



Wrangell, Alaska **April 27, 2022** 

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# **Unfilled positions** could push schools to distance learning

By Larry Persily Sentinel writer

In a two-page letter to the community, Schools Super-intendent Bill Burr on Friday cautioned that ongoing staffing shortages, particularly aides and substitute teachers, could push the schools into considering a move to distance learning in lieu of in-person instruction.

As we have had a number of unfilled positions over the last month, we need to continue looking at the need to move toward distance learning," he wrote in his letter Friday. "We have worked very hard to keep our schools open during (COVID) mitigation and adversity, but without our educational staff, it will be hard to meet the true social emotional learning and needs of our students."

His recruitment message

was "You can help!"
Burr added, "We need substitute teachers in all buildings. We still have permanent positions at Evergreen Elementary School to close out the year and continue to meet the new challenges in the fall."

Distance learning "is not what we want to do," Burr said in an email Friday, "but without help, we will need to strongly look at a distance-learning move at one or both buildings so that we can staff the other building in the near future.'

The chamber of commerce is trying to help, sending out a Facebook post on Friday, alerting the community that the school district "is in

desperate need of substitute

The middle and high schools had seven staff members out two weeks ago, but only two substitutes available, said Bob Davis, assistant principal for the schools. Last Friday, he was short four staff members, still with only two substitutes. Staff members were out for health reasons, student travel or other needs, Davis said.

Shortages of staff and substitutes "is way worse than it was last year," he said Friday.
"The shortage of staff and

subs is not a new problem, but it is also at an all-time high in my experience," Jenn Miller-Yancey, assistant principal at Evergreen Elementary, said

′CÓVID has been especially rough on school this spring. A typical day starts very early (4 to 5 a.m.) or sometimes even the night before, getting word someone has popped positive for COVID, been a close contact, or is sick with the other illnesses going around," Miller-Yancey said in an email. "Then it's a mad staff shuffle to get all of the essential duties covered to be able to be open for in-person learning.

Davis, who is retiring at the end of this school year after 34 years in education and 28 years with Wrangell schools, said the lack of job applicants is distressing. In past years, he might have seen as many as 50 applicants for a full-time teaching position. But now, he still needs to hire two teachers for the fall school year, and he

Continued on page 5

# Catching the best deal



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Commercial fisherman Alan Reeves said his 10 years on the port commission helped him realize the importance to the community of the borough's share of the state fisheries tax, which is earned when the fleet's catch is processed in town.

### Many factors in fishermen's processor choice

BY MARC LUTZ Sentinel editor

Some commercial fishermen prefer to sell their hauls in Wrangell. Some look for the best price, even if it's a few cents higher. Some decide where to sell based on services offered.

No matter what determines where a fisherman will sell, processors try to lure as many their way throughout the year, including buying a bevy of different species.

"What Pacific Seafood does here in Wrangell, we have our hands in a little bit of all of it," said Cody Angerman, general manager at the processor's plant at Heritage Harbor. "We start off with halibut, black cod, a little bit of rockfish. Then, as we progress, June 15 is when crab starts. The other thing going right now is troll salmon."

Angerman said his plant has traditionally been associated with just crab and salmon, but a diversified intake helps the company appeal to more sellers. "Obviously, being there for the fishermen is one of the most important things for us."

Depending on the season, Sea Level Seafoods,

a subsidiary of Oregon-based Pacific Seafood, has anywhere from six to 50 boats catching for its Wrangell operation.

Alan Reeves, a commercial fishermen based in Wrangell, tries to sell only to Sea Level to support the local economy. He fishes halibut, salm-

"Normally, we get a good price," Reeves said. "Two years ago, we ended up getting the lowest price. If they're going to pay me a decent price, I'll go with them. Last year, I went to Petersburg for the first time since only one other time in 1980." Reeves sold last year's halibut catch to the

Icicle Seafoods plant in Petersburg.
That was the exception. His 10 years serving on Wrangell's port commission helped him realize the importance to the community of the borough's share of the state fisheries tax. The tax is shared 50-50 with municipalities where the fish are processed. Not only does the money feed back into the economy, it supports jobs in the community, he said.

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## **COVID** cases on the rise; Alaska fourth-highest rate across nation

By Larry Persily Sentinel writer

Just as other communities, Wrangell is enduring a springtime bloom of COVID-19 cases. As of April 20, the state health department reported 79 new cases in the community in the past 30 days.

Most of those were reported to the state in late March and early April, with new infections declining in the past

The spread of the highly infectious disease is of particular concern at the schools.

"We have had an increase in COVID and other illnesses during the past month and the schools have been struggling to find ways to stay open," Superintendent Bill Burr reported to the school board on April 18.

Wrangell "continues face an outbreak of COVID in both the community and our schools," he said in a letter to parents four days after the school board meeting. Teacher shortages and a lack of substitutes has made it hard to staff classrooms, Burr said.

The Juneau School District on Saturday returned to mandatory face masks in schools after new cases pushed the community's COVID alert level to

Though the 79 cases in the past 30 days is less than half of the number during Wrangell's post-holidays record surge of infections, it represents almost 15% of all cases reported in town during the two-year-long pandemic.

The state's case numbers do not include the results of at-home tests, which people are using more frequently as most publicly funded walk-up or drive-up testing sites have closed down around Alaska.

The health department COVID dashboard shows that more than 80% of the reported cases in March were the BA.2 Omicron, the latest variant.

Statewide, there were 1,526 new infections reported in the past seven days, according to the state health department on April 20, ranking Alaska at fourth highest in the nation for per-capita infections, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Wrangell is not alone in higher case counts this month. The Petersburg Medical Center last week reported "a significant increase" in new infections in the community, including in the schools. "The community should assume COVID-19 is spreading quickly, impacting schools, day cares and local businesses," the Petersburg hospital said.

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## Borough may auction off former hospital building

By Sarah Aslam Sentinel reporter

The borough assembly may put the old hospital building up for online auction next month, at a starting bid of \$830,000, the value deemed by a recent commercial appraisal.

A Florida-based substance abuse treatment center that had expressed interest last year in taking over the property had told borough staff it was waiting on an appraisal, but hasn't been back in touch.

The borough assembly on Tuesday considered a resolution to put the 30,596-squarefoot former Wrangell Medical Center on nearly two acres along Bennett Street up for auction on publicsurplus.com on or after May 16.

The borough has been spending almost \$100,000 a year on insurance and heat since SEARHC moved out of the building more than two years ago and the property reverted back to the borough. The oldest portions of the building date back to 1967.

Eligible bidders would have to pay a registration fee of \$5,000, refundable to the losing bidders.

Excluded from bidding would be people or businesses delinquent in property tax, sales tax, utility payments, or those who have other financial obligations to the borough.

The property is zoned public/open space, which is primarily for governmental purposes. The successful bidder would be required to submit to the Planning and Zoning Commission a request to rezone "for the purpose they are intending for the site," according to backup material submitted by staff to the assembly.

The property would sit on the

Continued on page 4

#### **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

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

Wednesday, April 27: Emily Cummings, Traci Davidson, Greg Meissner, Tyson Messmer.

Thursday, April 28: Dave Brown, Bridget Davidson, Blake Stough; Anniversary: Fred and Merce Angerman.

Friday, April 29: Kyle William Hommel, Noah Emil Speers.

Saturday, April 30: James McCloskey, Danika Rae

Sunday, May 1: Lotus Booth, Jonna Kautz, Jeff Smith; Anniversaries: Dave and Lilia Brown, Austin and Diane O'Brien.

Monday, May 2: William Helgeson, Dena McChargue.

Tuesday, May 3: Lauren Taylor-Gillen, Heather Johnson, Steve Keller, Jay Neal.

Wednesday, May 4: Phebe Garcia, Dewyo Young, Nonay Young.

### **Senior Center Menu**

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

Thursday, April 28

Sloppy joes, Texas coleslaw, potato salad Friday, April 29 Chicken adobo with rice, broccoli,

danish salad Monday, May 2 Turkey, peas, spinach salad, mashed potatoes and gravy

Tuesday, May 3 Stuffed beef roll, brussels sprouts, apricot salad, rice

Wednesday, May 4 Sweet and sour pork, mixed veggie,

tossed salad, rice

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

#### **Ferry Schedule**

#### Northbound

Friday, April 29 Matanuska, 6:45 p.m. Friday, May 6 Matanuska, 5:45 p.m. Friday, May 13 Matanuska, 5:45 p.m. Friday, May 20 Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.

Monday, May 2 Matanuska, 8 a.m. Monday, May 9 Matanuska, 9 a.m. Monday, May 16 Matanuska, 7:15 a.m. Monday, May 23 Matanuska, 9 a.m.

Southbound

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		
	<u>AM</u>		PM		<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>	
	<u>Time</u>	Ft	<u>Time</u>	Ft	Time Ft	<u>Time</u>	Ft
April 27	11:34	15.4			05:31 1.7	05:42	0.5
April 28	00:01	17.1	12:24	15.9	06:16 0.2	06:23	0.5
April 29	00:38	17.7	01:08	16.1	06:55 -0.9	06:58	8.0
April 30	01:13	17.9	01:49	16.0	07:30 -1.5	07:30	1.4
May1	01:45	17.8	02:26	15.5	08:02 -1.7	08:00	2.2
May 2	02:15	17.3	03:02	14.9	08:33 -1.3	08:29	3.0
May 3	02:44	16.6	03:38	14.1	09:05 -1.0	08:59	3.8

### Wrangell Roundup: **Special Events**

NOLAN CENTER Community Market Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Check out the locally grown and handcrafted items

STIKINE RIVER BIRDING FESTIVAL, now through May 7, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the Wrangell borough. For more information visit www.stikinebirding.org or call 907-874-2323.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER presents "Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore," rated PG-13, at 7 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12, for the fantasy adventure film that runs two hours and 23 minutes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. No movie the next weekend.

**SOUTHEAST SENIOR CENTER** is offering free virtual Tai Chi online for ages 60 and up. Two courses offered for eight-week series twice a week from May 2 through June 23. Improves strength and balance, reduces risk of falls. Taught by a certified instructor. Call 907-463-6113 for registration and more information.

IRENE INGLE PUBLIC LIBRARY will hold Story Time every Friday at 11 a.m via Zoom. Meeting ID: 935 4298 0052; passcode 8743535.

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

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

#### **Continuing Events**

PARKS and RECREATION www.wrangellrec.com

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

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

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

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

Open swim, 6 - 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; 6:30 - 8 p.m. Friday; 1 - 2 p.m. Saturday Water aerobics class, 10 - 11 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday

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

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

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

April 27, 1922

The high school students appreciate the aid and cooperation they received from the citizens, merchants and teachers in staging their play. A great part of its success was due to the interest shown by the people of the town. Mr. Palmer accommodated us with lights in the afternoon for the matinee. The St. Michael Trading Co. made frequent loans for stage property and costumes. To Mr. Havens who donated his artwork, special thanks is due.

April 25, 1947

Twenty-six hundred bundles of cedar shingles from the Wrangell Cedar Products Co. are on the dock, awaiting the arrival of the Alaska

### **D**aylight Hours

110u1 5								
Date	Sunrise	Sunset Hours						
April 27	5:12a	8:23p	15:10h					
April 28	5:10a	8:25p	15:15h					
April 29	5:07a	8:27p	15:19h					
April 30	5:05a	8:29p	15:23h					
May1	5:03a	8:31p	15:28h					
May 2	5:00a	8:33p	15:32h					
May 3	4:58a	8:35p	15:26h					

on Sunday to be taken south. This is the first Outside shipment for Wrangell's new shingle mill, which started operations last winter under new ownership of Charles Eslick and Neil French. The shingles are bound for Honolulu. Another load of 1,200 bundles is due to go to Alva, Oklahoma, on the first trip south of the Briggs Navigation vessel around May 1. The Oklahoma-bound shingles will go to Prince Rupert and then by rail across Canada to their destination. Not all of Wrangell Cedar Product shingles, however, are leaving Wrangell. Apparently in preparation for cleanup week, several into deep water in Zimovia Wrangell homes are receiving Strait. new roofs with Wrangell' hometown product. Mayor Barnes, whose home is one of the several being reshingled, said the workman doing the job told her, "they are the finest shingles I ever saw anywhere."

April 28, 1972 Work was on schedule this week for \$98,393 in improve-budget cuts, the station faces ments by the state at Wrangell a serious financial crunch this Harbor, Tom Voorhies, con- vear. KSTK's fund-raising struction supervisor, said the drive runs April 30 to May work will be completed in a 4. Celebrating its 20th anniweek to 10 days. Rebuilding versary this July, the station of the boat grid, including a has survived obstacles nevnew walkway with a safety er imagined by the group of rail and new timbers, is com- radio enthusiasts who put plete. Extension and redeck- their dreams together in 1976. ing of the city dock was near- Today, 20 years after the loing completion this week. A cal radio idea was born, the 26-by-17-foot extension to the station airs 24 hours a day dock has been built alongside through the efforts of many the Reliance Shrimp Cannery volunteers and a few fulland Wrangell vessel owners time staff members.

were studying the feasibility of mounting an electric hoist there to facilitate boat loading. Voorhies said the completion of dredging will be the last item on the list under the contract with Tom O. Paddock Co., of Juneau. The engineer said the scooping of nearly 4,000 cubic yards of mud in the vicinity of the dock has been slowed slightly because of debris on the bay bottom. "So far," said Voorhies, "We have pulled out 39 stubs (of old pilings) that we didn't know were there." The dredging was being done by mechanical clamshells and the spoils barged

April 17, 1997 KSTK radio is one of

bumped along, weathering crisis after crisis, and still managing to put together quality programs that Wrangell has come to enjoy and depend on. However, with the current slate of state

those organizations that has

## State Senate could vote on new dividend formula

Anchorage Daily News and Wrangell Sentinel

The Alaska Senate could vote this week on a new formula to calculate the annual Permanent Fund dividend, though proposed amendments and lengthy debate are expected and passage of the bill is uncertain.

The bill that passed the Senate Finance Committee last Thursday would set this fall's dividend at about \$2,600 per person, putting the same cash in Alaskans' pockets as the House plan to pay out ĥalf that amount as a dividend and half as a one-time energy relief check to help Alaskans paying the price of higher heating fuel, gasoline and diesel bills.

The Senate Finance Committee version of the state operating budget bill for the fiscal year that starts July 1 does not include an energy relief check.

The separate Senate Finance bill to change the 40-year-old dividend formula in state law could – if it passes the full Senate, the House and wins concurrence from the governor — end years of debates over the size of the Permanent Fund dividend.

Senate President Peter Micciche said a vote could take place as soon as this

ing on any amendments that happen in that bill, this is the cornerstone of a fiscal plan," he said. "It (the dividend) has been the great divider in this building for years now," the Soldotna legislator said.

The Senate Finance plan would divide the annual draw from the Permanent Fund 50-50 between dividends and public services for the next fiscal year, producing about a \$2,600 PFD. But after that one year, the formula would revert to 25% for dividends and 75% for public services for several years - until legislators can agree on at least \$800 million per year in new or increased taxes and other revenues to keep the budget balanced.

Without new revenues, legislative fiscal analysts have said, diverting so much money to dividends would put the state into a deep budget deficit, though the actual deficit would depend in great part

The Senate Finance bill would restore the 50-50 split of Permanent Fund earnings in 2027, if lawmakers can find new revenues to cover the budget. If not, the PFD would remain at 25% of the annual

Based on Permanent Fund Corp. pro-

on future oil prices.

earnings draw.

jections, after a \$2,600 PFD this fall, the payment would drop back to about \$1,400 next year if set at 25% of the annual draw on the fund's earnings.

The Alaska Legislature voted in 2018 to establish a recurring transfer from the Permanent Fund to the state treasury, set at 5% of the fund's five-year average market value. The 5% limit was adopted to ensure that the fund could spin off money for public services and dividends, and still continue to grow over time on the expectation that the savings account long term would earn better than a 5% return on its investments.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy has proposed a permanent 50-50 split of the annual draw to ensure large dividends and has published budget projections that show it is sustainable. Many lawmakers, along with the Legislature's finance analysts, are skeptical of the governor's revenue projections, doubtful that high oil prices will hold long term, and believe the cost of public services could rise faster than projected by the Dunleavy administra-

The combination of less revenue than projected and larger dividends could create deep holes in the state budget.

Committee members advanced the PFD formula bill without a guarantee that it has enough support to pass the full Senate. That means the formula could change substantially before it advances

out of the Senate. One alternative, discussed by Senate Minority Leader Tom Begich, of Anchorage, would reverse the committee's approach and start with 25% of the Permanent Fund draw for dividends, gradually stepping it up to 50% over multiple

"We'll have a lot of discussion, I'm sure, on the floor," said Sen. Bill Wielechowski, of Anchorage, who opposes the Finance Committee version.

Some lawmakers and members of the public have advocated for a constitutionally guaranteed dividend. The Senate committee bill would put the new formula into state law, not the constitution. Previous dividend votes in the Senate

have taken place with tight margins, and the same is expected when lawmakers debate the formula change

"One thing I can guarantee you is it will be an exciting day - or so - on the Senate floor," Micciche said.

## Borough assembly starts review of next year's budget

By Larry Persily Sentinel writer

The borough assembly has started work on its budget for the fiscal year that will start July 1, and will need to decide on a school district request for more funding in addition to paying higher fuel and property insur-ance costs and spending on necessary maintenance of Revenues are up, however, with more money coming

in from sales taxes and federal payments in lieu of property taxes on national forest lands.

Borough staff and assembly members started their budget review during a work session April 20.

The borough's annual contribution to the school district operating budget has held at \$1.3 million in recent years, but facing a pandemic-induced drop in enrollment and less state funding based on the student count, the district has asked for an increase to \$1.592 million for the 2022-2023 school year.

The assembly did not take action at last week's work session. Further budget discussion and decisions, such as setting the property tax rate for next year, will come

Borough revenues, including 100% of sales tax receipts, property taxes, state and federal payments, are projected at almost \$7.5 million for next year. After schools, the borough's second largest expense is the police department.

That revenue total does not include self-supporting accounts, such as the utilities, port and harbors, which are outside the general fund.

The top source of revenue is projected in the draft budget as sales taxes, at \$3.3 million, followed by property taxes, at \$1.8 million

Wrangell's sales tax rate has not changed in years, but its revenue has consistently increased. Over the past five years, annual sales tax revenues have increased at an average growth rate of 4.4% a year, Mason Villarma, borough finance director, reported to the assembly last week.

Higher prices for goods and services due to inflation and supply-chain constraints, while painful for consumers, generate more sales tax revenues for the borough.

"Post-pandemic tourism is poised to bolster the local economy," along with additional funds for community projects under the 2021 federal infrastructure act, Villarma reported to the assembly.

ough's sales tax revenues, they also add to the borough's costs. The draft budget includes funding for a 25% increase in fuel costs for next year. The borough is expecting a 10% increase in its property insurance pre-

And while inflation-driven prices add to the bor-

Among the other issues and suggestions discussed at the budget work session were: The borough could save as much as \$30,000 a year

- by dropping flood insurance, on the assumption that state or federal disaster aid would cover repair costs if
- a flood caused significant damage to public facilities. The assembly may consider adding a surcharge when people pay their tax bills with a credit card. The borough currently pays about \$75,000 a year in bank and credit card processing fees.
- The borough is considering several improvements and work projects at public facilities around town, including conducting a full assessment to excavate, remove and clean up around buried fuel tanks at the Public Safety Building and high school. Both tanks were installed almost 40 years old and are out of compliance with state law.

## SEARHC plans nursing assistant program class for June

Sentinel staff

SEARHC plans to offer a paid, six-week, on-the-job training program in Wrangell in June for certified nursing assistants (CNAs).

After successful completion of the program, a student is eligible to sit for the state certification exam. As of last Friday, the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium had open-

#### Correction

An April 9 news story in the Sentinel erroneously reported that the new elementary school princi-pal, Ann Hilburn, would be given a two-year contract. Her contract with her school district is for one year.



ings posted on its website for Allen, hospital administrator. eight nursing assistant jobs in

"CNAs are an important part of our workforce, with 20-plus on staff at any time," said Carly

"The course is a hybrid of in-person lecture, online courses, skills lab and clinical experience. This is a great opportunity to get started in the health care participants are eligible for full-

field. ... This is paid training make money while you learn,"

SEARHC said in a statement. "After passing the state exam and receiving CNA certification,

time employment with SEAR

For more information or to apply for the training program, contact the human resources of-



#### From the publisher

### The time-out is not up for bad behavior

 $^{\prime\prime}I_{t}$  shouldn't be that

and traveling public

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more substantial from

Hallmark card and an

insincere promise never

the offenders than a

to do it again."

easy, and the flight crews

By Larry Persily Publisher

This isn't about a time-out for misbehaving children; it's about adults who behave as children, or worse.

The federal law requiring face masks on airplanes is no longer in effect. That means big changes for flyers. For travelers who had grown tired of masking up before heading into airports and boarding planes, they are free to show their smiles and put away or throw away their masks.

For travelers who remain concerned about catching COVID-19, they are free to keep wearing masks in their best efforts to protect themselves and others.

What it shouldn't mean is that the thousands of unruly, abusive, threatening, sometimes violent passengers who ended up on airlines no-fly lists should be allowed to get back on board as if nothing happened. It shouldn't be that easy, and the flight crews and traveling public deserve

something more substantial from the offenders than a Hallmark card and an insincere promise never to do it again. Most airlines, including Alaska, are not

allowing the worst offenders to get off the nofly list. Good decision. It's too soon after the crime to invite offenders back into the air. It's too soon for the flight crews to forget the abusive and threatening behavior, flash a smile and say, "Welcome back, we missed you."

United Airlines is taking the talking approach. "We have talked to them individually," United CEO Scott Kirby told NBC last week of the company's no-fly list. "Many of them assure us that now that the mask mandate is off, everything is going to be fine, and I trust that the vast majority of them will."

United seems maybe too eager to forgive and forget. And too trusting that bad behavior magically goes away, especially in an era when rude and abusive behavior is rewarded on social media with likes and followers and encouragement.

American Airlines and Alaska have adopted similar policies. American's chief government affairs officer told reporters that "in most cases" people who were banned over masks

will be allowed back, but that won't extend to the worst offenders. Alaska said, "those whose behavior was particularly egregious will remain banned

Delta Air Lines is going for the "one more chance" approach. The airline said it will restore flying privileges after a case-by-case review. "Any further disregard for the policies that keep us all safe will result in placement on Delta's permanent no-fly list."

Not surprisingly, the lead-

ers of two unions that represent flight attendants and other workers have criticized airlines for allowing banned passengers to board again. Airlines reported more than 7,000 incidents of disruptive passengers to the Federal Aviation Administration since the start of 2021, and who can blame flight crews for being reluctant to have those pas-

A private apology to some airline official on the phone is not enough for the most abusive banned travelers to make amends and join the well-behaved on airplanes. Maybe require them to visit a classroom and talk with students about bad behavior, then have the teacher write them a note to end the time-out

sengers back in the cabin.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Representative reports accomplishments in budget

The State House finished its work April 9 on the operating budget, which has been passed to the Senate for further work and debate. While there is still work to be done, this year's budget has the potential for some great investments for the needs of Alaskans.

The House passed a Permanent Fund dividend at \$1,250 this year and approved an additional energy relief check of \$1,300 to help mitigate the costs of record inflation and high fuel costs. While I know some constituents wanted a bigger PFD, this compromise means we can take a sustainable draw from much-needed vessel replacethe Permanent Fund to main- ment and maintenance, contintain its stability and growth ued state funding is necessary into the future, while still taking to show long-term investment advantage of increased oil reve- toward returning Alaska's ferry nue to give a necessary financial boost to Alaskans.

Oil prices this year also gave us the funds to prioritize our investment in education.

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priation to fund the WWAMI medical school program for two years, the House approved \$111 million to fully fund municipal school bond debt and Regional Education Attendance Areas for fiscal year 2023, and \$66 million to pay the 50% of school construction debt that wasn't paid last year. This is an important and overdue investment in our students, and helps to relieve pressure to increase property taxes at the local level.

The House also voted to fully fund the Alaska Marine Highway System through 2023 at \$141 million, with \$82 million coming from federal infrastructure funds. While this influx of federal funds will help with service to a consistent, reliable, and affordable system.

Our ferry system remains one of my priorities, and this funding is a critical way to strength-In addition to \$1.2 billion for en our regional economies and forward funding K-12 educa- make sure Southeast Alaska tion and a \$1.6 million appro- communities stay connected.

While I have heard a lot of support from my constituents for funding ferries and education, I'm also excited to see other investments in our communities. This budget adds \$1.5 million in grants for rural public radio stations like KSTK, an additional \$5 million for seniors and disabilities services, and \$1.2 in behavioral health grants.

Most importantly, the House voted to add \$2.2 billion in savings to the Statutory Budget Reserve by the end of fiscal 2023, which will help ensure Alaskans are protected through fluctuations in oil prices, natural disasters or other changes in our

#### Thank you for community cleanup help

Paula Rak and the WCA IGAP program would like to thank LNM Services, Wrangell IGA, City Market, First Bank, the city and borough of Wrangell and the Wrangell Cooperative Association for their donations and continued support for the Wrangell Community Cleanup.

Sentinel staff:

## It all adds up to the same \$2,600

With just a few weeks left in the legislative session, House and Senate budget writers appear to agree that \$2,600 is a good number to put into the hands of Alaskans this fall. But how they get there is different.

Editorial

The House-passed version of the state budget appropriates enough money to send every eligible Alaskan about \$2,600 - half would be the annual Permanent Fund dividend, and half would be called "energy relief" to help people pay the higher prices for gasoline, diesel and heating fuel. Those same high prices have generated a lot of money for the state treasury from oil production tax and royalty checks, and House members figured it made sense to share.

The Senate Finance Committee also is looking at \$2,600 checks this fall, but with a different calculation.

The committee's latest version of the budget, as of Monday, did not include funding for an energy relief check. Instead, the committee has sent a separate bill to the full Senate for consideration that would pay out a \$2,600 dividend.

The Senate committee approach is to pay the \$2,600 out of the annual withdrawal of Permanent Fund earnings. This is the fifth year the Legislature will withdraw a fixed amount from the fund to help pay for public services and dividends. The committee plan is to split that withdrawal 50% for dividends and 50% for public services, but only for this year. Starting next year, the PFD would drop back to maybe \$1,400. Same as the House plan that would drop the energy relief check after one year.

Not only do the Senate and House plans arrive at the same onetime \$2,600 payout, but they essentially use the same money.

Permanent Fund earnings, oil taxes and royalties are all general fund dollars that flow into the state treasury for the Legislature to spend. The state has one pot of money for school funding, road maintenance, the university system, troopers — and PFDs. It really doesn't matter if the House says half of the \$2,600 is from Permanent Fund earnings and half is from oil revenues, versus the Senate committee plan which takes all of the \$2,600 from Permanent Fund earnings. It is the same checking account.

What matters is that they agree it's one time. House and Senate leaders generally acknowledge that the state cannot afford a \$2,600 PFD every year. This year's \$100 oil prices will not last forever, and legislative leaders worry that the public might get unrealistically hooked on a large PFD only to see it shrink, which would not make

The House wants Alaskans to know that half of the check this year is temporary oil money

The Senate committee bill says next year's dividend would drop to a 25% share of fund earnings until the Legislature raises more revenue to balance the budget, meaning taxes, to afford a 50% dividend

While agreeing on a larger check this fall by whatever name, the leadership in both chambers wants the public to understand it's not affordable longer term without new revenues to pay the bills. That's a message all Alaskans need to understand.

- Wrangell Sentinel

## Hospital sale -

Continued from page 1

auction website for no fewer than 30 days.

The winning bidder would have to sign a purchase agreement within 10 days of auction close, and may purchase the property with 20% of the winning bid amount as a down payment, payable within five business days from signing the purchase agreement. The remaining balance would be due 60 days after signing.

it would be relisted at the original bid amount until sold, according to the resolution presented to the assembly on Tuesday.

Borough Manager Jeff Good said he hasn't heard ters, a substance abuse treatment center chain with locations in Florida, Kentucky, Monday.

Tennessee, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, that in November sent a representative to look at the old hospital and do a walk-through.

Capital Facilities Director Amber Al-Haddad said on March 8 that Regard Recovery had been waiting on an appraisal of the property before possibly submitting a formal proposal.

Anchorage-based appraiser Reliant submitted its appraisal to the borough on

Al-Haddad on Monday said she hadn't heard from Regard Recovery.

We'll make sure they know about it and are aware (the appraisal is done),' Good said Monday.

Regard Recovery repre from Regard Recovery Cen- sentative Casey Odell did not respond to requests by the Sentinel for comment on

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### School jobs -

Continued from page 1

has not received a single application for the special education teacher position.

Wrangell is not alone in looking for special education teachers. In 2019, 44 states reported special education teacher shortages to the federal government. This school vear, that number jumped to 48, according to a National Public Report last week.

In addition to a nationwide teacher shortage, Alaska school districts are finding it hard to recruit on at least two counts. More people have moved

out of Alaska than moved here during each of the past nine years, according to state Labor Department statistics. That outmigration has cut into the state's workforce.

And school officials statewide have long argued that the Legislature's decision in 2005 to eliminate a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers and other public employees hired after 2006, in favor of a less certain personal savings plan, called defined contributions, has made it hard for Alaska schools to compete with Lower 48 districts that offer the certainty of a traditional retirement structure.

Davis noted that not one of Wrangell High School's 15 graduates this year is considering a career as a teacher.

The shortage of aides and substitutes, particularly when a teacher is out, means the rest of the staff just gets stretched "covering other thinner, teacher's classrooms, filling in as substitutes, volunteering for everything imaginable, Burr explained in his letter.

"The stress of the last two

years has also taken a toll on staff and students," he said in his email Friday.

"Staff works covering other duties, staying late to try to catch up, and it just ends up being one of those cycles of no return," Miller-Yancey said. "This spring is reaching a breaking point.

Burr wrote in his community letter: "As we approach five weeks left before summer, we have one very big request ... visit our buildings, talk with staff and students about how you can be involved in keeping Wrangell's schools open and active.'

Even if it's just one day a week, "we can work around that," Miller-Yancey said.

The hourly pay for substitutes ranges from about \$13 to almost \$19 an hour, depending on the position and whether the person is a state-certified teacher.

Job openings on the school district website as of Friday for an elementary school library aide and special education aide - called paraprofessionals - were advertised at between \$14 and \$22.50 an hour, depending on experience. Because it's only part-time work (under 30 hours a week), the district does not offer benefits with either position.

Part of the problem in recruiting substitutes and aides may be the wages, Davis said. Some food service jobs pay more, he said.

Anyone interested in applying can call the district office at 907-874-2347 or email Kim Powell at kpowell@wpsd.us for more information.



Volunteer Sage Smiley is treated for "severe back pain" by volunteer firefighter Chris Guggenbickler during a tri-annual fire drill held by the state Department of Transportation and Wrangell Fire Department last Wednesday on the north side of the airport. Smiley was one of 29 volunteers who portrayed victims of a plane crash. Emergency responders tended to the victims spread out on the ground and in the rocks, and put out a fire as part of the mandatory drill.

PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/

# Drill readies responders for real airport disasters

By MARC LUTZ Sentinel editor

Bodies were strewn throughout the rocks north of the Wrangell Airport, the site of a grisly airplane wreck. Cries for help could be heard here and there. Bloodied victims wandered aimlessly.

Every three years, the state Department of Transportation requires a drill to prepare emergency responders in the case of a real disaster. Last Wednesday, approximately 25 firefighters and EMTs treated volunteer victims during a mock plane crash, complete with fiery wreckage and triage stations.

Before the drill began, Capt. Dorianne Sprehe of the Wrangell Fire Department instructed a group of 28 adults and children volunteer victims about how to act with their assigned injuries.

"If you have an arterial bleed or compound fracture, you do not get up and move to the green (tarp). Stay put. Make them move you," Sprehe instructed the group. "Nobody is really dead. Rowen (Wiederspohn) is the only one that should be laying there for any length of time.'

The disaster drill is typically run in conjunc-

tion with a medical drill put on by Wrangell Medical Center. This year, SEARHC won't hold its drill until June, Sprehe said, which meant emergency responders at the airport drill did not transport volunteers to the hospital.

Along with the injured bodies, firefighters also had to quash a fire that represented a downed aircraft. An old pickup truck that had been used for parts was gutted, transported to the drill site, filled with wood pallets, then set ablaze. Crews had to knock down the blaze before moving in to treat victims. One volunteer victim, Garrett Southland, feels

the drill is a good way to show children how such actions can save their lives should a real disaster occur. "I just want to help the community and I want

to be a Wrangell volunteer firefighter," Southland said. "I've been trying to get on for five years." Police Chief Tom Radke watched from the sidelines as firefighters and EMTs coordinated

their efforts and treated and moved victims. "The real thing never goes this smoothly," he

said. "Something always goes wrong."

### COVID

Continued from page 1

The Skagway health clinic reported more than 30 residents tested positive for COVID since the first week of April. "What I have seen is mostly kids, some adults," said Brent Kunzler, medical director at the Skagway Dahl Memorial Clinic. "Seems like it affects the kids a little harder this time," Kunzler reported April 20.

Sitka is another hot spot for new cases, with 67 in the past seven days - about the same as Juneau, which has four times the population — and 160 in the past 30 days, according to the state's April 20 update.

Earlier this month, an outbreak among crew members aboard the state ferry Matanuska forced the Alaska Marine Highway System to pull workers from other vessels to fully staff the ship to continue its scheduled service, said John Falvey, general manager.

"We're trying very hard to keep the boat running," he said April 8 of the staffing shuffle. Three members of the engine room crew tested positive, and then "a few more crew" also came down with the virus, he said. The ferry system was able to pull crew from vessels tied up in the shipyard for maintenance to keep the Matanuska in service.

The day after a federal judge in Florida on April 18 ruled against the federal face mask mandate for travel on airplanes, buses, trains and other public transportation, the Alaska Marine Highway System announced that masks are optional for staff and passengers. Juneau and Anchorage, also

on April 19, stopped requiring bus passengers to wear face masks. Alaska Airlines was one of

the first air carriers in the nation to cancel its mandatory face mask policy just hours after the

day, most airlines had followed The U.S. Department of Jus-

federal court ruling. By the next

tice last week appealed the judge's ruling, following advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that face masking "remains necessary for the public health."

Nationwide, as of last Friday, the CDC reported almost 1 million deaths related to COVID and more than 80 million cases. In Alaska, the case count was at 251,506 as of April 20, with 1,248 deaths. Just one death in Wrangell related to COVID has been reported by the state.

#### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR MUNICIPAL LEGAL SERVICES

The City and Borough of Wrangell is seeking proposals for Municipal Legal Services (RFP) from qualified attorneys or law firms to serve as the legal adviser the City and Borough of Wrangell's Borough Assembly, Borough Manager, Borough Clerk, and other staff as appropriate.

Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. local time, Tuesday, June 28,

To view the full RFP that lists the scope of services, term qualifications, submittal requirements, and other proposal information can be found on the Borough's Website at: https://www.wrangell.com/community/rfp-professionalmunicipal-legal-services.

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

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## Schools hope for additional funds from borough and state

By MARC LUTZ Sentinel editor

School board members voted unanimously on April 18 to adopt the district's budget for the 2022-23 school year, which is balanced on the assumption of \$432,000 in additional state and borough funding.

The school district submitted a letter along with the adopted \$5 million budget to the borough, requesting an additional \$292,000 on top of the \$1.3 million the borough has paid the district in past annual appropriations.

The district also is counting on an additional \$140,000 in state funding

The borough funds its local contribution to the school budget with money from sales tax collections and federal payments in lieu of property taxes on national forest land.

Mayor Steve Prysunka said budget decisions need to be based on priorities, of which public schools are one.

"Public schools are absolutely vital to our community," Prysunka said. "If a budget decision is made, it's not being made to punish a school district. We have to weigh the priorities. We can throw tons of resources at one thing, and then something else comes

up. ... It's about balancing the whole."

Schools Superintendent Bill Burr said during the April 18 meeting that discussions between the district and borough have focused on the present its per-student formula for support-

circumstances but have also looked at making the school budget "future-proof.

"We've been doing quite a bit (spending cuts) and none of it's ideal," Burr said. "Any time you're dealing

with staffing cuts, it's pretty tough."

The Wrangell district has almost 20% fewer students than in 2019, before the pandemic drove many parents to pull their children and move them into homeschooling or correspondence programs. State funding is based on enrollment.

Burr said he and Stromberg were optimistic that the borough would consider the request for additional local funds, a sentiment echoed by school board President Dave Wilson.

"I think it's great we can take this to the borough assembly," Wilson said. "I think we should be asking for more from them. They need to know how important education is in our community and we are in a position

that we need their help. The school district request was presented to the borough assembly last month at a budget work session, at which no action was taken. The assembly will consider the funding request as it reviews its budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

In addition to seeking additional borough funding, the school district is counting on an increase in state dollars. The state has not increased

ing local districts since 2017. The school district spending plan for next year relies on state funding to cover 64% of its operating budget, which

assumes a boost in state dollars. Schools Business Manager Tammy Stromberg said the district hopes the Legislature will pass House Bill 272, which would increase the funding formula. Based on Wrangell's current student enrollment of around 250, that would bring in an additional \$140,000 for the 2022-23 school year and an additional \$68,000 for 2023-24, she said.

As of Monday, the bill was still awaiting action in the House Finance Committee before it can go to the full House for a vote and then Senate consideration in the final three weeks of the legislative session.

The full House, however, already has passed a backup plan in the state budget that would appropriate the same amount of money to school districts statewide, about \$57 million, including \$140,000 to Wrangell, as a one-time payment for the next school year, without changing the formula for subsequent years.

The Senate Finance Committee's latest version of the budget last week accepted the House one-time payment, though the full budget still needs votes in the Senate and House before it can go to the governor for his consideration.

According to Stromberg, if the district and state come through on

additional funds, the district would "break even" for the 2022-23 budget.

"While it is easy to say costs should be cut, 90% of the district costs are salary and benefits, insurance, fuel and electricity," Stromberg said.
"The district has little control over insurance, fuel and electricity. Salary and benefits can be cut, but at some point, cuts to this area can severely affect the educational program."

If the borough agrees to the increased payment but the additional state money does not arrive, the district would be short \$40,000 in the 2022-23 school year budget and \$100,000 to purchase supplies for the 2023-24 school year since those are bought a year early. "The district is currently transitioning to bulk-buy supplies to the greatest extent possible in the prior year so we can be ready to start school in the fall and control the supply budget," Stromberg said.

But if the borough holds its funding at last year's level of \$1.3 million, and no additional money arrives from the state, the district would have a \$377,000 deficit for the 2022-23 school year, plus come up short on supplies for the next year.

"We'll have to make some severe cuts and some other changes that will be political or uncomfortable or require discussion to get to a place where people are comfortable,"

### Senate committee proposes restoring full school debt repayment

By Larry Persily

The borough could receive about \$300,000 under a Senate Finance Committee plan to pay back municipalities across Alaska for years of short-funding of the state's share of local school construction bond debt.

The committee version of the state budget includes \$221 million to pay back municipalities for incomplete state reimbursement payments going back five years.

Years of low oil prices and large state budget deficits prompted governors to short-fund the reimbursements, with legislators lacking enough votes to override budget vetoes. This year's \$100plus oil prices are swelling the state treasury, with legislators and the governor looking to share the wealth with Alaskans and communities in an

State law provides that the Legislature will cover 60% to 70% of a municipality's annual bond debt repayments for school construction and major maintenance projects approved by voters before 2015, when the Legislature imposed a moratorium on payments for new projects to reduce the state's

Wrangell voters approved the community's last school bonds more than a decade ago, and the borough paid off the last of the debt in 2021. If the Legslature approves the Senate Finance Committee proposal, Wrangell could receive a one-time payment of about \$300,000 to make good on the share that the state owed — but did not pay — on the bonds in fiscal years 2017, 2020 and 2021.

The funding package is part of the operating budget for the state fiscal year that begins on July 1

The Senate Finance Committee has yet to vote on the budget bill, which would go before the full Senate for consideration and then to the House for review of the Senate changes. Legislators face a May 18 adjournment deadline to adopt a budget for submission to the governor for his signature or vetoes.

The big winners if the Senate committee proposal goes through would be Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, which would receive tens of millions of dollars to make up for partial state payments in past years. In particular, the Mat-Su Borough, with the fastest-growing population in the state, borrowed heavily to build new schools in the past decade.

Then-Gov. Bill Walker vetoed about 25% of the state's share of school debt reimbursement for fiscal year 2017, as oil prices were one-third of what they are today and the state faced large budget deficits.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy vetoed half of the state's contribution to local school debt for fiscal year 2020, his second year in office, as he shifted more expenses from the state to municipalities.

There's no easy way out of this," Dunleavy said of his decision to veto the spending for fiscal year 2020. "Whether the PFD is taken and the impacts that will have on 680,000 individuals and families statewide, whether it's taxes, whether it's reductions. I think everyone realizes that there's no easy way out of this or we would have found the easy way. But I believe that the communities are going to have to make the decision on how they're going to deal with that."

The governor vetoed 100% of the state spending

The budget currently before the Legislature for next year includes full funding for the reimbursement program, though it doesn't matter to Wrangell which has paid off all of its school bonds.

### District chooses new principal for high school, middle school

By MARC LUTZ

The school board on April 18 voted to hire a principal for Wrangell High School and Stikine Middle school.

Robert Burkhart will begin as principal for the secondary schools on Aug. 8. He applied for the position after another candidate was chosen and had withdrawn her application.

The district received more than 30 applications for the position, which is a one-year contract. It will be paid with federal funds from an American Rescue Plan Act grant.

The school board approved the contract for green Elementary on April 9 – which is also for one year and paid with federal funds – putting current special education teacher

replace assistant principal/ school and middle school, is retiring at the end of the school year, and Jenn Miller-Yancey, the assistant principal and lead teacher at the elementary, is returning to a teaching position.

Burkhart is coming from

Ennis, Montana, as the principal of Valley Christian School in Missoula. He has held the position since last year when the previous principal died due to illness. Before that, he was retired, most recently serving as an assistant principal in the Bering Strait School District in Alaska. He was the district. He was also a

a new principal at Ever- also the athletic director for principal in Delta/Greely and Yukon Flats school districts over six and a half Burkhart's contract at Ann Hilburn into the role.

Valley Christian School is Both principal positions lead teacher for the high after his current role rejusaid Kimberly Powell, advenated him. "I know I can be very ef-

fective working with kids," he said. "They have a lot of issues (older generations) didn't face. They need skills our generation (were taught).

After discussing a return to the workforce with Dianne, his wife of almost 50 years, Burkhart said they made the decision to look for something in Alaska, since they enjoyed their time here. Being in Wrangell will also move them closer to their grandchildren in Juneau.

Burkhart, 68, was raised in Missouri and Illinois and attended high school just outside of Chicago. He attended Montana State University in Bozeman, where he met Dianne

up at the end of this school mittee was impressed with tions about the school and lead teachers positions at year, but instead of return- (Burkhart's) answers on in- our community beyond all the schools. Bob Davis, ing to retirement, he felt he volving and engaging the the normal one regarding the assistant principal and wasn't done in education community in education," available housing." ministrative assistant for showed a genuine interest the school district and a member of the committee. "When asked if he had questions for us, it was

apparent that he had done

his homework on Wrangell

in becoming a part of the "I like to represent the

school well and keep people informed of what's going on," Burkhart said.

### You can't beat free

"The (interview) com- and had very specific ques-

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## Gillnetters 'do the best they can' amid restrictions

By Sarah Aslam Sentinel reporter

"Right now, we're in a low-productivity era," said Bill Auger, a fifth-generation commercial fisherman with 35 years of experience. Salmon fishing in District 8, in front of the Stikine River, has been closed for several years, and the gillnet fleet is limited to two days a week in District 6, west of Wrangell.

"There is less out there to catch. Everybody is trying to do the best they can to catch what they can. Rebuilding the stocks is a big concern, and how you go about rebuilding them," Auger said in an interview April 11, a week after Wrangell gillnetters met to discuss the state Board of Fisheries and the upcoming season.

Auger attended last month's board meeting in Anchorage, where proposals were considered for regulatory changes to Southeast fisheries. There were no major changes for this year in the Wrangell area.

"We sit right here at the mouth of the Stikine River. Those salmon stocks have been performing pretty poorly for a while now. We haven't been meeting

ger," Auger said. "It's had an impact on the sports fisheries. King salmon, especially for the gillnet fishery, you're giving up time to catch sockeye.

Jared Gross also attended the gillnetters meeting at the Stikine Inn on April 7. "What's really happening here, in

the gillnet fishery, is we've lost a lot of fishing time over the years," Gross said April 12. "It's directly because of management and the escapement goal for the Stikine River.'

Separate from the state-managed commercial fishery in salt water, federal managers for the sixth year in a row have closed the Stikine River chinook subsistence fishery to help preserve weak runs of the returning salmon.

"The preseason forecast for the Stikine River is 7,400 large chinook salmon (greater than 28 inches in total length), which is below the escapement goal range of 14,000 to 28,000 large chinook salmon," the federal announce-

"The gillnet fleet went from fishing in . and we would be fishing wild fish, king salmon," Gross said. Now, "it's to pick your pocket," Auger said of the

goals in four years, maybe a little bit lon- not even wild salmon," he said, noting that the fleet is allowed to fish at Anita Bay, a release site for hatchery salmon.

The gillnet fleet is on restrictions in July in District 6, said Wrangell's Chris Guggenbickler, president of the United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters Association. who also attended the Board of Fisheries Anchorage meeting.

Fisherman Alan Reeves said the fisheries board and other managers try to create an even playing field between commercial gear types. "Trollers have never got (enough of) what they're supposed to catch. Gillnetters are too efficient. Seiners are right behind in their allotment. .. The real fight is over Anita Bay," he said

The fisherman owns the fish," Reeves said, referring to self-assessments on commercial catches to fund hatchery operations. "They're trying to catch their allotment during that time. Fish are weird, sometimes they come in this bay or that bay."

A seiner can kill a gillnet run, "because they catch everything," Reeves said.

"There is always someone looking

little bit I can," Merritt said. "If

Merritt said some fishermen

will "chase the dollar to the nth

degree." If a company is paying

five cents more per pound, that

could land them up to an add-

ed \$5,000 to \$10,000 more per

year depending on their haul,

"Not every boat that's

Angerman said.

in Wrangell fishes out of

Some of these guys fish for

Trident in Petersburg or E.C.

Phillips out of Ketchikan. It's

always our duty to ... get these

boats to come back to Wrangell.

I think we're doing a good job

different gear types all going after salm on. The younger generation needs to be aware of that and get involved, he said.

"You can't just run down to the harbor and go fishing. You need people like (Guggenbickler) doing the work and making sure you have the fish to catch,'

Auger said it's tough having only a handful of people go to Anchorage from Southeast to be the vanguard for

Keeping their industry alive in an era of diminished returns and continued restrictions, and turning over leadership to a younger generation, were the chief concerns for the more than a dozen gillnetters gathered at the Stikine Inn on April 7.

They're the future. We're the guys fading out of the fisheries," Auger said.

Guggenbickler's term on the gill netters association board is up in two years. Auger serves as Alaska's alternative commissioner to the Pacific Salmon Treaty, and there will be a seat on the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association.

### **Processors**

Tundra

YET ANOTHER TRAGEDY

DUE TO TEXTING

WHILE SWIMMING

I'VE HAD TO STOP

EATING CHILDREN SINCE

MY DOCTOR PUT ME

ON A LOW-FAT DIET.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Commercial fisherman Brennon Eagle said the loss of dependable state ferry service means more of the fleet's catch leaves town as air freight, putting fishermen and processors at a cost disadvantage to other seafood suppliers.

#### Continued from page 1

we have 50 fishermen who do The borough received almost that same kind of thing, that \$285,000 as its share of the state does add up to some pretty big tax in fiscal year 2021. bucks for Wrangell.

During its peak season, Angerman said his plant will have approximately 40 to 50 employees. Sea Level Seafoods last week was recruiting for about 180 job openings at its Alaska operations in Kodiak, Seward and Wrangell, with just three of the openings in Wrangell.

Brian Merritt, a fourth grade teacher who commercial fishes for salmon during summer, said he's been selling to Sea Level since it opened. Most of the time he sells exclusively to them.

"Some of the other companies have just as good of service or maybe even a little better service, but in light of Wrangell, since I live here, I'm willing to take a little bit of a pay cut in order to help out the town in what

...so then I said I

wouldn't spawn

the last fish in

the river - LOL.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT

YOU GUYS, BUT I'VE

EATEN SO MUCH I

DON'T THINK I CAN FLY.

with him if he were 2

Angerman said the fishermen can't be faulted for seeking the highest price, but he's also grateful for the loyal ones who have stuck with Sea Level. by Chad Carpenter

with that.

Wrangell's other seafood processor, Trident Seafoods, has not operated the past two years, citing poor economics of weak salmon returns. The company has not responded to Sentinel requests for its plans this year. The company has processing plants in Petersburg and Ketchikan, and runs tenders to bring fishermen's

catches to those facilities. Brennon Eagle, who participates in similar fisheries to Reeves, has been in the business for 44 years, beginning at age 14. For him, finding the best price or services helps him decide who to sell to. When Wrangell had more ferry service for send-

ing shipments out of town, it made it easier to sell halibut here. Now that the fresh fish market is more reliant on costlier air freight deliveries, he has to weigh his options.

"Ten years ago, we were putting almost everything out on the ferry," Eagle said. "Now it almost all has to go out on the plane. That puts us at a 60-cent disadvantage in this town because you're moving things out on the plane. You just can't count on the ferry."

Commercial fishermen also rely on processors that provide ice and tender services. The more frequent the tender on the fishing grounds, the less back-and-forth travel for fishing boats burning up time

"If I have a tender right there that's taking my fish every three or four hours, I don't lose a second of fishing time. It's so handy," Merritt said "You're dropping off fish to a tender and your net is still

If Sea Level isn't providing one of its three tenders when he's fishing in the Juneau area, Merritt said he will go to a Juneau-based buyer or to Icicle in Petersburg. "When you have a bunch of fish on your boat and you need to get rid of it and you don't want to run back to town for five or 10 hours and a tender is going by, I'll just call them up. I haven't been refused yet."

## **Police report**

Monday, April 18 Agency assist: Ambulance re-

Agency assist: Ambulance requested

Tuesday, April 19 violation of conditions of re-

Agency assist: Ambulance. Harassment.

Wednesday, April 20 Nothing to report.

Thursday, April 21

Agency assist: Hoonah Police

Department. Agency assist: Fire Department. Citizen assist. Noise complaint: Car alarm.

Friday, April 22 Citizen assist. Traffic complaint.

Arrest: Driving under the influence and endangering the welfare of a child.

Saturday, April 23 Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department. Agency assist: Bear complaint. Civil matter. Suicide threats

Parking complaint. Sunday, April 24

Domestic violence order served. Agency assist: Ambulance requested.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for blocking roadway while talking. Parking complaint.

Agency assist: Ambulance re-

## State forecasts weak returns for commercial pink harvest

Sentinel staff

After a strong return of pink salmon to Southeast last year, state fisheries managers are forecasting a commercial harvest of just over 16 million fish this summer, one-third the level of last year's catch of 48.5 million pinks.

"During recent decades, Alaska-wide pink salmon returns have tended to be larger" during odd-numbered years than even-numbered years, the Department of Fish and Game noted in its annual forecast released April 19.

Last summer's pink harvest was on track with the 10-year average for odd-numbered years (2010-2019), the state reported.

The report also forecasts a drop in commercial sockeye catches in Southeast this year, at just under 800,000 fish, down from last year's harvest of 1.1 million sockeye. The Southeast region includes Yakutat.

A couple of brighter spots, however, are the forecast for the coho harvest, almost 1.8 million fish, up from 1.56 million last year, and a projected commercial harvest of 8.4 million chum, up from 7.4 million

Most of the chum catch — almost 89% - would be hatchery returns, according to the forecast. Hatcheries have focused for almost 30 years on growing the region's chum harvest, while coho and

sockeye are harder to raise in hatcheries. The department said hatchery returns would comprise about 7% of the Southeast sockeye harvest, and about 34% of the commercial coho catch.

Hatcheries do not focus on the less valuable pinks, with about 3% of this year's Southeast pink harvest expected to come from hatchery stocks, according to the state's estimates.

Bolstered by solid pink numbers last year, the overall Southeast salmon harvest was four times larger than in 2020 and the 16th largest in number of fish since 1962, the state said. The sockeye harvest last year was in the middle of numbers going back to 1962, while the coho harvest was in the bottom half of the range for the past

The 2021 chum harvest was about 25% below the 10-year average.

Statewide, the department expects the total commercial salmon harvest to fall off from last year's 230 million, coming in at 160 million, with most of the drop coming from lower pink returns in Southeast, Prince William Sound and the Alaska Peninsula

The state's biggest commercial fishery, the sockeye catch in Bristol Bay, is projected at a commercial take of almost 60 million fish this summer, up substantially from last year's harvest of 42 million.

### Kennicott delayed out of shipyard; hard-to-get parts part of the problem

By Larry Persily Sentinel writer

Global supply chain shortages and delays have extended past grocery stores, car dealers and electronics to the Alaska Marine Highway System. The state ferry Kennicott was delayed coming out of winter overhaul

Instead of returning to service last week, as had been scheduled, the ship left Ketchikan on Tuesday for a two-week trip to Juneau, Yakutat and then into the Gulf of Alaska before sailing into Bellingham, Washington, to fully start its summer runs.

The Kennicott's scheduled return to service was delayed due to supply chain issues, labor constraints and an unexpected mechanical failure, the state Transportation Department reported April 19.

The ship had been in the Vigor shipyard in Ketchikan for winter overhaul, maintenance and repairs. "One of the steering gear seals blew out," Sam Dapcevich, department spokesman, said Friday. "Parts had to be located and an experienced technician was required for the repair." Supply chain issues caused prob-

lems even before the blown seal,

with some items coming from Norway via Los Angeles.

It had been difficult to find the needed replacement gears and wires that hold the lifeboats ready for use and lowering, John Falvey, general manager at the ferry system, said earlier this month. Workers finally located what they needed in Norway, and after the parts landed in Los Angeles the gears and wires were airfreighted to Ketchikan, he said. "We are really scrambling be-

cause of supply chain issues.'

The Kennicott is not scheduled to stop in Wrangell this summer on its Bellingham-to-Alaska runs. As of Monday, the only state fer-

ry on Wrangell's summer schedule is the Matanuska. The Marine Highway System had been hoping to bring back the Columbia to Southeast Alaska after almost a three-year absence for repairs and to save money, but staffing shortages have kept the vessel tied up in

As of Monday, the state still had not announced whether it had been able to hire enough staff to put the Columbia back to work or the ferry would remain out of action all

## Senate passes bill to tax e-cigarettes, vaping liquids

By Larry Persily Sentinel writer

The Alaska Senate by a wide margin last week approved legislation to tax e-cigarette products just as the state taxes cigarettes and tobacco products.

The legislation, which is scheduled for hearings this week in two House committees, also would raise the legal age to buy and sell tobacco products, including vaping devices and liquids, from 19 to 21 years old to match federal law.

The House and Senate are working toward a May 18 adjournment deadline in the constitution, pushing both chambers to move quicker on legislation.

The goal here is to get it (vaping products) out of the hands of our children," the bill's sponsor, Kodiak Sen. Gary Stevens, testified in the Senate Finance Committee on April 19, a day before the bill passed the full Senate on a 15-4 vote.

Senate Bill 45 would imoose a state tax of 75% on the wholesale price of vaping liquids and 45% of the wholesale price on sticks and other devices. The state taxes cigars and loose tobacco at 75% of the wholesale price, and cigarettes at \$2 per pack.

Every time the state has raised the tax on cigarettes, it has reduced use among young people, Stevens said.

As cigarette taxes increase nationwide and the percentage of Americans who smoke declines, "the tobacco industry has responded with fashionable items" to attract people to vaping products, the senator said during floor debate on the bill April 20. "It is working."

Stevens is trying to reverse the gain of vaping products, and has been working on the tax and regulatory legislation since 2015.

The state doesn't track the wholesale price of e-cigarettes or vaping products, but it appears the new tax, which would take effect July 1, 2023, could add anywhere from a couple of dollars to several dollars to the retail price of the

The municipality of Anchorage imposes a 55% tax on the wholesale price of devices and liquids, as does the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Juneau and Petersburg also tax the products.

The four votes against the bill came from Republican senators representing Anchorage, Palmer and Wasilla, including Sen. Mike Shower, of Wasilla, who said during floor debate: "You're old enough to carry a gun, you're old enough to die for your country, but you're not old enough to drink? To smoke a cigarette if you want? To vape?"

Shower added, "That's a hard choice for me to look at somebody in the eye and say you can't be destructive to yourself. ... I don't think we're being honest about what it means to be an adult."

Fairbanks Sen. Scott Kawasaki objected to the tax on vape sticks and other devices that do not include nicotine liquid. He said taxing those devices would be similar to taxing shot glasses or tobacco pipes, which the state does not tax.

Kawasaki voted for the bill on final passage.

The tax would not apply to online purchases of vaping devices and liquids, only in-state

The Department of Revenue estimates the tax would raise about \$2.2 million a year.

In 2019, then-President Donald Trump signed a bill into law that raised the federal age to consume tobacco products to 21. Alaska is one of 12 states that have not made the same shift in state law.

### **CONGRATULATE YOUR GRADUATES!** The Sentinel is offering discounted "Congratulations Graduates"

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

FerryAlaska.com/employment

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

NOTICE OF JOB OPENING

**Public Works Mechanic** 

The Wrangell Public Works Department will accept

applications for the position of Mechanic through May 13, 2022,

at 5 p.m. This is a permanent position with all City & Borough

benefits. This position is part of the collective bargaining

The Mechanic is a journey-level position, responsible for

Responsibilities include performing complex work in the

inspection, repair and maintenance of automotive equipment

including tractors, trucks, power mowers, power sweepers, police

cars and construction equipment, overhauling light engines, and

diagnosing mechanical problems. Requires in-depth knowledge

of the standard practices, techniques and tools used in repairing,

maintaining and overhauling heavy and light equipment, gasoline,

diesel, mechanical, and electric powered equipment, knowledge

of the principles of internal combustion engines, and knowledge

and understanding laws, codes and regulations pertaining to

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an Equal Employment

Jeff Good, Borough Manager

City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street, P.O. Box 531,

Wrangell, AK 99929, or via email to rmarshall@wrangell.com.

performing a full range of equipment maintenance.

# Kids learn water safety in two-day course

Sentinel editor

An average of 3,960 people die from drowning each year in the U.S. Roughly 35 of those are in Alaska, according to federal sta-

The Alaska Office of Boating Safety is looking to decrease those cost and returned after use. The

came to town last Wednesday and

Kids Don't Float started in Homer in 1996 as a life jacket loaner program. The stations, now found at different public water access points across the state, hold life jackets that can be borrowed at no numbers through its Kids Don't Office of Boating Safety joined the

#### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Port & Harbor Maintenance

The Wrangell Harbor Department will accept applications for the position of Port & Harbor Maintenance through April 29, 2022, at 5 p.m. This is a permanent position with all City & Borough benefits and is part of the IBEW collective bargaining

This position has considerable responsibility for operations at Port and Harbor Facilities. The post comes with autonomy, but also the duty to coordinate and cooperate with those outside the Harbor Department.

This position provides daily maintenance of all Port and Harbor Facilities and maintains a preventative maintenance program for all Port and Harbor Facilities. The work is performed under the supervision of the Port & Harbor Director but considerable leeway is granted for the exercise of independent judgment and initiative. The nature of the work requires that an employee maintain effective working relationships with other city departments and employees, State and Federal officials, business and community organizations and the public. Performs duties as part of the Department of Homeland Security Port Security Plan.

Requires knowledge of marine construction and maintenance operations. Requires basic carpenter skills. Requires boat handling skills. Requires basic computer skills. Requires the ability to weld steel and aluminum, or ability to learn those skills. Requires basic plumbing skills

A High School Diploma or GED is required. Must have a valid Alaska driver's license, valid TWIC card, and basic First Aid/CPR certification or the ability to obtain all within six

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

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

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

Publish April 20 and 27, 2022



effort in 2000 and has since spread it statewide to 826 stations.

Instructor Iris Nawiesniak said the program is free and she and co-instructor Kosette Isakson will go where they are invited. The two came to Wrangell and taught in the classrooms at the elementary and high schools on Wednesday, then held pool classes on Thursday for students in the morning and for the community in the eve-

"We're trying to get everyone prepared before boating season, trying to get them to wear their life jackets and talk about cold-water survival," Nawiesniak said. "We hope the kids take this lesson home and share it with their parents. The majority of fatalities are adult males. It's really hard to change an adult male's behavior."

She said the program intentionally targets kids, so that, over the years, they'll continue to receive the information and "fatality rates will drop because they will have had that education as kids."

Isakson pointed out that Wrangell is fortunate to have a pool to learn in - not all communities in Alaska have access to such a facility. It helps them when teaching about falling into the water fully clothed since, as Nawiesniak pointed out, most people in Alaska go boating in their clothes and not in bathing suits.

Along with teaching kids what



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Instructor Iris Nawiesniak (left), from the Alaska Office of Boating Safety, teaches fourth grade students what to do in case someone falls from a boat into the water. Nawiesniak and fellow instructor Kosette Isakson were in Wrangell last Wednesday and Thursday as part of the Kids Don't Float safety program.

program educates them on how to stave off hypothermia.

"A lot of people think hypothermia is going to be the most dangerous thing, that it's going to kill them if they fall into cold water," Isakson said. "The reality is the first two stages of cold-water immersion, like cold shock or incapacitation, swim failure or drowning is going to happen a lot sooner. Hypothermia is going to take longer to set in. If you have your life jacket on, you can survive at our pool session."

to do if they fall in the water, the in the water a lot longer than you

The duo said they have had calls letting them know the life jacket loaner program has helped save lives, as has the Kids Don't Float program.

"We usually have a canoe here and we do reboarding (instruction)," Isakson said. "We heard from a kid last year who was out on a small boat with his family. It capsized and he knew how to get back in because he had learned it

#### Agency proposes more lands for selection by Native Vietnam vets

BY BECKY BOHRER The Associated Press

JUNEAU (AP) - The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has proposed an expansion of lands available for selection by Alaska Native Vietnam War-era veterans who are entitled to allotments.

Tom Heinlein, acting state director for the land agency in Alaska, last Thursday recommended opening about 27 million acres of land for allotment selections by eligible veterans. Currently, about 1.2 million acres are available, and concerns have been raised that some of the currently available lands are difficult to access or outside veterans' cultural homelands. Heinlein said the next step is to

provide detailed land descriptions to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. It would be up to Haaland to sign and issue an opening order for land selections, he said. The plan is to get her that in-

formation in the coming weeks, Heinlein said. He called the matter a "super high priority" for

Haaland visited with veterans this week during her trip to Alaska, her first to the state as secretary. "We have a sacred obligation to America's veterans," she said in a statement, adding that she "will not ignore land allotments owed

John Taylor and Sons Inc., DBA Summit Charters is making application for a new seasonal liquor license, per AS 04.11.180 located in Alaskan waters.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Interested persons should submit written comments to their local governing body (Wrangell Borough Assembly), to the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501, or email to alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.

Publish April 20 & 27, May 4, 2022

to our Alaska Native Vietnam-era veterans."

Under the 1906 Alaska Native Allotment Act, Alaska Natives were allowed to apply for up to 160 acres of land. Many Alaska Natives were unaware of this program, in large part due to communication hurdles, such as language barriers, according to the land management agency.

There were efforts to urge Alaska Natives to apply for lands if they hadn't already done so before a 1971 law took effect, a period that overlapped with the Vietnam War. A 1998 federal law allowed veterans to apply for land, but the program was seen by some as restrictive.

A 2019 law lifted use and occupancy restrictions, the land agency said. The application period extends to late 2025.

There are roughly 2,000 eligible individuals but several hundred for whom the agency is looking for heirs or addresses, said Lesli Ellis-Wouters, an agency spokesperson in Alaska. Of those eligible, 162 have made selections and eight have had land conveyed to

#### **Comment About Judges** Public Hearing – May 4, 2022, 4:30 p.m.

We need your help! State law requires the Alaska Judicial Council to evaluate the performance of judges who will be on the ballot in November (for a list of judges, go to www.ajc.state.ak.us). The Council would like to hear your opinions about the judges' legal ability, fairness, diligence, integrity, temperament,

> Please share your experience at a public hearing via Zoom on Wednesday, May 4, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Zoom videoconference with meeting ID 896 4016 9536 and passcode 662415 Or by calling 833-548-0276 with meeting ID 896 4016 9536 and passcode 662415.

The Judicial Council also welcomes written comments at the address below or via email.

The Council will review the judges' performances and vote on retention recommendations at a meeting on May 12, 2022. The Council will publish the judges' evaluation information on its web site and in the Official

Alaska Judicial Council, 510 L Street, Suite 450, Anchorage, AK 99501 (907) 279-2526 e-mail: postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us www.ajc.state.ak.us

### Airlines say most banned passengers can return, but not the worst offenders

By David Koenig

The Associated Press DALLAS (AP) - Remember

all those thousands of passengers that airlines banned for not wearing face masks? Now many airlines want them back.

Leaders of unions that represent flight attendants are reacting with outrage.

American, United and Delta all indicated last Thursday that new no-fly list to prevent pasthey will lift the bans they imsengers barred by one airline posed now that masks are opional on flights.

Alaska Airlines said last week the worst of the banned passengers won't be welcomed back. Southwest said a judge's ruling that struck down the federal mandate won't change its decision to bar an undisclosed number of passengers.

United plans to talk with people. "We have talked to them individually," United CEO Scott Kirby told NBC. "Many of them assure us that now that the mask mandate is off, everything is going to be fine, and I trust that the vast majority of them will."

American Airlines Chief Government Affairs Officer Nate Gatten told reporters that "in most cases," people who were banned over masks will be allowed back, but that won't extend to the worst offenders.

"In cases where an incident may have started with face mask non-compliance and escalated into anything involving something more serious - certainly an assault on one of our team members or customers - those passengers ... will never be allowed to travel with us again," Gatten said.

Delta Air Lines spokesman Morgan Durrant said the airline will restore flying privileges after a case-by-case review and the customer's understanding of expected behavior.

"Any further disregard for the policies that keep us all safe will result in placement on Delta's permanent no-fly list," he said.

The leaders of two unions that represent flight attendants and other airline workers slammed the airlines that are moving to bring back banned passengers.

"The timing of this is outrageous," said Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants. "The federal mask mandate has been lifted, but the pandemic is not over."

Nelson said airlines "need to slow down and consider all potential consequences of any policy changes," and that no banned passengers should be allowed back until unions and public health officials

The president of the Trans-



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ccthita-nsn.gov or call 907.463.7708.

port Workers Union, which represents workers across the airline industry, including flight attendants at Southwest, also complained that the carriers did not consult the union or provide a plan for protecting crew members. John Samuelsen said the situation underscored the need for federal legislation that would create a

from flying on another. That idea has been promot-

ed most notably by Delta and its CEO, Ed Bastian, but it has failed to gain traction in Congress. The legislation doesn't spell out what offenses would land flyers on the list, or how they would petition to be removed from it. Critics say people could be denied the ability to travel without due process to protect their rights.

than 7,000 incidents of disruptive passengers to the Federal Aviation Administration since the start of 2021, when unruliness aboard planes seemed to take off. More than two-thirds of those cases involved passengers who refused to wear

Opportunity Employer.

Delta has banned about 2,000 passengers; Alaska more than ruptive passengers.

Airlines have reported more 1,700; and United about 1,000. American and Southwest have never disclosed numbers.

In the meantime, the FAA's acting administrator, Billy Nolen, said the agency is making its zero-tolerance policy against unruly passengers permanent. Under the policy, the FAA can seek fines without first issuing warnings to dis-

#### CLASSIFIED/LEGALS

Roe Production Manager (Petersburg, AK). Responsible for maximizing product value of all species of Pacific Salmon Roe for quality roe products. Required bachelor's degree in Food Production/Marine Production System Science + 5 yrs as Roe Operations Manager or similar. Experience required: inspect roe quality; supervision of staff; grading Green Roe; monitoring/maintaining quality; review quality control testing in production areas + sodium nitrate testing; record keeping. HACCP Manager Training certification required. Application to gdoner@TridentSeafoods.com.

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**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.

#### IN SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT WRANGELL

STIKINE RENTALS, LLC, Plaintiff.

THE ESTATE OF MATILDA PAUL, its beneficiaries, heirs, devisees, legatees, assigns successors in interest; and, anyone claiming right, title, estate, lien or interest in that real property described herein,

Defendants. Case No. 1WR-22-05CI

#### SUMMONS AND NOTICE TO HEIRS

This Summons and Notice is directed to the Estate of Matilda Paul and the beneficiaries, heirs, devisees, legatees, assigns and successors in interest and all other persons or parties unknown claiming a right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in the Verified Complaint to Quiet Title in this action, that the above-named plaintiff, Stikine Rentals, LLC, has commenced a lawsuit against you by filing a Verified Complaint to Quiet Title ("Complaint") in the Superior Court for the State of Alaska at Wrangell, to quiet legal title to real property located at Lot 10, Block 26, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, and which is more particularly described as:

> Lot 10, Resubdivision of Lots 8, 9, 10, Blk. 26, USS 1815, according to Plat No. 80-7, Wrangell Recording District, First Judicial District, State of

EXCEPTING THEREFROM: That portion conveyed to the City of Wrangell by Statutory Quitclaim Deeds recorded January 3, 1983, in Book 9 at Page 688 and in Book 9 at Page 691.

Pursuant to Civil Rule 4(e)(5), you must file an answer to the Complaint filed by the plaintiff in this civil action within thirty (30) days from the last date of publication of this Notice in the Wrangell Sentinel. This Notice shall be published once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks. Your answer to the Complaint is your response to the allegations set forth in plaintiff's Complaint, which is on file as a public document in the Superior Court at Wrangell in Case No. 1WR-22-05 CI and can be reviewed by you and copied upon request to the Clerk of Court. You must file a written answer to the allegations in plaintiff's Complaint in the Superior Court at Wrangell within the time provided hereinabove. If you fail to file an answer to plaintiff's Complaint, a default judgment can be entered against you for the relief of quiet title requested by plaintiff in its Complaint.

Should you elect to file an answer to plaintiff's Complaint, you are also required to serve a copy of your answer and all pleadings you file with the Superior Court at Wrangell, with plaintiff's attorney at the following address: H. Clay Keene, Keene & Currall, PPC, 540 Water Street, Suite 302, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 or by email: courtdocs@keenecurrall.com. The object of plaintiff's Complaint is to determine the legal title, rights, and interest in the above-described real property, the adverse claims, if any, and the rights of all parties to that real property.

Publish April 20 & 27, May 4 & 11, 2022

#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA AT ANCHORAGE

Case No. 3:22-CV-00027-JMK-KFR

Publish April 20 & 27, May 4 & 11, 2022

Kanaway Seafoods, Inc., d/b/a Alaska General Seafoods; and Liberty Packing, LLC., Plaintiff, v. THE VESSEL PACIFIC PREDATOR, Official Number AK3565AN, her engines, tackle, apparel, furniture, equipment and all other necessaries thereunto appertaining and belonging, Bryan Howey and Dana Howey, husband and wife, in personam, Defendants.

#### NOTICE OF MARITIME ARREST

WHEREAS, on the 23rd day of February, 2022, Plaintiff above-named, by their counsel of record, Holmes Weddle & Barcott, PC, filed a Motion in the United States District Court for the District of Alaska at Anchorage, for the arrest of Defendant Vessel PACIFIC PREDATOR, O.N. AK3565AN, her equipment, engines, tackle, all personal property and appurtenances and that all persons interested in the said vessel and its equipment, etc. in the continuance of a cause of action, civil and maritime, filed with the Court on February 23, 2022 in which judgment in the amount of \$746,666.67 plus interest, costs and attorneys fees is sought, in the amount of \$102,626.52; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of process in due form of law to me directed, I arrested said Vessel on April 14, 2022, and it has not been released and presently remains within the custody of Buck Fowler and Alaska Marine Services; notice is hereby given to all persons claiming against the Vessel PACIFIC PREDATOR, O.N. AK3565AN, or knowing or having anything to say why the same should not be condemned and sold pursuant to the demand of the said complaint, that they appear before the said Court, and that claims be served on plaintiffs through their attorneys, Holmes Weddle & Barcott, PC, 3101 Western Ave., Ste. 500, Seattle, WA

DATED this 18th day of April 2022. Robert Heun, United States Marshal.

Any person who may claim entitlement to possession of the Vessel, or otherwise claims an interest in the Vessel, must file a claim with the Clerk of the Court and served on Plaintiffs' counsel within 14 days after publication of this Notice.

An Answer to the Verified Complaint on file with the Court must be filed and served within twenty one (21) days after publication of this Notice, or such other time as the Court may

Procedure 24 by persons claiming maritime liens or other interests must be filed within the time fixed by the Court. Lafcadio Darling, Holmes Weddle & Barcott PC, 3101

Applications for intervention under Federal Rule of Civil

Western Ave, Ste. 500, Seattle, WA 98121. ldarling@hwblaw.com, attorneys for Plaintiffs.

Publish April 27, 2022

## **Keeping Wrangell clean**



Above: Craig and Rachel Dietzman pick up trash along the freight yard at the city barge landing as part of the annual community cleanup effort last Saturday. Below: The Van Slyke and Carney families pick up garbage at Volunteer Park. Despite the rain getting everything wet, including the cleanup crews, the 170 volunteers filled 136 bags of trash collected from all over town.

PHOTOS BY MARC LUTZ/ WRANGELL SENTINEL



### Oregon tribe may sue to stop river water release for farmers

By Gillian Flaccus
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A Native American tribe in Oregon said April 19 it is assessing its legal options after learning the U.S. government plans to release water from a federally operated reservoir to downstream farmers along the Oregon-California border amid a historic drought.

Even limited irrigation for the farmers who use Klamath River water on about 300 square miles of crops puts two critically endangered fish species in peril of extinction because the water withdrawals come at the height of spawning season, The Klamath Tribes said.

This summer's water allocation plan, released by the Bureau of Reclamation last week, will send about 50,000 acre-feet of water to farmers in the Klamath Reclamation Project — less than 15% of what they would get in a normal year.

An acre-foot is the amount needed to cover one acre of land with water one foot deep.

It's the third year in a row that extreme drought has affected the farmers, fish and tribes that rely on the 257-mile-long Klamath River in a region where, even in a good year, there's not

enough water to satisfy competing demands. Last year, no water at all flowed through the Klamath reclamation project's main irrigation canal, and the water crisis briefly became a political flashpoint for anti-government activists.

At the same time, critically endangered sucker fish central to the Klamath Tribes culture and religion didn't have enough water to spawn and thousands of downstream juvenile salmon died without reservoir releases to support the Klamath River's health.

The Klamath Tribes said in a statement that the decision to release any water to about 1,000 farmers in the massive, federal agricultural project was "perhaps the saddest chapter yet in a long history of treaty violations" and placed the blame for the current water crisis on "120 years of ecosystem mismanagement at the hands of settler society."

The inland tribes, based in Chiloquin, Oregon, include the Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin peoples of southern Oregon and northern California. The Klamath have fought to keep enough water in the reservoir and surrounding rivers for two distinct species of sucker fish to survive and breed, with limited success.

The fish are important to the tribes' cultural and religious practices and were once a dietary staple. The Klamath stopped fishing for the sucker fish in the 1980s as numbers dwindled. The Klamath Tribes now run a captive breeding program to ensure the species' survival and note that no juvenile sucker fish have survived in the wild in recent years.

"We have nothing left with which to 'compromise," the Klamath Tribes said in a statement. "Global warming is certainly a global problem, but thus far its local consequences appear to be exacerbating existing and systematic inequalities between ourselves and the larger society."

A spokeswoman from the Bureau of Reclamation declined to comment, citing the possibility of litigation.

The Klamath Tribes believe this year's plan violates a biological opinion under the Endangered Species Act, which says that the bureau must maintain the reservoir, which is called Upper Klamath Lake, at a minimum depth for the sucker fish. The opinion acknowledges that in some cases — such as this year — maintaining even that minimum depth may be impossible, but in those cases the bureau must do everything it can to comply.

"We feel like (the Bureau of) Reclamation has pushed us into a corner by making this allocation decision that is so directly contrary to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act," said Jay Weiner, a water rights attorney representing The Klamath Tribes. "For them to pull additional water out is a risk to the very existence of the species that the tribes can't live with."

Federal regulators earlier this month released a three-day pulse of water from the reservoir down the Klamath River to bolster the health of salmon populations in northern California that have been decimated by a parasite that thrives in slow-moving, warm water.

The amount was half of what would be released in a normal year, and the Yurok Tribe, which is trying to keep the salmon populations afloat, said it was also deeply disappointed by this season's water allocations.

#### NOTICE OF SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Saturday, June 11, 2022

#### **Candidate Race on Ballot**

United States Representative

On Saturday, June 11, 2022 there will be a special primary election to fill the vacancy in the office of United States Representative. This election will be conducted by mail. There will be no polling places open for regular in-person voting on election day. The deadline to register to vote or update your voter registration is May 12th.

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

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

#### www.elections.alaska.gov

Region I Office Juneau (907) 465-3021 1-866-948-8683 Region II Office Anchorage (907) 522-8683 1-866-958-8683 Region III Office Fairbanks (907) 451-2835 1-866-959-8683

Region IV Office Nome (907) 443-8683 1-866-953-8683 Region V Office Mat-Su (907) 373-8952 1-844-428-8952

Language Assistance 1-866-954-8683

Toll Free TTY 1-888-622-3020

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