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School staff prepares for students and Aug. 24 start

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Newly cleaned flooring, new paint and new faces will be among the changes students see as they return to school on Aug. 24. However, there will be plenty going on that students don't really notice.

School district staff are working hard to prepare for the coming educational year, whether it be in updating their certifications, preparing the classrooms or focusing on all the little details to ensure a successful year for kids.

Online registration will begin Aug. 11 on the school district website, while in-person registration will be held for all schools from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Aug. 14 at the Evergreen Elementary School gym.

Much work has been done and is still being done, said Schools Superintendent Bill Burr, to get the buildings ready.

"Because the custodians have been cleaning, they've been doing carpets, they've been re-surfacing flooring, most of the classrooms are shoved to the walls and we're not letting people (teachers) back in yet," he said.

While most of those teachers are returning, there are a few

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Visiting volunteerism

British rangers use worldwide vacation to volunteer, learn conservation methods

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

When most people think of vacation, they don't necessarily think about work. But for visiting Britons Kate Dziubinska and Charlie Winchester, their work is the reason for their vacation.

Winchester, 35, and Dziubinska (pronounced Juh-bin-skuh), 29, arrived in Wrangell on July 11 as part of a multi-country tour to learn how other countries are doing conservation work in wilderness areas. It's taken a lot of planning and saving (as most of their travel is self-financed), but it's yielding a world of information.

The two worked as park rangers in Britain and are currently volunteering with the U.S. Forest Service's district office in Wrangell. Dziubinska has a degree in ecology and Winchester has an undergraduate degree in geography and a master's degree in environmental science. They took time from their busy schedule on July 26 to talk about why they came to Alaska, what they're learning and contributing, and where they will go from here.

Where are you both from?
Charlie Winchester: "We were both working in the



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Kate Dziubinska, left, and Charlie Winchester, of Britain, are volunteering with the U.S. Forest Service Wrangell Ranger District as part of a working vacation to learn about wilderness conservation techniques in Alaska. The trip is part of a larger, worldwide journey the two are taking.

southeast of England in a county called Sussex. That's where I was born and grew up."

Kate Dziubinska: "I'm originally from the northwest of England, kind of near Manchester and Liverpool. Blackpool. Nobody ever knows where Blackpool is, so I say Manchester and Liverpool and people say, 'Oh, yeah! The football clubs!'"

What work were you doing?

KD: "We were working as national park rangers. The U.K.'s newest national park is the South Downs National Park. It's about an hour from London, hour and a half. It's a very busy national park. Very highly populated. Lots of big towns and cities on the edges, as well."

CW: "It was officially designated in 2011. We met, I started the job and Kate was already

there, this was back in 2017, and that's how we met. We were both doing the same job, both working as rangers."

Why did you come to the U.S.?

CW: "Around the time of the pandemic, we were looking into working abroad, doing something related to being a ranger in other countries. The

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Borough assembly considers setting up new panel to work on code enforcement

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

In the coming months, the borough plans to get stricter about enforcing parts of its municipal code — particularly rules prohibiting trash and derelict cars or boats from accumulating on people's property.

At a work session June 25, the assembly met with Borough Manager Jeff Good, Police Chief Tom Radke, Economic Development Director Kate Thomas and Public Works Director Tom Weter to discuss what this new push for enforcement might look like in practice.

"We're not here to have a revenue stream," said Radke. "We're here to improve the town. ... It's like a building block. One you start addressing issues, things start getting cleaned up. ... It's just hard to get that ball rolling."

Good reached out to municipal officials in Sitka, Petersburg and Craig to learn how nearby communities approach the issue, and shared his findings with the assembly.

In Craig, the police department handles code enforcement, with the city planner occasionally stepping in for zoning code violations. Petersburg has a designated code enforcement officer. Sitka has a code enforcement panel comprised of representatives from the police department, planning and zoning, fire department, and public works. Juneau uses a similar approach.

The Wrangell assembly expressed interest in creating a code enforcement panel based off the model Sitka uses. Borough officials are still not certain of the exact form this panel might take: how often it would meet, what step of the existing enforcement process it would slot into, the types

of decisions it would make and whether it would be written into municipal code, for example.

"I think we're just trying to figure out the process," said Borough Clerk Kim Lane. "My next step is going to be looking at different codes and just trying to figure out how we want ours to look."

The assembly was also interested in one of Petersburg's enforcement techniques — holding a cleanup period where disposal fees for junked cars would be waived, as long as owners agreed to get rid of them within the designated time. To dispose of a junked vehicle in Wrangell, its fluids must be drained, which can cost over \$200. Good suggested the possibility of setting money aside to pay for the extra borough labor that would be required to move a high volume of vehicles during a grace period.

"If you do that, you're going to get some vehicles," Radke added. "Be prepared for what you're going to get. I think you're going to get a lot more than you think."

Assembly Member Jim DeBord supported the goal of enforcement, but didn't want it to become overly punitive. For example, clearing the sidewalk in front of a property is a property owner's responsibility even though sidewalks are borough owned, but he hoped that stricter enforcement wouldn't mean "asking some 78-year-old woman to go out there with a snow shovel," he said.

"I support low-hanging fruit," he continued. "I don't support going down the rabbit hole too far."

Economic Development Director Kate Thomas offered her department's services to get the word out to community members about the coming changes. A public education campaign should

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Reservoir levels improve, easing water shortage risk

By SAGE SMILEY
KSTK

It wasn't a downpour but it was enough to raise the water level at both reservoirs and ease fears of shortages, Public Works Director Tom Weter said of the rainfall Sunday and Monday.

"Overall, I'm feeling pretty good," he said Monday morning.

With just a few weeks left of the heaviest water demand for salmon processing, and with the traditionally rainy weather of early fall approaching, Weter thinks Wrangell will make it through the summer. "We're in pretty good shape right now."

The borough last week urged residents to conserve water after a dry few weeks put a dent in the community's reservoirs.

Like the rest of Southeast Alaska, Wrangell is surrounded by North America's largest temperate rainforest — the Tongass. But living in a rainforest doesn't prevent all water issues.

Wrangell was at about 70% of its normal rainfall for the month as of July 25, according to the National Weather Service in Juneau. Less than an inch total was forecast through Tuesday before dry days are expected back

through to the weekend.

That dry spell and higher-than-average water consumption had left Wrangell on the edge of implementing mandatory conservation measures. The community has been using close to a million gallons of treated water per day in recent weeks, according to a report from the Public Works Department — pushing the water treatment plant's production capacity.

"We've had a dry couple of weeks," Borough Manager Jeff Good told the borough assembly July 25. "We're four feet down on the lower reservoir. The upper reservoir is full, but no longer spilling, so they have started siphoning."

The upper reservoir has a capacity of about 47 million gallons, while the lower reservoir has a capacity of about 21 million. But some of that water is unusable because the drainpipes don't come in at the very bottom.

Weter estimated Monday that the community had just over two months of water in the reservoirs, with the upper reservoir down about two feet, same as the lower.

"We're seesawing back and

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Wednesday, Aug. 2: None.

Thursday, Aug. 3: Edna Nore, Jillian Privett.

Friday, Aug. 4: None.

Saturday, Aug. 5: None.

Sunday, Aug. 6: None.

Monday, Aug. 7: Rosemary Rooney.

Tuesday, Aug. 8: Brian McCloskey, Emma Olson;
Anniversaries: Jeff Brown and Jen Banks, Harley and Lana Johnson.

Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, Aug. 3

Pineapple lemon chicken, green beans, sukiyaki salad, rice vegetable pilaf

Friday, Aug. 4

Creole pork steaks, harvard beets, danish salad, cornbread

Monday, Aug. 7

Closed. Shelf-stable meal and fruit cup delivered on Friday, Aug. 4.

Tuesday, Aug. 8

Beef vegetable soup, peaches and cottage cheese, whole grain crackers

Wednesday, Aug. 9

Pork stir fry, mixed vegetables, fruit slaw, rice

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

Ferry Schedule

Northbound

Sunday, Aug. 6
Columbia, 4:45 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 13
Columbia, 1:45 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 20
Columbia, 3:45 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 27
Columbia, 4:15 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, Aug. 9
Columbia, 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 16
Columbia, 6:15 a.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 23
Columbia, 6:15 a.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 30
Columbia, 6 a.m.

All times listed are scheduled departure times.

Call the terminal at 907-874-2021 for information or call 907-874-3711 or 800-642-0066 for recorded information.

Tides

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Aug. 2	01:30	18.9	02:31	16.4	07:59	-3.8	08:04	1.5
Aug. 3	02:19	19.0	03:12	17.0	08:42	-3.7	08:53	0.9
Aug. 4	03:07	18.5	03:54	17.3	09:24	-3.0	09:42	0.6
Aug. 5	03:56	17.5	04:36	17.3	10:06	-1.8	10:34	0.7
Aug. 6	04:46	16.0	05:19	16.9	10:49	-0.3	11:29	1.0
Aug. 7	05:41	14.3	06:08	16.3	11:34	1.4
Aug. 8	06:47	12.7	07:04	15.6	00:28	1.4	12:24	3.2

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

WRANGELL SCHOOL BOARD will hold a work session to conduct the school board self-evaluation at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7, in Evergreen Elementary School Room 101. No formal action will be taken.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK at 6 p.m. Fridays through August at the sheltered site on Nemo Point Road. All are welcome.

MUSKEG MEADOWS will hold the Women's Cancer Care Fun and Frolic best-ball golf tournament on Saturday, Aug. 5. The tournaments start at 10 a.m.; register by 9:30 a.m.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER no movie this weekend.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL REGISTRATION for grades K-12. Online registration will be live on Aug. 11. In person registration, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. on Aug. 14 in the Evergreen Elementary gym for grades K-12. School begins on Aug. 24.

RETRO DISCO ADULT PROM at 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Elks. Light refreshments and beverages available for purchase. Estavan's Taqueria will be outside the Elks at 8:30 p.m. to fuel your dancing machine. Tickets are \$25 until Aug. 5; after that they will be \$30. Tickets can be bought from Wrangell Burial Assistance board members or venmo @wba_99929. All proceeds go to Wrangell Burial Assistance.

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

- **SUNRISE and SUNSET HIKES**, start and end your day with some fresh air, movement, good company and a great view.

Sunrise hike: Sunday, Aug. 6; sunrise is at 5 a.m., start the hike at 4:30 a.m. at Mount Dewey trailhead.

Sunrise hike: Monday, Aug. 21; sunrise is at 5:30 a.m., start the hike at 5 a.m. at Mount Dewey trailhead.

Sunset hike: Wednesday, Aug. 2; sunset is at 8:57 p.m., start the hike at 8:30 p.m. at Rainbow Falls trailhead.

Sunset hike: Saturday, Aug. 26; sunset is at 8 p.m., start the hike at 7:30 p.m. at Mount Dewey trailhead.

- **POWER HOUR**, noon to 5 p.m. Sundays through August for weights, cardio racquetball, wallyball at the recreation center. Join us for a workout. Must be 17 years and up with a waiver on file. Daily rates apply. Passes and punch cards can be used. No administrative services will be available. Check in with the staff to sign in.

- **JIU-JITSU**, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays; 10 to 11 a.m. Saturdays at the community center multi-purpose room with Victorian Carney. Ages 16 years and up. \$5 fee.

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

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

Aug. 2, 1923

Ed Grigwire Sr. and Ed Grigwire Jr. came in Monday from Anita Bay where they spent Sunday fishing. They brought back a boatload of trout, which was one of the largest catches of freshwater fish ever seen in Wrangell. It hardly seems possible that two people could have had the energy to have taken out so many fish in one day. Wrangell is surely a fisherman's paradise and the Grigwires are the town's two most enthusiastic piscatorial artists.

July 30, 1948

"Here comes Charlie," a local talent play put on last Sunday afternoon and Monday evening by a group of Emblem Club and Elks members, met with enthusiastic approval of the audience of the George Washington passengers in port at the time and with local citizens. Many requests have been received for a repeat performance, and Virgil Neyman, who directed the play, said it was possible the show would be repeated after the fishing season. The cast wishes to thank all local folks who helped make the show the success it was. Sunday's performance can

be credited to Mr. A.R. Brueger of Wrangell-Farwest Cannery. When one member of the cast became storm-bound on a tow boat at Douglas Bay and it looked as though the play would have to be postponed, Mr. Brueger sent his plane and pilot, Stuart Adams, to bring the actor in.

Aug. 3, 1973

Closure of Wrangell's two sawmills for maintenance has been postponed indefinitely and the mills' two shifts have been put on six-day weeks to produce lumber for two extra ships due to dock here. Mills Manager Lance Ingle said the Wrangell Maru and the Sitka Maru are due to take on lumber cargos instead of the pulp they were originally scheduled to load in Sitka. The change is due to a worker's strike at Sitka Pulp, Ingle said. The ships were diverted to Wrangell following development of the strike, Ingle said. It will be the Sitka Maru's first visit to Wrangell. The Wrangell Maru calls regularly. The mills were to have closed next week for maintenance work, including razing of the scrap burner in town at Wrangell Lumber Co.

Aug. 6, 1998

Fires up the Stikine River became active again this past weekend, raising concern with local residents and Canadian firefighting units. According to Al McDonald with the Canadian Northwest Fire Center, due to the warm, dry weather for the past few days, combined with very gusty afternoon winds, two large fires near Telegraph Creek made significant runs on Friday and again on Saturday. Since the beginning of August there have been 149 new fires, 129 caused by lightning in British Columbia. The smoke from two of those fires have been drifting toward Wrangell since the weekend. According to McDonald, this is created when there is very little wind movement. The smoke lays in the area, then like a river will follow the valleys out, and in this case it is moving down the Stikine to the Wrangell area. Cooler weather has been forecast for the remainder of the week, with possible showers. If so, the fire danger ratings will stabilize.

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WEEKLY FARE SALES



FREIGHT FOR LESS

Salt and Cedar spa to celebrate relocation with grand opening

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Since its 2020 opening, Sirene Spa has been freshening faces, lengthening lashes, clearing pores and applying perfect tans. But now, the spa is giving itself a makeover.

Esthetician Robyn Byrd has changed the name of her business from "Sirene Spa" to "Salt and Cedar" — a name that honors her Tlingit heritage and better reflects her updated establishment, which has expanded to include Alaska gifts, jewelry and more. The spa has also moved from the Churchill Building to a larger, more accessible space at 106 Lynch St.

Though Salt and Cedar started taking appointments at the new location as of July 18, the business has not yet held its grand opening. Byrd is planning a block party for Aug. 5 with food vendors and, hopefully, live music. More details will be announced closer to the date.

Byrd moved to Wrangell from Washington state in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic and opened her day spa at its previous location. The space allowed her to bring new services to town, like facials and lash extensions, but the cramped, out-of-the-way setting made it tough to provide a full range of services and attract new customers off the street, she said.

"Before, it was just word-of-mouth," she said of her business's growth. At Salt and Cedar, she's already seen more new customers investigate her storefront, or come in to buy products or ask questions.

"I did really well there (the Churchill Building), but always wanted to expand and was constantly looking for a bigger space," she said. "I knew I wanted to do a local gift shop and so I always kept that in the back of my mind and always was looking."

Wrangell's tight downtown real estate market made the search difficult. After a few near misses, Byrd secured the corner



PHOTO BY CAROLEINE JAMES/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Esthetician Robyn Byrd stands in the gift shop of her updated spa, Salt and Cedar. In addition to the facials, lash extensions and other services she provided in her old space, she now offers Alaska gifts made by local artists.

location vacated by Prism Optical. She now has over twice the square footage she had before the move.

Salt and Cedar is divided into three areas that will be separated by privacy curtains as Byrd continues to put finishing touches on the renovated space. The first area is a waiting room and gift shop. Customers can browse a selection of skincare products, jewelry and local crafts, or lounge against one of Byrd's handmade sea otter fur pillows while waiting for their appointments.

The next area features a spa bed where Byrd does facials, hair removal, lash ex-

tensions and more. She uses a "sugaring" technique to remove body hair — a less painful alternative to waxing, with a lower likelihood for ingrown hairs. Pastel-colored facial treatments in flavors like Belgian Cacao, Pure Himalayan White Tea and Egyptian Rose line a shelf near the bed. Byrd does skin consultations with her clients so that each facial is customized to their needs.

In a smaller room near the back of the spa, there's a space for spray tans. This 10-minute procedure can leave clients looking like they're vacationing in a tropical isle — even in the middle of Alaska winter. Byrd's previous space

was so small that she couldn't do facials and spray tans on the same days, since it meant temporarily putting away the spa table and switching out all her equipment. At her new location, each procedure gets a designated area.

The spa's unique layout and its portable sink setup were designed and built by Byrd's partner, Earon Gross.

For now, bookings are still by appointment only, but Byrd is considering opening up walk-in hours in the near future. A website update is also on the horizon, but at the moment, bookings are available at the spa's old site, sirenespa.glossgenius.com.

Borough assembly votes against funding for children's services caseworker

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

At its July 25 meeting, the borough assembly decided not to contribute \$25,000 to keep a state Office of Children's Services caseworker in town.

The current in-town caseworker is moving off the island, explained Borough Manager Jeff Good, so the position would be left vacant regardless of whether the borough contributed funds.

"It doesn't sound like (OCS) is really excited about trying to bring somebody back here to fill the position," he said. "I'm not sure what we get out of spending this money and then trying to go after OCS to bring the position back here."

Caseworker Jennifer Ridgeway declined to comment.

"OCS leadership is currently evaluating and discussing how to handle the vacancy, but we are confident in our ability to continue supporting the Wrangell community effectively in the future," Brian Studstill, communications director for the Alaska Department of Family and Community Services, wrote in an email on Monday.

Ridgeway transferred from Petersburg to Wrangell in February 2022 after community advocates argued that having a caseworker in town would improve services for minors in unsafe living situations. However, to get the state to

reopen an office in Wrangell, the borough had to enter a cost-sharing agreement. The borough agreed to pay half the salary, benefits and expenses — \$53,000 last year. Good negotiated the sum down to \$25,000 for this year.

Though the position was based in Wrangell, the caseworker traveled around Southeast. Borough officials felt that the agreement left Wrangell footing the bill for services that other communities inordinately benefited from.

Wrangell was the only community in Alaska that helped pay for its OCS caseworker last year, though other places have entered into similar cost-sharing agreements in the past.

When Ridgeway leaves and the office is vacant, services will be provided by phone or visits from other offices, the same as for years before the OCS Wrangell position was filled. The office was closed more than a decade ago amid budget cuts.

State Rep. Dan Ortiz, who represents Wrangell, tried for years to restore funding for the position, striking a deal in 2021 for the 50-50 cost share as a compromise to win enough support in the Legislature and from the governor.

"As calls demand, they will still bring someone here on a case-by-case basis," said Good. "We'll still get the services, we just won't have someone here."

Regardless of whether the case-

worker had planned to stay or not, Assembly Member David Powell was going to vote against the \$25,000 borough contribution, he said. "We already give them office space. No other community is putting in for this, so why would we even pay for a quarter of it if it's being used by a lot of other communities and they're not paying anything?"

"(The state) should be funding this for our community," he con-

tinued. "We should not be losing something because of what they're doing."

Bob Dalrymple was the only assembly member who voted in favor of the funding. Though he agrees that it should be the state's responsibility to fund caseworkers, he was concerned that losing an in-town representative might damage services for children.

"I feel that without some kind of support from Wrangell, we

would get reduced service," he said. "When they set that up, there was a pretty strong case made for supporting the program with funding. I kind of regret the state not supporting it themselves ... but I just fear that the state will not provide that support if we don't provide some cash for it."

"I'm a strong believer that if you don't have the presence or the service in the town, you don't get that service," Dalrymple added.

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

About time the pipeline dream ran out of gas

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

Elected officials who say the proposed Alaska North Slope natural gas project is closer than ever to putting steel pipe in the ground and money in the pockets of construction workers should take a break from their political grandstanding and pay attention to the facts.

Not a single analyst tracking gas projects around the world ever mentions Alaska when they list developments with the best potential of getting built. The talk about multiple liquefied natural gas export projects going to construction along the U.S. Gulf Coast, in Qatar, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Australia, even Russia, but not Alaska.

The state has spent close to \$1 billion on multiple variations of a North Slope gas pipeline in the past 20 years, and has permits, rights of way, engineering work and studies in hand — but not one investor or partner or customer is willing to sign a contract, write a check and take any risk. It's all on the state treasury at the moment and has been for years, including several hundred million dollars for the state-led project to liquefy the gas for seaborne export to Asia.

Just a few months ago, the Legislature and governor agreed to write an additional \$5.5 million in checks on the state treasury to keep the dream alive another year.

And yet after spending all that money on gas line dreams, the state is offering to sell 75% ownership in the venture for \$150 million so that it can pay to finish engineering and design work while shopping for investors and financing for the tens of billions of dollars needed to build the project. But even at that discounted asking price, no one has signed a deal.

The North Slope producers walked away from the expensive and unreachable dream in 2016, turning over their work with best wishes to the state.

Meanwhile, the Alaska Gasline Development Corp., a state entity that has never built a pipeline, says its 2020 cost estimate for the project has increased only about 10% in the past three years and is now close to \$44 billion. That would be a financial miracle compared to what

is happening with similar LNG and pipeline projects in North America.

Bechtel, which has constructed multiple liquefaction plants around the world, recently added more than 20% to its 3-year-old price quote for an LNG terminal it will build in Texas.

The Coastal GasLink pipeline that will serve an LNG project under construction in Kitimat, British Columbia, is now pegged at almost US\$11 billion, more than double the original estimate of less than \$5 billion five years ago. The pipeline is about half the distance of the proposed 807-mile Alaska project.

The latest estimate for the unfinished Trans Mountain oil pipeline expansion project — adding 607 miles of new pipe from Alberta to the British Columbia coast — stands at \$23 billion.

Not one investor or partner or customer is willing to sign a contract, write a check and take any risk.

The original estimate five years ago was under \$3.5 billion.

Alaskans need to pay closer attention to the very real risk of cost overruns, the state's improbable construction schedule that says export cargoes could go to sea by 2031, and declining world interest in burning fossil fuels.

For all those reasons — plus the lack of any major oil or gas company partners — potential buyers in Asia are skeptical of the Alaska project, according to a report in The Wall Street Journal last week. In addition, "people are so unsure about the future of LNG," Tatsuya Terazawa, head of the Institute of Energy Economics Japan, told the newspaper. "As of now they see huge demand, but what will happen 10 years or 15 years from now remains a question mark."

Japanese officials told The Wall Street Journal that the further out a project's timeline extends, the more it could conflict with the country's commitment to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

LNG imports are in decline in Japan, down 15% from 2016, with a long-term decline projected in South Korea as buyers respond to high prices, improved energy efficiencies and look more to renewable energy.

It's time Alaskans acknowledge that the governor's "we've never been closer to a gasline" slogan is 807 miles short of reality. It's time to stop spending money that could be better spent elsewhere.

REFLECTIONS

We're meant to grow throughout life

PASTOR SUE BAHLEDA
Island of Faith
Lutheran Church

Did you know some churches are color coordinated? We use colors to visually represent the purpose of a church season: blue is for Advent hope, purple is Lenten repentance, white is Christmas and Easter joy.

The longest season is the one we're in now, from June to October, and it's green. Our banners are green, our altar cloths are green, sometimes even our bulletins are green! Green represents growth, and we're meant to use these green, growing days to practice the lessons we learn from God, to grow a little for our own sake and the sake of our neighbors.

Growing sounds great, but the truth is that it's hard. There's a reason we speak of 'growing pains' — growing is usually an uncom-

fortable experience.

Kids know this all too well. As they grow up, they are expected to take on more responsibility, to behave in increasingly socially accepted ways, to act their age.

They spend a whole year at school, getting used to the teacher and the schedule, learning new ideas, being challenged by harder books, more complicated math skills, lessons that they aren't always excited to learn. They form friendships which might grow stronger, or they may grow apart. They wrestle their way through, but they are not done. A new year starts, and they have to do it all over again.

The lessons of the school year guide us into life. We aren't meant to get comfortable, or we'd stay with our favorite fourth-grade teacher forever! We are meant to change, to develop, to improve, to expand, even as we continue to

build on what has come before.

We are meant to try new things, meet new people, to explore new things. We're meant to find different, bigger, better ways to help, to share, to listen, to care. To meet and connect and play with new people. To do a little more each year, like a plant pushing out new leaves.

You don't have to be a part of a colorful church to grow, but finding opportunities to grow is good for you and your community.

What can you do to grow, even if it takes you a little bit out of your comfort zone? What can you try for the first time, or spend some more time learning? Who needs a little bit of your time, your help, your wallet? The more you grow, you'll discover it may not always be comfortable, but it can be interesting, and exciting, and worthwhile.

EDITORIAL

It will not be easy, but code enforcement needed

Borough Assembly Member Jim DeBord is right to warn against "going down the rabbit hole too far" when it comes to enforcing municipal code against junk vehicles and garbage on private property. But it's a hole the borough needs to fill so that no one gets hurt and so that neighbors don't see their property values go into a hole.

The assembly and borough officials are doing the right thing to look at how they can best enforce municipal code provisions against property owners leaving junk vehicles, garbage, unused machinery and other leftovers of life stacked and stashed on their lots.

At the July 25 assembly meeting, members expressed interest in how Sitka tries to clean up the problem. That community has a code enforcement panel comprised of representatives from the police department, planning and zoning, fire department and public works.

Wrangell's municipal code offers fairly strong language on the subject: "No owner ... tenant or occupant shall allow or permit any junk vehicles, junk, debris or indiscriminate storage of machinery, equipment parts, lumber or other material, or any accumulation of garbage ... to be or remain upon his yard, lot or premises."

But what the ordinance does not address is what about all-too-lengthy storage before the property owner takes the vehicle or trash to the waste transfer station? What if the "junk" is a source of parts for a rebuilding project? What if the lumber might be used for a new wall or shed in the future?

DeBord said he supports the goal of code enforcement, but is concerned it could become overly punitive.

"We're not here to have a revenue stream (fines)," Police Chief Tom Radke told the assembly. "We're here to improve the town."

In an interview the week before the assembly meeting, Radke said the police "have been getting a lot of complaints," not just about derelict cars, but also boats and general trash in people's yards. Callers, usually neighbors, want to know "what we're doing about it."

What the assembly is doing about it is looking for staff to do some more research and then come back with an ordinance to set up a code enforcement panel, a group that could possibly hear complaints and work with the community to solve problems.

Drafting an ordinance, making it effective — and fair — and then getting through the public hearing process will not be easy. "In Alaska, people have that frame of mind, it's my property ... and you can't tell me what to do with it," Radke said. "One man's junk is another man's heaven."

But when someone's junk presents a public safety hazard or intrudes on a neighbor's property view — their own bit of heaven — it's time for the borough to step in and find a King Solomon solution to keep the peace.

— Wrangell Sentinel

Code enforcement

Continued from page 1

be part of the effort "so that folks know what they're getting into," she said. Many people aren't aware of their responsibilities as homeowners and aren't intentionally violating the code — they just don't know what it says. "It's just about education, initially."

Radke stressed that the push for enforcement is not coming top-down, from the borough. Instead, the departments are responding

to community input. Some residents, for example, have shared concerns about how a neighbor's junk could reduce their property value. "We want the public to comment," he said. "It's not just those of us here that want this. It's the public that has complained. That input is critical to us."

Certain parts of the enforcement effort may need to be written into the municipal code. If so, the assembly would hold a public hearing on the ordinance before taking any action.

Policy for Letters to the Editor

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

The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon for Wednesday publication.

Letters are run on a space-available basis.

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Community water

Continued from page 1

forth between the two reservoirs," he explained, drawing from one or the other depending on water levels.

If the reservoirs get too low, the borough has a water emergency plan. If the supply drops below 60 days, that kicks off the first stage of the management plan, which was adopted in 2017 in the wake of major shortages.

"We've been teetering on the edge of that for probably close to two weeks here now," Weter said July 26.

Weter said water usage has been pushing the production limit of the treatment plant, averaging 860,000 gallons per day.

Since it came online, the plant's capacity has been increased slightly to 1 million gallons per day. And the town can also store about a million gallons of treated water in its tanks — another day's worth of water. Those two days are

not a lot of wiggle room.

Weter said part of the strain could be that the Trident Seafoods processing plant, one of two local seafood processors, is running for the first time since 2019. Coincidentally, that was the last time the community implemented water conservation measures. During its two-month busy season, Weter said Trident can use upwards of 2 million gallons of water.

But it's a broader local problem. Wrangell has faced periodic water shortages for years. Some issues with the supply have been tied back to the treatment plant itself.

"It's a sand filter, it's based on gravity," Weter said. "You can only put so much water in, and the weight and the pressure from that water is only going to push through those slow sand filters so fast. So that's where our biggest limitation comes in."

The borough is in the process of designing a new water

treatment plant, which is expected to be able to produce 2.3 million gallons per day — more than double the current capacity.

"If we develop the Alder Top Village subdivision or the (6-Mile) mill property, or the community grows in any kind of way, we need to be planning for the future and 20 years down the road," Weter said.

But more output won't solve the other issue — storage capacity. The reservoirs can only hold around 68 days of water, and the earthen dams are a century old and are two of the most unstable dams in the state according to the Department of Natural Resources.

"For us to fix our dams, you're talking tens of millions of dollars for us to stabilize or increase storage capacity up there," Weter said. "That is a massive, major project."

The Sentinel contributed reporting for this story.

School prep

Continued from page 1

new members in the district staff. Most notably, Jackie Hanson will start as principal for Wrangell High School and Stikine Middle School; Tony Anzalone is the new IT director for the district; though Madison Blackburn taught last year, she is moving from being a student-teacher to teaching pre-kindergarten students this year; and Ryan Hayes will be the new math teacher for the high school, replacing Donna Massin who retired.

Erik Scheib, who recently moved to Wrangell with his family, has been hired as the activities director, and Kyle Lewis was hired as a custodian for the high school and middle school, having previously worked

at City Market. Burr said the district is actively looking for a temporary secretary to fill in at the high school while Marsha Balou is out on maternity leave.

Last year, Holly Padilla was the long-term substitute for the migrant education program. This year, she'll be adding job duties as reading interventionist for the newly enacted Alaska Reads Act and overseeing the Title 1A program for low-income students.

"It all sort of flows together," Burr said about Padilla's position. "But that's a full-time position where we've combined other roles to make it work."

One thing that's a big change for the school, Burr said, is implementation of

the Reads Act.

"From the student side, it's not going to be a big change," he said. "From the school side, even after a year of trying to figure out what's going to happen, (the state) didn't actually make the decisions that these are actually the recommendations or regulations' until late April."

All elementary school teachers are required by the state to take courses to become state-certified for teaching reading. Those certifications are only valid in Alaska.

A new English curriculum based on the Reads Act will be implemented in the 2024-2025 school year.

The district is also implementing a new math curriculum called "Math and Me"

at the elementary level and "Big Ideas Math" at the high school and middle school level.

"Hayes has been using 'Big Ideas' in Petersburg for the last number of years, so his transition will be a little easier because he's comfortable with it," Burr said.

One change for the new year that many might not notice doesn't even exist in the physical world. A virtual update will be happening for the district's website as a new web host will be used. The district is going with a new company to save money. The information will be moved over to the new host and the look of the website will be updated. That change should happen sometime in September.

British volunteers

Continued from page 1

U.S. is obviously iconic for that kind of work. We were looking into that, talking to some people in Washington, D.C., then the pandemic happened and it all got put on hold.

"Once travel was possible again, we were determined to do something internationally. We got back in touch with people in the U.S. They set up some opportunities for us, and, initially, that was with the Forest Service. Our first placement was with the Forest Service in the Boundary Waters (Canoe Area) Wilderness in Minnesota. We had a placement lined up with the Petrified Forest National Park (Arizona) with the National Park Service. Then it kind of developed from there.

"How we came to be in Alaska was we wanted to extend our time in the U.S., and we were talking to people in different national forests, and I really wanted to come to Alaska because it's so iconic and beautiful and everyone talks about how amazing it is for wildlife.

"We got in touch with the Tongass National Forest, and fortunately (district recreation staff officer) Tory (Houser) reached out and said, 'We might be able to have you in the Wrangell Ranger District.' That's sort of how it came to be. It was a sequence of events where we went from one forest to one national park and eventually found ourselves in Wrangell."

What work have you been doing here?

KD: "We've been helping to maintain and clean up campsites and do some maintenance on cabins, trails work. We took a trip to Anan (Wildlife Observatory) yesterday (July 25) to take a visit to see the bears, which was amazing. In the next couple of weeks, we have some work with archaeologists to do some monitoring and surveys for a Forest Service project. We're also hoping to do some work with the biologists and ecologists here. I'm really interested in the muskegs and ecology of those because in England we have a lot of peat bogs. I'm in-

terested in the similarities. Then Charlie wants to do some work with fisheries and learn more about that.

CW: "In my role in the U.K. I did a fair amount of work on fisheries and river restoration and habitat work in wetland habitats. I'm fascinated to see what the fish biologists do here."

What are some of the differences and similarities you've noticed?

CW: "I think the National Park Service actually has turned out to be much more different than we first imagined to our jobs as national park rangers. It's the Forest Service which is the most similar because national parks in the U.K. they're multiple use ..."

KD: "And conservation rather than preservation."

CW: "(In Britain) we're much more focused on managing the land as a resource for multiple uses: For recreation, for biodiversity, for local businesses. Having those different pressures is much more similar to how the Forest Service does things. I think we found that more similar than we expected. Obviously, there's some big differences in terms of the habitats and the landscape, especially in Alaska. The most similar place we can think of in the U.K. is the Highlands of Scotland. It seems a bit like that."

KD: "We don't have wilderness. We just don't have that concept or that designation. There's a huge movement where people are talking about re-wilding, but because America has such huge landscapes, I feel like you can much more easily protect a whole watershed or desert system as a wild space as a whole and working ecosystem. Whereas in the U.K., our landscape is too small and much more fragmented to translate that concept to the U.K. It's been really interesting to see how that concept works here."

What do you think of Wrangell?

CW: "(Kate was) saying the other day it feels like the place — because we've stayed at quite a few places now — the place with the strongest sense of communi-

ty. Everyone seems to know each other. We've noticed how everyone waves at each other when they're driving. Immediately, the sense we got when we got here is everyone is really friendly."

KD: "Everybody helps each other, but everyone seems to do it pleasantly and willingly."

What has been your biggest takeaway from this trip?

CW: "There's a lot of received wisdom and set ways in doing things in the jobs we do. I think part of the reason for coming out there, apart from curiosity, is just seeing how you can do often the same task but in a different and better, more efficient way. I also think just learning different ways of looking at things, the different ideologies,

like the wilderness ideology in America that's been applied to conserving your public lands is really fascinating. Broadening our horizons, broadening our understanding of nature conservation as a whole is, I think, a big part of it. Ideally, in some sort of fantasy world, I'd like to write a book about all our experiences and put it in a story. I've been keeping a journal the whole time."

KD: "The whole thing has been a great learning experience for us, as well as the selfish part, just wanting to travel and see new places and wildlife. For us, it's been a great way to do it because the American system is set up that they can support volunteers with accommodation, sometimes with a food stipend

and whatever support they can offer. That's helped us to be able to travel to these amazing places, whilst being able to afford it with our savings because we had to save up a lot for this trip."

Where will you go from here?

KD: "This is our last placement in the U.S. We'll return to the U.K. for a little while (in mid-September)."

CW: "This is part of the bigger international journey, so in October we'll be going on to Malta and Switzerland. In January, we're going to go work in Cambodia and then on to Australia and New Zealand. And the focus is all working with national parks, designated nature reserves, protected areas."



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WRANGELL SENTINEL

Bears make a beeline for the hives for the sweet protein

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

It's more than just a sweet tooth that directs bears to honey.

Beekeeper Christi Henthorn of North Carolina explained the relationship between bears and beehives — and how to protect your pollinators from a possibly disastrous bear attack — in a presentation at BearFest on July 29.

The Winnie-the-Pooh story popularized the idea that bears raid beehives to steal their honey, but this is only partially true. "Bears really want to eat, not just the honey, but the honeycomb and the bees themselves as well," explained Henthorn.

Bee pollen is one of the most complete sources of protein available in nature and beeswax provides bears with healthy fats. The hive's brood — or baby bees — is also a source of protein and nutrients for bears.

"The bears are actually primarily wanting to eat the brood," she said. "Like, 'great, there's honey,' but they're really going after that protein and those baby bees."

She shared pictures of demolished hives that had been ripped apart by bears, with their beeswax frames strewn over 100 feet away into the forest. "This doesn't look that deadly," she said, "but it was 45 degrees and raining. That equals death for a honey bee. If it was just raining and it was a nice day like today, they'd be fine. If it was just cold, they'd be fine. But when you add the cold and the water, generally (they do) not fare so well." Of the three hives that were damaged that day, she was only able to get one back up and running.

Southeast Alaska is a uniquely difficult place for beekeeping, Henthorn explained. The cold, wet climate and the prevalence of bears would make it difficult for a Wrangell beekeeper to produce enough honey to sustain a small business, but they'd have plenty for at-home use and small gifts for family and friends.

"I don't know if having a successful honey operation here is reasonable. I think it might just be too wet," she said. "But if you want to make maybe a little bit of money, if you want to do pollination, if you want

to increase the yield in your gardens, (if) you just like science," starting a beehive would be a great choice.

Henthorn acknowledged that being a beginning beekeeper can be overwhelming. She recommends joining with other community beekeepers to swap tips, offer mutual support and help each other keep the hives alive.

"If you do it as a group, you can kind of borrow from each other and you have that support ... not everybody has to drop a bunch of money to get their bees to begin with," she said.

"If you can get two or three people to get six hives, next year, you take those six hives and you make them into twelve hives. And instead of spending hundreds of dollars on bees from somewhere else, the bees that survived the winter have better genetics for this environment. And so now you have better bees that have a better chance of surviving."

On Tuesday, Aug. 8, Henthorn will hold a "Bees and Beers" event at the Marine Bar at 6 p.m. for aspiring beekeepers to get personalized advice on how to start a hive in Wrangell.

Kids, adults get wild for bear and nature-themed art workshop

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

They gathered around a long table in the front hall of the Nolan Center, cutting construction paper, drawing and coloring images and gluing pieces together.

There was quiet. There was vision. There was focus. There was not a kid in sight at the BearFest adult art workshop on July 27.

About 12 women showed up to put their creative touch on Native formline art, with templates for bears, salmon, ravens and other things like totems. Various colors and designs could be utilized and the only limit was their imagination.

Event co-coordinator Artha DeRuyter was trying out formline designs for the first time. She typically focuses on quilting and fabrics as her choice of medium.

"I like all forms of art. I love art. I've taken all kinds of classes. It's just fun," she said as she prepared to cut out a profile of a salmon from construction paper. "You can see the horrible fish I did up there (on the display board) with the kids' yesterday. I told (event director Michael Bania), 'Don't put my name on that!'"

Her first name was prominently displayed above the brown fish, speckled with different colors, almost looking like



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

From left: Alice Rooney, Meagan Eagle, Barbara Hylton, Marianne Nicolas and Donna Rowher work on projects during the BearFest adult art workshop on July 27 at the Nolan Center.

a picture for a dish from a 1970s-era Betty Crocker cookbook.

Last year's class focused more on bears, however this year, Bania said, there was

a goal to incorporate more formline art.

A separate workshop was held the day before for kids, in which 49 children showed up, according to Joan Sargent,

the other co-coordinator.

"I didn't keep track of the guardians, but it seemed like people came in with five kids," she said. Several long tables had to be put to use to accommodate the influx of creative kids. "We just kept adding tables. They kept coming. By 10:30, we were like, 'Oh, gosh! They keep coming!'"

But instead of a mass of kids running wild, Sargent said, just like the adults the following day, the kids became rapt with their individual projects.

"You know what's amazing about the kids? They come in and they're kind of all over. Then, they're completely still, they're completely calm," she said. "Nobody is running around. They may come over and look at (examples), but their independent thinking is going on."

One parent who didn't bring her children was Heather Howe, who teaches science at the high school.

"I thought I'd come try it myself, get some peace and quiet," she joked. Howe said she finds she's able to use art when it comes to teaching science, having taken both biology and graphic design in college.

"I do lots of diagramming, especially in biology," she said. "The myosis project is all cut paper. We do some modeling things well. There's a lot of overlap in science and art."

'Bears are cool,' and Anan a great spot to watch and learn, says researcher

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Each season, a few thousand visitors flock to Anan Wildlife Observatory to watch bears pluck salmon out of Anan Creek. But this popular viewing spot is more than just a fun afternoon getaway — it's also an important site for research on bear populations, habitat and resource needs. In fact, observation sites like these could point the way to less invasive methods for bear research in the future.

On July 27, at one of three BearFest symposiums, Shawn Crimmins of the U.S. Geological Survey and researcher Kayleigh McCarthy, a master's student at

the University of Alaska Fairbanks, presented on the importance of Anan — and viewing sites like it — in bear research.

Usually, if a scientist wants to track an animal's movements over time, it might use a radio collar. However, attaching a collar can be an invasive process and it's tough for researchers to tell whether the animal's behavior will be affected by it.

Crimmins recalled radio collaring a deer with a research technician. After they drugged the deer and attached the collar, the frightened animal wedged itself under a car, then jumped off a steep embankment.

If the deer hadn't been caught in the researchers' trap, "I think its day would have gone a little

bit different," said Crimmins. "I don't know what that deer's life was like before we caught it, but I know what its life was like that day. Maybe not the best. There is no way we can really assess, did what we did to that deer affects its life and behavior?"

Observation sites like Anan, he argued, provide an underutilized opportunity to observe what animals are doing while minimizing the impact on their everyday behaviors.

Crimmins' student, McCarthy, explained how she uses remote cameras to see whether human activity at the observation deck influences the bears' movements. In 2022, she placed eight cameras around the viewing site and trail and four at the upper falls, where visitors are not allowed. In 2023, she expanded to 21 cameras distributed between the two sites. Every day, she monitors which bears appear in the cameras and how many visitors are present at the observation deck.

After a year of careful record-keeping, McCarthy learned that human activity does affect the behavior of some bears. People who are familiar with Anan are able to identify bears by sight. McCarthy caught multiple bears on camera that she had "never seen with my own two eyes before," she said, leading her to conclude that there are bears that only visit the viewing area when they know humans won't be around.

This remote monitoring ap-



PHOTO BY CAROLEINE JAMES/WRANGELL SENTINEL

At a BearFest science symposium on July 27, wildlife researcher Shawn Crimmins explains how facial recognition software could one day be used to track the movements of individual bears.

proach is different than what scientists like Danielle Chi, from Utah State University, were doing at Anan in the 1990s, when research was conducted through in-person eyewitness observation.

As technology progresses, the non-invasive observational approach that's currently being used at Anan could be expanded across the nation. "There's a program called Snapshot USA which is like tens of thousands of trail cameras," said Crimmins. "Imagine if we could get to the point with facial recognition software where you could use trail cameras to identify individual animals."

He recognizes that this

technology may be generations away, but "that would be massive," he said. "We're moving toward not messing with animals."

Though bear research can inform management decisions and conservation efforts, Crimmins' interest in the animals isn't purely utilitarian. "Bears are cool!" he said. "They can weigh 400 pounds and climb trees. That's nuts. They're the largest carnivores on Earth but some of them can live off berries and roots. They can run 35 miles per hour, but they'll go into dumpsters. Bears are bonkers."

"We want to have valid science reasons" for observing them, he added, "but let's be honest. Bears are just cool."

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Tour to offer look into gardens throughout Wrangell

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

"Mary, Mary, quite contrary
How does your garden grow?"

While gardeners in Wrangell may not plant silver bells and cockleshells, they still grow a myriad of things that some folks might find difficult to cultivate in the Southeast climate.

To that end, a tour being offered by the community garden group at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 6, will give gardening enthusiasts a chance to see how others successfully grow things like potatoes, strawberries and a variety of flowers.

The group is still enlisting gardeners to participate in the tour, but so far attendees will be able

to get insight into Oceanview Gardens, possibly Katherine Ivy's garden and a few others. It's the first time in recent history that the tours will be given, so organizers are using it as a blueprint of sorts.

"It's kind of like a show and tell," said Mya DeLong, who is a member of the community garden committee and owned the florist and gift shop Groundswell. "Each gardener will be presenting their individual garden on the tour. The mission is to inspire people and to educate them about what can be grown locally."

Though gardeners will be presenting their gardens, they do not have to give a formal presentation, said committee mem-

ber Valerie Massie.

"There are so many folks here who have so much knowledge about everything and anything, and one of those things is gardening," she said. "I think for folks who are not experienced, it will be interesting because you see how to make it work in Southeast with our climate."

Massie said it can feel "intimidating" to start a garden in Wrangell if someone is just beginning. Having a neighbor or local gardener show beginners something tangible can go a long way in the learning process.

The community garden committee has been discussing the tour since they began meeting for this year's growing cycle

last fall. Their hope is that it will prove popular and useful enough to hold on a regular basis.

"I think a lot of people have questions about gardening, but you don't know who wants to be asked," Massie said. "You might be like, 'Oh, my gosh! Laura Ballou (at Oceanview Gardens) is amazing, but I don't know if I should stop by or if I'll be bothering her.'"

The tour, she said, will be an ideal time to have designated question-and-answer sessions with gardeners and farmers. Another plus to the tours is that the vast knowledge people will be exposed to is all local. No one needs to be flown in for their expertise, Massie added.

"We have so much knowledge here and sometimes that's even more motivating because you're like, 'Well, if they can do it, why can't I do it?' That's the idea," she said.

The finer details are still being worked out, such as light refreshments being offered on the tour and the exact cost to attend. People can show up at the community garden at 1.5 Mile the day of the tour but they are encouraged to RSVP to Dana Rowlett at 501-944-3599 or dlrowlett@gmail.com.

"If nothing else, it will be fascinating and garner some interest for the future," Massie said.

Haines business soaks in success of building custom-made wood bathtubs

By LEX TREINEN
Chilkat Valley News, Haines

Actress Jennifer Aniston knows something about Haines that even some longtime residents don't: The town is home to some of the finest wooden bathtubs that money can buy.

Aniston is one of the celebrity customers of the small operation that's been slowly growing and carving a name for itself in the luxury wood bathtub world for the past two decades. Buyers include Larry Ellison, the billionaire founder of the software giant Oracle, as well as hundreds of less affluent customers enticed by the potential health benefits of aromatic cedar and a warm soak.

Out of a small workshop tucked into the trees near the laundromat and a trailer park, carpenters at Zen Bathworks use precise table saws and curing equipment to fashion tubs that can cost more than \$20,000.

The company currently employs eight workers, and its tubs are shipped around the world — or just down the street in Haines to customers looking for a locals' discount.

"It was a combination of good luck and hard work," said Bill Finlay, who founded the company as Sea Otter Woodworks in the late 1990s. "Sometimes the harder you work the better the luck."

Finlay built his first wooden tub for himself. It's built the same way wood barrels are, with planks of wood stacked vertically bound by a steel ring. When filled with water, the wood swells, sealing in the water. The spark for the business started when a friend from Gustavus ordered a tub. Finlay stacked the wood as compactly as he could and hand-wrote pages of instructions.

"I never heard back from him for several weeks, so I was a little scared to hear what he had to say, and he said, 'I love it, we use it every night,'" said Finlay.

The former boatbuilder and construction worker decided to make a go of it professionally. His timing was serendipitous, and he was able to cash in on the e-commerce boom of the late 1990s and early 2000s. He started hiring workers and moved out of his garage into his current workshop around 2004.

He also stumbled on a new niche after a friend who had traveled to Japan mentioned a style of soaking tub made from cedar planks that is commonly used in the bathing-obsessed country.

"He called me and asked if I could build an ofuro. I said 'Probably, but I don't know what it is,'" he said.

It turned out the process was much more complicated

than building a hot tub. In Japan, the tubs are often set up in hot springs with water cycling through them at all times. His clients in the U.S. wanted to use them like a bathtub, filling them up for an occasional soak. That led to serious warping of the wood.

Finlay adapted using his background as a boatbuilder and developed a design that uses a special blend of marine-grade plywood sandwiched between the anti-microbial Port Orford cedar, aka Hinoki. The plywood keeps the tub from warping while the cedar lends its therapeutic benefits and lemony-ginger fragrance.

"When it gets the hot water on it, it's amplified," said Kent Larson, who took over the company around 2017. "It's not the same as Alaska yellow cedar. It looks similar but smells way better."

Aside from the therapeutic value, the ofuros are customizable to fit buyers' bodies or spaces.

"Most regular bathtubs are made out of acrylic or fiberglass and they're made on molds," said Larson. "You can't get them customized. We can make them much deeper and customize sizes to the customer's request."

The ofuros were a hit, and added a new specialty market to the growing business. Finlay expanded the shop several times and invested in new machinery to make more precise cuts in wood.

When he decided to step back from the business, he found the ideal owner in Larson, who had a background working as a mining equipment engineer for large multinational corporations. Larson visited Haines a few times to vacation and visit with some in-laws. During one of the visits, his brother-in-law organized a look around the company, which was for sale.

"I thought he was kidding when he said 'wooden tubs.'



Tully Devine stands with a nearly finished ofuro soaking tub, built of Port Orford Cedar.

PHOTO BY
LEX TREINEN/
CHILKAT VALLEY
NEWS

Not only had I never heard of them, but I didn't even think they existed, and I don't think I'm alone in that," he said.

Still, the time was right for Larson for a change. He decided to move with kids and wife with about four months notice.

During his tenure, Larson has continued to innovate. He's experimenting with new wood paneling on ofuros and buying new machinery. Currently, most of the wood is cut by hand. Larson said the company is looking into buying what's known as a computer numerical controlled machine that can make wood cuts based on designs on a computer program. It's no small investment, with machines retailing for more than \$80,000, but could make more precise cuts and save on human labor.

Larson and his staff have also advanced their online site to keep up with digitalization.

That effort was led by Michael Ford, a 29-year-old former airplane mechanic who didn't even know Zen Bathworks was in Haines until he was looking for a new job in 2018, despite growing up in the town.

Ford started out cutting wood in the shop, but showed a knack for writing construction manuals. That led him to 3-D computer modeling. One of his recent projects was uploading the computer models to the website so that customers can imagine — and even select custom sizes and wood types — from anywhere in the world.

"It's pretty cool — what a great time to be alive," he said.

Ford's unorthodox path into the job reflects many of the workers at the company. Past and present employees include a photographer, tow truck driver, radio DJ, and a young Tlingit carver who is learning to cut

wood with table saws.

"We have a cross section of different types of people," said Ford.

The workers are attracted by generous benefits like sick leave, vacation time, and matching retirement funding. Plus, it's one of the few employers in Haines that offer year-round work.

For his part, Larson said he hopes he can continue to grow the brand and eventually pass it on to a new owner.

"As corny as it sounds, my true goal is to continue to promote a brand that outlasts me, that is more than just how much work and talent I bring to the table," he said.

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GCI will end email service in mid-2024

By ALEX DEMARBAN
Anchorage Daily News

Telecommunications company GCI will end its longtime email service next year, a move that will force customers to transition to new email providers.

Spokespeople with GCI, Alaska's largest telecommunications company, said the service will end sometime in mid-2024. At that point, customers will no longer be able to access or use their gci.net account, according to a draft fact page posted online.

"We will provide our customers formal notice at least six months in advance of email deactivation deadline," GCI spokeswoman Heather Handyside said in an email on July 28. "Our intent is to provide customers with as much time as possible to successfully transfer their data and get settled on a new platform."

The draft fact page was prematurely posted online, but the company plans to communicate directly with customers about the plans in the next two weeks, Handyside said.

GCI has provided the email service since the mid-1990s, she said. About 40,000 accounts use the domain. Over the years, many gci.net users have moved to other email providers with more services, such as Gmail, that are operated by major tech companies, she said.

"When other more sophisticated platforms launched more than a decade ago, demand for gci.net email accounts began tapering off," Handyside said. "We stopped offering gci.net accounts eight years ago recognizing that our customers were transitioning to platforms with superior capabilities. Because providing email service has become more complex

and more expensive, we've decided to sunset the service."

Handyside said that because of the complexity and cost of maintaining the email program, GCI will likely implement a fee later this year for customers who continue to use the email service. She said the fee will be \$4.99 monthly. Customers who pay it will still see the email service end in mid-2024.

Marilyn Leland, retired former executive director of the Alaska Power Association, said she has primarily used gci.net for her emails for decades.

"My biggest issue with GCI at this point is they are having a horrible job of letting customers know," she said. "This really is a big deal, because all the things I do — banking, medical, Social Security — it's all tied to that email address."

The draft GCI fact page about the change provides tips for the transition, including how to back up old emails and transfer contacts.

Leland said she is considering switching everything to Gmail. She's worried about losing friends' email addresses or bills not getting paid during the transition.

"There's no question there are things that will fall through the cracks," she said. "The question is just how big they will be."

GCI, launched in Alaska in 1979, has undergone major changes in recent years. It was sold to Liberty Broadband of Colorado in 2017, upsetting some customers who wanted the ownership to remain local. Among other developments, it has outsourced its call center to the Philippines, affecting dozens of Alaska jobs, and ended its cable TV platform in favor of an internet streaming service.

Judge orders Denali tourist shop to stop selling phony souvenirs

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

A state judge has ordered a tourist shop outside Denali National Park to stop selling products labeled as "Made in Alaska" after the state accused the shop of repeatedly selling fake souvenirs and art.

According to a complaint filed by the Alaska Department of Law on July 20 in Fairbanks, the owners of a shop known variously as The Himalayan and Mt. McKinley Clothing Company repeatedly attempted to mislabel foreign products as Alaska-made.

At one point, the owners of the store told an undercover investigator "that an alpaca poncho depicting a Native American chief in a feather headdress reflected Alaska's traditions."

According to the complaint, "the defendants made the false claims that the store was a non-profit that was owned by the Yakutat Village Council, that they were volunteering at the store, that the alpaca products were made from Yakutat alpacas, that products in the store were made by Alaska Natives in Yakutat, and that proceeds were returned to the Village Council to be used for charitable purposes such as building schools and building a rehabilitation center."

Alaska has no native alpacas,

and the Yakutat Village Council does not exist.

In response to the complaint, Superior Court Judge Patricia Haines issued a restraining order and preliminary injunction against The Himalayan and its owners on July 24.

The order requires that the store not sell products labeled as made in Alaska or made by an Alaska Native unless those products are approved by the state.

As the state's tourism industry rebounds after the COVID-19 pandemic emergency, state and federal officials have been cracking down on fake Alaska Native art.

This spring, federal investigators prosecuted the owners of a Ketchikan store selling fake Native art, and at the start of this year's tourist season, the Department of Law sent a warning letter to almost four dozen tourist shops statewide, warning them to not remove country-of-origin labels from imported souvenirs.

Passing off a foreign-made souvenir as Alaska-made is a violation of state law. If a store falsely claims that an item was made by an Alaska Native or a member of a Native tribe, it may be a federal crime as well.

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Eight-way tie among winners in Sentinel news quiz

Sentinel staff

There were eight perfect scores in the Sentinel's news quiz, producing an eight-way split of the prize money.

In total, 21 readers entered the contest, answering 18 questions about the news from the first three weeks of July. Trailing the eight perfect entries, nine people missed just one of the questions.

It was the first time the Sentinel had run such a contest, which owner Larry Persily called a "current events quiz."

The Sentinel published six

questions each of three weeks — July 5, 12 and 19 — based on news stories in the paper. "There were no trick questions, no hidden answers. It only required readers to make their way through all the news stories to find the answers," Persily said. "We're always looking to give people more reasons to read the paper."

Though the Sentinel had offered \$500 in prize money for the top three finishers, Persily said he decided to increase the cash to \$600 so that each of the eight winners will receive \$75.

The winners are: Mercedes Angerman, Stephanie Frackman, Kay Larson, Nikka Mork, Paula Rak, Meilani Schijvens, Greg Wood and Marjy Wood.

The eight-way tie did not surprise Angerman, who said "it was bound to happen" with an open-book test. "I just did it for fun."

Greg Wood said it seemed like a fun challenge. "I read the paper anyway."

The Sentinel will mail checks to the winners this week.

Anchorage-Kenai state highway project more than doubles in cost to \$840 million

By RILEY BOARD
KDLL public radio, Kenai-Soldotna

A major highway project improving the connection between Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula has more than doubled in cost over the past five years — from \$350 million in 2018 to the latest estimate of \$840 million — and the new pavement is still four years away from opening to the public.

The bypass — officially the Sterling Highway Milepost 45-60 Project — is a decades-old plan to divert traffic around the small Kenai River community of Cooper Landing by creating a 10-mile bypass cut through the forested and sloped terrain north of the town.

Construction includes a 462-foot-long, single-span steel arch bridge over Juneau Creek Canyon, one of the longest such bridges in the state. The bridge alone is estimated to cost \$165 million, with the federal government covering \$150 million and the state the rest.

The state reports that traffic counts on the highway range from about 1,000 vehicles a day in the winter to about 8,000 during the peak of salmon dipnetting season in Kenai in August.

The project was originally estimated at \$350 million in 2018. Work started in 2019. By 2021, that number was closer to \$500 million; by 2022, it had risen to almost \$700 million. The latest assessment this year came in at \$840 million, according to Shannon McCarthy, with the Alaska Department of Transportation.

McCarthy said dramatically rising costs have caused concerns about funding the project, but are currently not expected to delay the opening of the road. She said DOT attributes the latest cost increase to inflation, but said the agency is also going to take another look to make sure it's

a reasonable estimate.

"We'll have to take a look at that and see, just confirm, are we doing this the right way, have we added something in that we don't need to," she said.

In June, the project manager expressed concerns about funding, pointing to a lack of money in the state budget and suggesting the completion date could be delayed.

Federal funding covers about 90% of the cost, with the state responsible for the rest. But because federal aid to highways is limited, additional money spent on the Sterling Highway project takes away from other road work in the state that same year.

McCarthy said the project is expected to open to traffic in 2027, but DOT will need to seek alternative sources of funding and readjust the work schedule over the next four years.

"When Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment in Jobs Act, they created a number of competitive grant opportunities, and one of them is called the Mega Program," she said. "This is the one which supports these really large, complex projects that are difficult to fund in other ways. It's kind of tailor-made for a Cooper Landing bypass project."

She said the department plans to apply for that federal pot of money, and other grants. It's also reorganizing the schedule for the project to work around cost issues.

"Because of the cost increases, we are going to have to think about spreading the phases out a little more than we originally had wanted. But it is moving forward, and we are going to pursue this alternate funding in hopes of securing that last bit that we need and still not impact other projects statewide," McCarthy said.

State exceeds time limit on food stamp appeal hearings

By CLAIRE STREMPLE
Alaska Beacon

While Alaska's state government has made progress in getting more people the food stamps they are entitled to receive, advocates say the process to appeal denials or delays is breaking down.

Food stamps are a federal benefit managed by the states, and there are rules for how quickly a state has to get the benefit to qualified applicants. Alaska has been taking an unlawfully long time to process most applications since last fall.

Citizens have a right to a legal hearing when the state takes too long to get them food stamps or denies their application.

State law requires the Division of Public Assistance to refer appeals, called fair hearings, to the Office of Administrative Hearings to be scheduled within 10 days, but advocates have said that's not happening. So, fewer people are waiting for benefits, but those that are still waiting aren't getting legal due process.

Leigh Dickey, an advocacy director for Alaska Legal Services Corp., a free legal aid service for low-income Alaskans, said the result is that the division is violating state law again. "Increasingly, DPA is failing

"Our clients are being denied their fair hearing rights while their cases languish in DPA's backlog."

Leigh Dickey,
an advocacy director
for Alaska Legal
Services Corp.

to meet this deadline, seemingly because of short-staffing," she wrote in an email. "Our clients are being denied their fair hearing rights while their cases languish in DPA's backlog."

Alaska Legal Services has filed nearly 2,000 requests for a fair hearing on behalf of its clients since September of last year. Dickey said most cases take longer than the 10-day deadline to be scheduled, and it has taken the Division of Public Assistance 30 to 60 days to refer some cases for a fair hearing.

The state's Department of Health acknowledged there has been an increase in delayed fair hearing referrals. Shirley Sakaye, a spokesperson for the department, said that is due to staff shortages — and an increase in requests for fair hearings. "Most hearing requests are

being submitted due to the delay in receiving benefits due to the backlog," she said in an email. "As the number of backlogged applications is reduced, the numbers of fair hearings are also trending down, however, the overall number of fair hearings requests remains elevated compared to the numbers filed prior to the backlog."

The Division of Public Assistance is also responsible for managing Medicaid benefits. The COVID-19 freeze on canceling Medicaid benefits has ended, and Alaskans will have to re-enroll. Dickey said the delay for referrals for food stamps has Alaska Legal Services concerned that people who lose Medicaid coverage will face additional wait times and struggle to regain it while the division gets back on track.

"We are expecting an increase in applications later this year from people who have lost Medicaid coverage as a result of the unwinding process, and we are worried about the state's ability to handle the increase in fair hearing requests that will accompany the unwinding," she wrote. "It does not seem that DPA has planned for this at all."

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State school board delays vote on transgender girls sports policy

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

Alaska's state school board has unexpectedly delayed a vote on a proposed regulation that would prohibit transgender girls from playing on girls high school sports teams.

Board chairman James Fields said the delay was warranted by "hard questions" about whether the regulation could violate students' right to privacy, among other legal issues.

"I'd be in favor of a special meeting and allowing us to show the public and show our constituents that we're not just doing this to quickly rush through it. We want to take a good long look at all of the concerns raised," said board member Jeff Erickson.

It was not immediately clear when (or whether) a special meeting would take place. The board already has a special meeting scheduled in October, and its next regular meeting is Dec. 6.

The postponement followed almost 2 1/2 hours of verbal testimony July 26. During a 30-day public comment period, the board received about 1,300 written comments on the proposal.

Testimony was mixed for and against the idea, with opponents outnumbering supporters during the oral testimony, 33 against and 14 in support.

As currently written, the proposed regulation would limit participation on girls teams "to females who were assigned female at birth."

Current policy, as implemented by the Alaska Student Activities Association — a nonprofit that manages school sports — allows transgender students to play on the team that matches their gender identity, even if that was not the sex assigned at birth.

ASAA does not track the number of transgender athletes in high school sports, and the association's executive director has said that he is aware of only one such athlete in Alaska during his 10-year tenure.

Twenty-two states, according to a count kept by the Movement Advancement Project, have enacted laws prohibiting transgender students from playing on teams that match their gender identity.

The legality of those laws is in question; the Biden administration has proposed a regulation that declares transgender sports bans to be a violation of federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in

educational institutions that receive federal aid. That regulation is not yet final.

The Alaska Legislature has thus far declined to pass a bill on the topic. The Matanuska-Susitna School Board has implemented a policy similar to the one in front of the state school board, while several school districts — including Juneau and Anchorage — have policies that allow transgender students to play on teams that match their gender identity.

With local school districts divided, Alaska's state school board passed a resolution this spring that called on the Alaska Department of Education to draft a regulation on the topic.

That draft was finalized in June, leading to the public comment period and the discussion at the July 26 state board of education meeting.

Sen. Shelley Hughes, a Palmer Republican who unsuccessfully proposed limits on transgender student-athletes in the Legislature, testified July 26 in favor of the regulation. Without it, she said, "we will marginalize, sacrifice and victimize our female athletes and put them in a dangerous and precarious situation."

Madonna Singleton, a lay minister at

Palmer United Methodist Church, testified against that idea and the proposed regulation.

"Kids just want to play sports. Trans girls are girls, and barring them from competing on teams aligning with their gender identity effectively excludes them from participating," she said. Limiting transgender girls to coed teams would exclude and marginalize them, Singleton said.

At times, the testimony turned hostile. Testifier Joshua Church, of Fairbanks, said encouraging children to "choose" a different gender identity is creating "mental delusions," adding that any teacher, school board member or legislator who supports this "should be laughed out of town, they should be kicked out of their employment in these critical sensitive areas."

Dr. Lindsey Banning, the parent of a transgender child, called some of the testimony "wildly unacceptable and harmful."

"I'm frankly saddened to hear it wasn't stopped by anyone on this board," she said.

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Google donates to satellite and AI tracking of permafrost

By YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

Tracking changes in permafrost can take years and sometimes decades, lags that cannot keep up with the transformations in the rapidly warming Arctic.

Now scientists will be developing new technology to track those changes in real time, thanks to a project funded by Google.

The company has awarded a \$5 million grant to the Massachusetts-based Woodwell Climate Research Center to create a system combining satellite data with artificial intelligence to spot the changes as they occur. The project is led by Anna Liljedahl, an Alaska-based Woodwell climate scientist.

There are compelling reasons to better track changes in permafrost. Its thaw is causing myriad effects around the North. That includes expensive damage to important infrastructure. In Alaska, costs of replacing thaw-damaged sections of roads, runways and railroad would mount up to \$24.5 billion by midcentury under the current climate trajectory, according to a recent study by researchers at George Washington University.

An example of how artificial intelligence can help, Liljedahl said, is the difficult task of tracking the polygon ice wedges that cover much of the Arctic tundra. Scientists have mapped over 1 billion of them, but trying to monitor their changes would be overwhelming without help from artificial intelligence, she said.

"The datasets that we are creating are so large that we need help from AI in order to keep up with the data and milk the information that lies within the data. The datasets are too large for us humans to comprehend, even if all of us Arctic permafrost scientists across the

countries would come together," she said by email.

For example, permafrost scientists are interested in whether polygons are high-centered or low-centered because those features indicate different ice-melt patterns. High-centered polygons are shaped when surrounding ice wedges melt, and low-centered polygons are shaped when ice in the center melts away, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center.

By using artificial intelligence, computers could identify and outline individual polygons, determine whether they are low- or high-centered, detect changes to them and, if there are changes, help determine the cause, such as unusual summer heat, deep winter snowpack, rainfall or wildfire, she said.

"If we did not use AI then we would be stuck doing what we are already doing: Looking at isolated locations across the Arctic and guesstimating that those few areas (0.001% or less of the Arctic) are representing the entire Arctic. Assumptions are so unnecessary when we can do better!" Liljedahl said by email.

Woodwell has numerous academic and scientific partners in the project. Alaska institutions that are part of the project are the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. The project will collaborate with the Permafrost Pathways program led by Woodwell Climate and supported by the Arctic Initiative at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and the Alaska Institute for Justice.

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Governor vetoes bill that would clarify e-bike rules

By MARK SABBATINI
Juneau Empire

Gov. Mike Dunleavy has vetoed a bill defining electric-assisted bicycles the same as regular bicycles — which passed the Legislature by a combined vote of 57-2 — because "it creates unnecessary bureaucracy by regulating recreational activity," according to a spokesperson.

House Bill 8, sponsored by Rep. Ashley Carrick, a first-term Fairbanks Democrat, sought to revise state code to allow most e-bikes to ride anywhere a regular bike is allowed such as roads, bike lanes and multi-use trails. The bill also said owners of e-bikes generating less than 750 watts of power would be waived from being required to register them with the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Alaska, one of four states that have no references to e-bikes at all in statute, would have become the 40th state to pass legislation similar to Carrick's bill. Similar bills were introduced during the previous two legislative sessions in Alaska, but failed to pass.

There was little legislative controversy during the most recent session, as the House passed the bill by a 39-1 vote and the Senate by an 18-1 vote. But Shannon Mason, a spokesperson for Dunleavy, stated in an email July 24 that the governor felt such policy should be made at the local level.

"Governor Dunleavy vetoed this bill because it creates unnecessary bureaucracy by regulating recreational activity," Mason wrote. "If people want these types of activities regulated, the governor believes the decision should take place at the local level, where communities can decide for themselves what they permit and prohibit. Alaska comprises of a wide range of diverse communities with different trails, activities, and desires for regulation."

Carrick, in an interview July 24, said the bill allowed local governments some control of the definition of e-bikes and where they can be used.

Carrick said she is hoping for a possible veto override by the Legislature when it reconvenes in January, since the measure passed by far more than the two-thirds vote necessary to overturn a veto.

State adopts regulations limiting micro nuclear reactor locations

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

You can build a small nuclear reactor in Alaska, but not within 2,700 feet of a house.

On July 24, Lt. Gov. Nancy Dahlstrom signed a package of regulations that dictate where small nuclear reactors to generate electrical power — sometimes called "microreactors" — may be built in Alaska.

The regulations arrive as the U.S. Air Force advances plans to build the state's first microreactor at Eielson Air Force Base, southeast of Fairbanks.

Copper River Electric Association, which supplies power to Glennallen, Valdez and the surrounding area, is also considering construction of a microreactor.

Microreactors are designed to function as a single, sealed module that could be transported on the back of an 18-wheeler.

Last year, Gov. Mike Dunleavy signed into law a bill that makes it easier for companies to place small, modular nuclear reactors in the state, waiving some requirements imposed on larger facilities.

That legislation kicked off the start of a regulatory process by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, which — along with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission — would oversee any modular reactor.

The regulations don't deal specifically with nuclear safety, only where a reactor could be sited. Among the restrictions: A reactor can't be built within 2,700 feet of a residence, 300 feet of a national park or game reserve, in a coastal area vulnerable to storm surge, within 100 feet of a public road or trail, or in an area protected because it's used for drinking water.

Any reactor site must be approved by the local municipal government, and if a reactor is planned for a site outside an organized borough, the state Legislature must approve the site.

During a public comment period earlier this year, the proposed regulations were opposed by the Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Copper Country Alliance and several individual residents who said they were concerned about dangers posed by nuclear power.

"It seems to be that Alaska is going to be a guinea pig for this experimental technology. Seeing all the polluted places

the Army left here does not give me any confidence that they would act responsibly here," wrote Brigitte Jaeger of Fairbanks.

The Nuclear Energy Institute, a national organization that supports microreactor development, was also critical of some parts of the proposed regulations.

An early draft proposed banning microreactors within 300 feet of "an area subject to high risks from volcanic activity, ice floes or avalanches" and in 100-year flood plains. The institute criticized those sections, noting that concerns about radiation leaks are the domain of federal regulators. Those sections do not appear in the final regulations.

Instead, the rules state that if part of a facility is located in a 100-year flood plain, operators have to demonstrate that a flood would not damage the facility.

The institute also criticized sections of the regulations that require public notice and sections that require operators to share information with the state; those remain in the final rules.

The new regulations come into effect in August.

Any proposed microreactor would have to obtain permits from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, a process that takes several years. The NRC lists no pending Alaska-related projects.

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Police report

Monday, July 24

Drugs.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
Ambulance.

Tuesday, July 25

Nothing to report.

Wednesday, July 26

Assault.

Thursday, July 27

Domestic call; verbal: People were separated.

Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
Vandalism.
Intoxicated person.

Friday, July 28

Noise complaint.
Theft.
Harassment.
Concerned citizen.

Saturday, July 29

Suspicious circumstance.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.

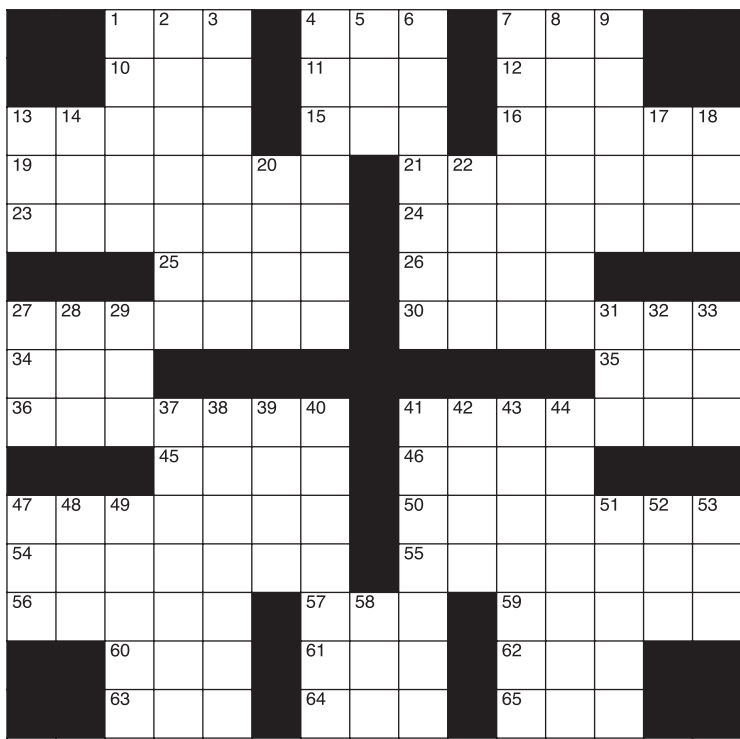
Theft.
Citizen assist.
Trespass.
Traffic complaint.
Intoxicated person.

Sunday, July 30

Traffic stop: Warning issued for driving habits.
Agency assist: TSA.
Noise complaint.
Trespass.
Suspicious circumstance.

Crossword

Answers on page 12



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Indicates tire pressure
- 4. Request
- 7. Clairvoyance
- 10. 007's creator
- 11. Adult male
- 12. Scandinavian god of battle
- 13. Cloths spread on a coffin
- 15. Breeze through
- 16. Ladyfish genus
- 19. It's good to take them
- 21. Noble-governed territory
- 23. Members of U.S. Navy
- 24. Card game resembling rummy
- 25. Affected by injury
- 26. Member of a Semitic people
- 27. Left
- 30. Woman's cloak
- 34. S. American plant
- 35. Prohibit
- 36. Offense
- 41. Dish soap brand
- 45. Ottoman military commanders
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 47. Makes unhappy
- 50. Discuss again
- 54. Medical instrument
- 55. Promote
- 56. A beloved carb
- 57. Tag the base runner to get him out
- 59. Prehistoric people
- 60. Large African antelope
- 61. Vehicle
- 62. Georgia rockers
- 63. Scientific instrument (abbr.)
- 64. A major division of geological time
- 65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Plant of the nettle family
- 2. Fit to be sold
- 3. Rather
- 4. Collected
- 5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 6. Patella
- 7. Ageless
- 8. Lists of course requirements
- 9. Pokes at
- 13. TV network
- 14. They _
- 17. Cooking hardware
- 18. U.S. Army title
- 20. Iron-containing compound
- 22. Swiss river (alt. spelling)
- 27. Former French coin
- 28. Electronic countermeasures
- 29. Taxi
- 31. Helps little firms
- 32. Woeful
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Glowing
- 38. Tasks which should be done
- 39. An informal body of friends
- 40. Intrinsic nature
- 41. Neural structures
- 42. Brews
- 43. Where ships unload cargo
- 44. Singer
- 47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 48. Southwest Scotland town
- 49. Most worthless parts
- 51. Viscous
- 52. Put to work
- 53. Old world, new
- 58. Swiss river

Mayor wants Anchorage to purchase plane tickets for homeless to leave town

By ZACHARIAH HUGHES AND EMILY GOODYKOONTZ
Anchorage Daily News

With colder months approaching, Anchorage Mayor Dave Bronson said July 24 that the city likely will not use a municipally owned sports arena as a large-scale homeless shelter again this winter, and to prevent people from freezing to death on the street, his administration wants to purchase plane tickets for people who want to travel to communities within Alaska or warmer climates out of state.

"I am not going to be responsible for people freezing to death on the street. ... I'm doing everything I can to keep that from happening," Bronson said during an interview at his office in City Hall.

"We set a record this last year on how many people died unsheltered in the city. If something doesn't happen, we're going to beat that record this next winter. And so, with that moral impetus for me, we're going to start giving airline tickets for people to go where they want to go," Bronson said.

"If they want to go to a warmer climate, it's far cheaper to give them \$600 to get an airline ticket to anywhere, from San Diego, all the way to Seattle, or to Fairbanks where they've got family that can take them, or back to the Bush. I have no choice now."

Bronson said that in the absence of a dedicat-

ed winter shelter, hundreds of unshoused people could be exposed to subzero temperatures this winter.

Bronson didn't say how the city would fund a relocation program.

The Salvation Army last summer bought plane tickets for some people who were living in a campground where the Bronson administration had moved homeless residents when it closed the shelter at the Sullivan Arena.

Bronson's homeless coordinator, Alexis Johnson, said by email that the city would like to fund and expand existing relocation programs, which reunite people with their families in Alaska and in the Lower 48.

Cities in the Lower 48 have employed similar relocation strategies, giving unshoused people free plane and bus tickets to go home to family, friends or other cities where they may have a support network.

For some, relocation programs have helped put them on a path out of homelessness. But such programs also have been highly criticized as a quick and cheap way to reduce homeless populations, without ensuring that the recipients of tickets won't just end up on the streets elsewhere.

With more than 750 people currently living unsheltered, city officials largely agree that more shelter is needed. But they've frequently disagreed over specifics like size and location.

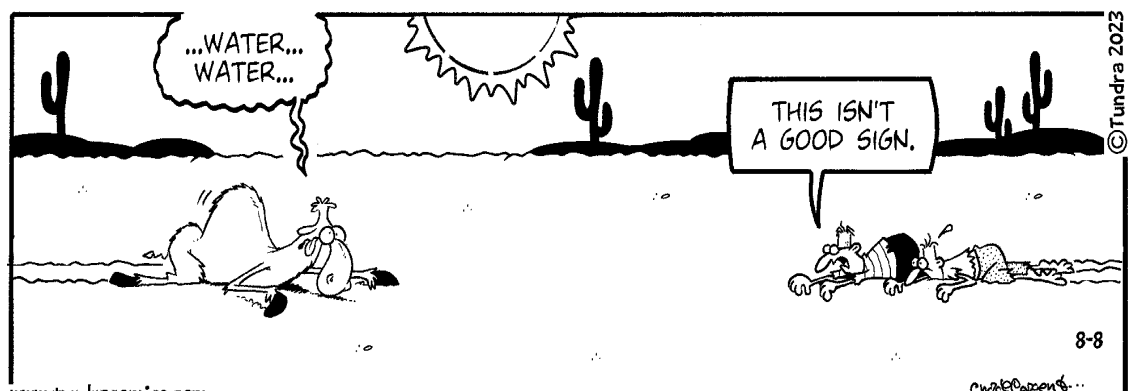
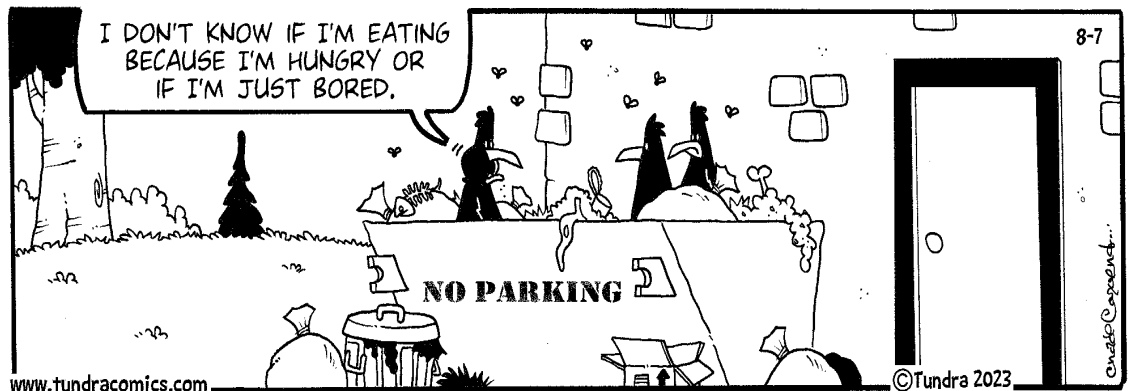
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

Publish Aug. 2, 2023

CLASSIFIED

LAND FOR SALE

Two Stikine River properties on west side of Farm Island in King Slough: 200-foot frontage, 6-plus acres, \$80,000; 8-acre backlot, lots of good access, \$60,000. Can access the main river at any stage of tide. Willing to finance. Call 907-518-0101.

FREE ADS

Do you have something to sell? Having a garage sale? Looking to buy something? Classified ads for individuals and community groups are free in the Sentinel. Contact Amber at 907-874-2301 or

email wrgsent@gmail.com.

STAY UP TO DATE

Get a Wrangell Sentinel subscription today and enjoy the convenience of having the paper delivered to your mailbox each week. Subscribers also can enjoy free online access. Call Amber at 907-874-2301 or subscribe online at wrangellsentinel.com.

FREE

Moving? Need fire starter? Art projects? Stop by the Wrangell Sentinel to pick up free recycled newspapers.

**WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION
NOTICE OF JOB OPENING
Domestic Violence Prevention Specialist**

The Wrangell Cooperative Association is seeking a Domestic Violence Prevention Specialist. This position will dedicate 100% of their time to the project by providing support to and participating in the Coordinated Community Response/Domestic Violence Task Force, developing and presenting violence prevention training and education for students and staff in the Wrangell School District, providing community-based training to allied professionals and working to increase referrals to existing programs providing supportive services to victims of violence.

This is a position is full time at 37.5 hours a week. Salary Grade 9, at \$24.76 an hour.

A complete job description and application are available at the WCA Office at 1002 Zimovia Highway, or online at wcatraibe.org/hiring. Call 907-874-4304 with questions.

Publish Aug. 2, 2023

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907-874-2301



**WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION
NOTICE OF JOB OPENING
Cultural Heritage Director**

The Wrangell Cooperative Association is seeking a Cultural Heritage Director. This position's main responsibility is to balance three critical aspects of cultural heritage management: preservation of cultural sites, regenerative tourism and economy, community cultural programming.

This position is full time at 37.5 hours a week. The salary grade depends on experience.

A complete job description and application are available at the WCA Office at 1002 Zimovia Highway, or online at wcatraibe.org/hiring. Call 907-874-4304 with questions.

Publish Aug. 2, 2023

**WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION
Request for Proposals**

Wrangell Cooperative Association Tl'átk | Earth Branch, a federally recognized tribe, is soliciting proposals and rate information from experienced professionals to provide their service for a climate adaptation planning grant.

For more information and to request a copy of the RFP, please contact Alex Angerman at (907) 874-4304, ext. 103, or email igapcoord.wca@gmail.com. A copy of the RFP can be picked up at the office (1002 Zimovia Highway, Wrangell, AK 99929) or downloaded at wcatraibe.org/earthbranch. Office hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please leave a message if we miss your phone call.

Deadline: 4 p.m. (AKST), Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023.

Publish July 26 and Aug. 2, 2023

**CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Declaration of candidacy for Borough Assembly, Port Commission and School Board, and signature petitions as required, will be available in the Borough Clerk's Office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, Aug. 1, 2023, through Aug. 31, 2023.

Qualified persons may have their name placed on the ballot for the Oct. 3, 2023, City and Borough of Wrangell Regular Municipal Election by filing declarations of candidacy for Borough Assembly, Port Commission and School Board.

Borough Assembly: Two seats, for 3-year terms

School Board: One seat, for 3-year term

Port Commission: One seat, for 3-year term

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

Publish Aug. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2023

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
JOB ADVERTISEMENT
Wrangell Public Works
Water Treatment Operator Lead**

The Wrangell Public Works Department will accept applications for the position of Water Treatment Operator Lead. This position will be open until filled. This is a permanent position with all City and Borough benefits. This position is part of a collective bargaining agreement.

The Water Treatment Operator Lead is the final step on the multi-stage Water Treatment Operator career path. The Water Treatment Operator Lead supervises the Water/Wastewater Treatment Operator and the Water/Wastewater Treatment Apprentice and provides leadership, mentorship and training to other operational staff and serves in a lead capacity for operations.

This position is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the City's surface water treatment plant, the water supply reservoirs and related equipment, either personally or through subordinate staff. Responsibilities include performing process control sample collection, sample analysis, and modifying chemical and physical parameters in order to adjust the treatment process. A Water Treatment Operator Lead collects samples of influent and effluent at various stages of processing to ensure high quality drinking water. Independent or cooperative work with others is required under the daily direction and supervision of the Public Works Director.

This is a full-time, hourly position with full benefits, paid at Grade 25 with a starting wage at \$32.19 per hour. Employment is based on a successful background check, pre-employment drug screening and the ability to satisfy requirements of the Water Treatment Lead Operator job description.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Robbie Marshall at City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email at rmarshall@wrangell.com.

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

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

Publish July 26 and Aug. 2, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of intent to request release of funds

On or about Aug. 10, 2023, the Wrangell Cooperative Association (RE) will authorize the Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority (TDHE) to submit a request to the HUD administering agency for the release of Indian Community Development Block Grant - American Rescue Plan (ICDBG-ARP) and Indian Housing Block Grant - American Rescue Plan (IHBG-ARP) funds under Title/Section I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, as amended, to undertake a project known as the Wrangell Cooperative Association Indian Community Development Block Grant - American Rescue Program (ICDBG-ARP) Project for the purpose of New Construction of a single-story, 3-bedroom, single-family duplex on an undeveloped parcel with the zoning single-family residential parcel; with an estimated funding of \$1,035,000.00 ICDBG-ARP, 22RP0217720; \$75,000.00 IHBG-ARP, 21AH0216230; and \$1,000,000.00 FY22 ICDBG, 22GC0217720. The project is located at Lot 1A, Block 35, Plat 2020-8, USS 1119 to provide housing units for low- to moderate-income residents in and around Wrangell, Alaska.

The activities proposed consist of a project for which a Finding of No Significant Impact on the environment was published on Aug. 2, 2023. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at Wrangell Cooperative Association, 1002 Zimovia Highway, PO Box 2021 Wrangell, AK 99929, phone 907-874-4304 of RE office where ERR can be examined, and at the Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority (TDHE), 5446 Jenkins Drive, Juneau, AK 99803, phone 907-780-6868 where the record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Wrangell Cooperative Association (RE) 1002 Zimovia Highway, Wrangell, AK 99929, the designated office responsible for receiving and responding to comments. All comments received by Aug. 10, 2023, will be considered by the Wrangell Cooperative Association (RE) prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Wrangell Cooperative Association (RE) certifies to HUD/State that Edward Rilatos, Certifying Officer in his/her capacity as Tribal President, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority (TDHE) to use program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the RE's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Wrangell Cooperative Association (RE); (b) the RE has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD/State administration office at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Region X - Anchorage Field Office, Alaska Office of Native American Programs 300 C Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99503-3914. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Edward Rilatos, Tribal President
WCA (RE Certifying Officer)

Publish Aug. 2, 2023

