



Wrangell, Alaska  
July 6, 2022

# WRANGELL SENTINEL

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## No one submits bids to buy former hospital

*Sentinel staff*

No one bid on the former Wrangell hospital building, which the borough had offered to sell at a minimum asking price of \$830,000.

The bidding period was open for a month and closed last Thursday. The property is now available for an over-the-counter sale.

"It means that the first person to come in to sign an intent to purchase with a 20% down payment (payment in full within 60 days of signing) would be the buyer," Borough Clerk Kim Lane explained last Friday.

"If that happens, I would then take a resolution to the assembly to approve the sale."

If a prospective buyer wants to offer less than the \$830,000 asking price, "that would have to go before the assembly for consideration," Lane said.

A commercial property appraiser determined the \$830,000

value of the former hospital.

The property reverted back to the borough after SEARHC moved into its new medical center last year. The borough owns the property and had leased it to SEARHC until the health care provider could build its new facility.

The borough is spending close to \$100,000 a year to heat and insure the empty structure. The assembly decided to sell the surplus property in hopes of attracting a new use for the 30,596-square-foot building on 1.95 acres at Bennett Street between Reid Street and First Avenue, next to the elementary school.

The building is being sold as-is. The hospital, originally constructed in 1967, includes additions built in 1974, 1988 and 1994. A 2018 survey detailed asbestos materials in the roofing, tiles, wallboard, window caulk and fire-rated doors.

## Borough assembly approves Wrangell's annual budget

*Sentinel staff*

The borough assembly approved a budget for the fiscal year that started last Friday similar to past years — no increase in property tax or sales tax rates, and with more than half of the total spending going to the self-supporting operations of sewage, water, garbage, electricity, port and harbors services.

The budget approved by the assembly June 28 includes more than 20 repair, maintenance and improvement projects across the borough and in several departments, including:

Repairs and maintenance at the schools, recreation center and pool, including new exterior siding at the rec center/pool building.

Replacement of the fire alarm system at the high school, middle school and pool.

A new elevator at the high school.

Power distribution upgrades at the borough's standby diesel-fueled power plant.

Cemetery expansion.

Mount Dewey trail extension.

A larger emergency power generator at the Nolan Center.

Rebuilding the main pavilion fire pit at City Park.

Installation of video surveillance cameras at the port and harbors

A new electrical-use metering system that will allow reading the data remotely.

A combination of state and federal funds, borough general funds and directed revenues from the self-supporting operations will pay for the work, much of which is still in the design stage. The budget year runs through next June 30.

The assembly in recent months approved rate increases for water, sewage and trash services to cover rising costs, needed improvements and help build reserves for pending large-ticket costs such as

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## BOOM! POP! OOH! AAH!



PHOTO BY VINCENT BALANSAG, OF VINCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Spectators watched Sunday evening's fireworks from Campbell Drive near the Nolan Center. The venue for the fireworks was changed from Volunteer Park to a barge in Zimovia Strait due to dry-weather conditions. For more 4th of July photos and a recap of events, turn to Page 7.

## Forest Service gathering public input on possible new public-use cabin sites

BY MARC LUTZ  
*Sentinel editor*

The U.S. Forest Service is looking to build a few new public-use recreational cabins in the Wrangell and Petersburg area, hoping to use federal infrastructure funding to pay for the work and considering sites that would be easier for people to reach.

The site selection process has been underway for a few years, with the latest round of public comment closing July 6.

Past suggestions have included a site several miles south of town along Zimovia Highway, Fools Inlet and a site near the southern end of Wrangell Island, Anita Bay and Burnett Inlet on Etolin Island, Snow Pass and Mustang Lake on Zarembo Island, and Paradise Cove on Woronkofski Island.

There are 23 existing cabins in the Wrangell

district and 19 in Petersburg, many of which take some effort to reach.

"Historically, the demand was for the remote experience, fly-in cabins or long hikes or thing upriver in the wilderness," said Clint Kolarich, Forest Service district ranger in Wrangell. "The traditional way to enjoy the outdoors is shifting from less remote locations to slightly more convenient locations."

Despite that many of the cabins are in remote locations in the Tongass National Forest (144 cabins in total), around 18,000 people used the cabins over 2019 and 2020, according to Tory Houser, Forest Service program manager in Wrangell.

One of the more popular sites in Wrangell is Middle Ridge Cabin, due to its ease of access by road. Houser said one of the suggestions is

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## Sealaska Heritage brings Southeast Native history recordings online

BY CARLEIGH MINOR  
*For the Wrangell Sentinel*

Sealaska Heritage Institute has made available online for the public recordings of two important treasures in the preservation of traditional Southeast Native culture, knowledge and history: Radio interviews with Native leaders that go back almost 40 years and the biennial Celebration festival.

The 164 radio interviews preserved in digital files are from an hour-long program, "Southeast Native Radio," that aired on Juneau public station KTOO 1985 to 2001.

"The collection is remarkable, as it offers so many interviews with people on topics of importance to Native people

and the public at large," Sealaska Heritage President Rosita Worl said in a news release announcing the digital recordings.

"The recordings have research value but also sentimental value, as many of the people featured have since passed away," she said.

The radio programs include:

- An interview with former Wrangell resident Ethel Lund, who was one of the founders and later served as board president of the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium. She continues to serve as president emeritus.
- Jolene and Kevin Petticrew singing the Wrangell Entrance Song.
- A 1987 interview with Reggie Dangeli,

who talked of his time as a student at the Wrangell Institute Native boarding school.

- A 1987 interview with Chief Denny Sr., with an opening by the Yun Sho' ka Native dancers, including the Wrangell Entrance, Tsimshian Song and Hoonah Exit Song.
- An interview with Native civil rights leader Roy Peratrovich a year before he died in 1989.
- Interviews with Walter Soboleff (died 2011) and Nora Dauenhauer (died 2017) on Tlingit oratory.
- An interview with Native leader John Borbridge Jr. (died 2016) on the early days of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act.

Interviews with executives from Native corporations and organizations, including the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood.

The late Kathy Kolkhorst Ruddy was the reason the recordings were digitized, Emily Pastore, archives and collections director at Sealaska Heritage, said June 30. "She was heavily involved in the project; she actually coordinated the original donation with SHI back in 2010."

The idea for "Southeast Native Radio" started in the early 1980s with Arlene Dangeli, "who realized few outlets existed for Alaska Natives to learn about their heritage," Sealaska Heritage said in its announcement. "She set about creating

Continued on page 5

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**Wednesday, July 6:** Laura Helgeson, Jennifer Miller, Richard Sumner; Anniversaries: Miles and Waka Brown, Daniel and Tammie Kirschner.

**Thursday, July 7:** Dawn Angerman, Devyn Young, "Zoey"; Anniversary: Kyle and Amber Hommel.

**Friday, July 8:** Kyle Scott Angerman, Matthew Speers, Barb Taylor, Andrew Werner.

**Saturday, July 9:** Carlene Nore, Maxine Silcott.

**Sunday, July 10:** None.

**Monday, July 11:** Robert Kuntz, Keian Young; Anniversary: Sarah and Andrew Scambler.

**Tuesday, July 12:** David Bryner, Kara Helgeson, Sharon McGuire, Tis Peterman.

**Wednesday, July 13:** Betty Abbott, Maggie McChargue.

## Senior Center Menu

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

### Thursday, July 7

Mac and cheese, peas, sweet potatoes, cabbage pear raisin salad

### Friday, July 8

Chicken sandwich, minestrone soup, romaine and tomato salad

### Monday, July 11

Turkey, brussels sprouts, citrus salad, mashed potatoes

### Tuesday, July 12

Baked chicken, mixed veggies, cauliflower broccoli tossed salad, mashed potatoes and gravy

### Wednesday, July 13

Country pork stew, peas and onion salad, buttermilk roll

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, July 8**  
Matanuska, 6:15 p.m.  
**Friday, July 15**  
Matanuska, 3:45 p.m.  
**Tuesday, July 19**  
Matanuska, 7:45 p.m.  
**Saturday, July 23**  
Matanuska, 4:15 a.m.

### Southbound

**Monday, July 11**  
Matanuska, 5:15 a.m.  
**Monday, July 18**  
Matanuska, 6:45 a.m.  
**Thursday, July 21**  
Matanuska, 6:15 p.m.  
**Monday, July 25**  
Matanuska, 5:30 a.m.

All times listed are scheduled departure times.  
Call the terminal at 907-874-2021 for information  
or call 907-874-3711 or 800-642-0066 for recorded information.

## Tides

### High Tides

### Low Tides

	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
July 7	07:17	12.0	07:58	14.7	01:08	3.7	01:10	2.7
July 8	08:37	11.8	08:54	15.4	02:14	2.8	02:09	3.4
July 9	09:52	12.2	09:50	16.3	03:22	1.5	03:13	3.9
July 10	10:59	13.0	10:46	17.3	04:27	0.0	04:18	3.9
July 11	11:59	13.9	11:40	18.2	05:27	-1.5	05:20	3.7
July 12	....	...	12:54	14.7	06:21	-2.9	06:17	3.2
July 13	00:33	18.9	01:45	15.4	07:11	-3.8	07:10	2.7

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

**PARKS and RECREATION** is hosting Forest Explorers July 12 through Aug. 2 for ages 6 to 8 from 10 a.m. to noon at Volunteer Park. Register online at [www.wrangellrec.com](http://www.wrangellrec.com) or call 907-874-2444 for more information.

**CAMP LORRAINE**, a Christian summer camp for kids between the ages of 8 to 16, is planned for July 31 through Aug. 7. The camp is located on Vank Island. The cost is \$199. Applications available online: [www.alaskacamps.org](http://www.alaskacamps.org).

**NOLAN CENTER THEATER** presents "Jurassic World Dominion" rated PG-13, at 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12, for the action drama film that runs two hours and 27 minutes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

**MUSKEG MEADOWS** will hold the Alaska Airlines, nine-hole best-ball, four-person tournament starting at 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Must register by 9:30 a.m. Win a trip on Alaska Airlines.

**ALASKA CROSSINGS REUNION** July 11-12 at Vank Island. Message or text 425-345-1275 for transportation and more information.

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

"**READ WITH A RANGER**," sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, at 11 a.m. Fridays through July. Join Forest Service naturalists for a summer of nature-themed books and fun activities. Meet at the gazebo outside the Irene Ingle Public Library.

**PARKS and RECREATION** is offering multiple activities and programs to get your body moving. For more information on any of the activities visit [www.wrangellrec.com](http://www.wrangellrec.com) or call 907-874-2444.

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

## Continuing Events

**PARKS and RECREATION** [www.wrangellrec.com](http://www.wrangellrec.com)

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

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

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

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

Open swim, 6 - 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; 6:30 - 8 p.m. Friday; 1 - 2 p.m. Saturday

Water aerobics class, 10 - 11 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday

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

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

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

### July 9, 1922

The Fourth of July has come and gone and one of the most successful Independence Day celebrations that Wrangell has ever known has passed into history. Much of the success of a celebration of this kind depends on the weather, and this year the weather was ideal. The street sports in the afternoon were very much the same as in former years. There were, however, two new sport attractions that aroused the most intense interest. The Tlingit war canoe race was a big drawing card, and it is doubtful if the McCormack dock ever had more people on it at one time. Two genuine war canoes which had been the property of the late Chief Shakes were put into the water for the first time in years. The contest was won by the crew commanded by William Lewis. Richard Suratt, the well-known cin-

ematographer, was aboard one of the canoes and secured some excellent films which will be shown throughout the United States within the next few months.

### July 11, 1947

It was reported by Councilman Joyce Hay, who is also acting chairman and secretary of the hospital board, that the local hospital is in bad shape with an outstanding indebtedness of about \$5,000. He said Outside supply houses have refused further credit and even local businessmen cannot carry the hospital any longer. Councilman Barlow asked if mismanagement was the trouble and Councilman Hay said that was not the reason. He said people who were hospitalized did not pay their bills, and the bills owed to the hospital exceed the hospital's indebtedness. Councilman Howard Baltzo pointed out that two years ago the hospital's debt had been completely cleared, but now it was in worse shape than ever.

### July 7, 1972

Alaska Lt. Gov. Red Boucher happened to be nearby when Harold Snoddy was signing up for the Fourth of July log-rolling contest so, naturally, Snoddy signed Boucher up too. "Hey," said Boucher, "I don't know how to do that. I've never done that." "Heck," said Snoddy, "It's not hard. I'll lend you some cork boots. You'll be

great." That was how Boucher, who came here to be a parade marshal in a suit and tie, ended up in old duds and cork boots on a log in Zimovia Strait. How did he do? "They tried hard to keep me on the thing," said Boucher, "but I ended up in the water six times. And, brother, it was cold." Boucher said he is going to practice the art for a year, come back next Fourth of July and show Wrangell some fancy stuff. "It's not hard, really," said the lieutenant governor. "I just didn't know what I was doing."

### July 3, 1997

With the retirement of Randy Timothy and Anita Ryll - and for budgetary reasons - the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in Wrangell is set to close July 31. All applications and information will have to be obtained at the Petersburg office after that date. This year both Wrangell and Haines were at the top of the cut list. Biologist Timothy says he will man the local office whenever he is in town this month, but the days and hours will be irregular. He says it's possible a six-month position may be opened here, but this could be drawn out by opening just a few days a week. "They just don't feel that there is a big enough demand here," says Timothy. Wrangell residents, particularly fishermen, already are complaining about losing the office here.

## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
July 6	4:09a	9:38p	17:28h
July 7	4:10a	9:37p	17:26h
July 8	4:12a	9:36p	17:24h
July 9	4:13a	9:35p	17:22h
July 10	4:14a	9:34p	17:19h
July 11	4:15a	9:33p	17:17h
July 12	4:17a	9:32p	17:14h

# Governor signs state budget; Wrangell funding intact

*Sentinel staff and  
the Alaska Beacon*

Though he vetoed funding for several projects and public services around Alaska, Gov. Mike Dunleavy did not cross out \$4.1 million in state grant funding toward a new \$15 million water treatment plant in Wrangell.

The borough hopes to finish design work and go out for bids on the project later this year. Federal funds are covering about \$11 million of the cost.

The governor also left intact a one-time \$57 million legislative appropriation to boost state funding by 5% for local school district operating budgets. The increase for the 2022-2023 school year will add about \$143,000 to Wrangell schools funding — an amount the school district had counted on and already included in its spending plan for the school year that starts next month.

Educators and many legislators had pushed hard for a permanent increase

this year in the state's per-student funding formula, but had to settle for the one-year appropriation.

Wrangell also will receive about \$300,000 in state funds under the budget as its share of make-good payments to municipalities that were shortchanged in recent years when the state underfunded its share of local school construction debt payments.

The money will go to the municipality, which owns the school buildings and paid the bond debt, not to the school district operating budget. There are no spending restrictions from the state on how municipalities might choose to spend the catch-up funds.

Alaska statute says the state 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 ongoing and future expenses.

Dunleavy cut the debt reimbursements

in half in 2020, as he shifted more expenses from the state to municipalities. He slashed the state's contribution entirely in 2021. The Legislature this year appropriated money to restore those state payments.

Despite Dunleavy's vetoes, the budget still ranks as the state's sixth largest ever. Much of the increase in state spending is for the Permanent Fund dividend and energy-relief payment that will go out to Alaskans later this year, totaling about \$3,200 per person — almost \$2.1 billion, about triple last year's PFD.

The precise amount of the payout will be determined based on the number of eligible applicants. The governor said he expects to announce a payout date "probably" this week.

The dividend has traditionally been paid the first week of October, but Dunleavy ordered the 2020 dividend paid early, and several lawmakers have called on the governor to do so again this year.

With Alaska expecting a multibillion-dollar surge in oil revenue due to high

prices caused by a global supply squeeze and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, spending is up by \$2.7 billion from the budget passed by the governor and lawmakers last year — mostly for the dividend and public works projects statewide.

The new state budget year started last Friday.

With higher oil revenues, the state is poised to end a decade-long streak of years in which it needed to spend from savings in order to balance the budget.

In addition to vetoing more than \$110 million in funding for deferred maintenance at schools, university and state facilities, the governor vetoed funding for public radio, a Sealaska Heritage Institute — Alaska Native Arts Economy and Workforce training program, the Alaska Long Trail (a proposed 500-mile trail from Seward to Fairbanks). He also cut additional state support for the Food Bank of Alaska and the Alaska Library Network.

## School and assembly members meet to discuss campus security

By MARC LUTZ  
*Sentinel editor*

School district staff, a school board member, borough assembly members and law enforcement met on June 28 in a work session to discuss school safety measures in the case of an intruder.

Ideas such as single points of entry on campuses, student identification cards, video surveillance, arming teachers and others were brainstormed as possible solutions to increase the security of each school.

Nationwide so far in 2022, there have been 27 school shootings that resulted in 27 deaths and 56 injuries, according to Education Week, a publication that has been tracking school shootings since 2018. There have been 119 shootings in that time, with 34 last year, 10 in 2020 and 24 in both 2019 and 2018. The most recent at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas, was the deadliest of those, with 19 students and two teachers killed by a lone gunman.

None of those shootings occurred in Alaska.

One of the issues discussed was campus accessibility at both elementary and middle school and high school sites.

Josh Blatchley, head of maintenance at the school district, said changing the locks on doors throughout the district would run roughly \$12,000 to \$15,000. An alternate fix would be to leave interior locks alone and change exterior locks to a keycard system, costing about \$7,000 per door. There are 16 exterior doors at the elementary and 18 exterior doors at the middle and schools.

"I think the most workable solution to 'harden' the schools would be to focus on the entrances," he said in an interview after the meeting. "Limiting the number of entrances used, ensuring that all other entry points are secured, monitoring entrances when necessary, and a new keycard entry system" would all be part of his ideal approach.

Blatchley said he will research grant funding to pay for a new keycard entry system.

"What is the greatest hazard? Is it that you're trying to block entry? Are you trying to have a better response from the front?" asked Mayor Steve Prysunka. "What is your priority? Is there some way to do an assessment so you can come back and say

our best bang for the buck security-wise in (one) school is perimeter doors?"

Having updated video surveillance and locked doors during school hours was another option that was covered. Kids who are late to school would need to be buzzed in, possibly showing a student identification card.

"You're going to have to change behavior," said Police Chief Tom Radke. "It's really a change in culture for security. I get you want to come in this door, but you're going to have to walk around to the main door. School started at 8 a.m., and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. everybody has to come through the main door. It's one way in, one way out."

Radke said Wrangell is in a unique position since it's a small island community and the people know each other. "We don't have that person who is going to drive 10 minutes and come in and do damage to a community they don't know. That seems to be a common link too, some of these people don't know the people they assault."

Assembly member Patti Gilbert said during her time as a teacher, staff benefitted from an in-service training provided by the police de-

partment that found all the strengths and flaws of classrooms.

"Bar none, every teacher found that very useful," Gilbert said. "Then we had a drill with the kids. I'm thinking (we coordinate) with law enforcement, fire, EMS, hospital, maybe do a community drill with the school system."

Radke said an officer could be made available for random visits to each school to have a law enforcement presence as a deterrent. "Times have changed. You've got to change with it. Part of it is hardening the target, part of it is education from day one. I'll come in and talk to the kids."

Assembly member Jim DeBord asked about the opportunities for arming staff or having an armed guard.

"Schools are seen as a gun-free zone," Schools Superintendent Bill Burr said. State law prohibits guns in public schools, except with permission of the superintendent. The law applies to school buildings, parking lots and school buses. Radke confirmed that Alaska is one of the states that allows staff to be armed in schools.

Mental health was also discussed to see what's being

done to help those who suffer from mental illness from a law enforcement perspective.

"We go out and talk to people, it's not just a phone call. I think that goes a long way," Radke said.

Assembly member Anne Morrison asked what responsibility falls to teachers in the case of an intruder. Burr responded that a teacher's only responsibility is the safety of the children. He also said that planning is key.

"Planning is really the biggest aspect," Burr said. "Even in a crisis plan, we're not supposed to put all of our material in (the plan) because it's a step-by-step map of what we're going to do next. Part of it is we have to be unexpected too."

Since the meeting was a work session, no action was taken, but Borough Manager Jeff Good said the borough and school district could partner to achieve specific goals moving forward.

"We can work with the school on training opportunities that are available and what funding is available," he said. "We can also help prioritize some of the hardening of the schools and break down that list and the costs and prioritize that."

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Riverboat tours are Wrangell's economic future

By LARRY PERSILY  
Publisher

Riverboats have operated on the Stikine since the gold rush days of the 1860s and 1870s. The commerce was a big part of Wrangell's economy in those days, with a long history of family-owned businesses moving people and freight up and down the river to and from Canada for 100 years.

And long before that, the river, which provided a natural passageway through the Coast Mountains, was used as a trade route by Indigenous peoples. The Tlingit and Tahltan knew the value of the river.

Wrangell was a hub, with the Stikine serving as the equivalent of an airport, highway and ferry terminal before any of those existed.

The flat-bottom, wooden steamboats are gone, but the community's economic future remains connected to the natural beauty, recreational attractions and history and Native culture of the river. Only now, family-owned businesses are running jet boats for visitors who are eager to bring their money to town for a chance to see and experience The Great River.

As Wrangell looks to build up its tourism business, bringing more people to town and for longer stays, it makes sense to even more heavily promote the Stikine, nearby LeConte Glacier, Anan, whale watching, sportfishing and the other water-accessible features that make the community stand out.

In particular, cruise ship operators and their passengers look for ports of call that offer something different. Wrangell has always been different than Juneau, Ketchikan and Skagway — less developed, thankfully — and boat tours are a low-key development the community should strongly promote.

"They're looking for places a little more authentic and different, and for experiences ... that

are perhaps a little more genuine and up close and unique than some of the basic large-group excursions you might find in other places," Brenda Schwartz-Yeager, co-owner of Alaska Charters and Adventures, said in a recent interview. "Wrangell is well-positioned for those types of visitors because we have some of the best things to do around here in a very unspoiled way."

She is big on independent travelers, who spend more time and money in town. But attracting more cruise ship passengers and putting them into jet boats, charter tours and fishing boats is part of the future, too.

**"Wrangell is well-positioned for those types of visitors because we have some of the best things to do around here in a very unspoiled way."**

*Brenda Schwartz-Yeager,  
co-owner of Alaska  
Charters and Adventures*

Michael Hicks is senior director of marketing for American Queen Voyages, which operates the 186-passenger Ocean Victory cruise ship that just started coming to town this summer. "Wrangell and the jet boats fit so well into what we're doing" Hicks said. "A lot of our guests have sailed on the larger ships, and they want to come back and see Alaska up close."

In addition to individual boat owners handling their own reservations and promotions, the Stikine River Jet Boat

Association is working to get more cruise lines to use its services for more of their passengers. The better the community and boat operators can organize and promote the river, the better chance Wrangell will have at attracting more ships and visitors to town.

A recent article in Seatrade Cruise News reported on several higher-end cruise lines that are coming to Wrangell this year or in the future. All are opportunities for members of the jet boat association and others to expand their businesses, providing jobs and increased spending in town.

"Wrangell offers so much for our guests," Hicks, of American Queen Voyages, told the Cruise News. "It has an old Alaska feel."

The feeling may be old Alaska, but it's the growing future for Wrangell's tourism economy.

EDITORIAL

Old hospital's best use is as land for housing

No surprise, but the borough received no bids for the former hospital property. No one was willing to pay the \$830,000 minimum price for the building, much of which is 55 years old.

It's not like there's a lot of value to the building, unless a new owner wanted to run a medical center or long-term care facility, which isn't needed in Wrangell after SEARHC spent \$30 million building its new medical center just a few blocks away.

Besides, the old building's health records show a patient in ill health.

"Many of the mechanical and electrical systems are in failing condition and/or do not meet current codes and standards," according to a 2018 report for the borough.

"Potentially hazardous materials have been identified in Wrangell Medical Center that will affect both ongoing maintenance operations, as well as possible future renovations or demolition. Those materials include asbestos, lead, polychlorinated bi-phenyls (PCBs), mercury and radioactive materials," said a 2021 report.

And the 2022 property appraisal that set the value at \$830,000 said, "The roof, mechanical, electrical and HVAC systems have reached the end of their useful lives."

The same appraisal also noted, "For older improvements near the end of their economic life, demolition and replacement of the existing improvements with an alternative use may be the highest and best use of a site as improved."

It appears the healthiest future for the old hospital property is not the wood and metal structure, its utilities, walls and windows — it's the land.

Land that is in extremely short supply in Wrangell for building housing, which is desperately needed if the town is going to have a future for new residents, new workers to fill the long list of empty jobs, and families with children for the schools that have seen a steep drop in enrollment since 2019.

The borough should consider giving away the land for free, with the requirement that housing must be built on a negotiated schedule. New rentals and homes are far more important to Wrangell's long-term future than the several hundred thousand dollars the borough might get, someday, maybe, if a developer buys the property.

Besides, the borough is spending almost \$100,000 a year to insure and heat the building. Save the money; give it away.

Even with free land, a developer would still have to spend millions to demolish the old hospital, clean up the site to get it ready for housing, and construct new homes and rentals. Simply put, the land is no bargain, even at free, but it's the most readily available large piece of borough-owned property in town — almost two acres — with road access, utilities and flat land. Though substantially larger, the borough-owned former Wrangell Institute property at Shoemaker Bay likely is years away from any housing development.

At this point, free land for housing, maybe even with property tax incentives and borough help with financing, could be the best use of the hospital property.

— Wrangell Sentinel

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Alaska Marine Highway return to Prince Rupert is good news for southern Southeast travelers

The Alaska Department of Transportation last month reinstated state ferry service to Prince Rupert, British Columbia.

The relationship between Prince Rupert and Ketchikan is an important one, as they are sister cities. The ferry route brings strong economic benefits to Prince Rupert and the communities of southern Southeast Alaska. It is the fastest way to connect southern Southeast with the road system, and therefore is helpful in shipping goods.

According to the McKinley Research Group, seafood companies rely on this port connection to ship fresh seafood. During a time when freight costs have increased substantially, it is wonderful to have this route option

available again.

The Prince Rupert run is ideal for longer-term visitors to Alaska. Economic data indicates that folks who visit Alaska via the ferry system spend significantly more money in our communities than the average cruise ship passenger, bringing economic benefits to both Southeast and British Columbia. This route also helps new-to-town movers, particularly members of the U.S. Coast Guard, as they navigate transporting their belongings in and out of Southeast.

Lastly, it is our long-term residents' vital connection to the road system. Before the pandemic, Prince Rupert saw a relatively high number of passengers via the Alaska ferries — more than 7,000 per year. We are thankful that we can travel this tried-and-true route once again.

The return to Prince Rupert is one of the first steps in en-

suring that the ferry system is a major component in the transportation infrastructure needed to rebuild the economies of coastal communities. As we move forward on that journey, there is potential for future economic opportunities via this link as Prince Rupert's port grows — one improvement would be getting more regular user-friendly scheduled stops to and from Prince Rupert.

We are very thankful to all the people working for the different government agencies who had a role to play in restoring the Ketchikan-to-Prince Rupert run. It was not a simple task, and it included some significant roadblocks and complexities. The persistence and commitment shown by the different parties involved is greatly appreciated.

Prince Rupert Mayor Lee Brain  
Ketchikan Rep. Dan Ortiz

Borough budget

Continued from page 1

a new water treatment plant.

Besides for the electric utility, port and harbors budgets, the borough's contribution to schools, at \$1.617 million, is the single largest municipal expenditure in the overall \$22 million budget. The borough contribution for the school district's 2022-2023 operating budget is the highest ever, an increase of \$300,000 over recent years.

Sales tax revenues and federal money pay for the borough's school funding.

Though the sales tax rate has not changed in more than a quarter-century, "sales tax revenue has consistently increased year-over-year," moving up an average of 4.4% a year 2017 to 2021, according to the budget report presented to the assembly. Sales tax revenues hit a record \$3.3 million in the fiscal year that ended last Thursday, with the new budget based on the same

\$3.3 million, though the budget presentation said that revenue estimate is conservative.

In addition to the return of visitor spending after the past two years of pandemic-inflicted travel restrictions, high consumer prices are generating higher sales tax revenues for the borough.

The only vote against the budget last week came from Assemblymember David Powell, who later explained he opposes the borough's \$10,000 contribution to radio station KSTK. The station should be treated the same as any business in town, none of which receive financial donations from public funds, he said.

Powell said he objects to the borough's \$27,000 contribution to the chamber of commerce for the same reason.

He had tried at an earlier assembly meeting to convince his colleagues to delete the KSTK money but failed to win their support.

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# Borough reaches deal with state on any past contamination at mill site

By LARRY PERSILY  
Sentinel writer

The borough last week closed on its \$2.5 million purchase of the former sawmill property at 6 Mile Zimovia Highway and separately signed an agreement with the state that would hold Wrangell harmless if any past contamination is discovered at the site.

In exchange for the hold-harmless agreement, the borough will need to assess the current situation at the property and monitor the site, such as if any soil contamination is found during excavation or construction on the property, Borough Manager Jeff Good said last week.

The agreement with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation "takes us out of that cradle-to-grave" responsibility for the property, Good said last Thursday. Sawmill operations at the site go back more than 60 years.

The state maintains a fund that can pay for hazardous materials cleanup at sites if past owners are unable to cover the costs.

After verifying cleanup of the property, the department "determined that the contamination concentrations remaining on site do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment," it stated in a 2014 letter to then-owner Silver Bay Logging.

"Following demolition of the mill in 2011," the property was inspected, cleaned up, contaminated soil excavated and removed or remediated to acceptable standards for reuse, according to the January 2014 letter

to Silver Bay, which operated the mill until it closed in 2008.

Silver Bay, which purchased the property from Alaska Pulp Corp. in 1995, according to the state's letter, went through bankruptcy reorganization in 2003.

The borough has purchased the 39-acre property with the intent of preserving it intact — rather than risking the seller would piece it out into smaller parcels for sale — in hopes that a larger commercial operation might be interested in the site with its deep-water access.

The seller was Betty Buhler, who along with her late husband, Richard, owned Silver Bay Logging.

Good said the borough is looking for interested parties to lease or buy and develop the waterfront acreage, and has no plans to spend any further public money on the property.

"The intent is not to hold on to the property," Mayor Steve Prysunka said at the June 14 assembly meeting. He said the borough wants to see the property used "in a way that brings economic benefit to the community."

Until the property is sold or leased to a private owner, the borough will lose property tax revenues on the acreage, about \$20,000 a year.

The borough paid for the purchase by drawing \$1.2 million from general fund reserves and \$1.3 million from its Economic Recovery Fund, which holds federal dollars granted to Wrangell to help the community recover from the fall in the timber industry.

# Anan toilets likely pumped in time for opening

Sentinel staff

Raincountry Contracting cleared the way for visitors to enjoy the Anan Wildlife Observatory in time for this week's opening of the bear viewing season.

The Petersburg-based company needed to pump out the 750-gallon-capacity public toilets, which are typically emptied once a year, according to U.S. Forest Service staff.

Due to a delay in changing Raincountry's address in a federal database for contractors, the contracting department at the Forest Service found a way to work around the holdup, Clint

Kolarich, district ranger, said Monday. The permit season for the observatory started Tuesday.

In order to get pumping equipment to Anan, Raincountry Contracting had to coordinate with a boat to take its pump truck out there, said Tory Houser, program coordinator with the Forest Service.

The conditions had to be specific for the trip, which included a high tide so that the boat could land close enough to the trailhead restrooms for the pumping equipment to reach the toilets.

Work was completed earlier this month on a million-dollar rebuild of the observation deck and shelter at Anan.

# Cabins

Continued from page 1

to build a cabin at High Bush Lake, which is also accessible by road.

"The recreation staff and resource specialists have to go out and look at these sites to help determine the best ones to carry forward in the short term as proposals for the (federal) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law," Houser said. That law provides funding specifically for Forest Service cabins in Alaska.

The number of cabins and the types of amenities included with each will depend on how much of those funds can be secured.

"I don't know how much money will be allocated across the districts," Kolarich said. "We wanted to start the comment period early so we could look at the public input to be

as responsive to implement as many of those as possible. We will have to wait and see."

Further planning also depends on the results of the agency's environmental review, to see what kind of impact new cabins would have in the new locations.

Proposals are due to the national office by July 18, Houser said.

Houser said the Forest Service will also have to do a survey and design for each site to prepare contracts for construction crews. "These processes take time, but they are essential to ensuring that the project will not negatively affect forest resources and is safe and enjoyable for public users. Then we have to do the actual work of constructing the cabin."

Adding more accessible cabins will also create a more af-

fordable experience for users, according to the agency.

"With changes in user preferences and demographics over the past 20 years, many of these cabins are becoming less accessible, or desirable, to potential users," according to a Forest Service explanation of the effort. In addition, remote cabins are more costly to reach and more expensive to maintain," the agency reported.

"At the same time, there has been an increasing demand on those cabins which meet contemporary user interests."

"We're out of balance, in my opinion, with the remote and more accessible locations," Kolarich said. "I'm glad to see we're trying to balance that out. We're still remote compared to other places, but still accessible by Southeast standards."

# Heritage Harbor boat ramp will close for work in August

Sentinel staff

The Heritage Harbor boat launch ramp will close for a few weeks in August under a plan to replace the deteriorated asphalt apron with concrete paving.

The 2-inch-thick asphalt is more than 10 years old and in bad shape, Amber Al-Haddad, borough capital facilities director, said last week.

"We've set aside the first two weeks of August with the contractor" to dig out the approach to the ramp and lay down a 6-inch-thick concrete apron, she said. Another week for the concrete to cure and the ramp should be back open to the public, Al-Haddad said.

The borough assembly on June 28 approved a \$43,260 contract with Johnson Construction & Supply for the work to replace the 40-foot-by-60-foot apron.

Without an asphalt plant in town, the surface will be replaced with concrete, "which is expected to provide a longer lasting surfacing," Al-Haddad reported in her funding request to the assembly.

While the Heritage Harbor ramp is closed next month, boat owners can use the borough's two other launch ramps at the Inner Harbor, off Case Avenue near the power plant, and at Shoemaker Bay.

Heritage is probably the most heavily used of the three ramps, Al-Haddad said.

# Sealaska online

Continued from page 1

a program that would address cultural issues and help all Native Alaskans take pride in their heritage."

Dangeli recruited the support of KTOO, organized a staff interested in Alaska Native issues and began broadcasting, the statement read.

"The recordings that involve traditional practices or sharing traditional knowledge are very important and deal with concepts that are still relevant today," Pastore said.

Sealaska Heritage's second online digital project is a video library of Celebration, back to the original festival in 1982.

That first gathering of the

Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian nations encompassing 16 dance groups ran three days in Juneau.

After receiving a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in 2015, Sealaska Heritage was able to digitize Celebration for the public for the first time. Before that, Celebration 1982 was only available by in-person visits to the institute's archives.

Video recordings of Celebrations through 1990 are now available online. Celebrations through 2016 are expected to be digitalized and posted on YouTube before the end of this year.

The 2018 festival was the first one posted on YouTube in

its entirety. The 2020 event was canceled due to the pandemic, and the 2022 festival in Juneau was held just a few weeks ago.

To browse the collection of Celebration videos or radio interview recordings, go to the Sealaska Heritage website sealaskaheritage.org and scroll down to make your selections of either digital library.

Sealaska Heritage Institute was founded in 1980 "to perpetuate and enhance Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian cultures of Southeast Alaska."

It also conducts social scientific and public policy research that promotes Alaska Native arts, cultures, history and education statewide.

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# Former reporter-turned author recounts process of writing four books

By MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

Bonnie Demerjian used to report for the Wrangell Sentinel in the early 2000s. One of the last stories she wrote for the newspaper in 2004 was about aviation author Greg Liefer.

Though she enjoyed writing various stories, it was Demerjian's own aspirations of being a published author that led her to leave the life of journalism to pursue one in writing books.

She's written four books in the past 20 years — Demerjian self-published three of them. The third one, "Images of America: Wrangell," was part of a series published by Arcadia Publishing.

Her first book, "Roll On! Discovering the Wild Stikine," had her researching the history of the river and working with photographer Ivan Simonek to capture the waterway. She also relied on historical photos from the museum.

"I was working at the Sentinel for about five years, and I said, 'Gee, I'd like to focus on something with a little more depth,'" Demerjian said. A friend suggested she write about the Stikine River, and since she enjoyed learning about history, she "had fun digging into that for a year or so."

Demerjian admits she wasn't a "river rat" her whole life, so she had a lot to learn about the Stikine.

"I was really interested in the history of it, particularly since it has such a rich history," she said.

It took about a year to complete the book. She worked to make sure she was accurate by talking to various people and recording their stories. She researched the history of the people and the natural history — but only up to a geographic point.

"It is kind of cut short because I only talked about it up to Telegraph Creek,



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Bonnie Demerjian has written four books about the Stikine River, the history of Wrangell and the surrounding region.

and really the river goes on way up much further into Canada," Demerjian said. "It just seemed like too much of a challenge to really dig into that part of the river, which has its own story."

Demerjian said as she has looked back on her works, she realized that her writings are "place-based," due to her interest in places. Her second book, "Anan: Stream of Living Water," digs deeper into the area that is best known for its bear observatory.

"I wanted again to not talk about only bears and the natural history, but about the fishing history, the Native history, and just cover not super in-depth but some of all those aspects," she said. Demerjian did the research for the second book by talking to old fisherman and reading as much as she could find on

the Native history, though there wasn't much in print, she said. "I read Tlingit stories that involved bears."

Simonek again contributed his photos. In 2011, Demerjian was approached by Arcadia to write a book about Wrangell's history. The publishing company has a series of books, "Images of America," that gives readers a look back in time at communities all across the country. She said the company told her the book about Wrangell would be the first about places in Alaska. There are also books on Nome, Talkeetna, Eagle River, Cordova, Juneau, Denali National Park and Preserve and subjects covering whaling, icebreaking and the Yukon.

Photos for the Arcadia book were from the collection of the Wrangell Museum and private collector Michael Nore, who

grew up in Wrangell and now lives in Washington state.

"He very kindly let me go through his collection, in fact I was only able to go through a small part of it because he has thousands upon thousands," Demerjian said.

When it comes to having a publisher versus self-publishing, Demerjian said the biggest difference is the expense. A publisher covers all the printing costs, editing, design and formatting. A self-published author has to cover all that, plus spend a lot of time on the work too. However, there is more control on the author's part with self-publishing.

"I knew the kind of look I wanted for my books. I wanted color photos," she said. It's a lot cheaper to print in black and white, "but I wanted them to look the way I wanted them to look."

Then there is promotion. "You have to market yourself and I have a lot of trouble with that. I'm not a real outgoing person, so I don't promote myself as well as I might."

Demerjian worked with Matt Knutson of InterDesign in Juneau for the design and layout of her self-published titles, then uploaded the files to an online service that provides book printing services.

Though with all she's learned, Demerjian still doesn't feel like she's an author. "This is a fun project. I love the work of researching the book and writing it."

It's been five years since her last book, "Rock Art of South Alaska," was published. Demerjian doesn't think she will be writing any other books, but she continues to write. Although now she's learning the art of poetry in a group led by Wrangell author Vivian Faith Prescott.

"I wrote these books because I love to do it, not to make money," she said. "Obviously, I didn't make all the money I spent on it, but I don't care."

## Mount Dewey trail extension slips to next year

By LARRY PERSILY  
Sentinel writer

The million-dollar project to extend the Mount Dewey trail, add a parking lot off Bennett Street for the new portion of the trail and connect the Volunteer Park Trail to Ishiyama Drive has been pushed back to next year.

In addition to resolving a federally required payment to a mitigation bank as compensation for filling in a small amount of wetlands in the work area, borough officials need to wait for further analysis of a slope on Mount Dewey above Third Street that shows signs of soil movement.

A geologist was in town in May for another assignment and reviewed the area on Mount Dewey, Amber Al-Haddad, borough capital facilities director, reported to the borough assembly for its June 28 meeting.

"Upon further investigations within the timbered area along the upper sections of the slope, there is evidence of historical movement, unvegetated scarps and traverse cracking," Al-Haddad reported. "The area appears to be steepened soil or remnant landslide slope between areas of relatively shallow bedrock."

The assembly on June 28 approved a \$52,162 contract with the geotechnical consulting firm Shannon & Wilson to conduct borings and rock core samples to learn more about the slope stability and prepare

recommendations to stabilize the area.

"We're doing some investigative work to understand the stability of those soils," Al-Haddad said. The drilling will be at 2½-foot intervals, going down about 15 feet, she said.

The trail extension will come up the backside of Mount Dewey and does not cross the unstable area. But it connects to the existing trail, which goes past the slope.

About 90% of the total project cost is federal money, with the borough spending some of its share of the state cruise ship passenger tax to cover the required local match.

The project timeline now shows — after the geotechnical work — final design by October, construction bids this winter, and starting work on the ground as soon as weather allows next spring, Al-Haddad said. The borough originally had hoped for construction this year.

Meanwhile, the borough expects to hear soon from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on how much Wrangell will need to pay into a mitigation bank to compensate for the loss of 0.55 acres of wetlands that will be filled in for the trail extension and parking lot.

The Army Corps regulates fill permits and generally requires compensation to pay for the loss of wetlands, directing the money toward restoring other lands.

## Bars reopen with limited hours on two state ferries

By LARRY PERSILY  
Sentinel writer

Beer and wine have been available at the bars on board the state ferries Matanuska and Kennicott since late May after the amenities were closed seven years ago, reportedly to save money.

The ferry system "has collected feedback on the bar reopening through customer surveys answered by Kennicott and Matanuska passengers — all positive comments," Sam Dapevich, Department of Transportation spokesman, said last week.

"I've also heard from a few Southeast Alaska residents who are happy to see the bars reopened."

There is no additional staff expense to reopening the bars, Dapevich said. "The bars are

being run using available crew on board."

The bars are open limited hours, serving a limited menu of beer, wine and snacks. The Matanuska has chips and popcorn; the Kennicott has both, plus pretzels. "Pre-packaged mixed drinks will be offered soon," he said.

Several beers from Juneau-based Alaskan Brewing are available in bottles and cans: White, Pilsner, Freeride Pale Ale and Icy Bay IPA. "And a small selection of wine is available through our current contract: chardonnay, white zin, merlot and cabernet," Dapevich said.

The Alaska Marine Highway System is working to add a couple of Alaskan Brewing's alcoholic seltzers — Spruce Cherry Grapefruit and Spruce Lemon Lime. "We anticipate these new

items will be available in approximately a month," he said.

The Alaska Marine Highway System reported in January 2015 that it would save about \$750,000 a year by closing the bars on all six ferries with the facilities. The savings would come from transferring bar personnel to other jobs on the ships.

Since that decision seven years ago, the state has sold two of the ferries that used the have bars — the Taku and Malaspina — and the Columbia has not operated in almost three years.

The Matanuska generally stops in Wrangell two days a week. The Kennicott does not serve Wrangell on its route from Bellingham, Washington, to Ketchikan, Juneau, Yakutat and out to Prince William Sound, Homer and Kodiak.

## Eric Halstead wins 67th Wrangell salmon derby

Sentinel staff

Eric Halstead took the lead in the 67th Wrangell King Salmon derby with a 43.4-pound catch near Blake Island on June 17 and never lost it, bringing him the first-place prize of \$3,000 cash.

Stanley Johnson took second, with his 41.8-pound king on June 19, near Found Island. He will receive \$2,000, plus an additional \$500 for the largest catch on Father's Day.

Dave Svendsen caught a 39.9-pound king on the first day of the derby June 15, near Blake Island, good for the third-place prize of \$1,000, plus an additional \$500 cash for reeling in the largest salmon on the opening day.

The chamber of commerce, which sponsors the annual event, has set the awards ceremony for 6:30 p.m. Friday, upstairs at the Elks Lodge.

The derby closed at 9 p.m. Sunday, with \$7,900 in cash prizes.

Fourth place went to Diana Nore, at 38.4 pounds; Peyton Stolley was fifth, at 37.8 pounds; sixth went to Danielle Halstead for her 37.5-pound catch; Nick Mizelle took seventh at 34.2, the same weight on the same day as Matt Nore; Jeremy Stolley placed ninth at 33.6; and No. 10 went to Parker Mork with his 32.9-pound catch.

The 10 largest fish were all caught in the first 12 days of the derby, with no one in the final week cracking the top 10.

Peyton Stolley also will receive an additional cash prize for the largest fish landed by a contestant 12 years old or younger. Parker Mork placed second in the 12-and-younger competition. Quinton Davies was third, at 31.3 pounds.

The awards night also will include two \$250 cash prizes for random entry weights, and every derby ticket purchased will be entered into a drawing to win two round-trip tickets to anywhere Alaska Airlines flies.

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# Wrangell celebrates the Fourth of July

## Weekend draws large crowds to variety of events

*Sentinel staff*

Friendly competitions, food tosses, tests of endurance and plenty of fun filled the weekend as hundreds flocked to various Fourth of July events throughout Wrangell.

Tourists, visitors, family and former residents returning home joined locals in watching and participating in the parade, talent show, basketball and many other events from Friday through Monday in celebration of the Fourth.

Despite a change in venue for the fireworks show from Volunteer Park to a barge in Zimovia Strait due to dry weather conditions, all other events were held as planned.

The weekend kicked off Friday with a welcome-home picnic, followed by a 3-on-3 basketball game, which pitted middle school students, high school students and adults against their peers. Kaelene Harrison, Christy Good and Cherrith Young won the women's category, while Jacen Hay, Brett Abrahamson and Sean Gillen won the men's.

At Sunday's log rolling competition, contestants donned life jackets, cork boots and strategies.

Jim Holder returned for his fifth year. "It's balance and it depends on who you're rolling against," Holder said. "If you're rolling against (Robert) Wiederspohn, you're going in."

The trophy went to Rowen Wiederspohn in the men's category. Second place among the men went to Tanner Thomassen. Caitlin Cardinell won first place in the women's competition, second place went to Mia Wiederspohn and Sabrina Smith took third.

At the Pie-a-Public-Servant event Saturday, people lined up to smack school administrators and teachers with chocolate cream and other pies. Combined with the car show, the pie toss raised \$301, according to event organizer Ellen Jellum. The funds will benefit the schools' music programs.

On Sunday evening, the festivities continued with the Wearable Art and Talent Show at the Nolan Center. More than 20 people paraded the catwalk and entertained a packed house.

Sunday wrapped up with the crowning of Tyson Messmer as king of the royalty competition. Messmer was the only person to step up for the chamber of commerce raffle ticket sales, which is the main funding source for the following year's Fourth of July events.

Ticket sales were still being tallied as of the Sentinel's deadline on Monday. The raffle winners also will be announced later.

In the disc golf competition on Saturday at Muskeg Meadows, 26 contestants hit the links, which was a large improvement over last year's turnout. Overall, more people came out to this year's events than in the past two pandemic-restricted celebrations.

"It's amazing this year. There have been huge crowds," said Stephanie Cook, president of the chamber of commerce board. "We're getting the 4th of July back to where it's supposed to be."



PHOTOS BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Rocco, a Danish farm dog, jumps for a treat from owner Bella Ritchie's hand at the dog show last Saturday.



Dan Powers, above left, holds up the fish his son, Maxwell Rocket, 1, "caught" during last Saturday's Tiny Tots Fishing Derby at the float at City Dock. Matt Norse, above right, takes a chocolate pie to the face as Evergreen Elementary principal Ann Hilburn winces at the impact during the Pie-a-Public-Servant fundraiser last Saturday at Volunteer Park. The \$301 raised from the event will go toward the school district's music programs, event organizer Ellen Jellum said.



Clockwise from top: Robert Wiederspohn, left, squares off against his son, Hunter Wiederspohn, during log rolling on Sunday, while sister Mia (right) cheers them on from the dock. Hunter bested his dad in the bout. An explosion of pink lights up the sky over Wrangell Sunday night during the fireworks display. Leslie Richard, left, translates into sign language a song her daughter Gracie Richard sings at the Wearable Art and Talent Show on Sunday evening at the Nolan Center. Shirley Wimberley stands next to her husband's 1967 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray while two enthusiasts look over the 'Vette at the car show Saturday at Volunteer Park. Benn Curtis is only the second owner of the vehicle.



# 3-on-3 for the 4th



Above: Two teams of three each play for the winning spot in the boys category of the 3-on-3 basketball games last Friday.

Below: Daniel Harrison, left, covers Casey Marley at the game following the community picnic at the Irene Ingle Public Library. The picnic and basketball games at the Kyle Angerman playground were the start to the full weekend of events celebrating the Fourth of July holiday.

PHOTOS BY MARC LUTZ/  
WRANGELL SENTINEL

# End to pandemic orders will cut food stamp aid to 56,000 Alaska households

BY MORGAN KRAKOW  
Anchorage Daily News

Tens of thousands of Alaskans will lose access to expanded food stamp benefits in September after the state ends its public health emergency in July.

The end of additional benefits under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program comes as food aid groups say need is reaching previous pandemic highs while prices are soaring. Plus, other pandemic-era benefits, like the child tax credit and rental assistance, are expiring too, said Cara Durr, director of public engagement at the Food Bank of Alaska.

"We know families are struggling and they are turning to services," Durr said. "This is really coming in the middle of what is kind of a perfect storm."

The SNAP Emergency Allotment program, which has been in place throughout the pandemic, is set to end in Alaska after August. It will mean the loss of at least \$95 in benefits per month for the 56,000 households in Alaska that receive food stamps. But some families could be losing hundreds of dollars more each month, at a time when roughly 13% of Alaskans are receiving benefits from SNAP.

The additional benefits will cease because the state opted to end its public health emergency in July. For the money to be sent, both a federal and state-level order need to be in place.

A state spokesman said the emergency declaration was specific to COVID-19, and was not related to today's economic challenges. The order was initially a way to respond to the pandemic, but is no longer needed, he said.

The emergency allotment program gives people already receiving SNAP benefits the maximum amount for their household each month, Durr said. Benefits are calculated based on household income and expenses. But under the emergency allotments, a single person could receive the maximum amount of benefits for their household, which is \$322 per month, she said.

People who were already receiving their maximum benefit were able to receive an additional \$95 each month beginning in July 2021 under the emergency allotment, Durr said.

"It's been a really important boost for households," she said.

SNAP benefits are available to some low-income families and come on debit cards issued to recipients so they can purchase food. While the benefits may not fully cover a month's worth of food for families, they're still an important resource, Durr said.

All told, some 97,000 Alaskans, among 56,000 households, were receiving SNAP benefits in April and are set to lose some amount of benefits come September.

That's around 17,000 more people who received the benefit compared to January 2020, and is a number that's been steadily rising since January 2021, according to data from the state's health department.

According to a spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 16 states around the country have ended their emergency or disaster declarations, while four have said they will end theirs. States can extend the emergency SNAP benefits by a month after their emergency declarations end — which Alaska opted to do in order to send the benefits out through August once the order ends in July.

For the states continuing their public health emergencies, the federal Department of Health and Human Services has said it will give a 60-day notice of when it plans to end the federal public health emergency, which by late June, it had not yet done — meaning the earliest the emergency could end would be late August, and the benefits for those states would continue through September.

The end of the emergency allotments will be "devastating" for people who rely on SNAP, predicted Heather Parker. She is a supervising attorney in Southeast with Alaska Legal Services, a nonprofit that provides free civil legal services to low-income Alaskans.

Parker said local food banks can be a stopgap measure for those who need food. But there's not a great safety net for people.

Leigh Dickey, advocacy director for Alaska Legal Services, noted that the federal dollars to pay the benefit still exist.

"By ending the state emergency, they're basically just ending Alaskans' access to the federal money earlier than they need to, which does seem cruel right now," Dickey said.

In an emailed response, health department spokesman Clinton Bennett said that the emergency order was only possible under limited authorities given to the state's health commissioner by the Legislature to help with the pandemic response.

The state public health emergency "is specific to COVID-19 and has nothing to do with the current economic situation," Bennett wrote. "The tools provided for the COVID-19 response are no longer required, so it is appropriate to end the State Public Health Emergency Order."

# Trump scheduled at campaign rally in Alaska on Saturday

The Associated Press and Alaska Beacon

Former President Donald Trump plans to attend a campaign rally in Anchorage this week for candidates he has endorsed in the state, including former governor Sarah Palin who is running for U.S. House.

The five-hour event is scheduled for Saturday at the Alaska Airlines Center on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus. According to preliminary details released by the former president's office, the event will begin at 11

a.m. with entertainment. A series of speakers will begin at 1 p.m. and continue until 4 p.m., when Trump is scheduled to deliver remarks.

Austin Osborne, a spokesperson for the University of Alaska Anchorage, said Trump's political action committee paid \$53,081 to rent the building for the rally. Discussions about the event began several weeks ago, Osborne told Anchorage TV station KTUU last week, and involved the U.S. Secret Service planning all aspects of security.

Trump will deliver remarks in

support of Palin, Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy and Kelly Tshibaka, a Republican running for U.S. Senate against incumbent Republican Lisa Murkowski.

Trump late last year said Dunleavy had his "complete and total endorsement," but it was subject to the governor not endorsing Murkowski. Dunleavy accepted that precondition.

Murkowski has been critical of Trump and voted to convict him at his impeachment trial last year. Trump was acquitted of the sole charge of incitement of insurrection related to the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol. Trump said in March 2021 that he intended to travel to Alaska and campaign against Murkowski.

Palin, an early Trump supporter, said she was honored to get Trump's endorsement "early on in this race, and I'm excited to welcome him to the great state of Alaska."

The Murkowski campaign declined comment on the event, Murkowski campaign spokesperson Shea Siegert said.

The Alaska Democratic Party, in a statement, said Alaskans "deserve credible and meaningful representation at all levels focused on their values and progress, not just their egos."

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# Report finds increase in whale entanglements in fishing gear

By YERETH ROSEN  
The Alaska Beacon

Alaska was the only U.S. coastal region to have an increase in the confirmed cases of large whales entangled in fishing gear in 2020, a contrast to a national trend of declining cases over the past six to eight years, according to a report issued June 28 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Of the 53 cases of large whales entangled in fishing gear nationally in 2020, 11 occurred in Alaska, according to the report, from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. The previous year, there were 75 confirmed cases of whale entanglements nationwide, with nine of them occurring in Alaska, according to a separate report for 2019 also released June 28 by the fisheries service.

The vast majority of confirmed Alas-

ka whale entanglements — and the vast majority of entanglements nationally — involved humpback whales. In 2020, 10 of the Alaska cases involved live whales, and eight of those involved humpback whales. All but one of the confirmed Alaska entanglements of live large whales in 2020 occurred in waters of Southeast Alaska, according to the report.

Humpback whales are relatively plentiful among the large whale species, the report for 2020 notes. "Humpback whales are found in all the world's oceans and several populations have rebounded in recent years, so the frequency of entanglements seen in this species could be due to many factors, such as the increasing number of whales, a high degree of overlap in distribution of whales, growing coastal communities, and fishing effort, or a combination of these or additional factors," it said.

The Central North Pacific stock of humpback whales, which accounts for most of the humpback whales found in Alaska waters, now numbers over 21,000, rebounding from a low of 1,400 in 1966, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The 2020 entanglement statistics might be skewed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the report cautioned. There were fewer fishing vessels operating that year, but there were also fewer people on the water to observe and report entanglements, the report said.

In general, the reported statistics are likely an understatement of the risks that large whales face from encounters with fishing gear, which can kill the animals or cause serious injuries such as amputations, the report for 2020 said. "Importantly, confirmed entanglements underestimate the true number of entangled

whales, as many entangled whales go undetected," it said.

One environmental group said the report showed the need for better protections.

"These reports show far too many endangered whales are caught in fishing gear, particularly because reported entanglements are just the tip of the iceberg," Kristen Monsell of the Center for Biological Diversity said in a statement. "We need a swift transition to ropeless or pop-up fishing gear starting in our national marine sanctuaries, which fail woefully to protect these majestic animals. The Fisheries Service should push hard and help the fishing industry adopt whale-friendly gear."

The AlaskaBeacon.com is a donor-funded independent news organization in Alaska.

## Jeannette Gail Anderson May 3, 1947 - June 16, 2022

On Thursday, June 16, 2022, Jeannette Gail Anderson passed away peacefully and surrounded by her loving family at the age 75. Jeannette was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on May 3, 1947, to her mother Charlene ("Charlie"), her then 4-year-old brother Paul, and her then 2-year-old sister Ellaine. About four years after her birth, Jeannette's younger brother Bill was born, followed by her baby sister Susan a year after that. Jeannette never knew her father.

In her early childhood, Jeannette grew up all over Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Texas, eventually landing in Eugene, Oregon. Jeannette's mother, Charlie, lived a difficult life plagued with mental illness, and abandoned the family when Jeannette was 8 years old. A few weeks later, Jeannette was separated from her four siblings and placed in foster care, where she spent the rest of her childhood being shuffled to and from several different foster homes.

About two months before her 18th birthday, Jeannette reconnected with her mother and fled the foster-care system two months early to catch a bus for Helena, Montana, where she finished her high school diploma and worked several jobs while caring for her mother. Shortly after Jeannette graduated high school, however, Charlie's illness worsened, and she checked herself into a mental institution.

Jeannette then moved back to Oregon, where she met her first husband, Craig. Craig's father had owned a logging company operating near Wrangell, Alaska, and the newlyweds moved there in the summer of 1965, where Craig worked setting chokers and Jeannette worked as the camp cook. Jeannette quickly fell in love with Southeast Alaska, and would often comment later in life about the old-world nostalgia and greater abundance of wildlife back in those days.

Craig and Jeannette moved back to Oregon shortly thereafter, where Jeannette gave birth to their daughter, Lisa, in 1968, and their son, David, in 1970. Craig and Jeannette divorced shortly after David's birth and, in 1972, Jeannette met her second husband, Ron, and gave birth to her third and final child, Susan, in 1973. Things did not work out with Ron, either, and in 1976 Jeannette remarried again to Mike Anderson. Although Jeannette and Mike divorced in the early '80s, Jeannette kept the name Anderson because she had grown used to it, did not feel like she had a "real" maiden name to revert to, and she "just liked it."



In 1982, Jeannette moved back to Wrangell, where she remained for the next 40 years. In Alaska, Jeannette found her true calling as a naturalist and learned how to live a subsistence lifestyle. She taught herself the uses and properties of everything in the forest and then some, always sharing her homemade herbal medicines and remedies, tinctures, lotions and creams with family, friends and community. Jeannette could walk into the woods with a bucket and return in 15 minutes with a fresh salad for dinner complete with nuts and berries.

Jeannette also learned to hunt and became an expert at using every usable part of every harvest. She processed every type of food and byproduct, tanned hides, and made incredibly beautiful and functional buckskin and fur gloves, hats, shoes, slippers and blankets. She also made her own soaps, oils, health and beauty products, clothes, cleaners, jewelry and everything else she could make homemade. Jeannette was famous for her wild blueberry juice and wine, her amazing garden, and especially for her smoked salmon.

When she didn't feel like fishing or hunting, Jeannette would trade other locals a portion of their harvest in exchange for smoking, canning or processing the rest. Jeannette was a tough, hard-working woman who would and did work circles around most. She built her own home several times over and worked tirelessly for 40 summers preparing to weather 40 Alaska winters. There was never a job she couldn't do.

Jeannette was also a master chef. Her home was always stocked with

Alaska's bounty, and she could whip up any dish any time of year cooked to perfection and so delicious it would knock your socks off. Jeannette truly lived off the land, and she lived like a queen. As one of Jeannette's closest friends put it: "If she was a contestant on 'Naked and Afraid,' she would win hands down."

Jeannette's greatest achievements can still be found in the hearts and souls of her friends, family and community. Jeannette truly loved sharing her gifts with others. She always kept her family and close friends in good supply of smoked salmon, garden fresh herbs and veggies, canned goods, and her arsenal of natural medicines and health supplements to cure any ailment. Jeannette also loved teaching others her tricks, such as how to pick wild blueberries an entire coffee can full at a time or how to harvest devil's club root bark without getting pricked by thorns.

Jeannette's friends describe her as one of the most generous and unselfish people they have ever known, but she was also smart as a whip, sure in her opinion, forthright, and unapologetically candid with a seasoned grit earned throughout a lifetime of hard knocks. Jeannette thus became an oracle of honest and reliable counsel among those close to her, and a fun-loving socialite among all.

Some of Jeannette's most cherished moments include spending time with friends around a bonfire with guitars a play'n where she'd get silly and sing out of tune, performing with the Shady Ladies during Tent City Days, or simply chatting with friends and neighbors over morning coffee or an

afternoon glass of her coveted homemade blueberry or rhubarb wine on the deck. One of Jeannette's most treasured experiences was serving as an aide at Evergreen Elementary School, where she got to accompany children on field trips and teach them how to plant, fertilize (her secret ingredient is composted seaweed), and grow an impressive school garden.

Jeannette lovingly raised three strong children under some of the most challenging of circumstances and served as the bonding link and central matriarch of their ever-growing families since. Jeannette formed a close and binding relationship with each and every one of her 13 grandchildren, most of who spent the best summers of their lives at Grandma Jeannie's cabin out the road or glamping in her five-star floathouse on the beach and learning how to catch a fish, use a pocketknife and be a true Alaskan.

Jeannette was a critical component in who each of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have grown to become. Jeannette was also overjoyed to have reconnected first with her sister Ellaine, and later with her brother Bill — the only two of her four siblings to have survived. The three siblings were blessed to have over the past several decades cultivated the loving relationships they were robbed of as children.

Jeannette was predeceased by her mother Charlie, her brother Paul, and her sister Susan. She is survived by her sister Ellaine and brother Bill; her three children Lisa, David and Susan; her 13 grandchildren Jacquie, Sara, Krysta, Tyler, Tyler (yes, Jeannette had two grandsons named Tyler), Jacob, Amy, Brandon, Derek, Desert, Dobe, Caleb and Charlie; her 16 (so far) great-grandchildren Keaton, Haidyn, Evylin, Lillian, Alison, Syllas, Zeplyn, Ronnie, Oskar, Parker, Presley, Oakley, Blake, Isla, Jaeger and Ivy; the community of Wrangell; and a lifetime of friends. Jeannette loved her family, friends, and community dearly; they were her most valuable source of natural sustenance. Jeannette left a momentous and lasting impression hardwired into each and every one she touched, and her legacy will live on for generations to come.

Jeannette's family will be hosting a celebration of her life in Wrangell around mid-September when extended family from out of town can make it; the exact date, time and place is yet to be determined. Please consult Jeannette's Facebook page at 'https://www.facebook.com/jeannette.anderson.90' for future details.

# Breaching salmon dams would cost billions to replace lost power

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS  
The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The benefits provided by four giant hydroelectric dams on the lower Snake River in Washington state can be replaced if the dams are breached to save endangered salmon runs, according to a report released this month.

But it would be expensive. Finding other ways to provide electricity, irrigation and enabling commerce would cost between \$10.3 billion and \$27.2 billion, said the report commissioned by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and U.S. Sen. Patty Murray of Washington state.

The draft report does not make any recommendations on whether the four dams should be breached. A decision on that divisive issue is expected later. Instead, the report allows the public, tribes, river users and other stakeholders to provide input over the next month that will inform that decision.

“Every community in the Pacific Northwest knows the value and importance of our iconic salmon runs, and every community recognizes the importance of salmon to our economy and cultural heritage,” Inslee and Murray said in a prepared statement. “We each remain firmly committed to saving our salmon.”

Breaching the dams would significantly improve the ability of salmon and steelhead to swim from their inland spawning grounds to the Pacific Ocean, where they spend most of their lives, and then back to their original spawning grounds to procreate and die, the report said.

Major benefits of the dams include making the Snake River navigable up to Lewiston, Idaho, allowing barges to carry wheat and other crops to ocean ports. Eliminating the dams would require truck and rail transportation improvements to move crops, the report said.

The dams also generate electricity, provide irrigation water for farmers and recreation opportunities for people, the report said.

The dams have many supporters, including two members of Congress representing eastern Washington state. The dams are also supported by barge companies, farmers and other business interests. Breaching them would require an act of Congress.

U.S. Reps. Dan Newhouse and Cathy McMorris Rodgers of eastern Washington have introduced a bill to protect the dams, which are located in their districts. “Breaching the four lower Snake River dams would be harmful to our communities,

“Our people are salmon people. When the salmon thrive, we thrive; but when they suffer, our people suffer too.”

Delano Saluskin,  
tribal council chairman  
Yakama Nation

our environment, and our economy,” Newhouse said.

But the chairman of the Yakama Nation said the dams must be breached.

“Our people are salmon people,” said tribal council chairman Delano Saluskin. “When the salmon thrive, we thrive; but when they suffer, our people suffer too.”

Exploring the Columbia River Basin in 1805, Lewis and Clark wrote of waterways so full with salmon that you could all but walk across on their backs.

In the late 1800s, up to 16 million salmon and steelhead returned to the Columbia River Basin every year to spawn. Over the next century and a half, overfishing whittled that number down. By the early 1950s, just under 130,000 Chinook were returning to the Snake River.

Construction of the first dam on the lower river, Ice Harbor, began in 1955. Lower Monu-

mental followed in 1969, Little Goose in 1970, and Lower Granite in 1975. The dams stretch from Pasco, Washington, to near Pullman, Washington, and stand between migrating salmon and 5,500 miles of spawning habitat in central Idaho.

The dams have fish ladders, but too many of the salmon die as they swim through the dams and across slack-water reservoirs on their migrations. In 1991, Snake River salmon and steelhead were listed as endangered species, requiring production of a federal recovery plan. Over the next three decades, environmental organizations sued the federal government six times, arguing that the recovery plan was inadequate.

The most recent lawsuit, in 2016, resulted in a four-year study of the environmental impact of the dams. Although it found that breaching the dams would be the most effective salmon recovery action, federal agencies ultimately decided

against it. The U.S. government has spent more than \$17 billion trying to recover Snake River salmon, through improvements to fish ladders and other measures, with little to show for it. In 2017, the number of Chinook salmon returning to the Snake River dropped below 10,000.

The reduction in the salmon population is also a blow to the endangered Southern Resident killer whale population. More than 90% of the whales’ diet is salmon, which come from a variety of places including the Snake River system.

Dam supporters blame declining salmon runs on other factors, such as changing ocean conditions.

Last year, U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson, of Idaho, unveiled a competing \$33.5 billion plan to bring back Snake River salmon. It has bogged down, failing to win support from other Republicans, Democrats and some environmental groups.

The centerpiece of Simpson’s plan is breaching the four dams, at a cost of up to \$1.4 billion. The rest of the money would go toward replacing the renewable electricity the dams generate, improving salmon habitat, and helping farmers who rely on the dams for irrigation and barge transport of their crops.

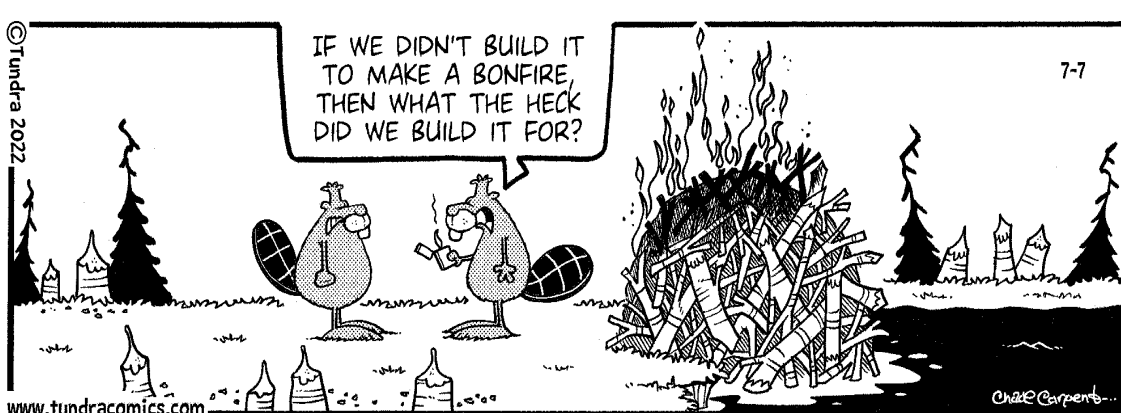
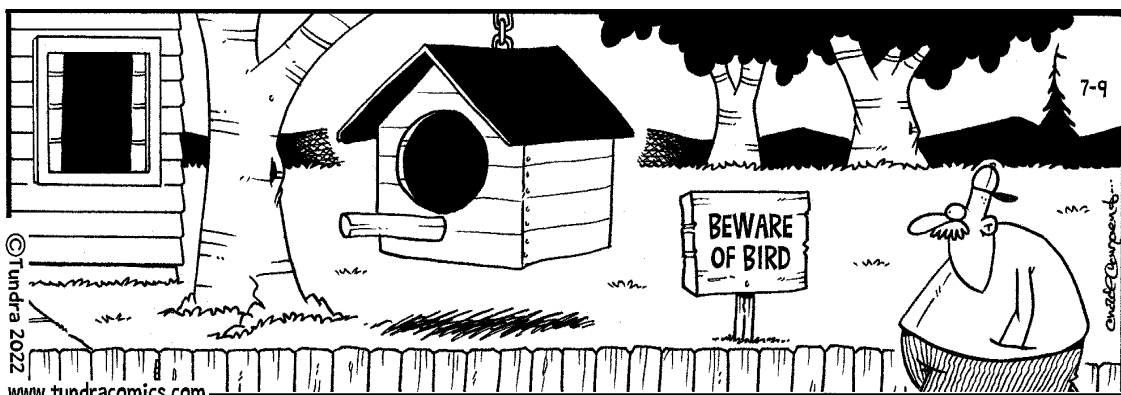
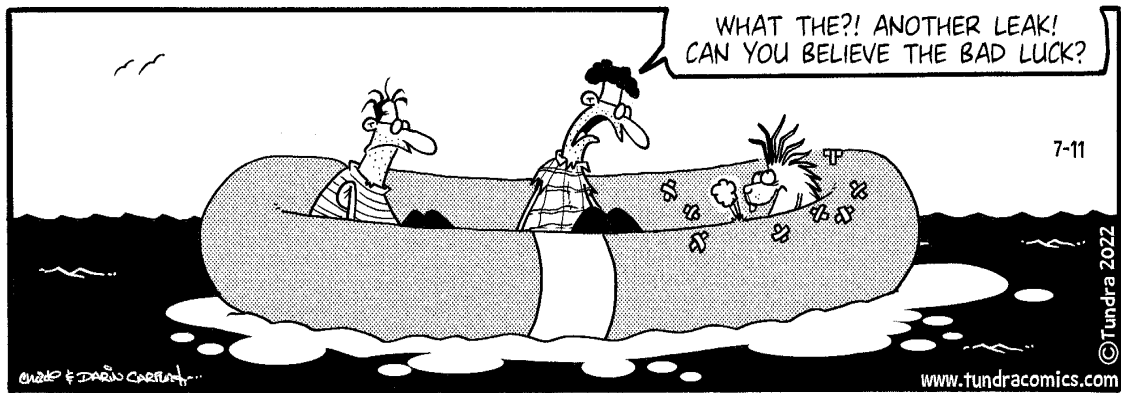
## Ritter’s River

by Marc Lutz



## Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



## Borough assembly gives good evaluation to manager

Sentinel staff

The borough assembly likes the job Jeff Good is doing as manager, reaffirming a raise that was part of the three-year contract he was given when hired for the job in January.

The assembly in executive session at its June 28 meeting conducted its six-month evaluation of Good’s job performance, coming back into public session to verify the raise from \$126,000 a year to \$132,000.

The raise was part of his original contract, said Borough Clerk Kim Lane.

In addition to reviewing Good’s performance, the assembly also evaluated Lane’s

work during the executive session. “Both had positive evaluations,” Mayor Steve Prysunka said in an interview later in the week.

The assembly approved a three-year contract for Lane, who has served as clerk for 10 years.

Good served as interim borough manager for almost three months until the assembly settled on his permanent appointment in January. He replaced Lisa Von Barga, who left the job last October after more than four years on the job.

A retired Coast Guard employee, Good served as Kodiak base director from 2017 to 2020.

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# Researchers learn more about Alaska's deep-sea corals

BY YERETH ROSEN  
The Alaska Beacon

Scientists are on the water this summer, gathering information about a once-mysterious habitat — the large and varied gardens of colorful corals that cover parts of the Alaska seafloor. What they learn could prompt new restrictions for commercial seafood harvests.

Though often associated with tropical locations, corals and associated sponges are also important features of the Alaska marine ecosystem. Some Alaska marine sites are believed to hold the world's most diverse and abundant deep-sea coral and sponge communities, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

And like their tropical counterparts, the Alaska corals are vulnerable to disturbances — from bottom-scraping trawl nets, climate change and ocean acidification.

A summer NOAA research cruise that uses remotely operated vehicles and underwater cameras is underway in the Gulf of Alaska. It follows a separate but complementary research cruise by the environmental organization Oceana that surveyed corals in the waters around Kodiak Island.

In addition to identifying locations of corals, both teams are studying the risks they face from fishing disturbances, climate change and acidification.

"The overarching goal is to



PHOTO COURTESY OF OCEANA

Researchers using a submersible explorer to photograph life in the Gulf of Alaska recorded gorgonians (soft corals) on the ocean floor. Gorgonians are cnidarians, which means stinging celled animals.

conserve and protect unique habitats," project lead Christina Conrath, of NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center, said in a statement. "The first step is learning where important habitats are and how important they are to supporting fish and the ecosystem. That's what we're doing now."

"People are still always amazed that there are large colorful corals existing here in Alaska in these deep cold waters," said Oceana scientist Jon Warrenchuk, who led his organization's expedition.

Knowledge about Alaska's

corals — and their vulnerabilities — is relatively new. Until the early 2000s, most knowledge came from pieces of coral caught in those nets. Surveys by special underwater vehicles began to present a fuller picture starting in 2002.

NOAA's national coral program conducts regional research by rotation. It is now Alaska's turn in the rotation, with work that started in 2020 and is expected to run through next year. Planned survey areas include the eastern Bering Sea as well as the Gulf of Alaska.

This year's NOAA cruise in the Gulf of Alaska started in mid-June and is scheduled to run through mid-July. A primary task is to get underwater camera footage to verify the locations of corals that have been previously estimated and predicted by models.

Another task is to retrieve plates deposited on the seafloor in 2013, during the last Alaska coral survey, to see what has grown on them. The objective is to gather information about coral growth patterns and possible impacts from climate change and ocean acidification, NOAA said.

In September, the NOAA team will join with Canadian research partners to survey corals and sponges from the Washington coast to Southeast Alaska, their ecosystems and the impacts to them of fishing.

Fishing impacts were discovered during the Oceana cruise, conducted from May 20 to 28 around Kodiak Island, including some sites that may have never been photographed before.

Survey sites included areas that have historically been used for trawling. In many of those sites, the Oceana team found damage, Warrenchuk said.

"We saw in those flat hard-bottom areas, coral rubble and broken corals," he said.

Oceana plans to present its findings to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the panel that manages commercial fishing in federal waters

off Alaska, he said.

The council has imposed coral protections in the past. In 2005, it banned seafloor-contacting trawling in some areas of the Aleutians known to have high densities of corals. But the council in 2015 declined to make similar rules to protect habitats in the eastern Bering Sea's deep Pribilof Canyon, despite research showing that it is a hotspot of corals and sponges and despite an organized advocacy campaign for a trawling ban there.

Warrenchuk said he hopes the council will expand coral protections once Oceana and NOAA present findings from this year's cruises.

He likened the deep-sea cold-water coral beds to old-growth forests, which are also rich and diverse ecosystems. "They're quite striking and beautiful," he said, noting that Gulf of Alaska corals can grow to 5 or 6 feet in height. "The least we could do is not knock them over," he said.

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## Former Southeast state Sen. Dennis Egan dies at 75

KINY radio, Juneau

Former Southeast state senator and Juneau KINY radio host Dennis Egan died June 28. He was 75. Egan passed away at an assisted-living home in Salem, Oregon, his family reported.

Egan's daughter, Leslie, and her family, live in Oregon. Egan's family said his wife, Linda, was with him this week.

Born March 3, 1947, he was the son of Alaska's first governor, William "Bill" Egan. During high school, and after broadcast en-

gineer training, he worked at KINY in the 1960s. In 1967, Egan graduated from radio operation engineering school. He served in the Alaska Army National Guard from 1967 to 1974.

In 1980, he began hosting KINY's "Problem Corner." He continued to host the show until 2010.

Egan, a Democrat, represented Juneau in the Legislature from 2009 until 2019. Health concerns forced his retirement.

He served as the mayor of Juneau from

1995 to 2000, and was a member of the city-borough assembly prior to that.

"Dennis was larger than life. He charmed just about everyone he ever met. I once watched him tell a lobbyist there was no way he'd ever vote for a bill, and the guy still left with a smile on his face," said Juneau Sen. Jesse Kiehl.

Egan was named as the Alaska Broadcaster Association's Broadcaster of the Year in 1990, and was named to the association's Hall of Fame in 2001.

## Anchorage legislative candidate faces trial on felony charges

BY JAMES BROOKS  
The Alaska Beacon

If all goes as Lisa Simpson expects, she will win the August primary for an Anchorage state House seat and be cleared of several felonies about the same time.

Simpson, a former aide to Anchorage Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux, is facing trial in August alongside her former boss. Both have been accused, as has Simpson's son, of encouraging illegal votes in state legislative races in 2014 and 2018.

The trial is tentatively scheduled to take place at the same time as the state's Aug. 16 primary election. Simpson has registered as a Republican candidate for House District 22, which covers northeast Anchorage north of DeBarr Road and east of Pine Street.

Two other candidates — Democrat Ted Eischeid and Republican Stanley Wright — have also registered for the race. But because Alaska's election system permits up to four candidates to advance to the general election, Simpson, Eischeid and Wright will all appear on the November ballot.

"I'm hoping it will be resolved before November," Simpson said of her legal struggle.

A trial call in Simpson's case is scheduled for July 12, with a trial possible one month later.

She said it's "unusual, but it's not unheard of," for someone accused of a felony to run for state office.

The state is accusing Simpson, LeDoux and Simpson's son of attempting to get voters to illegally participate in elections within LeDoux's district.

Because the filing deadline for this year's election was June 1, Simpson said she had to register before knowing the outcome of her trial.

"You know, you can't jump in midstream, and I've been here in northeast Anchorage for quite a long time," she said.

Simpson, formerly Lisa Vaught, worked for seven years as a legislative aide and has run for House twice before. Both attempts were unsuccessful.

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### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, Borough Charter, Sec. 4, public notice is hereby given that the following ordinances listed by title only have been adopted by the Borough Assembly. Such ordinances are currently on file in the office of the Borough Clerk and may be inspected upon request.

- Ordinance No. 1027 of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending the Zoning Map to effect a change to a portion of Tract Y, U.S.S. 2321, Parcel No. 03-006-305, from Light Industrial to Rural Residential.
- Ordinance No. 1028 of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending certain Sections of Chapter 16.12, of the Wrangell Municipal Code.

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

Publish July 6, 2022

### WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION TRANSPORTATION (WCAT) NOTICE OF JOB OPENINGS Multiple job openings

The Wrangell Cooperative Association Transportation (WCAT) has multiple job openings for the construction of their new Maintenance Facility.

Complete job descriptions and applications are available outside at the WCA Office at 1002 Zimovia Highway. Contact Bill Willard at 907-874-3077 with any questions. Closing date is July 13 at 2 p.m.

Publish June 29 and July 6, 2022

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

Publish July 6, 2022



# Still Ottesen's Ace Hardware

## GRAND OPENING!

### July 8-10, 2022

#### FRIDAY, JULY 8

Ribbon Cutting  
Spin the Wheel Savings

**ENTER TO WIN - EGO Trimmer**

#### SATURDAY, JULY 9

Hotdogs & Potato Salad, 12PM-2PM  
Fish Pond Fun  
Sawdust Pile for Kids (MONEY TO FIND!)  
Music

**ENTER TO WIN - Milwaukee Drill & Driver  
Paint A Room Makeover (\$125 value)**

#### SUNDAY, JULY 10

Hotdogs & Potato Salad, 12PM-2PM  
Old Time Soda Bar

**ENTER TO WIN  
Weber Gas Grill**

## SATURDAY



# BUCKET SALE

**EXCLUSIVE OFFER** **FRIDAY** JULY 8

**\$5 OFF**

any purchase of \$25 or more of regular priced merchandise!

DP132236

9025 2402

Valid at Ottesen's Ace Hardware in Wrangell, AK on July 8, 2022, only. Discount only applies to regular priced and in-stock merchandise. Not valid on online, sale or clearance priced merchandise, Weber® branded products, Nest branded products, power equipment, in-store services, or previously purchased merchandise. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions apply; see store for details. Limit 1 coupon per customer.

**EXCLUSIVE OFFER** **SATURDAY** JULY 9

**FREE**

Ace 5 Gal. Bucket to the first 200 customers plus 20% off everything that fits into the bucket!  
Doors open at 8AM

Promotion 85

8003 6159

Valid at Ottesen's Ace Hardware in Wrangell, AK on July 9, 2022, only. Discount applies to regular priced items, excludes sale and coupon items, power tools, licenses, gift cards, Weber® branded products and Nest branded products. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Limit 1 per customer, while supplies last. Other restrictions apply; see store for details.

**EXCLUSIVE OFFER** **SUNDAY** JULY 10

**50% OFF**

any one regular priced item under \$30!

DP115485

9011 4700

Valid at Ottesen's Ace Hardware in Wrangell, AK on July 10, 2022, only. Discount only applies to regular priced and in-stock merchandise. Not valid on online, sale or clearance priced merchandise, Weber® branded products, Nest branded products, power equipment, in-store services, or previously purchased merchandise. Other restrictions apply; see store for details. Maximum discount is \$14.99. Limit 1 coupon per customer.