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Wrangell, Alaska
July 10, 2024

WRANGELL SENTINEL

Volume 122, Number 28

Oldest Continuously Published Newspaper in Alaska

12 Pages

\$1.50

Royalty duo sets a record with \$145,082 for 4th of July

BY BECCA CLARK
Sentinel reporter

Alisha Armstrong won this year's Fourth of July royalty contest with a fundraising tally of \$84,582, while Kayla Young raised \$60,500 — setting a new record with their effort.

The combined total of \$145,082 more than doubled the numbers of the past couple of years — \$53,704 in 2023 and \$56,260 in 2022 — when only a single royalty candidate signed on for the annual fundraising effort to help pay for Wrangell's Fourth of July celebration.

The totals were announced prior to the start of the talent show July 3 at the Nolan Center.

The two contestants far surpassed the record fundraising year of 2016, when Kyla Teat and Alex Angerman raised \$126,408.

Before the numbers were announced, Armstrong and Young thanked their lengthy lists of sponsors. Both girls had similar messages: The contest was about neither of the contestants as individuals, but about what the community can accomplish together.

Heidi Armstrong, Alisha's mother, also spoke before the start of the talent show. "It was a really long winter," she said, acknowledging November's deadly landslide. This year, she said, the royalty contest felt more important than years past. She thanked both contestants for stepping up and running for royalty.

Both Armstrong and Young volunteered after there were no candidates by the May 1 deadline to sign up. The candidates both said they felt they had to run for the community after hearing the Fourth celebrations would be in jeopardy.

They saw their fundraising as more of a group effort than a competition. Young said before the competition that the goal was for both of them to raise the most money ever combined. Though they both had late starts organizing their sponsors, donation lists, menus, events and volunteers, they still raised far more than years past in a little over a month.

Armstrong graduated high school last month and Young will be a senior this fall. Both candidates said they intend to put their share of the proceeds toward college.

Mount Dewey trail extension nearly finished

BY BECCA CLARK
Sentinel reporter

The extension to the Mount Dewey trail is nearly complete and will connect the existing trail to a new trailhead on Bennett Street.

Work began on the three-quarter-mile trail extension in December and is expected to be complete by the end of the month. It will provide a pathway from the backside of Mount Dewey, supplementing the longstanding route up the front from downtown.

The borough worked with the Wrangell Cooperative Association to name the trail Sháchk Kináa Deiyí, which

means "path over the muskeg."

The total project cost added up to \$889,768, Borough Manager Mason Villarma said.

A Federal Lands Access Program grant through the Federal Highway Administration paid for most of the work. The grant is designed to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within federal lands. The borough covered the \$113,000 match.

The borough contracted with Ketchikan Ready-Mix and Quarry for work on the trail, which features six-foot-wide and two-foot-wide sections of

gravel.

The plan to improve the Mount Dewey trail system has been in progress since a 2014 public forum, when community members told borough staff that they'd like to see the trail updated.

Originally, plans for this extension included a cedar step-and-run trail covered in anti-slip netting — similar to what is on the present trail — and a geogrid stabilization system that would prevent the trail's gravel sections from dispersing into the muskeg beneath. But the design was changed in order to reduce costs.



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

It's not crazy if it floats

Sawyer Scheib (left) and Jude Johnson shoveled their way through the water in the Crazy Craft races July 3 -- one of the many events on the Fourth of July schedule. More photos and results on Pages 6-8.

Bearfest comes out of hibernation on July 24

BY MARK C. ROBINSON
Sentinel reporter

Bearfest is returning for its 15th year on July 24 – 28. The annual event is dedicated to bears and the surrounding environment, where attendees can enjoy symposiums, cultural and educational activities, art and photo workshops, fine dining, marathons, a bear safety session and more.

In two of the workshops, kids and families are invited to create bear-themed ornaments to decorate the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree and smaller companion trees that will represent Alaska in Washington, D.C., this holiday season. The trees are coming from the Tongass National Forest.

One popular Bearfest feature has been the gourmet dinner and fundraising auction held at the Stikine Inn and Restaurant, which will begin at 6 p.m. July 26. Tickets went on sale Monday, July 8, on a first-come, first-served basis. The dinner will feature cuisine by Chef Lauren Thompson from Café Lago in Seattle, who has been cooking and teaching for over 20 years.

The auction will include outdoor gear, handmade goods and more. There will be live music with Jackson Roltgen, Dan Powers and Matt Henson. For more infor-

mation, call Alaska Vistas at 907-874-3006.

Golfers can take part in a tournament at Muskeg Meadows, with an entrance fee of \$25, registration at 9 a.m. and tee time at 10 a.m. on July 27. For more information visit wrangellalaskagolf.com.

Fitness and endurance enthusiasts can participate in the full marathon, half marathon, 5K run, and walk and ride which will close out Bearfest on July 28. Aid stations with water, Gatorade, snacks and energy bars will be provided about every two miles.

The first-place finisher of the full-marathon race (26.2 miles, 13.1 miles out and back on Zimovia Highway) will receive a trip for two to the Anan Wildlife Observatory.

A marathon pasta feed is scheduled at 5 p.m. July 27 to provide a carbo load before the races and will be free for all full- and half-marathon runners. Attendance is not mandatory but recommended, as organizers will discuss the route and be available to answer questions.

The full marathon will cost \$50 for early registrants and Saturday dinner attendees, or \$65 on race day. The half marathon will cost \$25 for early registrants and Saturday dinner attendees, or \$35 on race day. The 5K run

Continued on page 5

Senate president criticizes governor's veto of funding to market Alaska seafood

BY THE ALASKA BEACON

Gov. Mike Dunleavy vetoed \$10 million in funding for the state agency charged with marketing Alaska seafood, with the message that he would "re-evaluate future funding needs after development of a marketing plan."

That doesn't make sense to the state Senate president. "Waiting doesn't help at all," said Sen. Gary Stevens, from the commercial fishing hub of Kodiak.

"It's a very shortsighted view of the industry. Now is the time to help it out, not to just delay things," Stevens said last week. The governor vetoed the funding on June 30 as part of the state budget for the fiscal year that started July 1.

"The governor is always saying that we want to tell the world that we are open for business, but nothing says, 'We're closed for business' more than cutting these funds," Stevens

Continued on page 4

Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, July 11

Turkey, peas, apple cabbage cranberry salad, mashed potatoes and gravy

Friday, July 12

Lasagna, steamed zucchini, tossed salad, fruit

Monday, July 15

Shelf-stable meal

delivered on Friday, July 12

Tuesday, July 16

Sweet and sour chicken, steamed broccoli, spicy fruit cup, rice pilaf

Wednesday, July 17

Chili with moose meat, creamy coleslaw, cornbread, fruit

Call the senior center at 907-874-2066 24 hours in advance to reserve a seat at lunch or to request delivery.

The senior van is available to take seniors to medical appointments, errands such as collecting mail, getting prescriptions or other essential items.

Ferry Schedule

Northbound

Sunday, July 14

Kennicott, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 21

Kennicott, 1:45 p.m.

Sunday, July 28

Kennicott, 5:45 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 4

Kennicott, 1:45 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, July 17

Kennicott, 3 a.m.

Wednesday, July 24

Kennicott, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 31

Kennicott, 3:45 a.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 7

Kennicott, 3:30 a.m.

Listings are scheduled departure times. Call the terminal at 907-874-2021 for information or 907-874-3711 for recorded information.

Tides

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
July 10	04:05	14.9	05:03	14.1	10:24	0.2	10:40	4.4
July 11	04:44	13.9	05:39	14.0	10:59	1.2	11:26	4.4
July 12	05:28	12.8	06:19	13.8	11:35	2.2
July 13	06:22	11.8	07:04	13.7	00:17	4.3	12:17	3.2
July 14	07:32	11.0	07:57	13.8	01:15	4.1	01:04	4.2
July 15	08:51	10.7	08:53	14.0	02:19	3.6	02:01	5.0
July 16	10:05	10.9	09:49	14.5	03:27	2.9	03:05	5.6



ALASKA AIRLINES CLUB 49 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

STATE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE will be in Wrangell on Thursday, July 11. Immunizations, birth control and STD screening, well-child exams for kids up to age 6, TB screening and medication, Narcan kits and medication disposal bags will be offered. The Public Health Center is in the Kadin Building, 215 Front St. Call 907-723-4611 to make an appointment in advance so the nurse knows what immunizations to bring.

MUSKEG MEADOWS City Market/Sentry Hardware Golf Tournament 9-hole best-ball, Saturday and Sunday, July 13-14. Tournament play starts at 10 a.m., register by 9:30 a.m.

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

ROLL ON THE ROCK roller skating 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturdays at the TouchPoint Ministries rink on Bennett Street. Children 9 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Skaters must complete a registration form. \$5 per person.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER Inside Out 2," rated PG, at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 12-13, and 4 p.m. Sunday, July 14. The animated adventure comedy runs 1 hour and 36 minutes; tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Concessions will be open.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT, if you or someone you know needs mental health or suicide crisis support, call or text 988 or chat at 988Lifeline.org. When you call 988, you will be connected with a trained crisis counselor who can offer help, confidential support and connection to resources. #CallCareline #CrisisIntervention #SuicidePrevention #SomeoneToTalkTo.

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

- **FOREST EXPLORERS** 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays through Aug. 6 with Clarie Froehlich of the U.S. Forest Service. For ages 7-13; ages 6 and under must be accompanied by a guardian 14 or older. Meet at Volunteer Park. \$50 fee. Registration required.
- **KICKBOXING**, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursdays at the community center multipurpose room with Victoria Carney. Drop-in fee \$5; \$3 senior discount; or use a facility punch card.
- **ADULT SIGN LANGUAGE** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 11, through Aug. 8 at the community center multipurpose room with Franki Gablehouse. Ages 16 years and up. \$30. Registration required.

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



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
July 10	4:15a	9:33p	17:18h
July 11	4:16a	9:32p	17:16h
July 12	4:18a	9:31p	17:13h
July 13	4:19a	9:30p	17:10h
July 14	4:20a	9:29p	17:08h
July 15	4:22a	9:27p	17:05h
July 16	4:24a	9:26p	17:02h

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

July 10, 1924

Dr. Diven is leaving Friday on the Haleyon to establish the Christian Endeavor Society's camp at Anan Creek. This is the girls camp and will be directed by Mrs. Tozier, Mrs. Patterson and Miss Swanson. Dr. Diven, assisted by Homer Worden and Sidney Tozier, will attend to all the heavier work around the camp except the eating, in that the dozen girls of the camp have cheerfully agreed to take a full share. Some of the girls who are planning on the camping trip are the Misses Dorothy and Marjorie Johnson, Irene and Virginia Tozier, Erma Grant, Margaret Ottesen, Marie Helseth, Catherine, Glen and Betty Matheson.

July 8, 1949

F. G. Hanford, who recently finished remodeling his new

home on Reid Street, held an informal open house for a few friends last Sunday. Hanford, who has long advocated use of cottonwood for plywood and attempted to promote other woods which are plentiful on the Stikine River, had his home finished in the wood that he has boosted for so long. Results of Mr. Hanford's home prove his statements for the cottonwood paneling, in the opinion of many, far surpasses knotty pine finish. The cottonwood used in the Hanford home came from Fraser River in British Columbia and is in the variety of dark and light woods. The house consists of a living room, bedroom and kitchen. Both the living room and bedroom are finished in cottonwood with birch moldings. The kitchen is done in yellow and white and has a bar, also of attractive

cottonwood. New draperies, furniture and floor coverings makes Mr. Hanford's home an outstanding home in Wrangell.

July 12, 1974

Beautiful clear skies, calm water and dozens of spectators paid tribute to the sleek and spacious new state ferry Columbia when she sailed into Wrangell on Sunday for her maiden voyage through Southeast. The Edelweiss Band, playing on the vessel during the trip, departed her decks to perform for Wrangellites in front of the ferry terminal. Named after the Columbia Glacier in Prince William Sound, the new flagship of the Alaska ferry system was constructed at the Lockheed shipyard in Seattle for \$20 million. The largest of Alaska's ferries, she is 418 feet long and

85 feet wide, with space for 1,000 passengers and 184 standard-size vehicles. The Columbia is outfitted with plush carpets, intricate light fixtures, dozens of Alaska paintings, bright colors through the vessel - and a distinct odor of newness.

July 8, 1999

A group of Wrangell men got together this past weekend and before the night was over they caused quite a scene. Sparks flew and the commotion could be heard all over town. The police weren't called this time, however, because the noise makers were Wrangell's pyrotechnics who were putting on a fireworks show that will not be soon forgotten. For 35 minutes Sunday night the sky over the town was ablaze with rockets, roman candles, falling

stars and all colors of burning glitter. Spectators of all ages stood by the waterfront watching as the rockets rose from the old mill dock. The crew used long wooden rows of racks into which black tubes measuring between two and a half inches to six and a half inches in diameter were placed. Shells were placed on top of the tubes. Between the rows were rails or electronic boards. A control panel enabled one person to electronically ignite whichever group of fireworks he wanted without ever having to actually come close to the shell. Utilizing an entirely new system, the 11-member pyrotechnic team spent 14 hours straight setting up the show, executing it, then cleaning up. The crew estimates they spent over 200 hours just preparing for the night's show.

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FREIGHT FOR LESS

Cruise ship limits make it to Juneau ballot; denied in Sitka

BY CLAIRE STREMPLE
Alaska Beacon

Unless Juneau's city assembly makes the change first, a proposal to forbid cruise ships on Saturdays will be on the municipal ballot in October, but a Sitka push to put cruise ship passenger limits on that town's ballot has been denied.

They are the latest steps in a broader reckoning in some Southeast communities about the effects of increased traffic from cruise ship tourism.

Cruise ship passengers are a mainstay in the regional economy. But people like Karla Hart in Juneau say increased passenger numbers come at a cost to quality of life.

"I know what Juneau used to be, and I know what it could be and it isn't now, and so I'm fighting to bring some of that back," she said. "Ship-free Saturdays is a way to just give everybody in Juneau one day a week without the blanket of impacts on our lives. And to me, I believe that if we all have that one day a week without all of the chaos that comes with the cruise industry, that we'll all be happier and healthier."

Hart and other supporters

gathered enough petition signatures to put the question on the October municipal election ballot. A counter-campaign that asked residents not to sign the petition failed to block the effort.

Juneau recently adopted a voluntary limit on cruise ships that would cap passengers at 16,000 a day starting in 2026. Hart said that doesn't provide any relief for residents in town of about 30,000 people.

"Most days of the week, we don't have 16,000 cruise passengers in Juneau, but we're still overwhelmed with impacts," she said.

Hart's initiative garnered 2,359 signatures from Juneau residents that supported the idea. The city clerk certified the signatures and presented the certification to the assembly at its meeting on July 1. The assembly has until Aug. 15 to adopt the measure or allow the question of whether Juneau should adopt ship-free Saturdays to appear on the Oct. 1 election ballot.

In Sitka, the city attorney has decided the ballot initiative in that community did not pass legal muster, according to Klaudia Leccese, who led the effort for the cruise ship advocacy

nonprofit Small Town SOUL. It was residents' third attempt to limit cruise ship passengers this year.

"We are of course disappointed by the decision," she said via text on July 3. "We are assessing the advice the city attorney gave to the city clerk and will address his concerns in a fourth initiative application sometime soon."

The proposal would have limited Sitka to 300,000 cruise ship passengers per year, with no more than 4,500 per day, and ships would have been allowed only between May 1 and Sept. 30 each year. This year, the city expects roughly 600,000 cruise ship passengers.

As many as 9,300 cruise ship passengers will visit Sitka on its busiest days, more than the town's population of about 8,400.

Supporters of the proposed ballot initiative said their goal is to improve safety on Sitka's roads, trails, public places and sidewalks by reducing overcrowding, protecting the small-town character, and maintaining Sitka as a high-quality visitor destination.

City attorneys denied the

proposed ballot measure's certification on July 2 because they found it has "misleading, confusing and incomplete terms" and that it violates the U.S. Constitution's Tonnage Clause.

That provision prohibits states or municipalities from interfering with interstate and foreign commerce by imposing port access charges based on a vessel's capacity (tonnage).

Juneau and Sitka are not the only communities to question

the cost benefit analysis that underlies the cruise ship economy. In 2021, Skagway's mayor floated the idea of a cap on cruise ship passengers — the town of fewer than 1,000 residents welcomes as many as 12,000 passengers a day — but the idea never made it to a municipal ballot.

The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. Alaskabeacon.com.

Borough will build streets to open up eight industrial lots

BY BECCA CLARK
Sentinel reporter

The borough will construct Fifth and Sixth avenues in the Industrial Park Subdivision to provide access to eight platted lots to be made available for sale to the public.

Borough Manager Mason Villarma said he is unsure of the timeline, but estimates the lots could be ready for sale by fall.

The area is off St. Michael's Street, about a block away from the Airport Loop Road and across from the turnoff to the Spur Road.

The assembly approved the street construction contract to Ketchikan Ready-Mix and Quarry for \$233,000 at its meeting July 1. The borough received three bids for the project but Ketchikan Ready-Mix and Quarry was the lowest bidder.

The contractor will begin work on the project in the coming few weeks, after finishing construction on the Mount Dewey trail extension project.

Villarma said there is an immediate need for industrial lots in the community due to commercial and industrial growth.

The lots will not have water or sewer lines; electrical lines will be strung overhead. The lots will be sold with the notice that the borough "has no plans to provide water and sewer utilities in the future."

The project will include a two-lane gravel-surface roadway for a portion of Fifth Avenue and all of Sixth Avenue. The roadways will be built using a method called flotation, where fill is "floated" over the muskeg and "where it is critical to ensure the peat mat is not broken," Capital Facilities Director Amber Al-Haddad explained in a presentation to the assembly for its July 1 meeting.

"This method is generally cheapest in initial cost," Al-Haddad wrote. "However, loss of stability and severe differential settlement, with continued maintenance costs, are to be expected. A geotextile fabric is scheduled to be used between the peat and the fill material to eliminate the mixing of the materials, helping to reduce the strength loss."

Celebration of Life for Dan Gross, Jr.

Please join Dan's family and friends for a
Celebration of Life
July 13, 2024 at 2 pm
at the Wrangell Elks Lodge



This is a potluck gathering, please contact Gayle Gross at 907-660-7786 if you would like to contribute or assist in any way.

The Elks Lodge will be having their regular steak night following Dan's Celebration of Life.

First Bank's 22nd Annual

GOLF TOURNAMENT

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

State's 'what if' lawsuit doesn't much add up

BY LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

The state of Alaska, with all the legal wisdom of a political agenda and the flowing words of a high-priced law firm, has filed a claim against the federal government. Nothing new about that — the state has filed and signed onto more lawsuits against the national government in recent years than President Joe Biden has forgotten dates or former President Donald Trump has told lies.

Nothing to be proud of in any of that. The state's latest legal endeavor came July 2 in a dubious lawsuit — with a few errors and omissions for poor measure — that asks \$25 billion to compensate the state for what it could have, might have, possibly may have earned as its share of federal royalties from potential oil production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The Biden administration canceled the federal oil and gas leases in ANWR more than three years ago, much to the disgust of Gov. Mike Dunleavy and many Alaskans who have long complained that overly restrictive federal oversight has denied the state its rights to resource development.

The state already is in court to establish the validity of those leases, but all a win in that case would provide is the opportunity for someone to spend billions of dollars to explore for oil and gas on the contested acreage. Maybe make some money, but maybe lose a lot of money. A lot of exploration efforts come up empty.

This latest claim is much more lucrative than that: If the state wins, it gets a big check. No investment risk, no environmental impact statement to attract opponents, no worry about unsuccessful exploration and drilling, no carbon emissions. Just cash for the state treasury.

Yet the state's claim to lost billions is a bit of a scam: It's based on the unrealistic premise that everything is certain in oil development.

The \$25 billion math assumes billions of barrels of oil are there, securely trapped between rock layers, just waiting for a drill rig to find the sweet spot to stick a straw in the ground and start pumping. If it were that easy, and guaranteed, everyone would invest in oil. But it's not. Oil isn't always where explorers think it is, and it doesn't always flow to the surface as predicted.

The state's claim is calculated on the best possible outcome of multiple "what ifs," conjuring up the highest possible number. It's not honest or realistic, but that doesn't really matter when you're just trying to score a political point that federal policy is holding back Alaska's future.

However, there are no ifs about the errors in the lawsuit, such as the statement that the trans-Alaska oil pipeline is half full. Wrong. It is less than one-quarter full. Doesn't anyone proofread these things before running to file in court and make the news?

The lawsuit got it right when it said Alaska has no personal income tax, and therefore is dependent on oil and gas revenues help pay for schools, roads, health care services, rural development and "care for its Alaska Native communities." But it failed to mention that the single largest appropriation of state spending in this year's budget is to send hefty Permanent Fund dividends to Alaskans.

Maybe the lawyers figured the state would gain more sympathy from the court if it pleads it needs the money to care for Native communities rather than to keep paying the dividend.

I hope the state didn't pay the lawyers too much. This lawsuit is a gusher of politics, not reality.

EDITORIAL

Borough back to looking for offers on hospital property

It really doesn't matter why a Georgia-based real estate developer changed his mind about buying the former Wrangell hospital property and building high-end condos at the site. And it doesn't much matter why he substantially amended his offer to the borough, months after starting negotiations, before later withdrawing the offer. Nor does it matter that he publicly blamed the Wrangell Sentinel for his decision to walk away from the development proposal, taking offense at what he perceived as criticism of his amended offer.

All that really matters to Wrangell is that the borough still owns the empty building; the borough still is paying to maintain and insure the structure; the land is not generating any property taxes — and it's time to try again to find a buyer.

In the more than three years since SEARHC ended its lease and moved out of the building and into its new facilities, the borough has tried listing the property on a nationwide government surplus property website and contracting with a real estate agent to find a buyer. It also cut the asking price.

Tire-kickers have included concepts of turning the property into a substance abuse residential rehab center, a senior citizen living center and, most recently, half-million-dollar condos for Lower 48 retirees looking for place to escape the summer heat.

Despite well-intentioned efforts, nothing has worked. Which leaves the hospital property in the borough's lap. And while lapdogs can be a comforting friend, there is nothing comforting about continued borough ownership of the decades-old building.

Municipal officials and the assembly have likely learned a lesson in real estate negotiations from their dealings with the Georgia developer. And while they are more eager than ever to sell the property, they should always be cautious. Not dismissive, but it's OK to ask questions. The borough can be careful and supportive at the same time.

Municipal law allows the borough to sell publicly owned property at less than market value if the assembly determines the development would provide an economic development boost for the community. Wrangell needs housing for locals — affordable housing. It needs more workers to fill chronic job vacancies. It needs new businesses and tax revenues. If an offer on the old hospital can meet those needs, any legitimate price could be a good deal for Wrangell, so long as the discounted price is tied to a binding commitment to carry through on the plans.

- Wrangell Sentinel

Seafood marketing

Continued from page 1 said.

Last year, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute received \$5 million in state funding. Before then, it had not received any state general funds since June 2018. The institute relies mainly on federal and industry payments: This year, the institute is expected to receive \$13 million in federal funds and \$16.2 million from industry assessments.

Stevens described the condition of Alaska's fishing industry as "pretty miserable."

"I've been involved in the fishing industry since 1970 and it's just the worst I have ever seen," said Stevens, who is also one of six legislators who are nonvoting members of the ASMI board.

If the agency submits a detailed marketing plan, the governor could include funding in the state's supplemental budget during the next legislative session, the governor's office said.

"The Dunleavy administration has offered support of supplemental funding next session

once ASMI has developed a comprehensive marketing plan," said Jeff Turner, the governor's communications director.

Alaska's \$6 billion seafood industry employs over 48,000 workers annually in the state, according to a report commissioned by ASMI. The agency works to develop new and expanded markets for Alaska seafood.

The veto comes at a time when Alaska's fishing industry is in crisis, facing low consumer demand and steep competition from Russia, which has been unloading lower-priced salmon on the global market.

The marketing agency's main priority is the U.S. market, said executive director Jeremy Woodrow. A strong dollar and weak yen have made Alaska seafood less price competitive in Japan, a key global market, he said.

In 2022, President Joe Biden issued an executive order that prohibited Russian seafood imports into the U.S., further

tightening the ban this spring. The prohibition has created a "hole" in the domestic seafood market that ASMI is looking to fill with Alaska seafood, Woodrow said.

Tracy Welch, executive director of United Fishermen of Alaska, described the veto as a "missed opportunity" to support the state's fishers, processors and coastal communities.

"ASMI has operated on a shoestring budget for quite a few years, and so they do a lot with what they're given, so I have confidence that they'll do as best they can," she said.

Despite her faith in the institute's ability to "get creative" with the smaller budget, she emphasized the crisis that the seafood industry is currently facing. "The industry needs help now," said Welch. "Not two years from now."

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sentinel reporting unfair to developer of hospital property

I am extremely unhappy about the misleading headline in the June 26 Sentinel.

I was shocked when I first read it and said immediately that it was very poor reporting. I believe the Wrangell Sentinel owes Mr. Wayne Johnson, the city and the public a sincere apology.

I am sympathetic to Mr. Johnson's situation. Your re-

porting made it appear that he was taking advantage of Wrangellites. It was very unfair and detrimental to progress for Wrangell.

I am also very sad for Wrangell. It was an exciting and hopeful opportunity to have a purchaser for the old hospital and also to have a means for demolition. We do need more housing and outside investors to develop the community.

Please be more responsible in your reporting.

Dennis and Janet Strom

Oldest continuously published paper in Alaska



ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 20, 1902
Published weekly by: Good Journalism LLC
PO Box 798, Wrangell, AK 99929
Phone: 907-874-2301

POSTMASTER: send address changes to Wrangell Sentinel, P.O. Box 798, Wrangell, AK 99929

Sentinel Staff:

- Publisher Larry Persily
- Office Manager... Amber Armstrong-Hillberry
- Reporter Mark C. Robinson
- Reporter Becca Clark
- Production Ola Richards

Wrangell Sentinel (USPS 626-480) is published weekly except the third week of July and the week after Christmas by Wrangell Sentinel, 205 Front St., Wrangell, AK 99929. Periodicals postage paid at Wrangell, AK.
Phone: 907-874-2301; Email: wrgsent@gmail.com; Website www.wrangellsentinel.com. ©Copyright 2022.

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- Wrangell \$50
- Out of town \$75
- First Class..... \$110
- Online-only subscription..... \$40

New hobby shop to expand beyond its fantasy game origins

BY MARK C. ROBINSON
Sentinel reporter

Laughing Star Hobbies, a new business on Front Street, opened July 2. Owner David Jellum eventually plans to expand the store beyond its fantasy game roots. As a longtime player of the tabletop combat game Warhammer and the role-playing game Magic: The Gathering, he has been planning this for a while.

Inside the storefront that used to house the Wrangell Insurance Center, two long tables stand ready for adventures in role-play and combat. Glass countertops and display cases present figurines of fantastic characters, packs of trading cards and boxed sets of other role-playing or combat games, like Magic and the popular Dungeons and Dragons.

While some games make use of trading cards, others use miniatures like Warhammer or Star Wars: Legion, a game that tells tales from a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. A flatscreen television mounted in the corner plays family-friendly movies like "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

Also on one of the countertops are jars filled with Jellum's homemade mixture of spices and seasonings labeled "Spice Melange." Although named after the fictional psychedelic drug central to the "Dune" series of science-fiction novels by Frank Herbert, this product's only uses are as a spice rub or table seasoning.

When he and his wife Ellen moved to town several years ago, they lived in a small apartment. "Our entire apartment was about the size of this carpeted area right here," he said, indicating the main area of his new shop. "I decided that if I wanted to have a place to play, and do my hobby thing, I had to open a spot."

Now, just as the couple recently bought a house, he feels there is a need for his type of business. "There's not much to do in town outside of fish or hunt," he said.



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

David Jellum is the owner of Laughing Star Hobbies, the town's newest business on Front Street.

Jellum works weekdays at Wrangell IGA. "I'm working over there in the mornings, because it lets me pay the rent here without having to bleed the business," he said. "That way, I can put all the money I make back into it."

After his IGA shift ends at 2 p.m., he'll work weekdays at Laughing Star Hobbies from 3 p.m. until 8 or 9 p.m., with full days on the weekend. "It depends on what people are doing and how late people want to play," he said, adding that he'll give it a few weeks to better deter-

mine the hours of operation.

Ellen Jellum's grandfather suggested the store's name, which she first used for her massage business. Her father shared his interest in fantasy and collectibles, having once owned a comic book store in Battle Ground, Washington.

The new shop owner's passion mirrors that of another Wrangell resident, Wesley Seward, who set up a similar business at his home called AK Hobby R.A.W.K.S.

Jellum believes there's enough room in

town for two hobby shops. "He didn't know I existed; I didn't know he existed. It's just the way it happened. I have a better location; he's been going a bit longer and has more stock. ... I've got no problem with it. He's talked about coming down here and playing."

In addition to the game tables, for which he's still fabricating appropriate scenery, Jellum also has a separate back room that will be reserved for D&D campaigns. The renovations are still in the planning stages, as he's waiting for feedback from local fans of the game. "A lot of people are into Dungeons and Dragons around here," he said, adding that he has a 3-D printer to create generic miniatures for D&D fans who don't normally have them to use in their game-playing.

He admitted that he's not much of a Pokémon fan, but he'll be glad to stock the trading cards for patrons.

Although he started his business just as a place to play his games, it has grown beyond that. "At the end of the day, it's about what hobbies that the community wants to do," he said.

Jellum also plans to sell art merchandise like sketchpads, pens and charcoal for artists as well as materials for various kinds of crafters. "My wife does needlepoint and knitting," he said. "We're trying to find a yarn distributor right now."

He also noted growing interest in the community with anime and manga, which he wants to provide at his store, but pointed out there's a lot of material to choose from. "The problem with that is right now is I don't know anything about it," he said. "I'll need to talk to some people to find out what's appropriate and then find out what people are after."

For more information, check out Laughing Star Hobbies' Facebook page, call Jellum at 360-334-2531 or email laughingstarhobbies@outlook.com.

Bearfest

Continued from page 1

will be free for early registrants and Saturday dinner attendees, or \$15 on race day.

For more information and schedule updates, call 907-874-2998 or visit the website at alaskabearfest.org.

The tentative schedule is:

Wednesday, July 24

10 a.m., art workshop for Capitol Christmas tree bear ornaments

Nolan Center
All supplies provided.

11 a.m., bear safety workshop

Outdoor shooting range
Learn about bear behavior, safe and effective use of bear spray, and more.

Noon, "beary" pie contest
Nolan Center

Judging for the best pie made from local berries. Entries should be delivered to the Nolan Center by 11:30 a.m.

6 p.m., symposium
Nolan Center
Jennifer Kardiak, of the U.S. Forest Service, "Witnessing the Wild: Exploring Similarities and Differences in Bear Viewing and Management."

Thursday, July 25

10 a.m., art workshop
Nolan Center
All supplies provided.

3 p.m., Native stories and dance
Chief Shakes Tribal House
Presentation of Tlingit heritage and culture.

6 p.m., symposium
Nolan Center

Kate Kendall, retired U.S. Geological Survey staffer, on the evolution and history of bears.

Anne Braaten, retired bear management biologist of North Cascades National Park in Washington state.

Friday, July 26

11 a.m., "Read with a Ranger"
Irene Ingle Public Library gazebo

Children's books with U.S. Forest Service interpreter Corree Delabru.

6 p.m., dinner and auction
Stikine Restaurant
Gourmet dinner by chef Lauren Thompson.

Saturday, July 27

10 a.m., golf tournament
Muskeg Meadows
Registration starts at 9 a.m.

10 a.m. to 1 p.m., community market
Nolan Center
Locally made goods, produce, handmade items, baked goods, art and more.

10:30 a.m. to noon, face painting
Nolan Center
Allison Koch, professional face painter from Ellensburg, Washington, offering bear, salmon and other designs for children of all ages. Donations accepted.

11 a.m., kids games

Nolan Center lawn
The famous Bearfest fish toss, cub-o-war and more, including a Forest Service camp setup.

Noon, cooking demonstration
Nolan Center
Chef Lauren Thompson demonstrates techniques and ideas for aspiring chefs and home cooks.

2 p.m., jam session and music workshop
Nolan Center
Jam session and workshop with Jackson Roltgen.

2:30 p.m., Workshop on human/bear conflict prevention
Nolan Center
Isabel Grant of Defenders of Wildlife shows how to install an electric fence around bear attractants and get up to \$500 from Defenders of Wildlife.

3 p.m., smoked salmon contest
Nolan Center
Judging for the best local salmon smoker. Deliver entries by 2:30 p.m.

5 p.m., marathon pasta feed
Nolan Center lobby
Pasta dinner for half- and full-marathon runners only. Attendance is not mandatory, but participants are encouraged to pick up swag bags, check out the course maps and receive information for race day.

6:30 p.m., symposium
Nolan Center
John Hechtel, International Bear Association president and wildlife biologist with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, on the evolution of bear research and management.

8 p.m., live music
Marine Bar
Jackson Roltgen, the Powers and local musicians.

Sunday, July 28

Marathon and other runs/walks
Start at the Nolan Center
6 a.m., self-timed early start for full marathon only
7 to 7:45 a.m., race registration

Participants can register for full marathon, half marathon and 5K
8 a.m., regular start for half and full marathon
8:30 a.m., start for 5K walkers, runners and bikers

Noon-ish, raffle drawing
Nolan Center
The first marathon finisher will draw the winning ticket for two roundtrip tickets anywhere Alaska Airlines flies. You don't have to be present to win.

4 p.m., symposium
Nolan Center
Elizabeth Graham, U.S. Forest Service entomologist on the impact of the western black-headed budworm in Southeast.

Aggressive Management Needed for Southeast AK Sea Otters



Jeremy Bynum

Sea otter predation in Southeast Alaska significantly impacts commercial fisheries and local communities. Their resurgence has led to a decline in shellfish populations, causing economic losses for fishermen and associated businesses.

The ecological imbalance caused by over predation affects marine biodiversity and the sustainability of fisheries. Managing sea otter populations is complex due to conservation laws and the need to balance ecological roles with economic and cultural needs. The state should push for aggressive

management strategies, including adaptive plans, population control measures, enhanced research, economic support for affected communities, regulatory adjustments, and public education. These measures should aim to mitigate the negative impacts of sea otters while maintaining sustainable marine eco-systems and local livelihoods.



Jeremy Bynum for Alaska State House
(907) 821-VOTE (8683) votebynum.com



PHOTO BY BECCA CLARK / WRANGELL SENTINEL
Liam Goley juggles during the talent show July 3 at the Nolan Center.

Fourth of July produces long list of winners

SENTINEL STAFF

Three lucky ticket holders came away as winners in the Fourth of July royalty fundraising raffle.

Wrangell residents Shannon Smith won the \$2,500 first place prize and Marilyn Mork won \$1,500 for second place in the drawing.

Third place of \$1,000 went to former resident Mickel Haug, now living in Seattle.

The Sentinel is compiling lists of the other winners of Fourth of July events, supplied by the competition organizers.

This week's list includes the winners' names that were submitted to the newspaper as of Monday, July 8. The paper will print additional winners next week as event organizers submit their lists.

The Sentinel apologizes for any misspellings or other errors. Organizers did a great job putting on so many events for the holiday celebration, but there will always be some misspellings as volunteers try to get everyone's name down on paper at the busy finish of the competition.

Canoe race results

Long sprint, 18 and older

Men: Corey and Jerry

Women: The Forget-Me-Not Gals, Lynsie Morelli and Leslie Richard

Co-ed: Shuck Attack, Ben and Allison

Ancient Mariner: The Powers

War canoe, 11 and older

Matt Richards, Leslie Richard and Lynsie Morelli

Cork capture, ages 11-14

Men: Beta Queens Isacc and Dane

Women: No entry

Co-ed: Kyle and Bradyn

Short sprints, ages 15-17

Men: Sinan and Cooper

Women: Kalee Josie

Co-ed: Braiden and Taylor Young

Target shooting

High score overall: John Bunes

Fastest time: Adam Messmer

Closest to 50%: Colt Elliot

Men, first through fifth place: John Bunes, Kaydin Mill, Chance Israel, Anthony Morton and Derek Angerman

Women, first through fifth place: Melinda Messmer, Kristi Warren, Megan Adams, Seanne O'Sullivan and Bethany Osborn

Boys, fifth through fifth place: Dante Romas, Fred Atoruk, Colt Elliot, Isaiah Stewart and Dane Richard

Girls, first through fifth place: Gracie Stoudt, Presley Paulo-Sambito, Fannie Williams, Elaina Haines and Alyssia Roundtree

The following juniors had their names pulled to receive the grand prize gift certificate bundles:

\$150 in certificates to Jude Johnson

\$125 in certificates to Isaac Richard

\$100 in certificates to Gretchen Powell

Continued on page 8



PHOTO BY BECCA CLARK / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Sisters Lynsie Morelli (left) and Leslie Richard won the women's sprint canoe race July 2.



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

A line of 9- and 10-year-old boys burst from the starting position in the running race on Front Street July 4.



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Cousins Alivia Young (left) and Braidyn Young were the only competitors in the gunny sack race for girls ages 16-17 on July 4. While Alivia was quick to acknowledge that her cousin came in first, Braidyn said with a smile, "She let me win."



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

AJ Roundtree (left), 13, and Rilyn Young, 10, were among the contestants who tried to toss and catch eggs from ever-expanding distances at the annual egg toss July 4.



PHOTO BY BECCA CLARK / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Sandy Churchill was among the many individuals, groups and businesses that walked in the Fourth of July parade.



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Jasper Speers, who will turn 3 at the end of August, won first place in his age bracket at the Big Wheel races July 3.



PHOTO BY BECCA CLARK / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Participants lined up to catch airborne hot dogs in the annual KSTK wiener toss July 3.



PHOTO BY BECCA CLARK / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Dane Richard hangs on in a final effort before falling into the water in the greased-pole event on July 2.

Paddlers put to the water anything and most everything

By MARK C. ROBINSON
Sentinel reporter

Eight-year-old Greyson Allen may have finished last in the second heat of the Crazy Craft races on July 3, but his determination won loud applause from the crowd at the City Dock.

Though he paddled hard on his pool float "Sting Ray," he had trouble steering away from one side of the dock, taking a long time just to reach the halfway point, where police officer Garrett Gablehouse and state wildlife trooper Alisha Seward readily assisted Greyson from the water as spectators cheered his determined effort.

Contestants in the annual Fourth of July event could take to the water in anything that floats — that isn't actually a boat.

Starting on one end of the summer float, the participants raced to the other side and back, paddling whatever craft they had created for the event. Some were simple inflatable air mattresses, pool floats or rafts, while others were more complex creations, lashing together floatable materials like plastic buoys or Styrofoam to structures like plywood boards, plastic tubs or containers.

Youngsters Jude Johnson and Sawyer Scheib lashed plastic buoys to a plastic storage container and used green plastic



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Haley Gablehouse (left) and Annika Gillen won first place in their heat for kids under 15 in the Crazy Craft races on July 3.

shovels as makeshift paddles.

One imaginative craft in the first race was piloted by Titan Churchill, 10, with an assist from his older brother, 2023 high school grad Randy Churchill III. The vessel was patterned after a catamaran and used a combination of wooden boards and plywood, attached with duct tape

and glue to sealed plastic buckets and foam noodles underneath to keep it afloat. A toy sword with sparkling lights rose from its bow, while an orange lifesaver bore the creation's name "Viking Slayer." Their mother, Celsee Churchill, said it took them a few hours a day for several days to put it together. "Titan's an awe-

some helper."

It didn't take long for 13-year-old Delilah Clark and Griffey Angerman and Claire Rooney, both 12, to decide on their idea, an inflatable portable dock. "About 20 minutes," Delilah said. "Not very long, but we think it's going to win. Maybe."

Appropriately dubbed "USS Last Minute," Delilah and Claire provided propulsion for the makeshift craft with leg kicks from the rear while Griffey steered and paddled with an oar at the front. "We thought it was going to be canceled, actually," Delilah said. "I wasn't going to do it, but then, last night, we were just like, 'Hey! We should do it! That will be fun!'"

In the first heat with 11 entries for kids under 15, Haley Gablehouse, 10, and Annika Gillen, 11, won first place with their paddleboard named "American Craft;" Marcus and Brook Ostrander came in second with "The Better Boat;" and Dane Richard took third place aboard "It Works."

For the second heat designated simply as "Flotation," where both kids and adults competed with 10 unorthodox floatable vessels, Isaac Richard and Radley Powers came in first with "The Rad Raft." Cooper Powers and his fiancée Krosby placed second with their unnamed inflatable raft, while Silah Purviance took third place with "Titanic."

Fourth of July winners

Continued from page 6

Art Clark Scrap Fish Derby

Largest Fish, Ages 6-9: Peyton Stolley

Largest Fish, Ages 10-13: James Benson

First Fish: Jack Keller

Ages 6-9

Bullhead: Largest, Carolyn Allen; smallest, Emme Schmohl

Flounder: Largest, Aurora Crandall; smallest, Wyatt Thomassen

Perch: Largest, Justin Hudson; smallest, Luke Sanford

Eel: Ryder Miller

Crab: Ryder Miller

Other: Largest, William Jensen; smallest, Givia Delabure

Ages 10-13

Irish Lord: Largest, Kenan Elekdag; smallest, Devan Young

Bullhead: Largest, Connor Blake; smallest, Logan Janson

Flounder: Largest, Brynle

Young; smallest, Ryder Ritchie and Isach Richard

Eel: Logan Jansen

Crab: Largest, Kayia Roher; smallest: Jansen

Starfish: Largest, Radely Powers; smallest, Kellan Young

Other: Largest, Keian Young; smallest: Maddy Stack

Raffle of donated prizes

Bike: Ayla Elekdag

\$50: Harper Cook

Sleeping bag: Adlee

Chelette and Quinn Davies

Fishing pole: Sadie Glenz,

Kannon Martin, Eli Carney,

Parker Crandall, Olivia

Schmohl, Jett Campbell, Pres-

ley Paulo-Sambito, Jude John-

son, Gretchen Powell, Garrett,

Jake Schmohl, Bo Ritchie,

Duncan Scrambler and Emma

Welch

Candy-filled tackle box:

Tegan Kuntz and Grace Stack

Life vest: Walter McHol-

land

U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Tory Houser gets George, one of her two English springer spaniels, to roll over at the dog show on July 3.



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Log rolling

Overall champion: Hunter Wiederspohn

Men's division: First, Hunter Wiederspohn; second, Lee Wiederspohn; third, Trevor Grant

Women's division: First, Mia Wiederspohn; second, Peyton Paulo-Sambito; third place, Devyn Johnson

Disc Golf Tournament

Women, first through third: Christina Michal, Ladonna Bots-

ford, Melinda Messmer
Men, first through third: Quentin Overton (winner of Best Overall title), Zee McManus, Pat McManus
Closest to the pin: Alex Rior-



PHOTO BY BECCA CLARK / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Randy Oliver chops through the logging show competition July 4.

Mia Wiederspohn (left) and her oldest brother Hunter Wiederspohn won the women's and men's divisions in the log rolling contest on July 3, with Hunter winning the overall championship in a one-on-one with his sister.



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

New seafood buyer with big plans starts small in Metlakatla

By ANNA LAFFREY
Ketchikan Daily News

An emerging seafood company is preparing to purchase its first loads of pink and chum salmon from a handful of seine boats in Metlakatla this summer while also building a high-tech floating freezer barge at a Washington shipyard that the company plans to operate in Southeast Alaska next year.

Circle Seafoods, which was founded by Pat Glaab, Charlie Campbell and Eren Shultz, is renting out a portion of the Metlakatla Indian Community's Annette Island Packing Co. plant this year while starting up a statewide operation that's geared at buying and freezing salmon on barges on the fishing grounds, and further processing fish on-demand after returning the barges to the Lower 48 to use for year-round cold storage.

During an interview with the Ketchikan Daily News in June, Campbell said that Circle aims to buy 20 million to 30 million pounds of primarily pink and chum salmon in Alaska next year after finishing up construction of its first freezer barge.

He said Circle plans to kick-start its operations this summer by buying about 5 million pounds of salmon from four seine fishermen that participate in commercial fisheries managed by the Metlakatla Indian Community who have signed contracts with Circle for the season.

Campbell said he recognizes that Circle is entering the industry at a time that major seafood companies across Alaska are shuttering or selling off plants and slashing prices that they pay salmon fishermen due to overwhelming competition and an abundance of fish on global seafood markets.

He said Circle is bringing a new approach the Alaska seafood processing scene because his co-founder, Glaab, has a "vision to address many of the major challenges that the industry is facing today."

Glaab has worked in the industry for 40 years and designed, built and operated Silver Bay Seafoods' first three processing plants, and is now leading Circle to develop its first barge that is set to arrive in Alaska waters for the 2025 salmon season, according to Campbell.

He said Circle in 2023 closed on a "fairly complicated" \$36 million financing package, after which it ordered its first barge, which is currently under construction at the Quigg Bros. shipyard in Aberdeen, Washington.

Campbell said the floating plant will flash-freeze whole salmon on the fishing grounds "very quickly, freezing it to negative 40." The barge will be three stories high to hold up to 12 million pounds of fish.

The barge will have space to house about 80 workers, while moving between fishing areas.

Circle's website also pitches to prospective fishing fleet members "the comforts of town every time you tie up to one of our barges" with services such as "laundry, showers, high-speed internet, on-call mechanics, free slush ice and, most importantly, hot food."

"Once the season is over, the barge switches from a processor to a transporter and cold storage, moving your catch closer to reprocessing facilities where fish is then portioned and ready for distribution on demand," Circle says on its website.

Circle had intended to launch the barge for the 2024 salmon season in Southeast, but as the season approached, the company's leadership shifted its focus, according to Campbell.

The company's leaders decided to focus on getting off the ground this year by buying, freezing and selling its first loads of fish at a preexisting facility in Southeast to "establish relationships with fishermen, establish ourselves as a company and pay well work on our operations, implement some of the technology, but really get started at a smaller scale."

Circle decided to lease out part of the Annette Island Packing plant, which has been in the community for more than 100 years but shuttered its fish-buying operations in 2019 before reopening this summer.

To start, Circle is keeping its fleet small as a way to be "very cautious about over-fleeting, and not overpromising and under-delivering," Campbell said.

In the long term, Circle plans to expand its fleet of freezer barges into statewide operations.

Juneau Icefield melting at a rapidly accelerating rate, researchers find

By SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

The melting of Southeast Alaska's Juneau Icefield, source of more than 1,000 glaciers, is accelerating, shrinking 4.6 times faster than it was in the 1980s, according to a new study.

Researchers tracked snow levels in the nearly 1,500-square-mile expanse going back to 1948, with added data back to the 18th century. It slowly shriveled from its peak size at the end of the Little Ice Age around 1850, but then that melt rate sped up about 10 years ago, according to a study in Nature Communications on July 2.

"What's happening is that as the climate is changing, we're getting shorter winters and longer summers," study lead author Bethan Davies, a glaciologist at Newcastle University in England. "We're having more melt, longer melt season."

It's melting so fast that the flow of ice into water now averages about 50,000 gallons every second, according to study co-author Mauri Pelto, a professor of environmental science at

Nichols College in Massachusetts.

"In fact, glacier shrinkage in Alaska from the year 2000 to the year 2020, we're losing more ice in Alaska than anywhere else," Davies said.

Only four Juneau Icefield glaciers melted out of existence between 1948 and 2005. But 64 of them disappeared between 2005 and 2019, the study said. Many of the glaciers were too small to name, but a larger one, Antler Glacier, "is totally gone," Pelto said.

Alaska climatologist Brian Brettschneider, who was not part of the study, said the acceleration is a warning of "a death spiral" for the thinning icefield.

An icefield is a collection of glaciers, while an ice sheet is something continent-wide, and only two of those remain, in Greenland and Antarctica. The most famous glacier in the Juneau Icefield is the Mendenhall Glacier, a tourist hotspot. The Arctic is warming about four times faster than the rest of the globe, with Alaska warming 2.6 degrees Fahrenheit since 1980, according to federal weather data.

"When you go there the changes from year-to-year are so dramatic that it just hits you over the head," Pelto said.

Pelto first went to the Juneau Icefield in 1981 to try to make the U.S. ski team and has continued to study it since, giving up competitive skiing for research.

"In 1981, it wasn't too hard

to get on and off the glaciers. You just hike up and you could ski to the bottom or hike right off the end of these glaciers," Pelto said. But now they've got lakes on the edges from melted snow and crevasses opening up that makes it difficult to ski, he said.

It's also now like a staircase of bare rocks there, Pelto said. White snow and ice reflect the sun's heat, the dark rocks absorb it, making the ground warmer, melting more snow in a feedback effect that amplifies and accelerates the warming-triggered melt, the study said.

Key is the snow elevation line. Below the snow line, snow can disappear in the summer, but there's snow cover year-round above. That snow line keeps moving upward, Pelto said.

The shape of the icefield, rather flat, "makes it vulnerable to particular tipping points" because once the snow line moves

up, large areas are suddenly more prone to melt, Davies said.

"The tipping point is when that snow line goes above your entire icefield, ice sheet, ice glacier, whichever one," Pelto said. "And so for the Juneau Icefield, 2019, 2018, showed that you are not that far away from that tipping point."

Even if all the snow in the Juneau Icefield would melt — and that's a long way away — it would not add much to global sea levels, Pelto said. But it is a big tourist destination and cultural hot spot, Davies said.

"It is worrisome because in the future the Arctic is going to be transformed beyond contemporary recognition," said Julianne Stroeve, a University of Manitoba ice scientist who wasn't part of the study. "It's just another sign of a large transformation in all the ice components (permafrost, sea

ice, land ice) that communities depend on."

Davies said the team was able to get such a long-term picture of the icefield's melting from satellite images, airplane overflights, pictures stored away in drums in a warehouse and historical local measurements, stitching them all together like a giant jigsaw puzzle with most of the pieces being nearly all white.

Five different outside experts said the research made sense and fits with other observations. Michael Zemp, head of the World Glacier Monitoring Service, said it shows "that we need urgent and tangible actions to save at least some of the remaining ice."

"We're 40 years from when I first saw the glacier. And so, 40 years from now, what is it going to look like?" Pelto said. "I do think by then the Juneau Icefield will be past the tipping point."

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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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PLEASE JOIN US
for an evening of celebration as we look back on the past 100 years of serving Southeast Alaska.

Friday, July 19th
5PM to 7PM

Nolan Center
296 Campbell Drive

Appetizers and refreshments will be provided.

Member
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Ranked-choice voting could spread, but several states ban it

BY BECKY BOHRER AND REBECCA BOONE
Associated Press

Alaska's new election system — with open primaries and ranked voting — has been a model for those in other states who are frustrated by political polarization and a sense that voters lack real choice at the ballot box.

Used for the first time in 2022, the changes helped propel the first Alaska Native to a seat in Congress.

The voting system, however, could be short-lived.

Opponents of ranked voting want to repeal it and are entangled in a legal fight over whether their initiative will be on Alaska's November ballot. It's just one example this year of an intensifying fight over a more

expansive way for voters to choose candidates, driven in part by deep dissatisfaction with the status quo and opposition from political parties and partisan groups that fear losing power.

Voters in at least two states — Democratic-leaning Oregon and Nevada — will decide this fall whether to institute new election processes that include ranked voting. In deeply conservative Idaho, groups are pushing for a November ballot initiative that would overturn a ban on ranked voting passed last year by the Republican-led legislature.

Measures proposing ranked voting, also referred to as ranked-choice voting, also are being pursued in Colorado and the District of Columbia.

In Missouri, a measure ad-

vanced by the Republican-controlled legislature will ask voters in November whether to ban ranked voting.

At least nine states have banned ranked voting, and the Louisiana legislature also passed a ban in May.

The attempts to introduce a new way of electing leaders and

the pushback from those with established power are symptoms of dissatisfaction with the nation's politics and concern over the future of democracy, said AJ Simmons, research director of the Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois Springfield, who has written on the issue.

"We've got this group of frustrated, concerned folks that are looking for a solution to problems that they see," he said. "At least some have landed on this idea of like, 'Well, is it maybe how we're choosing our leaders that's leading to this problem?'"

Just two states use ranked

Continued on page 11

Police report

Monday, July 1

- Disturbance.
- Fire alarm.
- Civil matter.
- Theft.
- Fireworks complaint.
- Civil matter.

Tuesday, July 2

- Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
- Fireworks complaint.
- Agency assist: District Attorney's Office.
- Traffic stop: Citation issued for driving without valid license.
- Ride-along.

Wednesday, July 3

- Found property.
- Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
- Phishing scam.
- Agency assist: Ambulance.
- Parking complaint.

Thursday, July 4

- Traffic stop: Verbal warning for unsecured license plate.
- Suicidal threats.
- Death notification.

- Agency assist: Municipal power line crew.
- Parking complaint.
- Assault.
- Agency assist: Public Works.
- Agency assist: Fire Department.
- Traffic stop: Citation issued for speeding.
- Dog at large.
- Fireworks complaint.

Friday, July 5

- Agency assist: Petersburg Police Department.
- Agency assist: U.S. Forest Service.
- Agency assist with U.S. Forest Service: Missing child.

Saturday, July 6

- Agency assist: Petersburg Police Department.
- Agency assist: Ambulance.
- Stolen property.

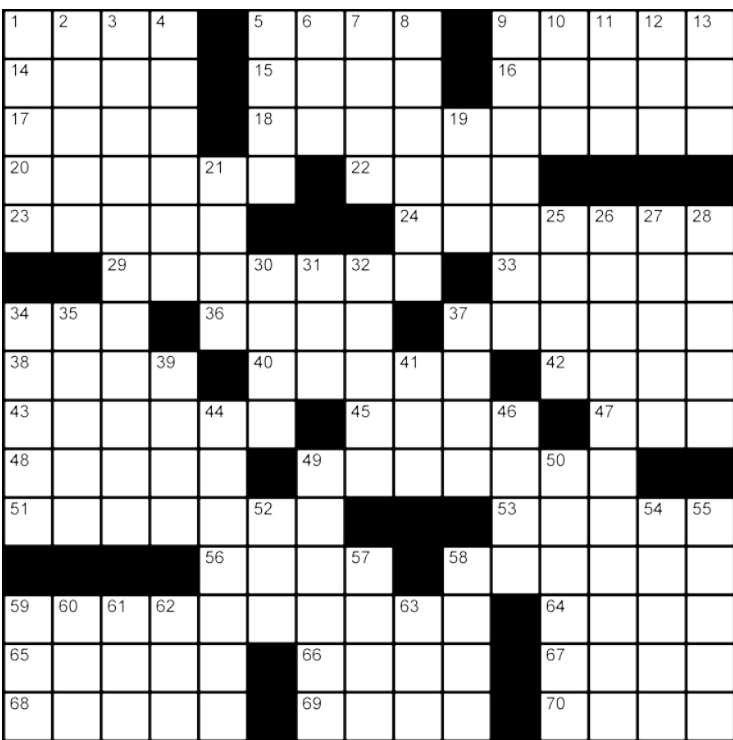
Sunday, July 7

- Agency assist: Municipal power line crew.
- Abandoned vehicle.
- Civil standby.
- Dog complaint.

During this reporting period there were nine bar checks, three traffic stops and three trespasses.

Crossword

Answers on page 12



CLUES ACROSS

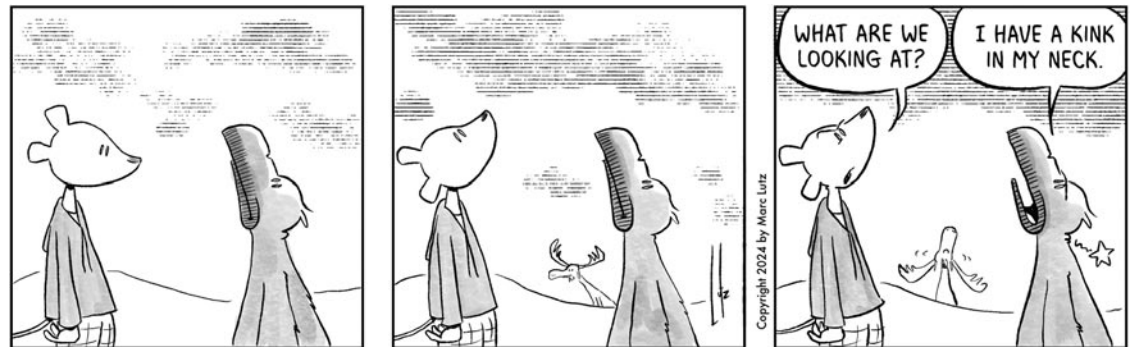
- 1 Depositors' protective grp.
- 5 Fruitcake
- 10 Jane Austen matchmaker
- 14 Bind
- 15 Uma Thurman's ex --- Hawke
- 16 Give temporarily
- 17 Arabian chieftain
- 18 Lightweight cord
- 19 Breathtaking organ
- 20 Against
- 21 Large bundle
- 22 Lamp scamper?
- 23 Bit of broken pottery
- 25 To do with mail
- 26 Strainer
- 29 Whisky distiller --- Walker
- 31 Appears ominously
- 32 --- Chanel
- 33 Actor and rapper Mike ---
- 37 Wheat flour in India
- 38 For example, brogues
- 39 Harvest
- 40 Hits lightly
- 41 High-efficiency lights, briefly
- 42 Enigmatic quotemaker Yogi ---
- 43 Corpse
- 45 Luxury accommodations
- 46 Dozing
- 49 Wet season
- 51 Place
- 52 Work the land
- 53 Records
- 57 Cookware
- 58 Military blockade
- 59 "... sting like ---" (Ali)
- 60 Therefore
- 61 Kofi ---
- 62 Brief message
- 63 Red light gas
- 64 Office in training
- 65 Writing table

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Type of market
- 2 What Rhett didn't give
- 3 Brenda Lee's "--- True?"
- 4 Yuletide
- 5 Home beverage center
- 6 Fighting an enemy
- 7 Old acquaintance
- 8 His last word was "Rosebud"
- 9 Unity
- 10 Large landmass north of the Canadian mainland
- 11 Launch
- 12 Passion
- 13 Theatrical backer
- 22 Smallest Indian state
- 24 "--- So Fine" (old Chiffons number)
- 25 Advantages
- 26 Fuss
- 27 Scintilla
- 28 Former Mississippi senator
- Trent ---
- 30 Summer refreshments
- 32 Top cook
- 34 Cheeky
- 35 Shave
- 36 Health farms
- 38 Thin potter's clay
- 42 Top and bottom of a hamburger
- 44 Senator --- Cruz
- 45 Noiseless
- 46 Colorado resort
- 47 Stockpile
- 48 Dismiss
- 50 Pond problem
- 52 S N L comic --- Fey
- 54 Double-reed woodwind instrument
- 55 Obtains
- 56 Search
- 58 Cold War U S A F arm

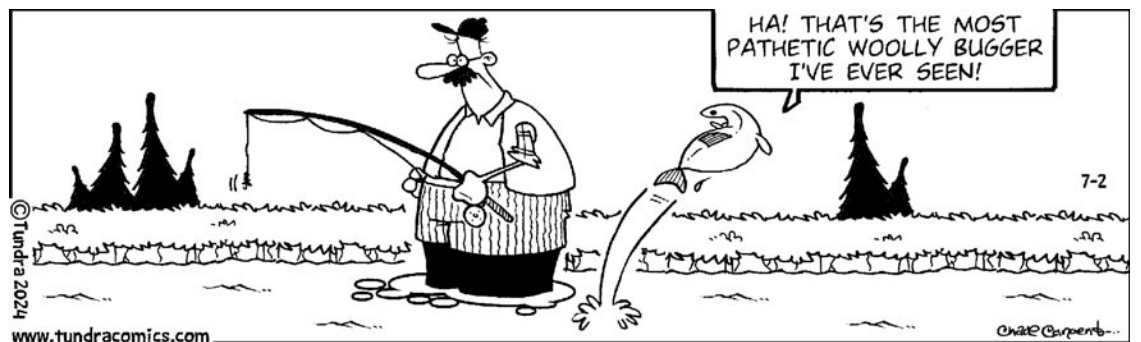
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
TRANSFORMERS PROCUREMENT**

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the Transformers Procurement project.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929 until 2 p.m. prevailing time on July 16, 2024, and publicly opened and read at that time.

The Contract Documents should be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFPs section.

The owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informality in a Bid, or to make an award as it best serves the interests of the owner.

Mason Villarma, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell

Publish June 26, July 3 and 10, 2024

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
MEYERS CHUCK HARBOR REPLACEMENT
FLOAT PROCUREMENT**

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the construction of the Meyers Chuck Harbor Replacement – Float Procurement project. Base Bid Work consists of all activities necessary to design moorage floats and supply all fabricated moorage float materials and hardware and delivering those materials to the Marine Services Center storage area in Wrangell, Alaska, in accordance with the Contract Documents. Additive Alternate work consists of designing additional moorage floats and supplying those materials and hardware and Contractor assembly of the moorage float materials and hardware into complete float modules prior to shipping. The engineers estimate for the Base Bid work is approximately \$600,000 and for the combination of Additive Alternates is approximately \$345,000.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929 until 2 p.m. prevailing time on July 17, 2024, and publicly opened and read at that time.

The Contract Documents should be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFPs section.

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Mason Villarma, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell

Publish June 26, July 3 and 10, 2024

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
WRANGELL HIGH SCHOOL
ELEVATOR REPLACEMENT**

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the Wrangell High School Elevator Replacement project. Work consists of all activities necessary to demolish and replace the hydraulic passenger elevator, complete with controls, electrical, communications, mechanical, fire alarm, sprinkler system, entrance walls and finishes.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2:30 p.m. prevailing time on July 31, 2024, and publicly opened and read at that time.

The Contract Documents are available in electronic format and can be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFPs section. Downloading Contract Documents from the City and Borough of Wrangell website requires registration with the Borough Clerk to be placed on the Plan Holders List and to ensure receipt of subsequent Addenda. Failure to register may adversely affect your proposal. It is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure that they have received all Addenda affecting this Solicitation. To be registered, contact the Borough Clerk at 907-874-2381 or at clerk@wrangell.com

The owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informality in a Bid, or to make an award as it best serves the interests of the owner.

Mason Villarma, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell

Publish July 10, July 17 and 24, 2024

Ranked-choice voting

Continued from page 10

voting — Maine for state primaries and for federal elections, and Alaska for state and federal general election contests. Many U.S. cities, including New York, San Francisco and Minneapolis, use ranked voting, while Portland plans to begin using it this fall. A years-old pilot program in Utah allows cities there to conduct ranked-vote local elections.

Supporters see ranked voting as a more inclusive process that gives voters greater choice and reduces negative campaigning because candidates need a coalition of support to be successful.

In Alaska, under ranked voting, ballots are counted in rounds: A candidate can win outright during the first round of counting if they receive more than 50% of the vote. If no one hits that threshold, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. Voters who chose that candidate as their top pick have their votes counted for their next choice. Rounds continue until two candidates remain, and then whoever has the most votes wins.

Alaska has a primary system in which the top four vote-getters in a race, regardless of party, advance to a general election where ranked voting is used. The Nevada and Idaho proposals are similar, while Oregon would keep its primaries closed and limit ranked voting to federal and top statewide races, including for governor.

While Oregon's proposal advanced from the Democratic-led legislature, in many instances the party in power doesn't like ranked voting because of the uncertainty it injects into election outcomes.

Republicans in Idaho, who control the legislature and hold every statewide office, have been attacking the proposed ranked voting citizen initiative there. State Republican Party Chairwoman Dorothy Moon called it "a pernicious plot to take away your ability to vote for conservative lawmakers."

A state lawmaker unsuccessfully tried to derail

it by proposing an amendment to the Idaho Constitution that would limit all elections to one round of voting.

In the District of Columbia, the Democratic Party sued unsuccessfully to stop the proposed ranked voting initiative, claiming in part that it violates the city's charter that requires top officials to be elected on a partisan basis.

Sondra Cosgrove, a history professor at the College of Southern Nevada who supports the ranked voting initiative in her state, has watched Alaska's system closely. She said many voters feel political parties have too much control and don't feel like they have a real choice.

"We've got some races where there's like one person, and then we've got other races where there's like 15 people and they're all screaming crazy things. And my students are like, 'Why can't we have something in the middle?'" said Cosgrove, who also is executive director of the civic engagement nonprofit Vote Nevada.

In Alaska, those on both sides of the ranked voting debate cite the success of Democrat Mary Peltola two years ago. She defeated former Gov. Sarah Palin and Nick Begich, both Republicans, in special and regular elections for the state's sole U.S. House seat following the death of Republican Don Young, who had held the seat for 49 years.

Phil Izon, a leader of the effort to repeal ranked voting in Alaska, said his grandfather's confusion over how the system works prompted him to begin researching it and then write the repeal initiative, which has been beset with controversy. It's the subject of a legal challenge aimed at keeping it off the November ballot.

Amber Lee, an independent and one of the plaintiffs suing to keep the repeal initiative off the ballot, says the ranked voting system is giving voters greater choice.

"I think it's worth giving this more time," she said.

CLASSIFIED

HELP WANTED
Wrangell Cooperative
Association Transportation

Raincountry Contractors
Septic tank pump
service available
until October 30, 2024
907-650-7028

(WCAT) is seeking two road/trail maintenance laborers. Complete job descriptions and applications are available outside the Wrangell Cooperative Association office at 1002 Zimovia Highway. Positions are open until filled. Contact Lizzy Romane at 907-

874-3077 with any questions.

HELP WANTED

Johnson's Building Supply is accepting applications for the following position: Customer Service: Duties include counter sales, freight handling, customer deliveries, stocking and inventory. Full-time position; will require working Saturdays. Valid Alaska driver's license, must be able to lift 50 lbs., forklift experience a plus, starting pay is DOE. Stop by Johnson's for an application.

FOR SALE

1967 pistol, left-hand gun with case. Browning semi-automatic. Medalist XXX189T7. Never fired. \$900. 253-854-7523.

FOR SALE

Southeast hand troll permit. \$7,500. 253-854-7523.

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.

LETTERS WANTED

Do you have an opinion that you would like to share? Send us a typed or clearly written letter up to 400 words with your phone number and we will get it published in the paper. Contact Amber at 907-874-2301 or email wrgsent@gmail.com.

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
CITY PARK PAVILION REPLACEMENT
DESIGN-BUILD**

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the City Park Pavilion Replacement Design-Build project. Work consists of all activities necessary to design and construct the City Park Pavilion Replacement project reflected in the contract documents. The work generally includes mobilization, concrete foundation, timber-frame construction, roofing, fireplace and other improvements. The Owner's Estimate for all work is approximately \$115,000 to \$125,000.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time on July 31, 2024, and publicly opened and read at that time.

The Contract Documents are available in electronic format and can be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFPs section. Downloading Contract Documents from the City and Borough of Wrangell website requires registration with the Borough Clerk to be placed on the Plan Holders List and to ensure receipt of subsequent Addenda. Failure to register may adversely affect your proposal. It is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure that they have received all Addenda affecting this Solicitation. To be registered, contact the Borough Clerk at 907-874-2381 or at clerk@wrangell.com

The owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informality in a Bid, or to make an award as it best serves the interests of the owner.

Mason Villarma, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell

Publish July 10, July 17 and 24, 2024

Biden administration proposal would further limit old-growth logging

By **MATTHEW BROWN**
Associated Press

The Biden administration is advancing a plan to restrict logging within old-growth forests that are increasingly threatened by climate change, with exceptions that include cutting trees to make forests less susceptible to wildfires.

The draft environmental impact statement, which was published June 21, rejects a blanket prohibition on old-growth logging that's long been sought by some environmentalists. The official review concluded that such a sweeping ban would make it harder to thin forests to better protect communities against wildfires that have grown more severe as the planet has warmed.

"To ensure the longevity of old-growth forests, we're going to have to take proactive management to protect against wildfire and insects and disease," Forest Service Deputy Chief Chris French told the Associated Press. Without some thinning allowed on these forests, he said there is a risk of losing more trees.

In Alaska, old-growth timber harvests in the Tongass National Forest were limited in 2021 to small commercial sales. Those would no longer occur under the administration's proposal, which went out June 21 for a 90-day public comment period.

The tree-thinning exceptions under which logging would be allowed in the

Lower 48 states are unlikely to placate the timber industry and Republicans in Congress, who have pushed back against any new restrictions.

However, French asserted that the impacts on timber companies would be minimal. "There's so little timber sales that occur right now in old growth ... that the overall effects are very small."

The U.S. timber industry employs about 860,000 people, which is about 30% fewer than in 2001, according to government data. Much of their work shifted in recent years to timber from private and state lands, after harvests from national forests dropped sharply beginning in the 1990s due to new policies, changing lumber markets and other factors.

The proposed changes on old growth mark a shift for an agency that has historically promoted logging. The new rules likely will be finalized before President Joe Biden's term ends in January. They come after he issued a 2022 executive order that directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture to identify old-growth forests across the nation and devise ways to conserve them.

That order touched off a flurry of disagreement over what fits under the definition of old-growth and how those trees should be managed.

Old-growth forests, such as the storied giant sequoia stands of Northern California, have layer upon layer of

undisturbed trees and vegetation. There's wide consensus on the importance of preserving them — both symbolically as marvels of nature, and more practically because their trunks and branches store large amounts of carbon that can be released when forests burn, adding to climate change.

Underlining the urgency of the issue are wildfires that killed thousands of giant sequoias in recent years.

Most old-growth forests across the U.S. were lost to logging as the nation developed over the past few centuries. Yet pockets of ancient trees remain, scattered across the U.S. including in California, the Pacific Northwest and areas of the Rocky Mountains. Larger expanses of old growth survive in Alaska, such as within the Tongass.

The new analysis follows a separate report on threats to old-growth forests that was finalized in June. It concluded that wildfires, insects and disease have been the main killers of old-growth trees since 2000, accounting for almost 1,400 square miles of losses.

By contrast, logging on federal lands cut down about 14 square miles of old-growth forests. That figure has been seized on by timber industry representatives who argue that further restrictions aren't needed.

"A binding restriction on timber harvest is not where their priority ought to be," said Bill Imbergamo, of the Federal

Forest Resource Coalition, an industry group.

Environmentalists have urged the administration to go even further as they seek to stop logging projects on federal lands in Oregon, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho and other states.

Jamie Williams, president of The Wilderness Society, said the proposal was "a step in the right direction."

"But it must go further to protect and restore resilient old-growth forests in a way that meets the challenges of the changing climate," he added.

Government inventories have identified about 50,000 square miles of old-growth forests in federal lands across the U.S. and 125,000 square miles of mature forests that haven't yet reached old-growth status. That includes land overseen by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, which in April adopted a rule intended to put conservation on equal footing with extractive industries such as logging and energy development.

Under former President Donald Trump, federal officials sought to open up huge areas of West Coast forests to potential logging. Federal wildlife officials reversed the move in 2021 after determining that political appointees under Trump relied on faulty science to justify drastically shrinking areas of forest that are considered crucial habitats for the imperiled northern spotted owl.

Judge says Alaska tribes may put land into trust, a step toward 'Indian country'

By **JAMES BROOKS**
Alaska Beacon

A federal judge has ruled that the Department of the Interior may take land into trust on behalf of Alaska Native tribes, a decision that could allow tribes to create "Indian country," which had been mostly eliminated here by the 53-year-old Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

In a 39-page summary judgment order on June 26, Anchorage Judge Sharon Gleason ruled mostly but not entirely against the state, which sued the Interior Department in 2023 to challenge an administrative decision that the department has the power to take land into trust on behalf of the state's 228 federally recognized tribes.

At issue in the case was the Biden Interior Department's decision to accept a trust application from the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, which sought to protect a 787-square-foot parcel of land in downtown Juneau.

Though Gleason said the In-

terior Department has the power to place land into trust, the process used for the Tlingit and Haida request was flawed and should be redone.

Putting land into trust would put it under tribal law and shield it from sale or taxation by city and state officials, effectively locking its authority in place. Tlingit and Haida has worked for decades to place portions of Juneau's historic "Indian Village" into trust.

The U.S. District Court for Washington, D.C., previously ruled in favor of Alaska tribes' right to put land into trust, but that ruling was later vacated by an Appeals Court, and Interior Department rules have fluctuated based on the party controlling the White House.

The Democratic Obama and Biden administrations have supported Alaska tribes' efforts to put land under tribal control, while the Republican Bush and Trump administrations opposed them.

"I think the main takeaway for the tribe is that for the sec-

ond time now, a federal judge has held that the (Interior) Secretary retains authority to take land into trust in Alaska. The state has now fought that multiple times and lost," said Whitney Leonard, an attorney that represented Tlingit and Haida in court.

Most Alaska Native land in Alaska is owned by Native corporations, which fall under state and federal law. Alaska Native tribes, which are sovereign governments and can exert authority over Indian country, have relatively little land under their control.

"From the tribe's perspective," Leonard said, "being able to take control of its land and control how those lands are going to be designated and used in perpetuity is really important to the tribe."

Attorneys representing the state had argued that while the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act did not explicitly forbid the Department of the Interior from putting land into trust on behalf of tribes, Congress' actions implied that it intended to do so.

In legal arguments, the state expressed its worry that allowing land into trust could divide Alaska into a variety of disparate jurisdictions.

"We filed this litigation because of the patchwork it would create with enclaves of reservations scattered through the state," said Alaska Attorney General Treg Taylor in an emailed statement June 26.

Attorneys representing the federal government and Tlingit and Haida argued that the actual language of federal law — which does not forbid taking land into trust — should carry the day.

Gleason agreed with the state's argument that the Department of the Interior must

declare that a tribe meets one of three definitions under federal law before placing land into trust — thus requiring a redo of the decision on the Juneau lands case.

She also "finds problematic" the Interior Department's statement that it was putting Tlingit and Haida land into trust as part of the "restoration of Indian lands."

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act specifically ended aboriginal title in Alaska, Gleason said. While the Department of Interior may put tribal land into trust, she said, it can-

not justify that decision by saying that it is restoring land to a tribe.

That determination is somewhat academic. It doesn't prevent the department from putting historic tribal land into trust; the federal government simply can't use that historic use as justification for doing so.

It isn't yet clear whether the decision will be appealed. All sides said they are still reviewing Gleason's order.

The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. Alaskabeacon.com.

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Leslie Binkley,
Commercial Lines Agent

Email: leslie@p-wins.com
Toll Free: (800) 478-3858, Fax: (907) 802-3225
www.p-wins.com
PO Box 529 Petersburg, AK, 99833

