admittedly, it's unusual for a congressional staffer to own a newspaper, much less work on it each week. But I have long taken pride in making the unusual work out.

To avoid conflicts, I intend to restrict my Sentinel work to helping to edit, proofread and guide the paper — and ensure that Amber always has enough money in the account to cover the bills. It's important to me that the Sentinel continue to grow and improve and, hopefully, someday reach breakeven, and I promise that my new job will not change that commitment.

But journalistic ethics are important, and I want readers to trust what they read and not

question the Sentinel's motives. To protect that trust, I will not write anything for the Sentinel about Peltola or the other candidates in the Nov. 8 general election for a full two-year term in the U.S. House, nor will I write anything about Alaska's two U.S. senators or the rest of Congress. If any of those elected officials or candidates make news, the Sentinel will rely on its other writers, The Associated Press or other impartial news organizations to write the stories — not me.

My bright line to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest will extend from the news pages to the opinion page. I will not write any editorials or columns about Peltola or other candidates for the office. Nor will I write opinion pieces about any of the issues I will be working on while a member of her staff.

Yes, this is all pretty unusual, and will require diligence on my part, and by the rest of the staff, to ensure that I keep my federal opinions and conflicts to myself and not let them creep into the Sentinel. But I

believe we can do it.

The point is that my new role in the nation's capital will not affect my effort to help Marc and Caroleine report on the borough assembly, school board, Wrangell's businesses and people and community events. Nor will it get in the way of working with Amber to proofread the obituaries, community calendar and all the other work she does to keep the operation functioning smoothly.

I've had a lot of different jobs over the decades, and now I have the luxury of two great jobs at the same time: Serving as a congressional staffer to Alaska's newest member of the 233-year-old U.S. House, and publisher of the 119-year-old Wrangell Sentinel.

“Admittedly, it's unusual for a congressional staffer to own a newspaper, much less work on it each week. But I have long taken pride in making the unusual work out.”

EDITORIAL

Big state payout depends on oil prices

Alaskans this week will start receiving their \$3,284 payout from the state treasury, a combination of a large Permanent Fund dividend (\$2,622) and a one-time bonus (\$662) to help people pay higher energy costs.

The payment is almost triple the size of last year's dividend.

Two reasons for the generosity: This is an election year, and oil prices for the state fiscal year that ended June 30 were almost 70% higher than the previous year, generating more than \$2 billion in additional dollars for the state general fund. That fund pays for schools, roads, airports, the university, state troopers and courts — and the annual dividend.

It's important as Alaskans receive this month's \$3,284 payout that they understand it's all one checkbook. Spend a dollar more on the dividend and something or someone else gives up that dollar. And while available Permanent Fund earnings over time should hold pretty stable, averaging out between good and bad investment years, oil revenues to the state general fund can bounce wildly between fat and lean based on world politics, the economy and factors far, far outside of Alaska's control.

And though Alaska cannot control oil markets, it has to deal with the consequences when those prices head down.

This fall's \$3,284 payout totals almost \$2.1 billion — by far

the single largest expenditure in this year's state budget. Legislators approved that spending plan, and the governor signed the budget, when a barrel of Alaska North Slope crude was selling in the \$110s this spring, as high as \$127.77 on June 8. Fears of deep cuts to Russian oil production and global market turmoil drove up prices.

Then it all changed. Russia has been able to maintain production. Meanwhile, global demand is weaker than expected as recession fears loom.

Alaska crude ended last week at \$96.27, after dropping under \$92 a barrel on Sept. 7, a fall of 25% from the peak just three months earlier.

No one knows the price of oil in the future, but investors bet on it in publicly traded markets. Those futures prices look to be in the low \$90s in the current fiscal year, sliding into the mid-\$80s the next year as investors worry about falling demand for crude amid the risk of a global recession.

This year's state budget can afford to write those \$3,284 checks to Alaskans and pay for everything else so long as oil averages \$87 or better for the entire fiscal year. Anything below \$87 would leave a budget hole. That would require a three-quarters vote of both the House and Senate when they convene in January to once again draw from the state's budget reserve fund, which held just \$1 billion as of Aug. 31, to cover the immediate deficit.

Which means for the next year, if oil stays in the \$80s, or below, something has to give. Either school funding and public services, or new taxes, or a smaller dividend. It's just math.

— Wrangell Sentinel

GUEST OPINION

Rewriting state constitution could impede economic development

BY FRANK H. MURKOWSKI

As a conservative, I subscribe to the principle to leave alone things in government that are working well. We have enough important things that need to change, like high inflation, the Biden administration's efforts to close down ANWR and reimpose the roadless rule on the Tongass.

Alaska's original constitution is one of the things in government that is working well and should be left alone. Article XIII, Section 4 gives voters the opportunity every 10 years to vote on whether Alaska should hold a constitutional convention. Alaska voters have wisely turned it down by large margins in 1972, 1982, 1992, 2002 and 2012. We Alaskans should turn it down when the question is on the ballot again this year.

I oppose a constitutional convention because it is not needed. Alaska's constitutional convention delegates drafted one of the strongest state constitutions in the nation. If a need arises to change our constitution, Article 13, Section 1 provides a demonstrably workable mechanism for doing so, including ratification by a public vote. This amendment process has been used 40 times, 28 times successfully, and it was how the Permanent Fund was created.

I oppose a constitutional convention because proponents' reasons for holding one now would be so different from the reasons for the constitutional convention held in Fairbanks in 1955. In that case, the Alaska delegates had a common purpose

— to convince Congress that Alaska was mature enough and would have a strong enough government to be a state. This time, delegates would have significantly different competing interests, many of which would be divisive and not in the state's best interest.

For example, had the 2020 oil tax initiative passed, it would have been the fourth change in oil taxes in 14 years. In addition, we have had two votes on changing Alaska's oil tax laws over the past 12 years. This has caused the oil industry or others to see Alaska as an unstable place to do business.

As a matter of economics, adding to the tax burden of the oil industry will cause it to invest less in Alaska. Less investment means less production. Less production means less revenue to the state.

Nevertheless, those who seek to raise oil and gas taxes will surely try to increase such taxes at a constitutional convention if given the opportunity.

I have the same concern regarding mining. For example, the Stand for Salmon initiative in 2018 would have made the development of mines, roads, wastewater treatment plants, dams, ports and other infrastructure impossible or cost-prohibitive, particularly in rural Alaska. Such continuous efforts, along with serial litigation against mining and the high cost of doing business in Alaska, have resulted in Alaska having only five metals mines and one coal mine, notwithstanding our abundant mineral resources.

I oppose a constitutional convention because delegates would have plenary power to change the constitution in ways that would surely result in unpredictable and unintended consequences. Because the Alaska constitution will be such an open-ended target, we can count on the infusion of outside special-interest funding seeking to influence the election of delegates to promote their agendas. Although the Stand for Salmon Initiative failed, similar provisions could be included in the constitution if a convention were held.

Changes in the constitution will cause what is now settled law to be relitigated, thereby creating years of economic, legal and regulatory uncertainty in the business community. This in turn will inhibit or prevent investment in Alaska industries.

Moreover, principles of constitutional law related to our natural resources important to the public will be up for grabs. These include common use, equal access, sustained yield, access to fisheries, mineral and water rights, and access to navigable waters.

There are many reasons not to vote for a constitutional convention, but my main concern is the potential roadblocks it would cause in maintaining and developing our resource industries, and instability it would cause our economy.

Frank H. Murkowski is a former U.S. senator (1981-2002) and Alaska governor (2002-2006).

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MAGA supporters came too close in their effort to overturn a fair election

The first time I saw one of those red MAGA hats, a friend of mine was wearing it. I was surprised that a fellow honorably discharged vet would see America as no longer great. I chalked it up to his deep-seated hatred of Obama.

We have watched the MAGA version of Republicanism, Americanism and patriotism for years, and finally we saw the MAGA version of democracy on Jan. 6, 2021, when they tried to overturn a free and fair election and install a fascist dictator.

They failed but they came far too close for comfort.

John Morse

Oldest continuously published paper in Alaska

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Booster

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for distribution on Aug. 31.

The Pfizer booster has been approved for individuals 12 years of age or older, while the Moderna booster has been approved for individuals 18 years of age or older, according to a recent FDA press release. The boosters are available at no cost anyone in the United States who meets these age requirements, regardless of health insurance or immigration status. People have to wait two months after receiving a booster or COVID vaccination before they are eligible to get the newest booster.

To schedule a vaccine appointment, call the Wrangell Medical front desk at (907) 874-7000.

Eligible individuals can also sign up using the registration form on the SEARHC website at searhc.org/covid-19.

Last week, the BA.5 Omicron variant made up 88.7% of new COVID cases nationwide while BA.4 and BA.4.6 made up about 11%, according to CDC data published on Aug. 26. The new booster targets these specific strains.

The Wrangell community level of COVID-19 infections was medium as of last Thursday, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that high-risk individuals mask indoors.

The state health department in its weekly update Sept. 7 reported 121 cases of COVID in Wrangell in the past 60 days, though just 21 new infections in the past 30 days. At-home test results are not included in those numbers.

In his interview with the Sitka Sentinel, Bruhl also emphasized the importance of staying up-to-date on seasonal flu vaccinations in addition to receiving COVID-19 boosters. "Those are just as important if not more important," he said.

The seasonal flu causes "millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations, and tens of thousands of deaths every year in the United States," according to CDC estimates.

Young fishermen

Continued from page 1

"Seafood is our number one private-sector employer in Alaska, that makes the potential lack of generational turnover a very big deal for our state," Szymkowiak said by email. There is actually an ongoing bump in young people entering the fishing business in Alaska, but because of high costs, "they need help to diversify, scale up, and be able to succeed, which is why we wrote this paper. That kind of help exists for farmers and has for a long time. Let's take that example and help our young fishermen in a similar fashion," she said.

There is a long list of farming-assistance programs that could be used as models for assisting young fishermen, she said.

For example, there are 349 training programs across the nation to help young farmers enter or thrive in agriculture, but only 14 such training programs in the nation to help young fishermen, the study noted.

In Wrangell, some younger fishermen are looking to use those programs to break into the commercial fishing business. Kellan Eagle, 21, is one such example. He took advantage of the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association's training offered through the high school. It was a 10-hour course that gave participants a basic deckhand background, something Eagle said he would look for in crew applicants once he captains his own fishing vessel.

That's not the only program Eagle is taking advantage of.

"Right now, I'm going through the process of applying for a loan through the state," Eagle said. "They've got a great program that has low interest rates, specifically designed for fishermen who can't get loans at other places. I qualify through some of their statutes that say you have to have fished in Alaska for five years. I don't have to go to a normal bank and get a higher interest rate loan."

The money gap is also huge. While the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2021 provided \$17.5 million for its Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program and \$7.2 billion in Farm Service Administration ownership and

operations loans, NOAA provided \$2 million in funds through the Young Fishermen's Development Act, a bill sponsored by the late Rep. Don Young of Alaska, and \$124 million in its fisheries finance loan program.

The NOAA study offers policy recommendations for easing younger people's participation in commercial fisheries. Those include a national census for fisheries participation, such as that which exists for farmers; development of a targeted program similar to the Department of Agriculture's Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program; expanded availability of insurance programs; and development of comprehensive low-interest loan programs similar to those provided by the Farm Service Agency.

Within Alaska, difficulties encountered by young fishermen have been attributed in part to changes in fishery management.

A 2017 report by Alaska Sea Grant, a statewide education and research program headquartered at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, traced the increase in problems to the transitions of several Alaska fisheries from being open-access harvests, in which anyone could participate, to limited-entry harvests in which participants were required to hold quotas. That report, titled "Turning the Tide," described both an increase in the average age of quota- and permit-holding fishermen and a decrease in the percentage of those quotas or permits that were held locally.

In 1975, according to the report, fishermen 40 and younger held about half of rural local permits, the report said. By 2016, the typical Alaska fisherman was over 50 years old, and the number of locally held commercial fishing permits in rural areas had dropped by over 30%, according to the report.

Wrangell-based commercial fisherman Mike Lockabey, 34, said he believes there are about 10 to 20 younger commercial fishermen locally. He entered the business when he bought his first permit at 16 years old. He fishes all of Southeast, but he also crabs for Dungeness in Washington state and harvests shrimp in Oregon.

Lockabey said the fisheries in the Pacific Northwest are far less restrictive

than Southeast. "There's so much opportunity. Everything is open," he said. "They regulate on how much the fishery can hold."

More than lack of money or difficulties with management systems inhibit fisheries participation by younger entrants, Szymkowiak said.

She has heard from many older fishermen who say they are discouraging their children from carrying on in the industry because of a transforming ecosystem.

"They don't see the same future in it that they were afforded. That's not just about permit prices and the costs of fishing more generally but the unknowns posed by climate change which has really started to take its toll across Alaska's fisheries," she said.

That hasn't been the case for Eagle, whose father, Brennon, has encouraged him to "reach for more" in pursuing a career, even if it's in fishing. The elder Eagle has encouraged his son to explore other areas outside of Wrangell for fishing.

"He just recognizes the volatility of fishing," Kellan Eagle said. "Some years are absolutely amazing, and people get paid more than they should. And some years are really tough. ... So, he's pushed me to have more in my repertoire than fishing, but he's never pushed me away from fishing."

Beyond the guidance or dissuasion from the older fishermen, other problems make commercial fishing more and more difficult every year, Lockabey said. His season was cut short due to a blown engine. Since parts are hard to find, he's had to look at buying a new engine, which will cost around \$65,000 for the engine and \$20,000 for the computer system.

"The cost of doing business is getting extremely high," he said. "Our fish prices are the same as they were 25 years ago. Hourly wages have gone from \$50 and \$60 an hour up to \$105 for help that has no idea what they're doing and \$150 for help that knows what they're doing. I don't know how we can keep up with that."

Sentinel editor Marc Lutz contributed to this report.

Ammo shortage

Continued from page 1

said Nic Martin, owner of Nic's Pizza and an avid hunter since childhood. "Now, it's like \$900 or \$600 just in fuel, plus ammo, plus all the different amenities you want to take. ... Every time you squeeze the trigger, there's \$2."

Martin said he is currently stocked up with the various calibers he uses, such as a 6.5 Creedmoor and .300 WinMag. But it's taken some doing to get there.

"I was down to half a box," he said. "There's not sighting your gun, playing around with it, getting comfortable with it. You always like to run a box of shells through your gun before every hunting season just to get a little practice and dial it back in. Shells are upwards of like \$75 a box, which is absolutely insane."

During a recent road trip across the Lower 48, Martin stopped at as many sporting goods stores and pawnshops to find ammo. He's also had friends in different communities like Sitka and Craig keeping an eye out for the calibers he shoots with.

In Petersburg, at Hammer & Wikan, the cases appear well-stocked, but even with increased buying power, the store has had difficulty in obtaining more popular calibers.

"We are still struggling to get ammo," said Jim Floyd, general manager of Hammer & Wikan. "Currently, we have a little shotgun ammo, we have plenty of 9 mm, .556, .223 and .308. Anything else is hit or miss. We put significant orders in last

year and it trickles in."

The department store belongs to a worldwide buying group which attends gun shows twice a year, Floyd said. At those shows, the group buys directly from manufacturers, but even then, he said they still have outstanding orders. "There has been a 100%

increase in demand for guns and ammo," he said. "We are still a little store competing against larger corporate stores that get priority."

Ammunition shortages have led some, like Martin, to reload their own shells. That comes with its own set of challenges, as primers, plastic and powders are

just as hard to come by as ammo.

"I talked to somebody the other day and gun range is cleaner than ever because everyone picks up their brass," White said.

Sentry currently limits the amount of ammo each customer can buy, which is typically the case for most stores, but Anger-

man's doesn't limit sales since it hasn't been an issue lately.

"Right now, I'm not (limiting sales)," Angerman said. "If you only get 10 boxes of a certain caliber that's a popular hunting caliber, and one guy comes in and buys it all, OK, I sold my ammo, but I didn't help satisfy my customers' needs."

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Cultural, climate stress can affect Native communities, speaker says

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel Reporter

The blood-type diets and elaborate self-care routines of the wellness industry offer an individualized view of health, where sicknesses and cures begin and end within a single person's body. However, for Meda DeWitt, Tlingit traditional healer, wellness is intrinsically linked to community.

DeWitt began her presentation at the Sharing Our Knowledge conference in Wrangell last Friday with a discussion of intergenerational health. "Prolonged exposure to stress changes the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of a person," she explained, and the impacts of stress can be passed down through the generations via genetic markers.

For Alaska Natives, she said, colonization and climate change are major sources of stress that can affect the health of entire

communities.

According to the research DeWitt presented, the children of colonized people are at higher risk for auto-immune diseases and allergies. The effects of climate change, particularly on coastal communities, adds to their stress and can lead to bad health outcomes. But while DeWitt outlined the challenges facing Alaska Natives' wellness, her remarks also celebrated the resilience of Tlingit people and presented a path forward through collective action and traditional healing.

Cold water baths, meditation, humming and chanting, socializing with extended family — these traditional practices all help to tone the vagus nerve, which helps the body calm down faster after stress. "As we are revitalizing our culture, these systems are being rebuilt," she said.

Some practitioners argue that they don't need Western medicine and research practices to substantiate traditional meth-

ods, but DeWitt believes the two schools of thought should coexist. Traditional and Western medicine both contribute to the overall "body of knowledge."

"I don't think Western medicine is better," she added.

DeWitt, whose heritage goes back to the Naanyaa.aayi clan in Wrangell, now lives in Anchorage.

The second half of DeWitt's presentation focused on the various medicinal uses of Southeast Alaska plants. Valerian root can reduce anxiety, relieve muscles and help insomniacs achieve a good night's sleep. Also known as "nature's Valium," the herb has a natural sedative effect. In moments of marital discord, Tlingit couples were encouraged to drink a cup of valerian tea as they worked through their disagreements. Sipping on the warm, calming beverage would lead to a more productive discussion.

Devil's club, which contains ginseng,

has the opposite effect — the plant's energizing properties make it a perfect complement to valerian. "I almost think of them as marriage partners because they balance each other," said DeWitt.

Fireweed has a wide variety of benefits, from improving eyesight to helping people through the symptoms of seasonal affective disorder. The inside of the stalk can also be used to sweeten foods and beverages.

Yarrow can help with nerve pain and elderberries can boost the immune system, though DeWitt pointed out that their seeds must be strained out before consumption, since they are poisonous. She recommends that would-be foragers enlist the help of a more experienced guide before collecting plants for medicinal use, both to avoid accidental poisoning and to show respect to the land. "Every single plant we have has protocols for engagement," she said.

Master carver Steve Brown shares knowledge of totem poles' history and art

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

When Steve Brown, researcher and master carver, looks at totem poles, he sees details: the quality of the formline design, the subtle curves around a jaw, lip or eyelid, the amount and placement of any weathering or decay, the tiny, intricate figures hiding behind a bear's ear or sitting on its shoulder, and the composition's place within the continuum of Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian art history.

Last Thursday, Brown visited Wrangell to present his research on the island's totem poles as part of the Sharing Our Knowledge conference. His lecture featured an in-depth visual presentation, filled with historical and contemporary photographs of notable objects. He analyzed artworks' visual features and explained how he uses old images and sketches to date and attribute various works.

Totem poles' style has changed over time, Brown explained, noting how earlier poles typically featured a carved figure atop a bare wooden shaft. "The whole reason was to elevate the clan crest," he said. "For the same reason that churches have steeples."

Dating a totem pole is not always a simple feat, since different compositions and wood types weather differently, and each artists' style changes over time. A horizontal pole, Brown explained, decays faster than a vertical one since water can enter the top, allowing plants to grow. He showed a picture of Wrangell's horizontal Bear Up a Mountain pole to illustrate this point. In later photos,

the bear is covered in a thick layer of foliage.

Brown also explored the works and lives of influential Wrangell carvers, particularly Kadjisdu.axch, whose career lasted from about 1770 to 1810. Tlingit scholar Louis Shortridge described Kadjisdu.axch as "the greatest carver of wood in the history of the Tlingit people," but not many facts about the artist's life were recorded.

Anthropologists studying the Tlingit in the 19th century and much of the 20th century tended to focus on language and kinship structures, while overlooking the identities, histories and unique carving styles of individual master artists. Christian missionaries often destroyed these carver's works, believing poles to be religious idols rather than crests. Brown's research has sought to connect carvings with the artists who created them.

Kadjisdu.axch was likely a nobleman, since Tlingit carvers were usually members of the aristocratic class. His work is admired to this day; in 2019, a rattle attributed to Kadjisdu.axch, which was just over a foot long, sold for \$500,000.

Brown also showed works by Yiika.aas (William Ukas) and his son, Tom Ukas. Both men were prominent Wrangell carvers, though Brown felt that the quality of the father's line work made his carvings superior to his son's. Some scholars have contested claims like these — archivist Zachary Jones suggests that the aesthetic qualities of Tlingit objects may be less important than their ceremonial functionality.

In his Thursday talk, Brown also discussed common mis-

conceptions about Southeast Alaska Native art, including the idea that the rings that often appear atop carved whale hats are "potlach rings." Since these rings are integral to the structure of the hat, the number could not change over time, he explained, though they may in-

dicate how often the object had been reproduced by another generation of carvers.

Brown has a longstanding relationship with the Wrangell, since much of his scholarship centers around Wrangell's artistic history. In 2013, he played an important role in the Chief

Shakes Tribal House renovation project when, alongside carvers Linda Churchill and Susie Kasinger, he created a new bear screen for the tribal house entrance. His bear screen was a copy of an earlier work, which is currently housed in the Denver Art Museum.

SAMPLE BALLOT

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
SAMPLE BALLOT
REGULAR ELECTION
OCTOBER 4, 2022

Instructions:
 To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice like this: ●
 Use a blue or black ink pen to mark your ballot. NO RED INK. If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.
 To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, fill in the oval and print the person's name on the blank line provided for a write-in candidate.

BOROUGH MAYOR TWO YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE	ASSEMBLY MEMBER THREE YEAR TERMS VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN TWO
<input type="radio"/> TERRY COURSON <input type="radio"/> PATRICIA GILBERT <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	<input type="radio"/> ALEX ANGERMAN <input type="radio"/> DAVID POWELL <input type="radio"/> BRITTANI ROBBINS <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN
SCHOOL BOARD THREE YEAR TERMS VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN TWO	SCHOOL BOARD UNEXPIRED ONE YEAR TERM UNTIL OCTOBER 2023 VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE
<input type="radio"/> ELIZABETH ROUNDTREE <input type="radio"/> DAVID G. WILSON <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	<input type="radio"/> ESTHER ASHTON <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN
PORT COMMISSION THREE YEAR TERMS VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN TWO	
<input type="radio"/> WINSTON J. DAVIES <input type="radio"/> JOHN A. YEAGER <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	

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Ferry system will stop charging more when ships at full capacity

Sentinel staff

Three years after adopting a pricing plan that adds a surcharge for passenger, vehicle and stateroom fares on popular sailings, the Alaska Marine Highway System has decided to suspend the program for its fall/winter schedule.

The ferry system's "dynamic pricing" added 5% to 50% to ticket prices, depending on the percentage of a ship's capacity already booked — similar to airlines raising prices as flights fill up.

The Alaska Department of Transportation announced the decision last Friday to suspend the surcharges.

"Dynamic pricing works when we can offer passengers the ability to plan ahead to take advantage of lower prices," said John Falvey, Alaska Marine Highway System general manager. "Returning to flat rates will provide relief to our customers as we work to improve."

Planning ahead for fall/winter ferry reservations is running late this year. The timetable kicks in Oct. 1, and the ferry system said it plans to announce the schedule this week. Until then, the sailings are not open for reservations.

The draft fall/winter schedule went out for public comment last month. The final timetable will include changes "reflecting feedback the department heard from Alaskans," the department said in last week's announcement.

Wrangell would get pretty much the same service it has in recent years under the draft

schedule — one stop in each direction per week, October through April. A state ferry would stop in town northbound each week on Friday, then come back on its southbound run every Monday, according to the draft schedule.

However, the draft included service gaps for Cook Inlet and Gulf of Alaska communities of Homer, Seldovia and Kodiak, which would receive no service after the first week of January through early March. Prince William Sound communities of Whittier, Cordova and Valdez would be without ferry service October and November.

In addition to suspending dynamic pricing this winter, the department last week announced it is launching a new program that it calls, "Charting the Course Toward Thriving Communities: Reimagining AMHS Program to Restore Reliability."

"Coastal communities will see more transparency, flat rates and increased communication," the department said, as it "moves toward improving marine highway service reliability."

"I want Alaskans to know that we are listening and making adjustments based on what we hear," Transportation Commissioner Ryan Anderson said in the announcement. "We are working to restore AMHS service to pre-pandemic levels, but it will take time and require us to work closely with our coastal communities to ensure the long-term health of the ferry system."

Harbor Department takes apart and sends 5 derelict boats to landfill

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

It only took one week in mid-August to demolish five vessels that were impounded by the harbormaster over the course of 10 years.

Typically, the number of impounded vessels to be destroyed and shipped out isn't so high, but the demolition funds weren't in the budget and the vessels had to wait, said Harbormaster Steve Miller.

Since taking the helm two years ago, Miller has "been adding more and more money into our derelict vessel fund because also that money isn't used for crushing boats and shipping them out," he said. "It's also in case there's an emergency and one sinks and we have to raise it ... somebody has to pay for that."

The vessels had to be cleaned out and cleared of any oils, fuels or other contaminants before being torn apart. Harbor workers had to take extra time and effort, while contractors with specialized tools were brought in for trickier dismantling. Costs averaged about \$1,000 per vessel, which doesn't include shipping them to Republic Services in eastern Washington state along with Wrangell's other trash for disposal in an approved landfill.

Miller said there weren't any challenges from the owners of the vessels, since many were "long gone." Reasons for impounding usually come down to nonpayment of storage fees, a vessel becomes derelict or a nuisance, or it begins to sink and the owner doesn't want to take care of it. "We basically have to jump on it," Miller said. "We do an impound because somebody has to have control of the vessel at that point."

The removal of some of the vessels being kept in storage also freed up needed space in the Marine Service Center.

Due to previous language in the borough's impound ordinance, the harbormaster's office couldn't recoup the fees associated with demolition and shipping. A new ordinance passed in April "will allow us to strengthen the cost of the harbors, so now we can go after vessel owners when they don't want to step up to the plate and do what's right."

The vessels that were recently demolished ranged in size from 22 feet to 47 feet long and were all fiberglass builds. Miller said only about one vessel is impounded every year, give or take.

"There may be a few people seeing some bills coming out of this once I get the total tally," Miller said.

Boarding school panelists talk of maintaining cultural strength

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Last Saturday at the Sharing Our Knowledge Conference, a "Break the Silence" panel discussion highlighted a wide range of perspectives on and experiences with Alaska Native boarding schools.

Some panelists identified with the term "boarding school survivor;" others did not. Some lost their language while attending a church- or government-run institution; others did not. Even the act of recounting boarding school experiences, while healing for some, was exhausting for others.

"We have different experiences. We're different people," said panelist Barbara Hobbs, of the Teslin Tlingit Council in Canada's Yukon Territory. "We come together on where we are today and where we'd like to go."

Hobbs expressed the desire to move on from past traumas, and her remarks focused on the future of Alaska Native culture and education, rather than her personal experiences at boarding school. "We've been traumatized enough," she told the Nolan Center audience. "We do not want to go back and regurgitate all those stories."

Hobbs also stressed the importance of culturally informed education, which she uses in her classroom as a curriculum developer for the Yukon government. Alaska Native and First Nations children should be taught to be proud of who they are, she explained, and described how she used snowshoe-making activities to teach students both science and spirituality.

Panelist Sophie Jenkins, a social worker with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp., spoke about the importance of education within the family. Families, she suggested, need to

prepare their children for life's challenges, particularly mental health struggles such as depression. Members of her family were instrumental in getting an alcohol treatment center opened in Bethel.

"My ancestors are very strong people, I believe them now," she said, and wants to assure that "our grandchildren take after us."

Panelist Bob Sam, a tribal council member of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, closed the discussion with a message that expressed both great joy and deep sorrow. Sam has dedicated his life to conserving and restoring Alaska Native cemeteries. His mission is to return the bodies of children who died in boarding schools to their lineal descendants.


"Many of these children died 100 years ago," he said. "But to our people here in Alaska, 100 years ago is just like yesterday."

Because of the massive scope of his project, Sam recognizes the need for a collective effort. He plans to teach his nephew about his work and encouraged the audience members and community to get involved. "It's together that we're going to bring them home," he said. "No one person can hold this pain."

Sam also shared the excitement he feels seeing the recent "renaissance" of Tlingit language, culture and education. For him, the value of young people learning their language and traditions is immeasurable — "there's no money you can put on that," he said.

At the conclusion of the discussion, buses transported the speakers and audience to Shoemaker Bay, near the site of the former Wrangell Institute, for a healing ceremony. The federally operated boarding school operated 1932 to 1975. The borough now owns the property.

SAMPLE BALLOT



PROPOSITION NO. 1
Ratification of Ordinance 1029

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR MAJOR RENOVATION OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Shall the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, incur debt and issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed Three Million Five Hundred Thousand dollars (\$3,500,000) for the purpose of paying the costs of construction of major renovation of the middle school, high school, and elementary school, and related capital improvements? The bonds shall be secured by a pledge of the full faith and credit of the Borough (Ordinance No. 1029).

The \$3,500,000 general obligation bonds for major renovation of the high school, middle school and elementary school will **not** require an increase to calendar year 2023 property taxes.

Yes A "YES" vote approves the issuance of bonds.

No A "NO" vote opposes the issuance of bonds.

PROPOSITION NO. 2
Ratification of Ordinance 1030

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR MAJOR RENOVATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Shall the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, incur debt and issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed Eight Million Five Hundred Thousand dollars (\$8,500,000) for the purpose of paying the costs of construction of major renovation of the public safety building and related capital improvements? The bonds shall be secured by a pledge of the full faith and credit of the Borough (Ordinance No. 1030).

This bond will require an estimated 1.12 mill increase to make the annual debt service payment. The approximate amount of taxes that would be levied annually on \$100,000 in assessed value to retire this debt over a 20-year period are as follows:

Estimated Annual Tax Amount on \$100,000 of Assessment:	\$112.32
Mill Rate in 2022:	12.75 mills
Estimated Mill Rate with Public Safety Building Bond:	13.87 mills

The estimates above are based on current market conditions. Actual costs will not be known until bonds are actually sold and annual assessments certified each year.

Yes A "YES" vote approves the issuance of bonds.

No A "NO" vote opposes the issuance of bonds.

PROPOSITION NO. 3
Ratification of Ordinance 1031

Section 5-14 of the Borough Charter and Section 5.10.035(A) of the Wrangell Municipal Code requires that any ordinance which provides for "the sale or lease of any Borough property, real or personal, or the sale or lease or other disposal of any interest therein, the value of which property, lease or interest is more than \$1 Million," be ratified by a majority of voters who vote on the question. Ordinance 1031, enacted by the Assembly on August 23, 2022, provides authority to the Borough Manager to be responsible for the administration of the 6-Mile-Deep Water Industrial Site (former Mill Site Property) Economic Development Project which shall include the disposition of the property, to be sold and/or leased according to an approved Economic Development Project plan. The value of the 6-Mile-Deep Water Industrial Site is approximately \$2.5 Million Dollars. Shall Ordinance 1031 be ratified?


A "YES" vote approves selling and/or leasing the 6-Mile Zimovia Highway Industrial Site (former Mill Site Property).

A "NO" vote opposes selling and/or leasing the 6-Mile Zimovia Highway Industrial Site (former Mill Site Property).

YES

NO

TURN BALLOT OVER - VOTE BOTH SIDES



Karen Martin-Webster dies at 69

Karen Martin-Webster "Bubbles," 69, passed away on Aug. 26.

Karen was born March 11, 1953. She moved to Wrangell in the late 1970s and lived there through the 1980s, when she decided to move to Petersburg to work at Petersburg Fisheries. She and husband, Darrell Webster, moved south for a few years to be near her mom and then moved back to Wrangell in 2015. They lived in Wrangell until January 2022.

Karen worked as a bartender, dogcatcher, dispatcher, worked pulling lumber on the green chain in a sawmill, and her last job was working for Petersburg Fisheries fish cannery.

"She said she was the 'Queen of the Silver Dollar,' and her husband found her, won her and brought her to this world. They had 22 loving years to-



KAREN MARTIN-WEBSTER

gether. She will be missed," her family wrote.

She is survived by her mother, her husband, daughter, grandson, two brothers, two nephews, one great-nephew and many friends.

Former resident Dylan Wyatt Kirschner dies at 26

Dylan Wyatt Kirschner, 26, passed away on Aug. 26 "after a brief but courageous battle with cancer," his family wrote.

Dylan was born on Feb. 16, 1996, in Wrangell and moved to the Yakima, Washington, area with his parents and younger brother Dawson in 2001. Dylan was an avid video gamer and music lover who played the guitar and ukulele. He played as much as his free time allowed. "We will all miss hearing him play," his family wrote.

"Though Dylan moved from Alaska when he was very young, he remained an Alaskan at heart, and held a deep love for the state and its lifestyle." After graduating, Dylan began splitting his time between Yakima and Southeast Alaska. During the fishing seasons, he worked alongside co-workers at a cannery. His time was spent exploring the wilds of Alaska or hanging out with his family and friends.

"In 2017, Dylan and his high school sweetheart, Megan Gillespie, welcomed their first child, Autumn, with open arms." Dylan's second child,



DYLAN WYATT KIRSCHNER

Mason, was born in 2019. Mason made his appearance so suddenly that Dylan had to help deliver his son at home. "Dylan loved his children more than life itself and was devoted from the moment they were born," his family wrote.

"We've lost count of the number of people who have told us, 'He was one of my best friends.' It has been wonderful hearing so many stories of his kindness, pranks and silly nature. We will all miss his quick

smile and laughter."

"Dylan was loved and cherished and his passing will leave holes in our hearts forever," his family wrote.

He is survived by his children, Autumn and Mason; his mother, Brandi (Jason) Walters; his father, Shea (Patty) Kirschner; brother Dawson Kirschner; grandparents Terri (Steve) Henson, Mike and Kathi Kirschner, Bruce (Carla) Smith; and his great-grandparents Huey and Jackie Smith and Margaret Hullinger. "There is a long list of beloved uncles, aunts and cousins who are too numerous to name individually."

Dylan's entire family thanks the staff at Cottage in the Meadow in Yakima "for taking such amazing care of him and us during this incredibly difficult time. We couldn't have cared for him in the ways he needed without your help. We are forever grateful."

Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. Sept. 23 at Shaw and Sons Funeral Home, 201 N 2nd St. in Yakima.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

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a. Total number of copies	800	800
b. Paid Circulation		
1. Outside county mail subs	140	150
2. In county subs	293	300
3. Distribution outside the mail	150	117
4. Other mail classes	11	11
c. Total paid and/or requested circulation	594	578
d. Free distribution by mail		
1. Outside county	3	4
2. In county	1	2
3. Other mail classes	0	0
4. Nominal Rate Distribution	35	35
e. Free distribution outside the mail	39	41
f. Total distribution	633	619
g. Copies not distributed	167	181
h. Total	800	800
i. Percent paid & for requested circulation	93.84%	93.38%
16. Electronic Copy Circulation		
a. Paid Electronic copies	73	77
b. Total paid print copies + electronic copies	667	655
c. Total print distribution + electronic copies	706	696
d. Percent paid	94.48%	94.11%

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership required.
Will be printed in the September 14, 2022, issue of this publication.



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!

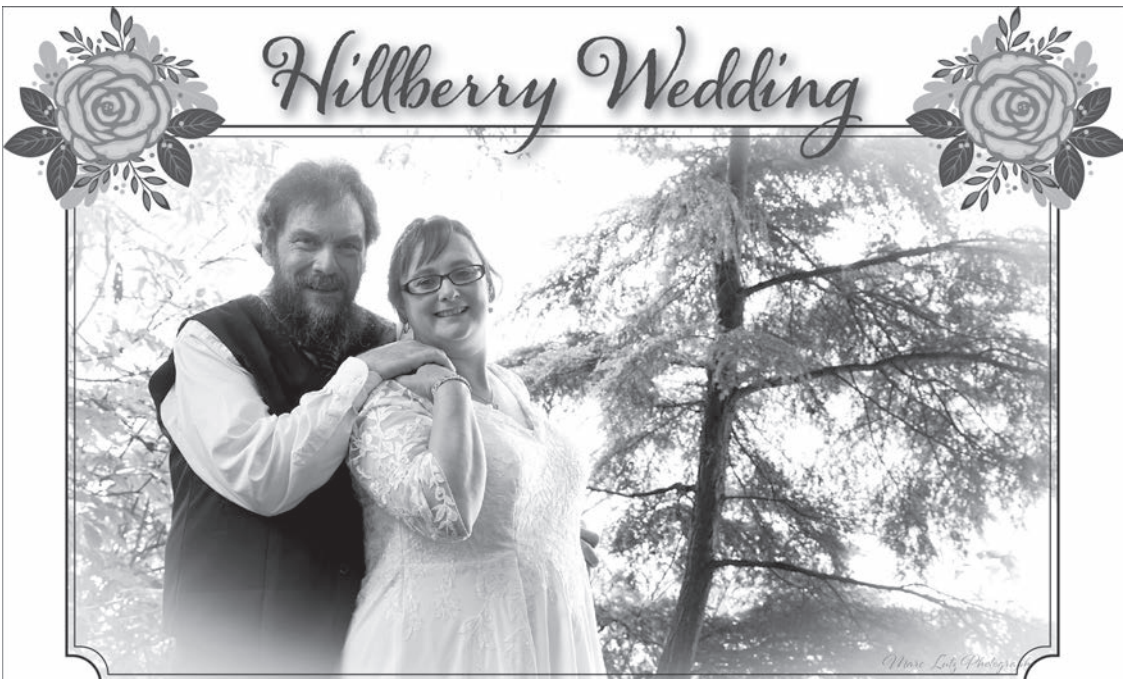
Some of the positions we are currently recruiting for are:

- Passenger Service Workers; Stewards & Pursers
- Unlicensed Engine Personnel; Oilers & Jr Engineers
- Licensed Deck Officers
- Able Bodied Seaman
- Marine Engineers

AMHS offers competitive starting pay along with progressive compensation plans for advancement to higher level positions. The State of Alaska offers a full benefit package including medical and dental insurance with optional family coverage, retirement benefits, vacation and personal leave that accrues with years of service.

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

FerryAlaska.com/employment



Hillberry Wedding

Jason Hillberry and Amber Armstrong

were married August 26 in Wrangell on their family property at 5 Mile with close friends and family attending.

Tami Stuart officiated the wedding.

Jason is a Mechanical Insulator with Alaska Insulation Supply.

Amber, daughter of Sheila Short (Ward) is the Office Manager for the Wrangell Sentinel.

They will continue to make Wrangell their home.

Policy for Letters to the Editor

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

The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions.

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



Letters are run on a space-available basis.

P.O. Box 798, 205 Front St., Wrangell, AK 99929
Ph: 907-874-2301 • wrgsent@gmail.com

SENTINEL SPORTS

Volleyball team setting up to serve competitive season

BY MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

With 14 players on the roster, this season's high school girls volleyball team is one of the largest that Alyssa Allen has led in the four years she's been head coach.

A few key players were lost with this year's graduating class, but she has six returning players to get the squad geared up for the coming months of competition.

Allen has a lot of younger players coming from middle school and a few older players who have either never played or haven't played since middle school.

Among the returning players, Allen said seniors Kiara Harrison and Brodie Gardner, junior Kayla Meissner and sophomore Aubrey Wynne will help in leading the team this year since they have the experience of previous years behind them.

The team has only had three practices so far, working on serving, passing and setting. Strategy and rotation placement will come once Allen has had a chance to assess everyone's abilities.

Players will be taught or refreshed in



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Players on the Wrangell High School girls volleyball team practice serving drills last Friday in the gym. Head coach Alyssa Allen will assess players' abilities before figuring out their places in rotation.

the fundamentals and "seeing where they're at skill level-wise because I haven't seen so many of them play before

that I just don't know," Allen said.

Allen said her returning players are going to be a big help in guiding the

younger players since they have the experience. Harrison will be key with her height, which she's been using to the team's advantage since she began playing her freshman year. "She doesn't have any problem with (using her height)," Allen said.

Meissner has also shown improvement with her skills, the coach said. "She's improved a lot from her freshman year," Allen said. "I'm just seeing her get a little more confident."

Kaylyn Easterly has stepped in to help assist Allen with coaching until a permanent assistant coach can be hired.

Though the first official match isn't until Oct. 14 in Juneau, the team is planning a trip on Oct. 1 to Petersburg to get in some extra practice. Wrangell will be hosting the seeding tournament Oct. 20-22 against six other teams in the division to determine rankings heading into regionals.

The next month will be spent getting the team where they need to be in preparation to take on other teams.

"They're all very coachable and wanting to learn," Allen said. "We're all a little rusty but they're picking it right back up."

Basketball camp prepares student-athletes for coming season

BY MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Wrangell High School's basketball season is still a couple months away but coaches and players are already sharpening their skills.

Last Thursday through Saturday, a coaching representative with Point Guard College worked with players to hone their skills and focus on areas that girls and boys team coaches want to strengthen.

Coaches work together to come up with a plan on what those areas might be, and then PCG creates a curriculum to guide the players over the course of three days.

The girls head coach, Christina Good, said the three areas they designated were attacking the defense, focusing on creating space and using direction to give players an offensive advantage and get them to the basket.

"When I go outside-inside, it's actually going to take me more toward the basket and more toward a defender," said Jamie Pewinski, the PGC basketball director, as she instructed the players on Friday night. "When I go

inside-outside, these layups become more difficult. ... I want to get 10 toes to the baseline, not the sideline. I'm in a power position."

Pewinski said she's worked in eight different states the past two summers. The Wrangell program was different than a typical summertime program because it was tailored for its players' specific needs. Usually, PGC clinics run general curriculums and attendees get a general training, she said.

"We like to build on skills and train some habits," Pewinski said. "So, while it's not perfect, because three days does not create a habit, you definitely see some changes in their abilities to use those skills as you continue to work through the drills."

Even though Good lost three key senior players, she believes this season's team can still go as far as they are driven to go.

"It's going to be really challenging for us, but if we can put it all together and execute at a high level like we did last year, even with our losses, I think we can find a way to win," Good said. "I still believe we can go to state but it's really going to be up to these girls."



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Jamie Pewinski, left, basketball director for Point Guard College, coaches players last Friday at a basketball camp held in the community gym. Pewinski travels across the country to deliver a tailored basketball curriculum, helping student-athletes get a jump on their basketball season.

Cross country team splits up to cover more ground in Palmer and Petersburg

BY MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The Wrangell High School cross country team attended two different competitions last Saturday by sending five runners to Palmer and five to Petersburg.

Five boys attended the George Plumley Cross Country Invitational in Palmer, while three boys and two girls went to Petersburg to compete in the Jack Eddy Invitational against runners from Sitka, Ketchikan, Haines, Klawock, Juneau, Craig, Angoon and Petersburg.

In Palmer, the Wrangell boys varsity team was Daniel Harrison, Devlyn Campbell, Ethan Blatchley, Boomchain Loucks and Ian Nelson. They ran against teams from Wasilla, Chugiak, Lathrop, Service, Kodiak, Homer, Juneau, Anchorage, Palmer and others, coming in 12th overall.

Harrison was the fastest of the team, finishing at 17:41.49, 20th out of 180. Campbell finished 52nd with a time of 18:35.05, while Blatchley finished a few places behind him at 56th with a time of 18:42.41. Loucks was 66th with a time of 18:52.81, and Nelson placed 136th at 20:47.35. According to assistant coach

Mason Villarma, who traveled with the boys varsity team to Palmer, Harrison's first kilometer was 3:02, which equals a 15:10 5k pace. Had he kept up that per-kilometer time, he would have beaten out first-place finisher Seamus McDonough of Homer, who turned in a time of 16:11.71.

"With the course being a bit weathered after five races prior to the men's, the conditions of the course were not ideal," Villarma wrote in an email. "The men battled the course but were eventually worn down from the muddy and slippery conditions. The team all finished a bit slower than their team time trial the weekend prior, but they gained important race experience."

Villarma said he believes the team is "on the cusp of having a really great (maybe historic) season."

He said, "We beat some pretty big programs including Palmer, Wasilla, East Anchorage, Kenai and Bethel. Wrangell High has about 60 enrolled in the high school, Palmer has closer to 900 students."

In Petersburg, where the weather was more hospitable, runners turned in comparable times to their teammates in Palmer. Head coach Kayla Rooney traveled with the other

half of the team there.

Elias Decker finished 20th overall and first out of his teammates in the boys competition, finishing with a time of 19:46.53. Randy Churchill came in 25th overall and second on the team

with a time of 20:08.17, while Jackson Powers finished 29th out of 71 runners and third on the team with a time of 20:26.71.

In the girls competition, Mia Wiederspoehn finished 39th out of 56 runners with a time of

27:30.12, and teammate Miranda Ridgeway finished 51st with a time of 31:07.03.

The team is scheduled to travel to Ketchikan this weekend to compete in the Ketchikan Invitational on Saturday.

Notice of Absentee Voting 2022 General Election Monday, October 24 through Monday, November 7

Absentee In-Person voting for the November 8, 2022, General Election begins October 24th. Ballots will be available in each Division of Elections regional elections offices as well as other locations throughout the state.

If you would like to vote by mail, your absentee by-mail ballot application must be received by the Division of Elections by Saturday, October 29th.

If you would like to receive a ballot via electronic transmission, your electronic transmission ballot application must be received by the Division of Elections by Monday, November 7, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

For a list of absentee in-person voting locations, or to obtain an absentee ballot application, visit the Division of Elections Early and Absentee voting website at: <https://AKVoteEarly.alaska.gov>

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 local Division of Elections office to make necessary arrangements. STATEWIDE TTD: 1-907-465-3020.

Interior Department removes derogatory name for Indigenous women from 26 places in Alaska

By RILEY ROGERSON
Anchorage Daily News

Twenty-six places in Alaska received a new name Sept. 8 as part of the Interior Department's initiative to remove a derogatory word for Indigenous women — a change that affects more than 650 sites and geographic features across the country. Of those, 26 sites are in Alaska.

The official name change process has been almost a year in the making. In November 2021, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland unveiled an order to remove the word squaw, a slur for Native women, from federal lands. Many Indigenous organizations, including the Alaska Federation of Natives and Native American Rights Fund, supported Haaland's initiative.

"I feel a deep obligation to use my platform to ensure that our public lands and waters are accessible and welcoming. That starts with removing racist and derogatory names that have graced federal locations for far too long," Haaland said in a prepared statement.

Some Alaska Native groups worked with the Interior Department to suggest replacement names for different places. For example, the Curyung Tribal Council in Dillingham met with Interior to recommend renaming a local creek Amau Creek, which includes the Yugtán word for great-grandmother, to honor the community's strong female ancestors. Three local girls pushed to change the creek's name, prompting debate

in the community, months before Haaland's order.

Two of the name changes are in Southeast Alaska: A stream near Whale Pass has been renamed Kayáashkeiditaan Creek, and a mountain on Dall Island, off the west coast of Prince of Wales Island, has been renamed Hiilaang Ts'uujuus Mountain.

In the Native Village of Eagle in eastern Interior Alaska, a mountain has been renamed Jējezliuu Tr'injāa Mountain at the Eagle Village Tribal Council's request.

"I'm very happy. I think that's such an amazing accomplishment for our village," said Native Village of Eagle First Chief Karma Ulvi. "Our tribe is able to name a mountain that has been a derogatory name for so long and actually respect and honor Native women with the name that we chose."

Other geographic features received new names suggested by the Interior Department, such as Crystal Creek in the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area. The creek's name was derived from the nearby Crystal Peak.

Similar renaming decisions by the Interior Department had previously applied to two other derogatory terms, one for Black Americans and another for people of Japanese descent.

Haaland said in her November secretarial order mandating the name changes that the slur for Native women "is no less derogatory than others which have been identified and should also be erased from the National landscape and forever replaced."

Dunleavy vetoes bill to impose tax on e-cigarette and vaping products

By LISA PHU
Alaska Beacon

Gov. Mike Dunleavy last Friday vetoed a bill that would have raised the minimum age to purchase and legally possess tobacco products from 19 to 21 years old. The bill also included a tax on electronic smoking products that contain nicotine, which is what Dunleavy took issue with.

Currently, Alaska has a cigarette tax of \$2 per pack. Other tobacco products, like cigars, are taxed at 75% of the wholesale price. Electronic smoking products like vape pens that contain nicotine are not subject to tax at the statewide level, though some municipalities have levied their own tax.

The tax portion of the bill was aimed at discouraging young people from getting addicted, said bill sponsor Kodiak Republican Sen. Gary Stevens.

"One of the things we've seen in tobacco taxation is that every time taxes are increased on tobacco — and they have been increased several times in Alaska — people stop using it. The number of people who use tobacco

decreases every time tax goes up," Stevens said Friday.

The vetoed bill would have imposed a 35% tax of the wholesale price of electronic smoking products.

In vetoing the bill, the governor wrote, "There were many conversations about what an appropriate level to tax would be, but ultimately a tax increase on the people of Alaska is not something I can support."

The bill would have put Alaska in line with the federal minimum age, which is 21, to purchase tobacco products. The bill would have also raised the minimum age of selling tobacco products to 21.

Stevens said if he's back in the Legislature in January, he will pursue another version of the bill.

"It's an issue of great importance. I think it should be with families and parents and children. You don't want your kids addicted to vaping, particularly at a young age."

This is the only bill that Dunleavy's has vetoed in the past two years, other than vetoing specific line items in budget bills.

Police report

Monday, Sept. 5

Abandoned vehicle.
Agency assist: Ambulance.

Tuesday, Sept. 6

Agency assist: Fire Department.
Medevac plane had mechanical issues.
Summons service.
Summons service.

Wednesday, Sept. 7

Agency assist: Municipal Light and Power.
Dog at large.
Letter served for removing a person from licensed establishment.
Traffic stop.
Traffic stop.

Thursday, Sept. 8

Agency assist: Municipal Light and Power.
Agency assist: U.S. Forest Service.
Welfare check.
Welfare check.

Friday, Sept. 9

Assault.
Intoxicated person: Arrest for assault and domestic violence.
Dog at large.
Suspicious activity: Unfounded.

Saturday, Sept. 10

Road debris: Dead porcupine pushed off the roadway.
ATV complaint: Report of two juveniles on 4-wheelers driving in a reckless manner by the ferry terminal on Church Street.
Found dog: Small white poodle that appeared to be blind was returned to the owner.
Motor vehicle accident: Citation issued for using electronic devices while driving.

Sunday, Sept. 11

Dead deer.
There were three agency assists for the Hoonah Police Department and three agency assists for the Petersburg Police Department during this reporting period.

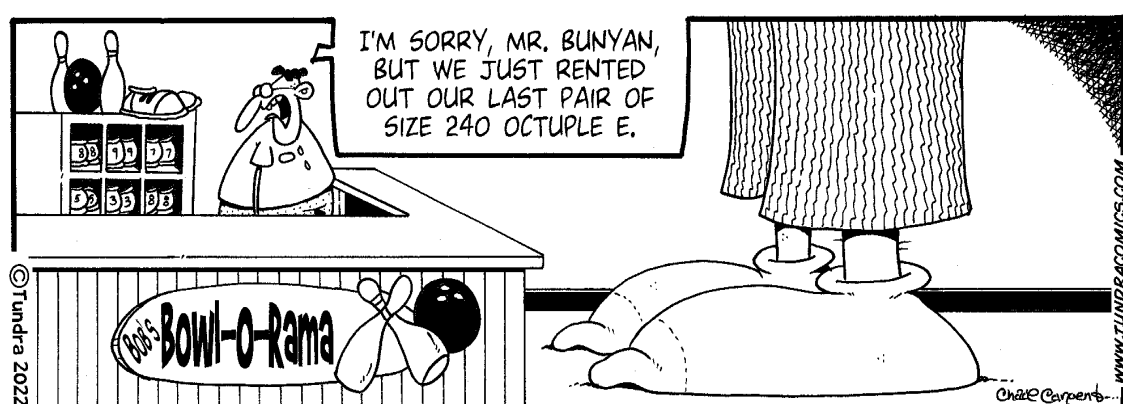
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Notice of Intent to Claim Abandoned Timber Property

In accordance with Alaska Statutes 45.50.210 through .325, it is the intent of the State of Alaska to claim all abandoned timber property in the waters and on the tidelands of the State of the east side of Etolin Island from Canoe Pass to Olive Cove (including Brownson and other islands), Thomas Place to Blake Channel on Wrangell Island. It is the intent of the State to make the claimed timber property available for salvage under 11 AAC 71.005 through .910, Timber and Material Sale Regulations.

Parties wishing to comment may do so to the Alaska Division of Forestry, 2417 Tongass Ave., Suite 213, Ketchikan, AK 99901, phone 907-225-3070. Comments must be received within 30 days following the first date of this notice to receive consideration.

Greg Staunton, Southeast Area Forester
Department of Natural Resources

Publish Sept. 7, 14 and 21, 2022

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Community auditions next week for ‘Sound of Music’

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

It's been more than 60 years since "The Sound of Music" debuted on Broadway and more than 20 years since Wrangell staged a community play, and organizers hope that the years have not diminished the appeal of either.

Auditions for a community production of the famous musical will be held at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 20 and 21 at the Nolan Center.

The performance is planned for the first weekend of December, said Cyni Cray, Nolan

Center director. She and Tom Jenkins are the organizers of the theatrical production.

"We've had a huge interest," Cray said last week. Anyone interested in auditioning but who will not be in town Sept. 20-21 can stop by the Nolan Center, pick up a script (which are available now), and contact Cray to set up an individual audition.

"Performers will be given lines/scripts to read in the auditions and songs to sing," the casting call-out on Facebook said. "There are some non-singing parts, as well."

It's been at least 20 years since

the community staged a full production of live theater. Some remember "The Music Man" as the last production in town.

While the organizers are flexible on the number of cast members — "If we have four nuns or 14 nuns, we'll make it work," Cray said — they need enough

children to play the parts of the entire von Trapp family.

Organizers selected "The Sound of Music" because its characters span all ages, providing opportunities for a wide range of residents to participate, Cray said. "I believe there are adults of

all ages who are into theater."

It's also a well-known story, with a dose of nostalgia for people who have seen the play or the award-winning movie, she said. "We're definitely trying to get things rolling again after COVID."

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

ABSENTEE VOTING for the Regular Borough Election, to be held Oct. 4, 2022, begins on MONDAY, Sept. 19, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at City Hall.

Qualified Voters may vote an Absentee Ballot until Monday, Oct. 3, 2022, at 4 p.m. for the Regular Borough Election.

For those voters who cannot VOTE ABSENTEE IN PERSON, you may submit an application to have your ballot mailed or faxed to you.

Please stop by the Borough's Clerks Office to apply.

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

Publish Sept. 14, 21 and 28, 2022

EMPLOYMENT ADVERTISEMENT WRANGELL CAPITAL FACILITIES DEPARTMENT Facilities Maintenance Specialist

The Wrangell Capital Facilities Department is accepting applications for the position of Facilities Maintenance Specialist.

This position performs a wide range of technical maintenance and repairs of building systems, equipment and grounds throughout all Borough-owned facilities and assists other departments with special projects. Independent or cooperative work with others is required under the daily direction and supervision of the Facility Maintenance Specialist Lead. This is a permanent position with all City and Borough benefits. This position is part of the collective bargaining agreement.

This is a full-time, hourly position with full benefits, paid at Grade 19 with a starting wage at \$25.26 per hour. Applicants must meet the qualifications of the position, as listed in the job description. Employment is based on a successful background check and pre-employment drug screening.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained at City Hall. To be considered, interested applicants should submit their City and Borough of Wrangell employment application, a cover letter and current resume to Robbie Marshall at City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929, or via email at payroll@wrangell.com. This position is open until filled.

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

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

Publish Aug. 31, Sept. 7 and 14, 2022

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF REGULAR ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of October 2022, in the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, a Regular Local Election will be held for the purpose of voting on the following Borough Official positions and propositions.

Borough Mayor:	One seat, for-2 year terms
Borough Assembly:	Two seats, for 3-year terms
School Board:	Two seats, for 3-year terms
School Board:	One seat, for 1-year unexpired term until October 2023
Port Commission:	Two seats, for 3-year terms

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Ratification of Ordinance 1029

General obligation bonds for major renovation of middle school, high school and elementary school

PROPOSITION NO. 2

Ratification of Ordinance 1030

General obligation bonds for major renovation of Public Safety Building

PROPOSITION 3

Ratification of Ordinance 1031

Sale and/or Lease of the 6-Mile Zimovia Highway (former Mill Site Property)

The polls for said election will be open at 8 a.m. on the said day and will close at 8 p.m. on the same day.

Each voter must have the qualifications prescribed by state law. A qualified voter shall vote only once per election and shall exercise that right at the polling place established in the designated Wrangell Precinct (James and Elsie Nolan Museum/Civic Center) and in which he/she resides within the borough boundaries of the City and Borough of Wrangell.

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

Publish Sept. 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2022

1 Bedroom Apartment

available at

Mountain View Manor

Independent Living
Retirement Community.

Applications welcome
for qualifying seniors,
age 55+.

Call 907-772-3345
for an application.



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will hold a regular board meeting on September 22, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. AKDT. During the meeting, an executive session may be held for a CEO review, and updates on union contract negotiations and hydrosite investigations. The meeting will be held electronically. For additional information, please call 907.228.2281.

Publish Sept. 14, 2022

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

For the upcoming City and Borough of Wrangell Regular Election of Oct. 4, 2022, the following ordinance applies:

2.16.030 Write-in Candidates and Write-in Votes. Individuals who fail to file a declaration of candidacy but wish to run for office as a write-in candidate must file with the borough clerk a letter of intent no later than 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the election (Sept. 30, 2022) in which the candidate plans to participate.

Write-in votes cast for individuals who do not file a letter of intent will not be counted.

In order to vote for a write-in candidate, the voter must, in space provided, write in the candidate's name as the candidate's name appears on the letter of intent filed with the borough clerk. In addition, the voter must mark the oval opposite the candidate's name.

Stickers shall not be used.

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

Publish Sept. 14, 21 and 28, 2022

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL INVITATION TO BID

High School and Middle School Fire Alarm Replacement

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska will receive sealed bids for the construction of the High School and Middle School Fire Alarm Replacement.

Work consists of all activities necessary to completely replace the existing fire alarm systems at the Wrangell High School and Middle School. This includes demolition and replacement of all field devices, initiation devices, flow and tamper switches, and all auxiliary components including fire alarm relays and circuit interface modules. Work includes demolition and replacement of the fire alarm panel, remote annunciator panels, fire alarm extender panels, and all fire alarm wiring. The engineer's estimate for the project is \$525,000 – \$575,000.

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, P.O. 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 September 22, 2022.

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

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Not all candidates for governor are showing up at debates

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

Democratic candidate for governor Les Gara and independent candidate former governor Bill Walker said that the best candidate is the one who shows up for public forums.

The two had the stage to themselves at a Sept. 7 event sponsored by the Kenai and Soldotna chambers of commerce. The other two candidates did not attend.

Incumbent Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy was absent, as was Republican Charlie Pierce, who last month resigned his job as Kenai Peninsula Borough mayor at the request of the borough assembly after an investigation determined that a harassment complaint against Pierce was credible.

Pierce did not withdraw from the race for governor by the filing deadline, and his name will remain on the Nov. 8 ballot.

As the election nears, the four men seeking the state's top job are taking different routes to the finish line. Gara and Walker are planning dozens of appearances at forums across the state. Dunleavy has said he will appear at

just five events, and Pierce has yet to say whether he will appear at any.

It's a situation that mimics one developing across the country. Many candidates for office, particularly Republicans, are limiting appearances with their rivals.

In some cases, it's a result of strategy. A frontrunner can limit appearances to avoid mistakes that might cost them a lead in the polls.

In other cases, the decision to avoid debates is emblematic of growing national partisanship and an antipathy toward neutral parties and independent reporters. The Republican National Committee, for example, has said it may boycott debates sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates, a neutral body.

Dunleavy led his three challengers by wide margins in the results of August's primary election, and it isn't clear whether ranked-choice voting will change that result in the November general election.

Incumbent Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who also led her challengers in August, has also announced a limited sched-

ule of debates and forums, while her leading challenger, Republican Kelly Tshibaka, issued a public request for five debates with Murkowski.

"This campaign is a job interview with the people of Alaska, and it's the responsibility of all candidates to show up," Tshibaka's statement said in part.

A pollster who works for Dunleavy and asked for anonymity to speak freely, said it's clear that Dunleavy wants to avoid the potential for missteps.

Gara also sees it that way.

"Look, everybody knows that Mike Dunleavy loses his temper when he's in public, so his handlers don't want him in debates and he doesn't have a vision. So why should he show up and scare people away?" Gara said.

Andrew Jensen, Dunleavy's campaign spokesman and a state employee in the governor's office, said Dunleavy isn't avoiding Alaskans.

"I know firsthand, the governor has a very busy schedule," Jensen said. "His calendar is very full every day, meeting with constituents, meeting with interest groups, businesses, he's hearing input from Alaskans across the spectrum on a daily

basis. So it may not be on a stage, but the governor is interacting with Alaskans every day."

Walker, who unsuccessfully campaigned for re-election in 2018 while also serving as governor, said it's possible to balance working and campaigning.

"Everybody has their own priorities," he said. "When I was governor and running for office, I thought I had an obligation to attend every debate, and I did."

Jensen said Dunleavy's campaign has picked five debates and forums that include a cross-section of Alaska life. They include an event hosted by the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, one hosted by the state chamber of commerce, one from a resource development group, the Alaska news media-hosted Debate for the State, and the event hosted by the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Gara and Walker are attending those events and more, ranging from Kodiak to Ketchikan, Homer to Fairbanks, and talking to groups as varied as the Alaska Chiropractic Society and Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness.

The absence of Dunleavy and Pierce appears to have caused

some groups, such as the Anchorage Board of Realtors, to cancel a planned debate.

Individually, Gara and Walker each trailed Dunleavy by about 33,000 votes in the primary, with Gara finishing second and leading Walker by 549 votes.

Alaska's ranked-choice voting system could put one of them on top. If supporters of the third-place finisher pick the second-place finisher as their No. 2 choice, the combined total could be enough to defeat Dunleavy.

Though both candidates are urging their backers to put the other man second, opinion polls indicate that if Gara finishes second, eliminating Walker, some of Walker's supporters will pick Dunleavy as their second choice, allowing the incumbent to win.

The margin in the polls has been tighter if Gara is eliminated first; few of Gara's supporters say they will pick Dunleavy as their second choice.

Both men have said it's a mistake to look at polling too closely, and they're focused on reaching out to voters.

Candidate was asked to resign as Kenai borough mayor over harassment complaint

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Charlie Pierce, one of four candidates for Alaska governor, was asked to resign as mayor after an investigation determined a harassment complaint against him was credible.

Pierce, a Republican, announced on Aug. 26 that he would resign as mayor at the end of September to focus on his gubernatorial campaign. He has refused to discuss reports that his resignation was motivated by a harassment complaint filed by a borough employee.

Members of the Kenai Borough Assembly, who were briefed about the complaint on Aug. 23, have also refused to discuss the issue, but after an hourlong closed-door meeting on Sunday, they issued a statement confirming that Pierce

was asked to resign.

"As part of a potential mediated resolution, Mayor Pierce was asked to consider submitting his voluntary resignation because a voluntary resignation could provide greater opportunity for (pre-lawsuit) resolution of this dispute," the statement said in part.

Pierce did not respond to a phone call or text message seeking comment on Sunday evening.

According to the assembly's statement, a borough employee and the worker's attorney contacted the borough on July 11 and "reported allegations of harassment by Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Charlie Pierce." The borough treated the complaint as secret and hired an outside law firm to investigate.

According to Sunday's statement, the law firm on July 26 "provided its confidential investigative report (to) the borough at-

torney that corroborated the complainants report and found the claims credible."

The borough employee who filed the complaint has declined interview requests. According to an individual who has spoken with the employee and is familiar with the case, the employee has an audio recording of Pierce's harassment.

According to the borough assembly's statement, the borough has already agreed to spend up to \$10,000 on mediation costs. That amount does not include the cost of any financial settlement that may emerge from the mediation.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough has already paid \$267,000 to settle two prior harassment complaints filed against Pierce.

One settlement involves \$150,000 paid to Sandra "Stormy" Brown, the borough's former human resources director. Brown sued the borough in 2019, alleging that she was fired by Pierce after she

told him that she had been diagnosed with a fatal case of cancer.

Pierce finished fourth in Alaska's top-four Aug. 16 gubernatorial primary, receiving 6.6% of the vote overall. He will appear on the ballot in Alaska's Nov. 8 ranked-choice election for governor. The deadline to be removed from the ballot was Sept. 5.

Despite statements saying that he intends to focus on his campaign for governor, Pierce has failed to appear at any gubernatorial forums or debates since Aug. 26. The Beacon has contacted the organizers of more than a half-dozen upcoming events. All have said that Pierce has either declined their invitations or has not responded.

Pierce was not present at Sunday's assembly meeting and has said he will not be present at the assembly's next scheduled meeting, on Sept. 20.

Federal program awards additional \$12.4 million for Southeast Alaska projects

By MARK SABBATINI
Juneau Empire

Grants totaling \$12.4 million for Southeast Alaska projects ranging from a greenhouse in Yakutat to workforce development in forestry-related fields in Hydaburg were announced Sept. 6 by U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, the final portion of \$25 million in Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy Investment Projects announced this year.

Vilsack, in an online news conference with Alaska Native and other regional leaders, said the awards are intended to maximize the area's sustainability and self-reliance through its natural resources, working more directly with the local entities

implementing the programs.

The strategy is being undertaken by two agencies of the Department of Agriculture: The U.S. Forest Service Rural Development Division, and Natural Resources Conservation Services. It is intended to help Southeast transition from past reliance on large-scale timber harvests in the 16.7 million-acre Tongass National Forest.

More than 270 projects totaling about \$275 million were considered during the process, according to department officials. Vilsack emphasized that while the \$25 million covers only a small portion of those, it's the onset of a new approach now being tried in a few other states with the intent of expand-

ing both the amounts and regions covered over time.

"These projects and investments, I think, reflect our common commitment to acknowledging, respecting and honoring Indigenous ownership and stewardship, the knowledge, the values, the priorities," Vilsack said. "I think it also reflects our commitment to a community-driven investment strategy that reflects the input from local folks."

Of the \$25 million in project funding, about half will be managed by tribal and Indigenous organizations, for purposes that include arts and cultural support, enhancement of food security and support for cultural use of forest products.

Several earlier grants went to Wrangell projects, including \$100,000 for the borough to work with the Forest Service on management for improved blueberry harvests, and \$100,000 toward improvements at the Mt. Dewey trail.

The Wrangell Cooperative Association was included in funding to the Tlingit and Haida Central Council for improvements at the Chief Shakes Tribal House, and for building traditional smokehouses for tribal members.

The most recent grants include:

\$6.4 million to Juneau-based Spruce Root, a regional nonprof-

it, for forestry-related projects including restoring watersheds and habitats, youth training in industry professions and research such as fisheries science, infrastructure work ranging from renewable energy to trails, and other endeavors.

\$3.16 million for Southeast Conference, for economic diversification programs developed in collaboration with Spruce Root and Tlingit and Haida. Among the community specific projects are a Craig High School biomass project, removal of accumulated solid waste in Tenakee Springs, a pier and floating dock for vessels in Little Naukati Bay, and a regional ecosystem assessment related to the region's salmon stocks.

A lengthy list of smaller awards for projects such as \$225,000 to the Sitka Tribe of Alaska for forestry monitoring, \$440,000 to Sealaska Heritage and Trail Mix for Indigenous heritage name and interpretive signs along trails in Juneau, and \$375,000 to the Hoonah Indian Association for snowpack monitoring and deer strategy.

"This is the first time in my 27 years as an elected person that I've actually seen this level of local decision making," Tlingit and Haida President Richard Chalyee Eesh Peterson said in thanking Vilsack during the news conference. "So often we see decisions made at a national

level that really don't fit. We've really got to shoehorn them in."

Related to the funding effort is the Forest Service's decision, announced last year, to restore federal protections to the Tongass under what is known as the roadless rule. The 2001 rule largely bans timber harvesting in areas without roads, thus preserving old-growth stands. Under the Trump administration, Alaska was exempted from the rule.

The decision to reinstate the protections in Alaska has attracted more than 110,000 public comments, which must be fully reviewed before the Biden administration completes its final rulemaking, Vilsack said. The final rule is expected by the end of the year.

"I recognize that this may not have happened as quickly as some would like. ... I hope folks understand that we do have to follow through the process. We have to be respectful of the people who took time and energy to provide comments so that the record is as complete and as strong as it possibly could be in order to defend the decision that we've made to restore the protections of the 2001 roadless rule."

The Alaska Beacon and Wrangell Sentinel contributed to this report.

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